

Hit the Low Notes

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ACROSS

1. Defeat narrowly
4. Business letters?
7. Become bearable
12. Temp. ctrl. syst.
14. Defense that holds water?
16. Word never actually said in "The Godfather"
17. "Johnny ___ Loses All Support After Fans Realize They've Been Confusing Him For Orlando Bloom" (Onion headline)
18. Crossword champs who dictate who can and can't sit with them at lunch, e.g.
20. Gollum, before he found the One Ring
22. Director Roth
23. Spanish "Yo!"
24. Ish
25. Conceived
27. Streamers with channels
28. Best-selling erotic novelist Leigh
31. Like two sides of an engagement
34. Where ewes are
35. Bombs that don't blow
36. "Wayne's World" actress Skye
37. "Outbreak" org.
38. Giving off noxious vapors
41. Private Insta chats
43. Slimy side veggie
45. Hardens
46. "Just call me ___!" (words from a minister who's maybe trying too hard to be hip)
47. "It's Gonna Be Me" band
49. Actor Alan who, to my knowledge, hasn't publicly commented on his crossword ubiquity
50. Water in the Seine
51. County on the Thames
53. Crow bars?
55. Civil rights law since '90
58. Leaf-cutter, e.g.

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| 59. Settles in, as at a bar for a few cocktails | 8. Main squeeze | 32. Founder of a luxury 5th Avenue chain |
| 62. Biological sequences | 9. Erykah Badu do | 33. Prepares to cut once, per a carpentry proverb |
| 65. Rooney of "Nightmare Alley" | 10. Clean house? | 39. One of two Spice Girls |
| 66. Lab holder? | 11. Facility | 40. "___ be a lot cooler if you did ..." (imagine this in a Matthew McConaughey drawl) |
| 67. Lab order? | 13. Book reviewers who don't indulge fantasy writers | 42. "Law & Order: ___" |
| 68. Distort | 15. You, in a hymnal | 44. Whiskey base |
| 69. Steppe tents | 19. Pond film | 48. Woodstock quartet, for short |
| 70. 2021 debut for Bumble, briefly | 21. Investment bank with 20 separate "controversies and legal issues" items on its Wiki page | 52. Score with a laser |
| 71. "Last 4 digits" digits, 4 short | 25. Big wind ... and a phonetic feature of 3-, 7-, 21-, and 32-Down | 54. Note passers, briefly? |
- DOWN**
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| 1. Third degs., sometimes | 26. Tango requisite | 55. Geopolitical friendly |
| 2. "That chapter in my life is closed" | 27. Smooches and cooing and parental warmth: Abbr. | 56. Lourdes lord |
| 3. Homemade lunch carriers | 29. Assent of the French alps? | 57. Distant |
| 4. "lol," to the nth | 30. Food label fig. | 59. Nested comment? |
| 5. Get mileage out of a hammock, say | | 60. Capital on a fjord |
| 6. Diamond topper | | 61. White's h-___ (chess piece most likely to survive a game) |
| 7. Embryo development sites | | 63. Cutesy suffix with best |
| | | 64. Fragrant accessory |