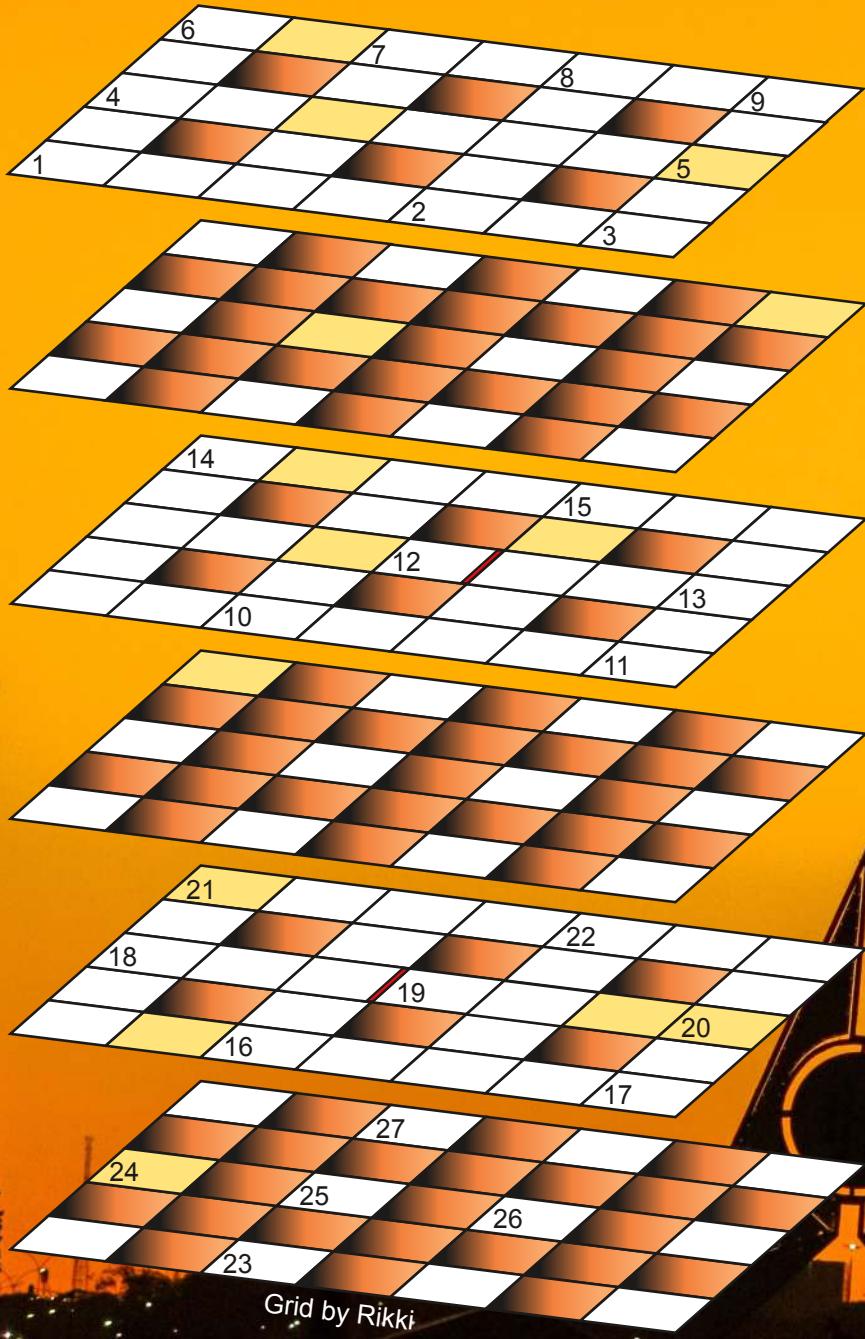




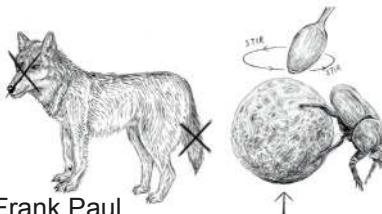
# January 2026

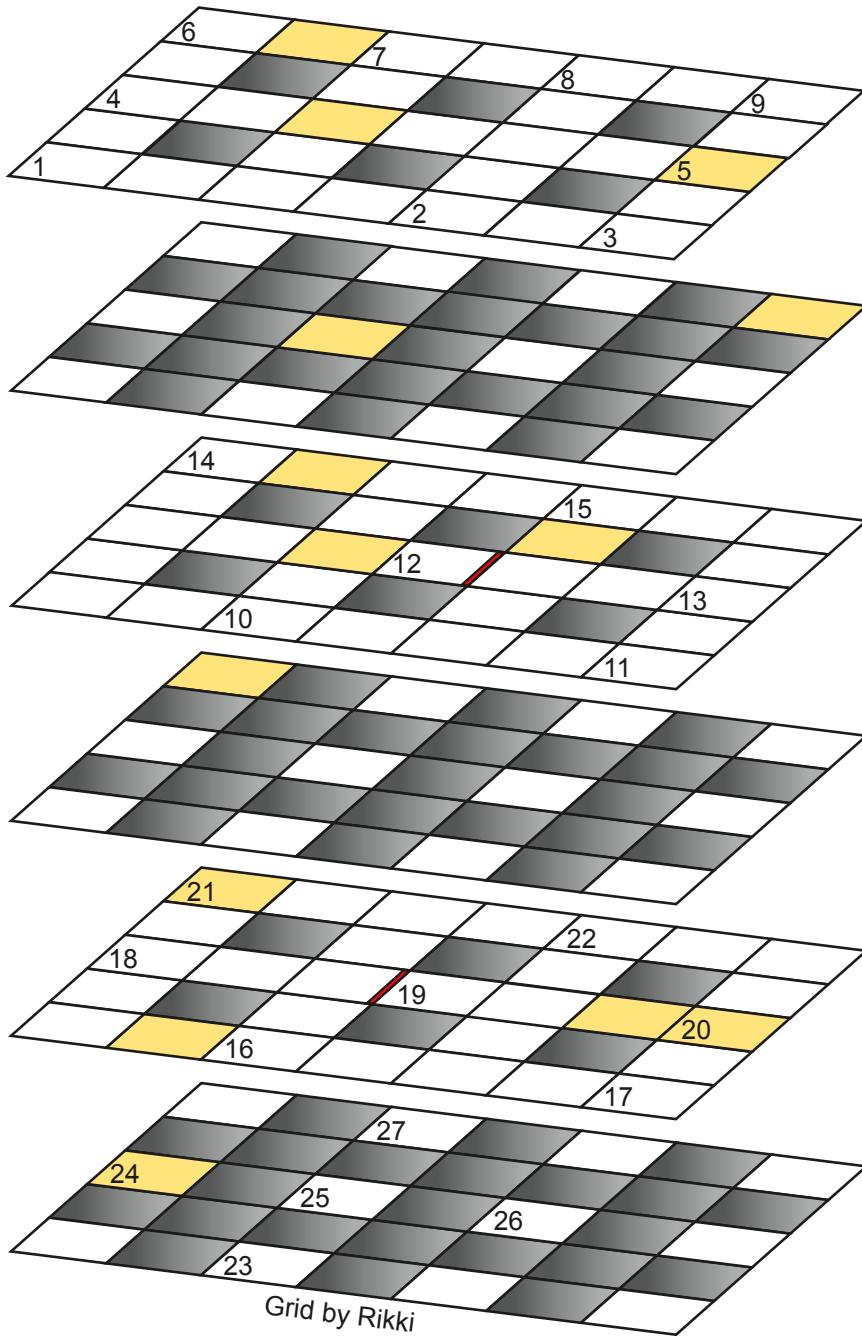
## Carpathian

Rikki



The puzzle marks fifty years since the death of a best-selling author, whose surname and that of a principal character appear jumbled in the highlighted cells. A feature associated with another regularly-appearing character appears at Day 8. Include in your entry the two surnames. Clues are numbered in alphabetical order of their solutions.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Day 21's solution consists of two common words but is not a dictionary phrase.			<b>1</b> 17ba Refrain from a bit of beef with Mark (7)	<b>2</b> 6ac Strangely croaky director is 4's creation (7)	<b>3</b> 25up Own commercial US college (5)	<b>4</b> 6d Woman a label rejected with expression of mirth (6)
<b>5</b> 14to Eager to form consent (5)	<b>6</b> 16aw Tree in rural Derbyshire (5)	<b>7</b> 10aw Defence a politician introduces at the start (5)	<b>8</b> 14ac,4ac,17aw Source of 13's core irritation is song with overlapped lines rewritten (7,7,5)	<b>9</b> 9d Penny explores, starting between two rivers to get further down (6)	<b>10</b> 3d Wattle and daub element we initially envelop (6)	<b>11</b> 15to Party for a person administering drugs (5)
<b>12</b> 9to Medicated revolting git and journalist (5)	<b>13</b> 21ac Man left during that woman's signal (7)	<b>14</b> 13ba-3 In Mesopotamia potential leaders find mischief-maker (3)	<b>15</b> 7to Chef in kitchen holding revolving blade (5)	<b>16</b> 12ba One misleading in revolting banter (4)	<b>17</b> 26up Thief marks silver dish (6)	<b>18</b> 23up Run from male hangmen off and on (6)
<b>19</b> 19ac-4,20aw Character with place in bay perhaps (6)	<b>20</b> 27up Michael crossing road to find Copperfield character (2,4)	<b>21</b> 8d <span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">non-Chambers</span> Lounged around dropping European antique firearm (3,3)	<b>22</b> 24up Use too much of superior finish (6)	<b>23</b> 8to Open secret leader dropped (5)	<b>24</b> 1d First of all Quin, uninvited, entered estate never showing cards (6)	<b>25</b> 1ac Adventured as asked but about to leave (7)
<b>26</b> 1aw Share statement showing price lacking final article (5)	<b>27</b> 5d Stingy broadcaster setter's quietly infiltrated (6)	<b>28</b> 2d Drive hard to enter charge (6)	<b>29</b> 22to Paintings excluding tip of massive mountain range (5)	<b>30</b> 18ac-3 Victor headed core wartime organisation (3)	<b>31</b> 11ba Bloody revolting, distant Eastern conflict (7)	<b>32</b> 11aw,21to Wine and port in English town (10)
Day 21 8d (3,3)						
						
Drawing by Frank Paul				Jan 2026		



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or scan and email to [calpuz3Dentries@gmail.com](mailto:calpuz3Dentries@gmail.com)  
by midnight **31 January 2026**.

Name: .....

Email: .....

Author's surname (8): .....

Surname of a principal character (6): .....