

Acrostic Solution

FFORDE, THE WELL OF LOST PLOTS

Making one's home in an unpublished novel wasn't without its compensations ... The car didn't need refueling, there were never any wrong numbers, there was always enough hot water ... Best of all, the bad guy was always someone you knew of, and—Chaucer aside—there wasn't much farting.

A	FANDANGO	<i>FA(N)D + A (N) GO</i>
B	FAHRENHEIT	<i>“FAIR IN HEIGHT”</i>
C	OBDURATE	<i>O(B)DUR + ATE [DOUR*], &lit.</i>
D	REFRESHING	<i>R(E(FRES)H)ING [SERF rev.]</i>
E	DUMBWAITER	<i>cryptically allusive definition</i>
F	ELBOW GREASE	<i>“ELLE” + “BEAU” + GREASE</i>
G	TWENTY-TWENTY	<i>T + WENT + Y, repeated</i>
H	HANDSHAKE	<i>HAN(DSHA)KEr [DASH*]</i>
I	EGOMANIAC	<i>CAIN + AM + OGrE, rev.</i>
J	WHICKERING	<i>WHICH + K(ER)ING</i>
K	EYEWASH	<i>...E YEW AS H...</i>
L	LANGUISHMENT	<i>LA(NG)UISHMENT [LAME SHUT-IN*]</i>
M	LAUNDRESS	<i>“DRAWN LESS”, Spoonerism</i>
N	OWNERSHIP	<i>dOWNERS + HIP</i>
O	FAUST	<i>F A U S T, initial letters, &lit.</i>
P	LOWBROW	<i>BLOW* + ROW</i>
Q	OMINOUS	<i>O + MINO(U)S</i>
R	SWANSDOWN	<i>double definition, ref. Odette in Swan Lake</i>
S	TUYERE	<i>(U...Y R...E T...E)*</i>
T	PANDEMONIUM	<i>P(AN)DEMONIU + M [OPIUM DEN*]</i>
U	LUNCHEONETTE	<i>definition plus pun on LUNCHEON-ETTE</i>
V	OVULATE	<i>OSCULATE, with SC replaced by V</i>
W	THALASSOCRACY	<i>(ROYAL CASH CAST)*</i>
X	SEVENTEENTH	<i>S(EVENT)EEN + TH</i>

[In explanations, asterisks (*) indicate anagrams, ellipses (...) indicate selections from clue text, quotation marks (“ ”) indicate homophones, and lowercase letters indicate deletions.]