

# Criminal's Finger Flickering In The Dark

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This used to be a perfectly valid cryptic crossword, even if it was somewhat underchecked. 55 clues are valid. Highlight their entries to see the original grid.

All of the figures that used to be in the grid have escaped into the clues, forming 68 invalid clues in the process. The figures hid in the wordplay of the invalid clues, supplying an extra letter to each wordplay string. The extra letter is not entered into the grid and is not included in the enumeration. Read the extra letters in clue order to get a description of the escaping figures.

The figures fled to escape a calamity that is in one sense unlikely, but in another sense inevitable. But some will survive this calamity. 24 valid clues have entries that are (in two senses) **left alone**. Read the first letters of these clues in clue order to find out the calamity's name.

But prior to that, four spots play a powerful role. In reading order, the letters at these spots, when repeated indefinitely, describe something someone might say as they go about this puzzle.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14	15
16						17							18			
19				20	21							22	23			
24	25		26	27		28					29	30		31	32	
33		34			35		36		37					38		
39						40				41	42					43
44					45			46			47	48				
49			50				51		52				53	54		
55	56						57				58					59
60				61				62				63	64			
65		66			67	68				69	70	71		72		
			73				74				75					
76							77		78							79
80						81						82				
83	84		85		86	87		88		89	90				91	
92				93		94					95	96				
97					98		99		100				101			102
103						104						105				
106				107									108			

**Across:**

1. *Lion King's* end marked by encores, initially (8)
9. Someone who criticizes horse out loud (8)
16. It hurts if I make a connection (2-2)
17. Sled flips over, drops, and crashes (7)
18. Adore funny Spanish teacher (4)
19. Viscount's superior is real agitated (4)
20. Magic item that could help you summon an island (9)
23. Carl's disheartened; turns to flasks (4)
24. Before yoga made a comeback (3)
26. Motel nine (but cycled) (3)
28. Put on too much after putting away good sugary snack (5)
29. The process that when followed, will connect to you to the universe and bring you harmony:
  - Dancing a lot (3)
31. Our camps periodically talk (3)
33. Large instrument without a large container (3)
35. Thing to do after starting quiz (3)
37. I'm not interested in going over mathematics (3)
38. To switch hands in the middle of a single chess move is to make a social faux pas (3)
39. Ray holds legal document with curiosity (6)
40. Now try replacing the middle part with the last part (5)
42. Back up *Avatar* before glitch erases first bit (6)
44. Carnie destroyed computer (5)
45. Increase pressure after mixing fluid into boron and uranium but removing fluorine (7)
48. Short man with a desire to rock a dress, sometimes given women shaving tips (5)
49. Bird from the western side of Mauna Loa (3)
50. Sound that could startle Hunter placed at sea (11)
54. Page fuzzy alien friend (3)
55. Woman who is nasty, gross, grotesque, embodying obscenity essentially (6)
57. Forest animal's one way to cross the river by the sound (3)
58. Suggest everyone say "Cheese!" at the end (6)
60. Remaining half of rainforest (4)
61. Psychonaut organization's adoring fan (9)
64. A superb answer (4)
65. Pain admitting doctor of medicine gets to treat (1'4)
67. Explosion has turned city in California to gravel (7)
71. Complete tribute sketch without using blue (5)
73. Preferred course, in short (3)
74. Fat dog (3)
75. Fight back against ultimately deadly plant (3)
76. Out of sorts; need hint at last (2, 3, 3)
78. Earlier, you boarded a boat and took a nap. Son, what went on in your head? (8)
80. Taking out evening's first Perrier somehow is more appropriate (5)
81. Like someone who learns a lot about Sheik and Boo (7)
82. Dine without stopping on bread (5)
83. Faking having energy (2)
85. Wily Victor turns into half-hearted character, causing damage (11)
91. First half of fast musical piece (2)
92. Disease finally turns patient loopy (6)
94. Unplanned spot check backfired (2-3)
95. Whiskey world chess championship challenger knocked back for first game (6)
97. Infamous Olympian participating in the race (4)
98. First name of Mr. Burton discovered (3)
100. A quiet sound from cat or asp (3)
101. For example, long audible displays of sadness (4)
103. News agency with almost too many tips (6)
104. He loitered around high society (5)
105. Look at that dive bar (6)
106. Type of video game teaser where you swap around blocks of two units (4)
107. Home office lacks parking (9)
108. Drop of ale in six-liter container (4)

**Down:**

1. You and I had sat outside to feel the heat (5)
2. How to call your aunt in Mexico from somewhere in Bilbao? It's not straightforward (3)
3. Do British pilots come from the north or from the south? (4)
4. Soldier who disappeared after arresting one drunk group of armed civilians (7)
5. Glutton goes primarily after pie (3)
6. Boss of Nintendo finally removed last of founder's documents (5)
7. In the past; before this place ousted its leader (3)
8. Sound from a gun Nebraska had outlawed (6)
9. Bagel's vanilla filling (3)
10. Harold dined, having wings (5)
11. Execute the steps we just discussed in reverse to cover the ground with grass (3)
12. Postpone leg of road journey (7)
13. Slice of yummy tart belonging to the solver (4)
14. Starts to eventually realize that Grant's a real piece of work? (3)
15. Doctor prays with a grating voice (5)
21. X-ray's center has natural body part (3)
22. At an unspecified position in the section (3)
25. A back-end issue from Monday left *Among Us* broken (5)
27. Nick's sweetheart holds cat up (5)
30. Precious vase owned by one excellent girlfriend (5)
32. Smell drama brewing that involves Oscar (5)
34. Roses and such elicited when beautiful opening arias captured Aaron's heart (6)
36. Keeping a secret told to a swimmer (3)
37. Angry mother and daughter (3)
38. Polite bow leads to promotion, eventually raise (6)
39. Pity pack animal being ridden by several musicians (7)
40. Uniform adopted by a large number, originally in Constantinople! (5)
41. Accurately lost speed and reversed, arriving at mountain (5)
43. Again, figure out how to use fishing equipment to make money (7)
45. Involved in bringing back *Yellow Submarine* (4)
46. Cop's zodiac sign (3)
47. Design airplane parts (4)
50. Lunar new year broadcast heard at Egyptian god's pyramids (10)
51. Camp's sleeping bag not empty (5)
52. Cruel uninhabited centers where no one can drink (5)
53. Funny-looking fellows' regularly occurring polka group has welcomed you and me (10)
56. Finally babysitting Minnie's fantastic twins (6)
59. Old man from Greece resettled around western border of Zimbabwe (6)
61. Serious cut on that man (6)
62. Place an acceptable floorboard (5)
63. Bit of troubling radiation sickness going around a nation (6)
66. Queer, out, and proud, we surged (9)
67. Listening to live insect (3)
68. Norah reshaped an entire Italian river (4)
69. Claims dagger has brought about my end (4)
70. Can you pick this up? (3)
72. Conductor composed cantos in two parts of Italy (9)
76. Spinning weapon struck second bug (3)
77. Cartoon character whose real name is Princess Angelina Contessa Luisa Francesca Banana Fanna Bo Besca The Third. (3)
78. Mr. Romeo is upset (3)
79. Revolutionary way to encrypt "Coral", for example (3)
84. Rime in one hollow cave (3)
86. Exaggeration sometimes said to be a key element of soaps (3)
87. Cute fox-like Pokémon's second (of four!) move, finally replaced by one where icicles form (5)
88. Regularly re-elect accomplished Spanish folk-hero (2, 3)
89. Boise's weird new playwright (5)
90. I'm amazed by that bear heading off (3)
91. Indie puzzle game *Filament* at first extremely simple for a super talented gamer like me (3)
93. TV hospital drama has one last change in direction (4)
96. Secret agent got essential pieces of warlord's cunning scheme (4)
97. Entering the 100-meters, a sensational performer (3)
99. Not entirely qualified to be a Disney Prince (3)
100. It indicates salt in water (-3)
102. The Italian caught a fish (3)