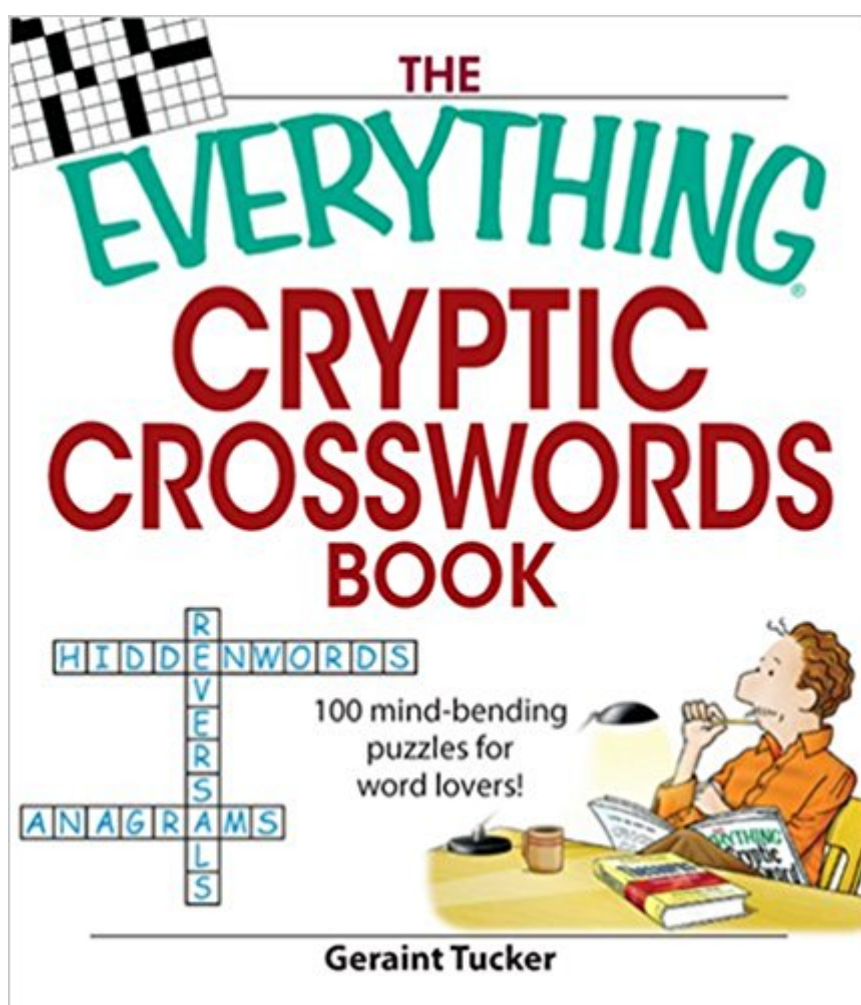


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The Everything Cryptic Crosswords Book: 100 Complex And Challenging Puzzles For Word Lovers! (Everything: Sports And Hobbies)



Book Information

Paperback

Publisher: Adams Media

Language: English

ASIN: B001C46QXI

Product Dimensions: 9 x 7.7 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,934,248 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in Â Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Crosswords > Cryptic

Customer Reviews

I agree with hia: The clues are sub-par and many do feel forced. In addition, some wordplay devices are just plain wrong. For example: Eggs without second spinal cord (4) "Second spinal" is supposed to clue the letter P but grammatically it fails, because there's no real indication of letter selection, as in, say, "second OF spinal" or "spinal's second". Here's something that would work: Eggs without spine's second line (4) Still an uninspired surface, but at least it's a little more fair. For a more comprehensive treatment on this subject, do an Internet search on "Ximenean clueing". Another problem is that many of the grids have words there are sparsely checked (i.e., they have too few crossing words). In general, words should have at least half their letters checked. (With an odd number of letters, some are strict and round up [e.g., 4 out of 7] while others are loose and round down [3 out of 7].) In addition, no more than two letters in a row should be unchecked. This guideline is broken many times - in the most egregious example, as many as NINE consecutive letters are unchecked! (The grid was shaped to match the theme of the puzzle.) I would recommend a book such as 102 Cryptic Crosswords (Mensa) instead of this one. It has smoother clue-writing with more natural-sounding clues, but above all, the clues are fairly constructed.

I used this book as a textbook in an adult ed course on cryptic crosswords and was really disappointed. The setter's clues are below par and all too often forced. He uses truly unusual words as answers that one must look up in dictionaries; this is acceptable in British cryptics, but not the norm in American cryptics. Definitely not a book for beginners and not all that satisfying for seasoned solvers.

There are plenty of puzzles here, but little information on how to solve cryptic style puzzles. That was a disappointment. A person needs a lot more info about how to solve these puzzles--wordplay etc. and you won't find that in this book.

I used to be a subscriber to Tough Cryptics magazine, so I appreciate a fair challenge! I struggled through about 6 of these, and gave up on this constructor. Terribly written clues, certainly a bad book for a beginner.

Contains puzzles with few interlocks, like a middle school vocabulary test crossword! Multiple puzzle grids and puzzle clues violate standard rules of cryptic crosswords. And, the introduction emphasizes that cryptic solving is hard and unpleasant. It actually directs a solver to sit alone at a desk for an hour or two with a dictionary at hand and struggle with the task of learning to understand cryptics!! I bought this to introduce a friend to cryptics, but of course never gave it. If you want to learn about cryptic crosswords, don't get this book! PS If you've never tried cryptics, They are really fun, and sometimes laugh-out-loud funny with the wordplay involved. No dictionary required.

This is a great confidence builder, especially when you don't peek at the answers. Solving gives a real boost to your self esteem. A good way to build your vocabulary and word usage. I am 76 years old and love cryptic puzzles, particularly the black and white square type.

This is a five star book of puzzles due primarily to the varied degrees of challenge. There are roughly 100 puzzles which will satisfy both the novice and expert cryptic crossword lover.

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