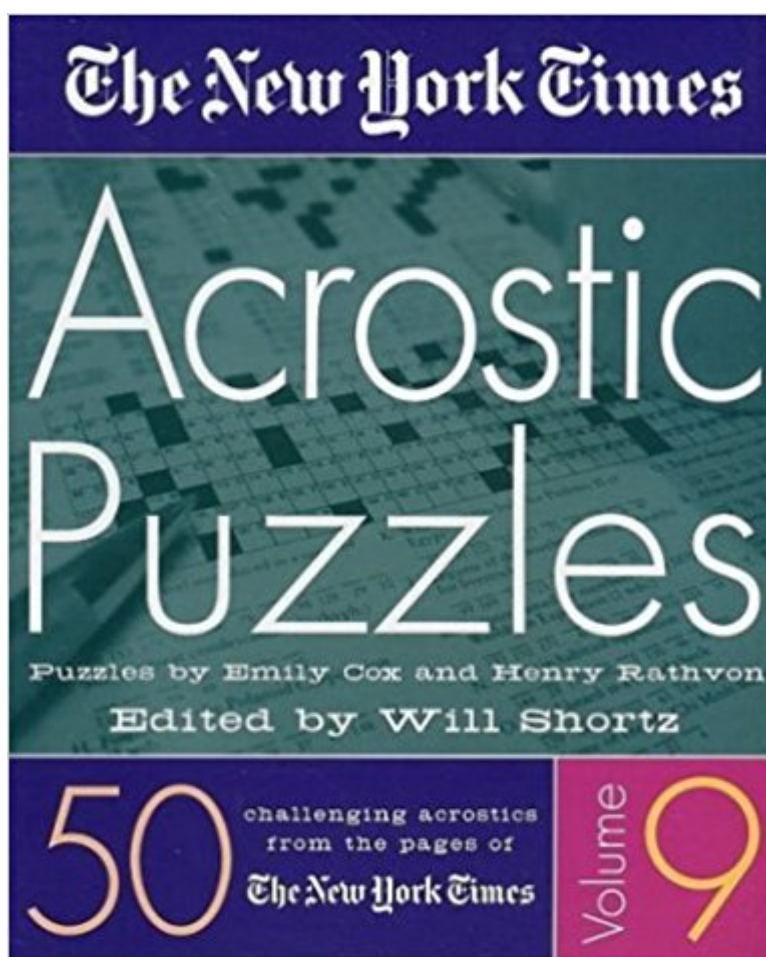


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The New York Times Acrostic Puzzles Volume 9: 50 Challenging Acrostics From The Pages Of The New York Times (New York Times Acrostic Crosswords)



Synopsis

Featuring quotations from Vladimir Nabokov, Langston Hughes, Herman Melville, Dave Barry, Stephen Jay Gould, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and many more, this collection of fifty of the Times's famous, literary Sunday acrostics marks their first appearance in book form.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

since i was searching for Eugene Maleska edited puzzles, it didn't occur to me that the insidious Will Shortz (often thought of as "Mr. Wedgie" for his tortuous construing of nonstandard lexicography) would be the editor of this volume. i consider it to have been a minor catastrophe that he replaced the highly esteemed Maleska at NYT upon his passing. suffice it to say that, while the clues in these puzzles did not very often induce quasi-homicidal fury, there were enough cringers and groaners to remind one of the editor's preference for definitions of a possible future rather than those of the established past. one always learned from Maleska's puzzles; one only learns annoyance from Shortz'. these puzzles are otherwise typical crostics, with a moderate degree of difficulty (not counting wacko clues). the puzzles' authors evidently overwhelmed the editor's creativity. [N.B., i do not oppose neologisms, per se: i simply insist they cover new ideas, not ignorance of established ones.] often the quotes which are the solutions to the puzzles are rewarding in themselves, and can offer direction for new reading. crostics can be rewarding both as entertainment and education. Search out Middleton and Duerr for crostics, and Maleska for all types.

I've been hooked on acrostics since my first encounter with them in "The New York Times Magazine," which comes bundled with the Sunday "Times." Vol. 9, which is the work of Emily Cox & Henry Rathvon and edited by Will Shortz (the current crew), lives up to their usual high standard of work. I don't like easy puzzles that can be done in one sitting. And, sure enough, you won't find any of those here. These are brain teasers of the first order. The only acrostics creator I've encountered more imposing is the great Thomas H. Middleton, who preceded these guys at the "Times." Middleton takes no prisoners. Cox & Rathvon allow the solver to have a bit more fun. But, for me, much of the fun acrostics is in their difficulty. If that's your thing too, you'll like these puzzles!

The book is difficult enough to be interesting but not so difficult that it is frustrating. I am enjoying it

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