



Loops | a cryptic puzzle by Emily Cox & Henry Rathvon

Each of this puzzle's eight loops contains four words totaling 24 letters and reading clockwise in order as clued. The starting points of entries are not given, so you'll need to match intersecting letters to align the loops correctly. The phrase formed by the 16 border letters (in the loops' protrusions) will show where all the loops may lead you.

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| 1a Label third of words in loop (5) | c Impair current when withdrawing tungsten (7) | 6a Scandalous message about church custodian (6) |
| b Drifting asleep, slip away (6) | d Mystical gathering spot occupied by Nelson Mandela's party (6) | b Clock with a bell and a fantastic beast (7) |
| c Worked out after the temperature fell (6) | 3a Haiti's leader donning cloak and gold hat (7) | c Folk history about one European river (5) |
| d Boosts a sort of screwdriver for the audience (7) | b Clever piece of work in torn fragment (6) | d Divine parcel of land in South Dakota (6) |
| 2a On both sides of street, heckle clown (6) | c Wash inside of combat helmet (5) | 7a Saw ref scattering some crackers (6) |
| b Travel permit assuming end of employment prospect (5) | d Led astray about one word, be in no hurry to proceed (6) | b Knock public transport backed up worse than usual (6) |
| | 4a Map out extraterrestrial part of a solar system (6) | c Bavarian king high behind the wheel, in drag (6) |
| | b Front of United jet in working condition (6) | d New Deal, including New England, had a bias (6) |
| | c Behind act of wrongdoing in record book (6) | 8a Horse receiving a horseshoe heated over a flame (7) |
| | d Mixing mud, ape put cosmetics on (4,2) | b Volunteer help after terrible pun (6) |
| | 5a Border loop: ironclad? (6) | c A woven cloth whenever desired (2,4) |
| | b Hearing cry of alarm, delay match (6) | d Seize one of the royal Stuarts, the tenth (5) |
| | c Second story flat (5) | |
| | d Bad review hurt self-assured style (7) | |

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