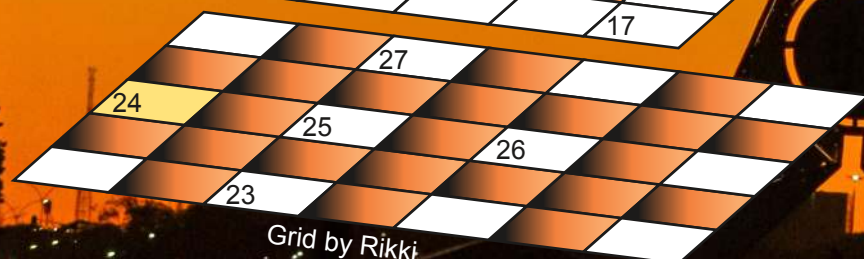
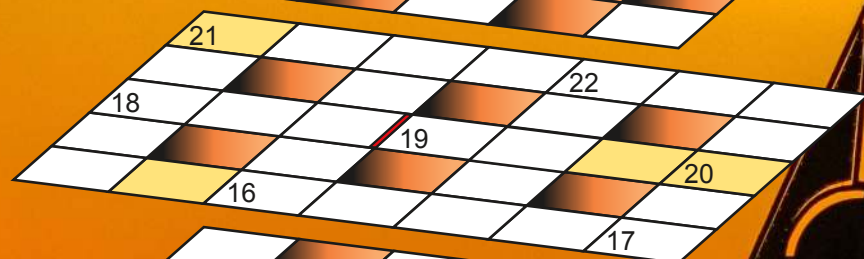
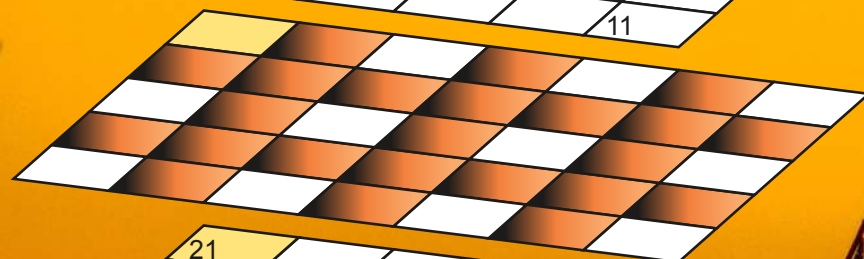
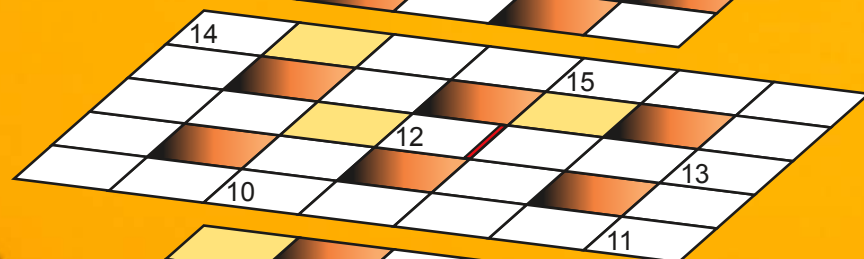
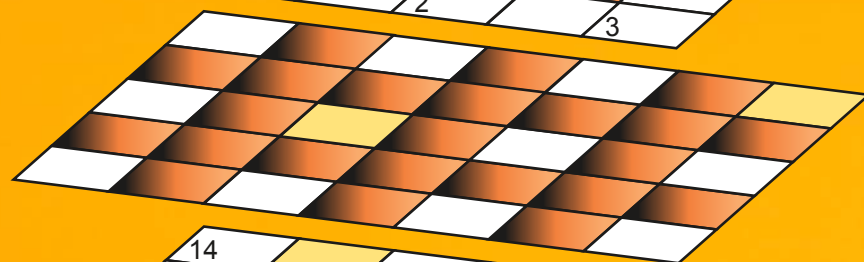
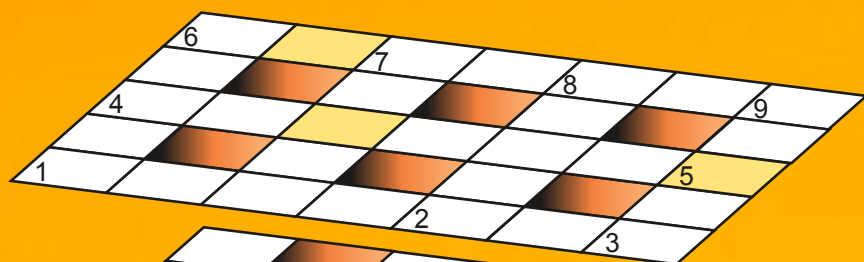


January 2026 Carpathian Rikki

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.



Grid by Rikki

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

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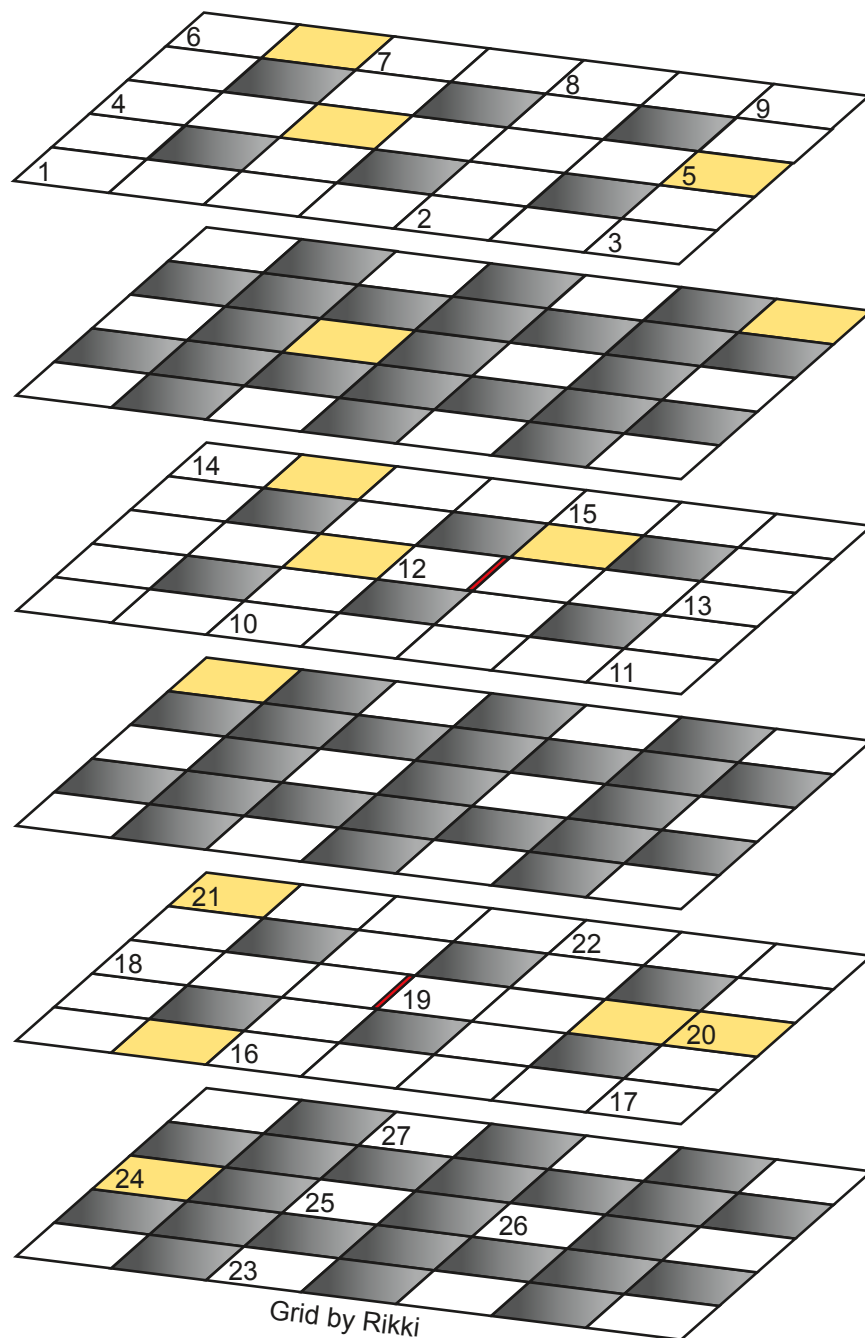
Enter online at 3dcalendarpuzzles.co.uk/latest-puzzles or scan and email to calpuz3Dentries@gmail.com by midnight **31 January 2026**.

Name:

Email:

Author's surname (8):

Surname of a principal character (6):



Grid by Rikki