



by Peter Sarrett

CABAL

The Cabal are a highly militarized, violent species known for their heavy armor and weapons. Phalanx soldiers carry massive shields that form a near-impenetrable defense.

There are five kinds of squares on the shields: giant letters, giant numbers, and three kinds of clues: crossword, examples, and phonetic. The shields must be arranged like dominoes, such that whenever two clue squares on different tiles touch, they are cluing the same word. This forms a 4x4 grid, creating 9 2x2 squares in the center enclosed by thick dark lines. Each of those nine center squares contains a crossword clue, example, and wordplay clue for the same word.:

ANSWER	CROSSWORD	EXAMPLE	PHONETIC
DAREDEVIL	Marvel's first Netflix series	Evel Knievel	Challenge Satan
METAPHOR	Poetic figure of speech	"Life is a roller coaster"	Encountered a third of a dozen
SHAMPOO	1975 Beatty/Hawn film	Head & Shoulders	Fake feces
AXIS	They fought the Allies	Y	Chopping tool exists
MOTELS	They provide lodging and parking	Super 8 and Econo Lodge	One of the 3 Stooges spills the beans
TWISTER	Tornado	Chubby Checker	Distort Sumerian city
HEDGEHOG	Spiny shrew-like mammal	Sonic	One who monopolizes shrubbery
CATHEDRAL	Bishop's church	Notre Dame	Ms. Griffin, perform some dentistry
BALLET	Graceful dance performance	Swan Lake	Hawaiian garland of sheep calls

JO						IN
		OP				
			PO		SI	
	TE					
			ED		GE	
		SWI		TH		
					LE	
TT						ER

The numbers in each square tell you which letters to extract from that word. Reading those letters along with the giant letters in the four corners, in grid order, gives the message: JOIN OPPOSITE EDGES WITH LETTER.

Pairs of clues along the outer edges also clue the same word. Those words can be combined with the words directly opposite them on the grid by inserting a letter.

(continued on next page)

DOUG + H + NUT
 INVEST + I + GATES
 MONEY + G + RUBBING
 BAT + H + ROOM
 ARCH + E + TYPE
 MARTY + R + DOM

Reading the added letters yields the final answer: **HIGHER**

JO	— Flutie	The Bourne Identity director Liman, e.g.	Wearing sleeveless button-down garment?	Commit funds for a financial return	"One for the ___, two for the show..."	Legal tender	IN
Echolocating flier	Poetic figure of speech	7,5	Head & Shoulders, e.g.	1975 Beatty/Hawn Film	Y, e.g.	They fought the Allies	Available space
Louisville Slugger, e.g.	Encountered a third of a dozen?	"Life is a roller coaster", e.g.	Fake feces?	5,6	Chopping tool exists?	4,3	Kitchen, e.g.
Curved support	3,4	They provide lodging and parking	Challenge Satan?	Evel Knievel	Sonic, e.g.	Spiny shrew-like mammal	AB+, e.g.
Signature shape in St. Louis	One of the Three Stooges spills the beans?	Super 8 and Econo Lodge, e.g.	4,1	Marvel's first Netflix series	One who monopolizes shrubbery?	4,5	Printed letters
— McFly	4,2,3	Chubby Checker, e.g.	Ms. Najimy, perform some dentistry?	3,4	Swan Lake, e.g.	Hawaiian garland of sheep calls?	Monk's title that precedes Perignon
1955 Oscar winner for Best Picture	Distort Sumerian city?	Tornado	Bishop's church	Notre Dame, e.g.	Graceful dance performance	3,5	— DeLuise
TT	Fanatic	Cashew, e.g.	Fence doors	Bill or Melinda, e.g.	Massage a search engine?	Charcoal image of a textured surface	ER