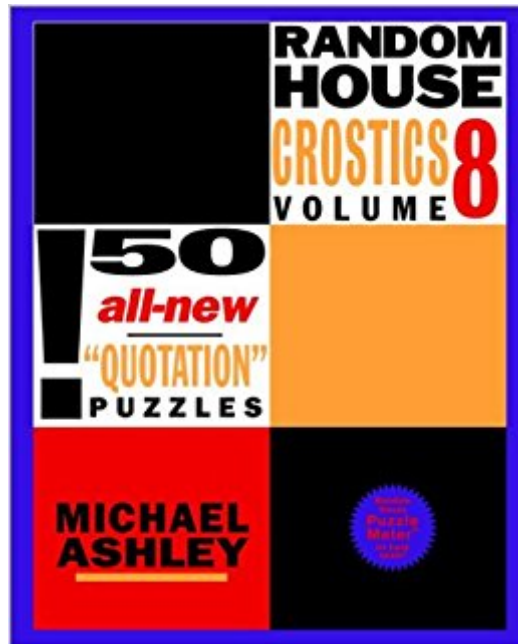




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Random House Crostics, Volume 8 (Other)



Synopsis

Volume 8 of this popular series presents a new batch of 50 original crostics by Michael Ashley, arguably America's favorite author of these hybrid puzzles. Crostics combine crosswords with quotations and Ashley always hits just the right note in both areas. His clues range from classic literature to cutting-edge computer jargon; the authors of his quotes run the gamut from Leo Tolstoy to Richard Feynman to Letterman.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Volume 8 of this popular series presents a new batch of 50 original crostics by Michael Ashley, arguably America's favorite author of these hybrid puzzles. Crostics combine crosswords with quotations and Ashley always hits just the right note in both areas. His clues range from classic literature to cutting-edge computer jargon; the authors of his quotes run the gamut from Leo Tolstoy to Richard Feynman to Letterman.

MICHAEL ASHLEY is America's most prolific crostician. In addition to his Random House series of books, his puzzles appear regularly in Games, Dell, The Washington Post, and other magazines and newspapers.

Michael Ashley's previous four volumes of crostics were exceptionally good and fun to solve. Michael has given us crostics that don't rely on ridiculously esoteric clues, such as quotes from Shakespeare, unheard of islands, etc. Instead, Ashley uses contemporary clues to solve his

puzzles. He also doesn't quote from stuffy writers, etc. However, in this edition, he starts to show a little bit of that "traditional" clue giving, and is not as imaginative as in his previous volumes. Still, he's head and shoulders above the rest, and I look forward to his future editions. Crostic lovers should check out Peter Scher's "Cinema Crostics" for some really fun puzzles!

This is one of the best collection of acrostic puzzles I have found. Not too easy, not too hard, and the clues are varied and imaginative. And, important for someone my age, the type is big enough to see. The quotes are clever, also varied, and worth the effort to uncover them.

A BETTER QUALITY PAPER, THAT IS, WHITER, WOULD MAKE THESE PUZZLES EASIER TO READ. A LITTLE MORE HUMOR WOULD MAKE THEM FIRST RATE.

The clues are plenty challenging and even tricky, chosen from a wide variety of subjects and levels of expertise, but the quotes at the end are not as interesting as in other acrostics I have done. They are taken mostly from popular humor books or self-help books or celebrity bios. I would rather see meatier quotes from history and science books or essays, or actual quotes from historical figures or documents like the Declaration of Independence. Too often I find that I have the quote figured way too soon and then it is a tedious job to go back and fill in the (almost impossible) clue words I couldn't guess. It would be nice if the quotes were longer and taken from more interesting sources to make them more difficult to guess. The puzzles are still fun, but the payoff at the end (finding out the quote) is too often a letdown.

Fun and challenging crostics. The puzzles in this book are rated as medium difficulty, with the style halfway between "middle of the road" and "contemporary" (via the "Random House PuzzleMeter"). Nice size with steel spiral spring binding. Pages are good-quality paper that accepts pencil well, yet erases easily and cleanly.

These volumes are great fun. I find the ones that are modern music difficult but usually can work them out.

I started "playing" with crostics in Games magazine a number of years ago and was delighted to have this puzzler recognized by Random House in volumes. Hope this Volume 3 is soon followed by another volume of fun although would also like to see a return to the original 60 games.

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