

### 39.4

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#### Across

- 1** *The ... Articles of Religion, The ... Steps, Ian's Book of Crosswords Vol. ...* etc.
- 9** Dangerous speech targeted in new laws to promote social cohesion in riven community
- 10** *The ...* Kafkaesque 1969 political thriller by Karel Kachyňa about Czech communist party official who suspects he is under surveillance and about to be the subject of a political purge while dealing with turbulent marriage to alcoholic wife (banned until fall of Soviet Union in 1989)
- 11** Lurid Stephen King novel about children terrorized by evil entity in New England town
- 12** Mixed up American singer known for hipster persona and mob connections
- 15** Roger Corman movie (initials)
- 17** Mythological psychopomp portrayed as morose, bearded ferryman transporting souls across river Styx to underworld traditionally requiring a fee of an obol coin placed in the mouth of the dead
- 18** Turgid, sadistic Stanley Kubrick film known for leaden ideas and destroying mental health of vulnerable lead actress (3, 7)
- 20** "... , Meeny, Miny, Moe" Controversial children's rhyme for choosing at random
- 21** *Veronicas* album (initials)
- 22** Sir Elton (initials)
- 23** Former students of iconic English school (inc. Guy Burgess, Prince Harry, Jeremy Brett and Bear Grylls) educating ruling elite since 1440

- 26** Electrical plug for connecting VCR to TV named after pioneering electronics company from 20s
- 27** Garish museum in Fed Square notable for noise, inanity and general sensory overload (1,1,1,1)
- 29** Monumental sculpture designed by Pro Hunt in Broken Hill (initials)
- 31** Classic Holden from 70s known for stylish stripe
- 33** Arrestingly titled first novel of French writer Laurent Binet about *Operation Anthropoid* and the assassination of Nazi leader Reinhard Heydrich in Prague referencing popular quip in the SS "Himmlers Hirn heißt Heydrich" ("Himmler's brain is called Heydrich")
- 34** "Zurück vom Ring!" Villain dragged to watery death by Rheinmädchen in staggering finale of *Götterdämmerung* foiling plot of evil dwarf to take over world through power of gold in controversial masterwork by Richard Wagner

#### Down

- 1** Guest at dinner table regarded as unlucky and inviting calamity (referencing Last Supper)
- 2** Small, short-handled axe for use with one hand associated with acerbic, often unfair attack on someone's reputation or work (or ... job)
- 3** Pronoun used for a nonhuman or inanimate thing which has just been mentioned ("Now, don't ask me what Voom is. I never will know. But, boy! Let me tell you ... does clean up snow!")
- 4** English singer songwriter known for poignant classic *Driving Home for Christmas* (vale)

### 39.4 (contd.)

#### Down (contd.)

- 5** Closed, fundamentalist religious school for study of Torah, Talmud and labyrinthine Rabbinical responsa (infiltrated by Barbra Streisand disguised as young man in *Yentl*)
- 6** Infectious singalong chorus of psychedelic *Beatles* classic (2, 2, 2, 2 etc.)
- 7** Rihanna autobiography (fictional) (1, 4)
- 8** *Neon Genesis ...* Dystopian anime set in fortified, post-apocalyptic Tokyo-3 about troubled teen Shinji recruited by coldhearted father in shadowy organization *Nerv* to pilot bio-machine *Eva* in war to save world from malevolent "Angels" with touching story arc about complex relationship with enigmatic, 14-year-old pilot Rei (as seen on SBS in 90s)
- 13** The Chomsky Hierarchy *or* Ted Cruz High (initials)
- 14** Hubbard, Howard, Barrasi, Blaskett, Laing, Eli, Kray, Weasley etc., etc., etc.
- 16** Ornate, seven-branched candelabrum made by Bezalel to exacting instructions revealed on Sinai (incorporating twenty-two almond blossoms) depicted famously on Arch of Titus in Rome being paraded as plunder after destruction of Temple in 70AD (also in unusual illustration by Maimonides with straight rather than curved branches adopted controversially by Lubavitcher Rebbe Menachim Schneerson and Chabad)
- 19** *N...* Hugely popular 90s boy band (*Bye Bye Bye* etc.) with name made from last letters of names of members Justin, Chris, Joey, Jason and JC
- 24** Baffling name by which G-d identified himself to Moses from burning bush ("Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, ... hath sent me unto you") (1, 2)
- 25** Heroin (informal) (from 40s)
- 28** Affectionate way of referring to Jeffrey Epstein (2, 1)
- 30** Bernard Herrmann *or* Ben Hecht *or* Bill Henson *or* Benny Hill (initials)
- 32** Celebrated American authors of disparate texts *The Gift of the Magi* and *There is Nothing Like a Dame* (initials)