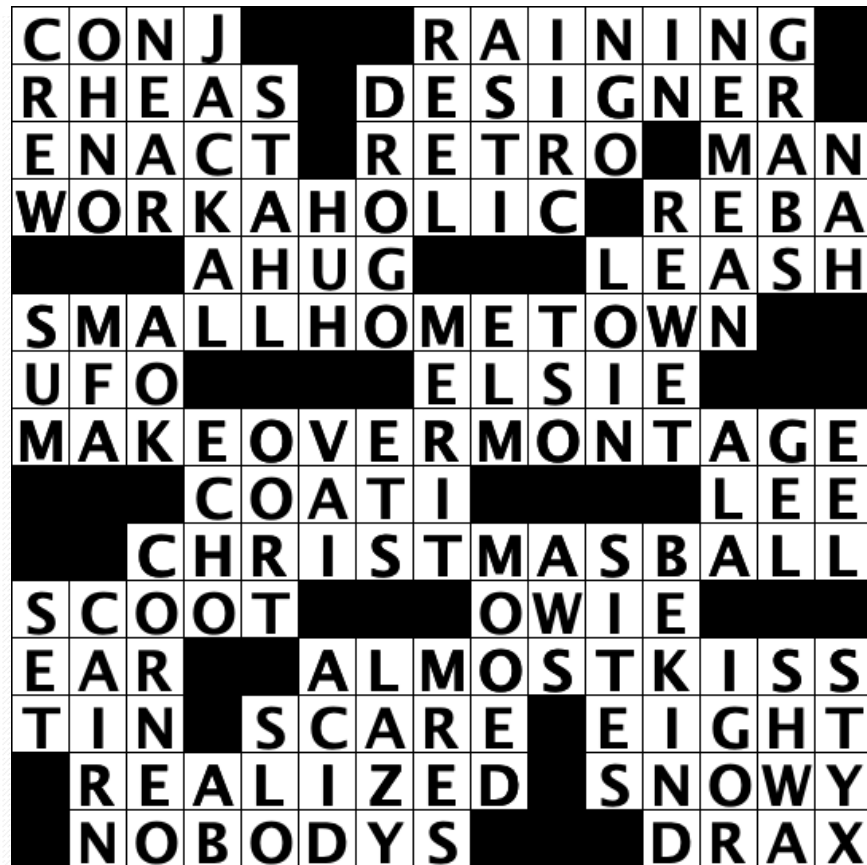


A CROSSMAS KISS

BY EM HANDY

ACROSS

1. With adj., prep., and interj.
5. "It's ___ men!"
12. Matilda star and Cronos' sister/lover
14. The year's newest holiday romance follows Joy Snowfield, an interior ___ in the big city.
15. Make into law
16. Less old than antique
17. Typical romantic interest in a Hallmark film
19. Her friends call her a ___, but she's was just putting in the hours to get her big promotion.
21. Country star of WB show by the same name
22. "Does somebody need ___?" Buddy the Elf quote
23. Dog accessory
24. Unfortunately, due to a surprise winter storm she's trapped in her ___ where she's been roped into helping her childhood friend set up for the big holiday event.
30. Could be a plane, or a bird, or Superman
31. Downton housekeeper opposite Charlie
32. But she has nothing to wear! No worries, after a shopping trip and ___ set to music, she found the perfect outfit.
40. Basically a South American raccoon
41. Christopher who was still making heavy metal albums in his 90s
42. Now that they've got the decorations up and she's all dressed, she heads to the town's ___.
47. Move aside
49. Boo-boo
50. Lendable appendage
51. And who does she find on the dance floor but her childhood friend, suddenly handsome with his hair combed. They share a dance and ___ but are interrupted when her boss shows up!
57. Roofing element



© December 2020

58. Might make you jump
 59. Hanukkah, in days
 60. He's here to say he loves her, and will take her back to the city for that big promotion. But just before she got on the plane, she ___ her true love was actually her childhood friend all along.
 62. Weather, if in a holiday romance movie
 63. ___ perfect (except Jesus, probably)
 64. Literal Guardians of the Galaxy hero
- ## DOWN
1. Pirate ship need
 2. Reaction to "the mail is backed up and your gift might not arrive in time for Christmas!"
 3. Not far
 4. "Hit the ___ switch" Burton Guster quote
 5. Film storage
 6. Not from the Champagne region, but tastes like it
 7. Text speak for "I think"
 8. Save the Children or Greenpeace, for short
 9. ___ 'n' Out
 10. Lion killed by Hercules
 11. Remembers, as in keys or wallet
 13. German word for steel, that almost sounds like steel
 14. Game of Thrones Kahl
 18. No, but casually
 20. Response to complete gibberish (or most people's response to the clue for 13-down)
 21. Go from rain to shower, maybe
 23. Something that might be engorged in a romance novel
 24. Total
 25. Artistic distinction, for short
 26. This response can just be the ring gesture
 27. Basis for some raises
 28. Who put Bella in the Wych ___?
 29. Fictional general
 33. Repeat, as a sound
 34. Distant space cloud
 35. Steve, who played with Zappa
 36. They might fly 30-across
 37. Via
 38. Makes your hair sticky-appy
 39. Sweet sushi sauce
 42. Skeeve FFVII Don
 43. What the cow did yesterday
 44. Heard from the audience during a romantic moment (like the kiss in Shrek)
 45. Wikipedia and Reddit, for two
 46. "___, Rewind"
 47. Harden, as a dessert
 48. Scottish terrier
 51. Arguably the worst kind of rain
 52. Sunday afternoons, for some
 53. Packages found in a prepper's bunker
 54. Classic Frankenstein character actually not in the original novel
 55. ə, phonetically
 56. Deadly river
 58. Before -mo
 61. One of six, as seen in many leading in men