



Aries Cryptic #3

SLASHER FILM

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You'll need to cut some characters to complete this "slasher" of a puzzle. Eleven Across clues include one extra letter that must be removed in order to solve the clue. In addition, eleven Down entries each need one letter removed before placement in the grid, in each case creating a new, valid word. The letters cut from the Down entries, when placed in their corresponding position in the shaded row underneath the grid, will reveal the character who made the cut; the letters cut from the Across clues, reading from top to bottom, will reveal the character who didn't survive the cut.

ACROSS

- 1 Edited movie set in kiddie center is sorely lacking (6)
- 4 First-rate meal with half-serving of peas? (5)
- 7 Pena's offspring announced official seal of approval (6)
- 8 Contracted Dale Evans' first relation (4)
- 9 DOJ division in ruin produces charge that's non-negotiable (4, 3)
- 10 Best Actor winner for *Animal House* (4)
- 14 German name in the military (4)
- 16 Compound for a chemist turning single (4)
- 17 Police ultimately lose curiously slippery creatures (4)
- 18 Letter from girl given without opening (7)
- 21 Washington's clocks sounding for bygone political party (4)
- 25 Rich Musk melon free of lead (4)
- 27 It's prohibited from operating in New Orleans (2-2)
- 28 Coffeehouse servers' rights, e.g., for the most part (4)
- 29 Quaker product made from mixed nuts and a muesli casing (7)
- 30 Polish palace's slimy creeper beheaded (4)
- 31 Completely consume *Horrible Bosses* (6)
- 32 Moving once between doctor's appointments (5)
- 33 Like Samson, shackled by quartermaster on guard (6)

DOWN

- 1 Distinguished title cut by *Jaws* icon (7)
- 2 Nickelodeon owner is a company engaged in animation (6)
- 3 Apprehensively go from full to empty amidst torrential rain (2, 4)
- 4 2016 candidate's big mug (5)
- 5 Component of a mobile phone's primary multi-device connection with alien (6)
- 6 Rod's partner brought up impolite glance (4)
- 10 Central reveal rattled slasher film cutter (7)
- 11 Historical Spanish craft from Brass Age (7)
- 12 One more on-earth evolution (7)
- 13 Sharply criticizes playing gin during come-from-behind bridge feat (7)
- 15 Cult leader's fellow family member (6)
- 19 Help a southern section of border city (2, 4)
- 20 Wrongdoing ruler is going down (7)
- 22 Noir cocktail on shaved ice with a twist (6)
- 23 Anchor, getting technical, creates driving force (4)
- 24 Steal from American introduction to Thomas Hardy (6)
- 26 Diversion around tail back (4)

