

Out the back

by *Fieldfare*

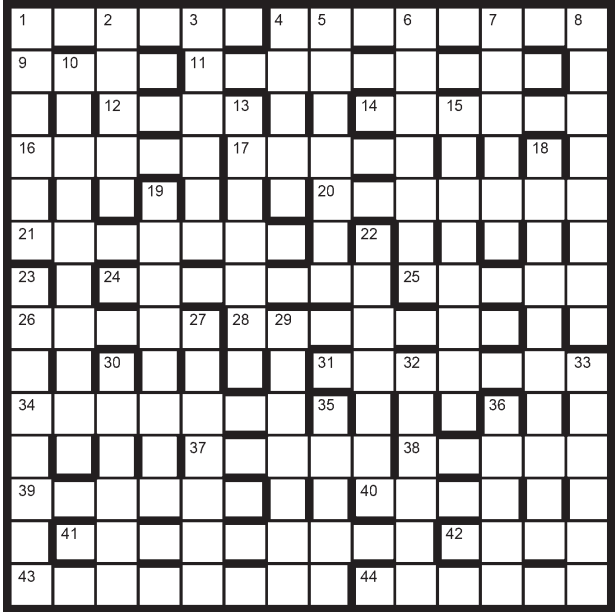
A book title has three elements, each one suggested by three unclued lights. The author's name is hidden in the grid and should be highlighted. Ignore three accents.

Across

- 1 Notice cutter that bobs up and down (6)
- 4 Temporary halt proves to relax (4,4)
- 9 Message no longer seen in *Times* (4)
- 11 Pottery decoration from Riga nicer when fired (4,5)
- 12 Shot a magpie (4)
- 14 Hidden dry rot (6)
- 16 Supply of drugs like heroin on the way (5)
- 24 Theatre blessed to employ young singers (7)
- 28 Rustling the paper (5)
- 28 Beat poet's first chanced on in soft glow (7)
- 31 Remarkably clear deceit I resolved (7)
- 34 Get back from playground, having left on purpose (7)
- 37 One wears longer silk (5)
- 38 One old dog taking the lead? This is rare (5)
- 39 Too short a section at square dances (6)
- 40 Woeful emotion on a date (4)
- 41 Paired, began to grow without resistance (9)
- 42 A friend for tea (4)
- 43 In the basin, stirred liqueur (8)
- 44 A loop of rope as sign to alien (6)

Down

- 1 Assist to review arrest (6)
- 2 Raise measure to hold vote: he may not have one (5)



- 4 Pouch not quite all of 9 (5)
- 5 Marble spot in garden paving (7)
- 6 Appropriate pressure to restore temper (3-4)
- 8 Goes back and tries another remedy (8)
- 10 Opening even suitable for the inexperienced (5-5)
- 13 Billboard can be put on stage (7)
- 15 From outfitter, hire motley Fool put on (8)
- 18 Sprayer: German count and duke employing it (10)
- 19 Extra large, the Spanish cherries (8)
- 22 Aimed to achieve high point in a day (7)
- 23 Sainly doctor shortly taking up fine, heavenly food (8)
- 27 Joining in old dance, amateur is ready (1,2,4)
- 32 Resolve of editor cooled enormously, on reflection (6)
- 35 Irritate good class (5)
- 36 Right to plug flimsy cause (5)

A first prize of £30 and two runners-up prizes of £20 for the first correct solutions opened on 24 June 2024. Please scan or photograph entries and email them (including the crossword number in the subject field) to [crosswords@spectator.co.uk](mailto:crosswords@spectator.co.uk), or post to: Crossword 2657, The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP. Please allow six weeks for prize delivery.

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