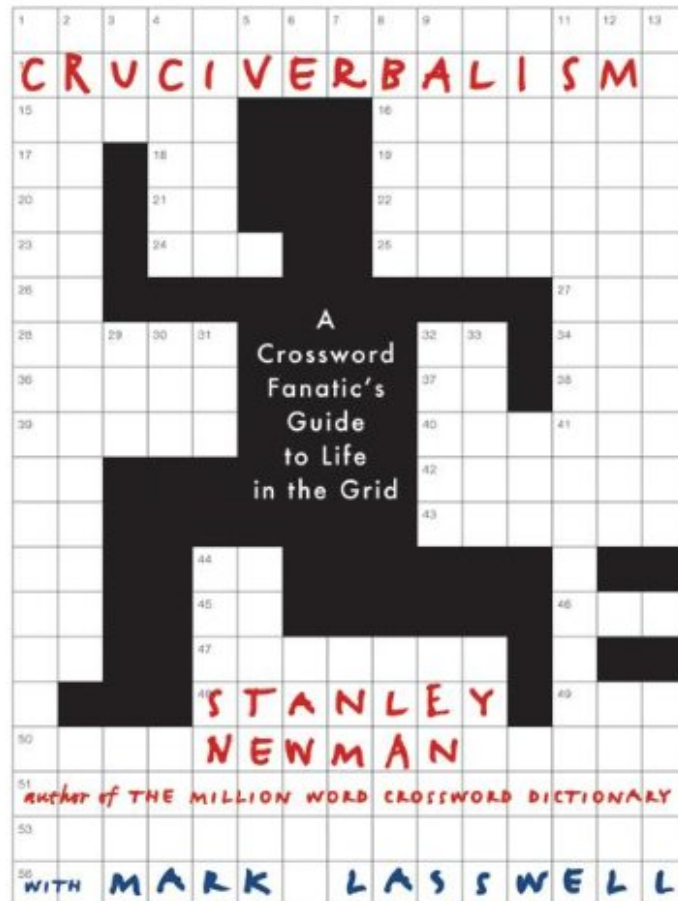


Cruciverbalism

Stanley Newman, Mark Lasswell
audiobook | *ebooks | Download PDF | ePub | DOC



#134352 in Books 2006-10-31 2006-10-31Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF #1 .66 x 5.82 x 7.36l, .55 #File Name: 0060890606160 pages | File size: 48.Mb

Stanley Newman, Mark Lasswell : Cruciverbalism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cruciverbalism:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. My cat enjoys sleeping with this bookBy BeccaSpisiak snuggles up to this book like none other. It makes an excellent elbow rest and has a lot of interesting info about crossword puzzles. You would be crazy not to buy it.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Quick Read: some useful insightsBy Stephen M. Picca MDA pleasant little book. Mostly for the casual solver who wants to learn a little more about crossword puzzles: their history, unwritten rules that apply (eg "Cancer" can only refer to an astrological sign: diseases are usually not allowed in the puzzle), helpful hints on solving puzzles etc. There is also a list of the 100 "essential words" to know for solving puzzles. A pleasant,easy read. Only real complaint is that book is very short: 142 pages with not many words on each page.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Egotistical author provides helpful hints.By Joel ShwimerAn interesting book, but it is clear that the author has a very large ego.If I were

interested in doing crossword puzzles (like my wife is), the hints in the book would probably be very helpful.

For the millions of people who do crosswords, the person behind the puzzle is always something of a mystery. What puzzler wouldn't want to know how a constructor thinks when putting together a puzzle? Or the secret rules that guide the selections of clues and answers? Or how to outsmart the constructor by understanding his mindset? A few tips about how to improve solving skills wouldn't hurt, either. Putting it all together in an accessible and witty "guide to life in the grid" is just what everybody wants and needs. CRUCIVERBALISM will help people become better solvers and have more fun doing crosswords. It will also pull back the curtain on puzzlemaking itself, outlining the history of crosswords, showing how they have evolved over the past century, and how rules and the mindsets of puzzle editors have changed over time. It will pass along the guidelines the author provides to his stable of puzzle constructors, and tidbits such as the "100 essential words" for the pursuit of crossword happiness. Finally, it will recount the decade-long battle between Old Guard and New Wave constructors, bringing in a cast of colorful characters living in a world of words. The book will be a combination of crossword selfhelp, wisdom, trivia and stories that will fascinate today's millions of avid puzzlers.

From Publishers Weekly Crossword puzzle fans will eat up this entertaining stew of history, arcana and personalities in this memoir-cum-instruction manual by longtime Newsday crossword editor Newman and Wall Street Journal deputy books editor Lasswell. And woven into the mix is a great lesson in how to engineer a midlife career switch. Newman, an advocate of "new wave" crosswords, gleefully describes his "war" with "pedantic" Eugene Maleska, the New York Times crossword editor from 1977 to 1993, a David-vs.-Goliath tale. But Newman doesn't neglect the nuts and bolts about difficulty levels (contrary to popular belief, Sunday isn't the hardest puzzle of the week: it's about midweek-level, but bigger), the types of clues used by constructors and the most effective ways to approach puzzle solving (start with an easy clue and try to fill in that entire section before moving on). Newman touts the health benefits of puzzling, citing studies that show it can help ward off Alzheimer's and senile dementia. He also provides some interesting trivia bits, among them, that the late Seagram's chairman Edgar Bronfman's passion for puzzles helped Newman finance a Lincoln Town Car, and many of the puzzles appearing in daily newspapers are constructed by prison inmates. (Nov.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Crossword puzzle fans--solvers and constructors alike--will find a wealth of useful tips in this book by Newsday's crossword editor (and world record holder for the fastest solving of a New York Times crossword). The book is part autobiography, part how-to guide, and part manifesto: while telling us how he got to be a full-time puzzle editor, Newman both rails against editors and constructors who try to hold back the evolution of the crossword and celebrates the new wave of constructors and solvers, the brave men and women who risk their reputations on the front lines of the new crossword battlefield. Yes, the author does take his subject a little too seriously (and he has a troubling hate-on for former New York Times crossword editor Eugene Maleska), but he also has a good sense of humor, and his knowledge of his field appears to be virtually encyclopedic. For veteran crossworders, a fascinating glimpse into their special world; for newbies, an introduction to a world that can be intellectually stimulating and, at the same time, childishly petty. David Pitt Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. Cruciverbalism is smart, informative, and valuable. Any crossword puzzler will enjoy this book. (Will Shortz, Crossword Editor, The New York Times) Reading Stanley Newman on life inside the grid is a revelation. (Daniel Okrent, author, Great Fortune: The Epic of Rockefeller Center) This book made me think, it made me laugh..., but mostly it made me want to solve some crosswords. (Ken Jennings, Jeopardy! champion) Cruciverbalism is an amazing journey into the mind and the thinking process of a puzzle genius. (Jeffrey Lyons, NBC) Cruciverbalism could be neatly encapsulated in three lines: Obsessive wordsmith/Enraged by stuffy old clues/Thinks outside the grid. (New York Times) A breezy insiders look at the puzzlers small world, along with some tips to improve your own performance. (Boston Globe) Crossword puzzle fans--solvers and constructors alike--will find a wealth of useful tips in this book. (Booklist) Crossword puzzle fans will eat up this entertaining stew of history, arcana and personalities in this memoir-cum-instruction manual. (Publishers Weekly)