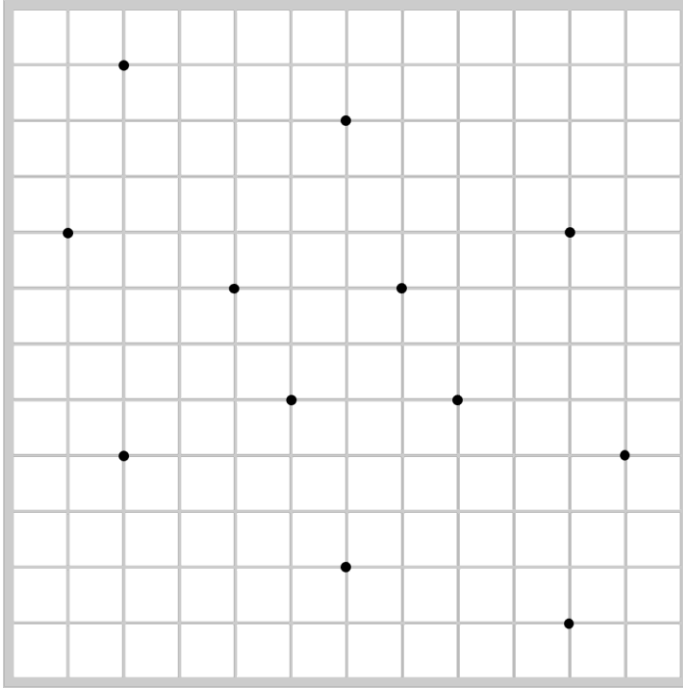


## Vanishing Act by Gateman



The diagram of this puzzle has mostly vanished, leaving only faint lines behind a constellation of small dots. Bars, had they not completely disappeared, would display 180° symmetry. Clues are presented in the normal order and numbered only for convenience.

Wordplay in eleven clues omits a single letter from the answer. Squares containing omitted letters should be marked with large dots in their upper left corners. Marked squares give two inventions by an individual whose surname is the single unclued entry in the grid; use one invention to obtain the other.

In the completed grid, sketch the outline of the other invention by connecting eight dots with straight lines, alternating between small and large dots. The outline should enclose a total area of twelve squares. As the final thematic step, make everything within this outline—except for four appropriately positioned letters—vanish.

4D is in Collins.

### Across

- 1 Become bigger before breaking down (6)
- 2 Prepare, eat, and chat over serving of English breakfast (6)
- 3 Brown's contact info (6)
- 4 Chief of Malay somewhat cracked wheels (4)
- 5 Brightest star of this year east of Gran Paradiso? (5)
- 6 *Haunting of Hill House* read on Audible (4)
- 7 Live the life of a shill by shilling wireless transmitters (7)
- 8 Back German in excited eagerness (4)
- 9 Not that many after new bird flies off (4, 2 words)
- 10 Fire cook tied in with £500 missing (6)
- 11 It starts to explain why boyfriends get naked (7)
- 12 Right hip might finally produce issue (5)
- 13 Abandoning soldiers, American falls back once more (5)
- 14 Told a bell getting live on stage (7)
- 15 Salmon circles detective flipping loose stones on riverbed (6)
- 16 Say farewell and lift one's hat (4)
- 17 Supple and tapering, lacking middle (4)
- 18 Rough assortment of ten pursue gold rush (7)
- 19 Go around performing *Rent* in auditoria (4)
- 20 Resin used to make chalky drink (5)
- 21 Stream snippets of Rowan's indelible *Mr. Bean* (4)
- 22 Cry from one trapping engineer inside of octagon (6)
- 23 Take out permit to dam river (6)
- 24 Gets extra mileage out of electronic packing devices (6)

### Down

- 1 Obama's banning K-turns in Beetle (6)
- 2 Circulated pure drug in Indian capital (5)
- 3 I hack end of camera roll, counting frames (5)
- 4 Absent lecturer hit the links about to clear of dew (5)
- 5 By splitting up, date becomes one of these (4)
- 6 Attribute of square? Absolutely (4)
- 7 Interrupt head of editorial replacing first letter in contract (7, 2 words)
- 8 Wander restlessly to procure ingenious device (6)
- 9 Convent exposed smuggler (6)
- 10 Where one might say *mahalo* (in addresses, it means "hello") (6)
- 11 Children with ball recalled African game (5)
- 12 Go tense over broken thread (6)
- 13 Country power lines get damaged (5)
- 14 Short officer of police has on loose-fitting garment (6)
- 15 Untangle earbuds after first going mad (6)
- 16 Abridges Spanish article that is baseless (6)
- 17 Rearing broodmare regularly drops protective coat (5)
- 18 Waffle recipe opens: "Finely cut up herbs and meat..." (5)
- 19 Ask heads of Nilotic history to translate some hieroglyphs (5)
- 20 Chinese magnolia's saving an eastern annual festival (4)
- 21 Jog like a horse up and down (4)