

Hidden Nest (solution)

by Ong Kah Kien

The first step is to solve the given word clues. As clued by the word “acorns” in the flavortext and the icons on the second page, the answers are all [eggcorns](#), which are reinterpretations of a common phrase, creating a different meaning from the original, but which still makes sense and is plausible when used in a similar context. The table below summarizes the eggcorn answers to the clues, as well as the original phrases:

Clues	Eggcorn answers	Original
A runaway fall guy	ESCAPE GOAT	SCAPE GOAT
Astonishing to the extent that one lets go of a glass container	JAR-DROPPING	JAW-DROPPING
Burst of activity or speed that was not planned in advance	SPURT OF THE MOMENT	SPUR OF THE MOMENT
Campsite flames for gathering around, uniting and building social relationships	BOND FIRE	BONFIRE
Finely shredded raw cabbage salad, served chilled	COLD SLAW	COLESLAW
Informal saying that means made you angry, like a male goose	GOT YOUR GANDER UP	GOT YOUR DANDER UP
Insect with enlarged adapted forelegs used for hunting for food	PREYING MANTIS	PRAYING MANTIS
One that stirs up the masses of revolutionaries	REBEL-ROUSER	RABBLE-ROUSER
Shouting out a list of characters at a film set to establish who is present	ROLE CALL	ROLL CALL
Slice through the unimportant bits and get directly to the essential curds	CUT TO THE CHEESE	CUT TO THE CHASE
Small headphones worn for auditory perception	HEARBUDS	EARBUDS
Superstitious legend passed down by seniors with knowledge	OLD WISE TALE	OLD WIVES' TALE
The vertebral nerves of a round Mr. Men, perhaps	SPINAL CHORD	SPINAL CORD
To develop sharper instincts on a target and move directly towards it	HONE IN ON	HOME IN ON
Trick to make another feel culpable of some wrong	GUILT TRAP	GUILT TRIP
Unrestricted liberty of action or decision, for a ruler	FREE REIGN	FREE REIN
What one deserves, specifically only the sweet post-meal courses	JUST DESSERTS	JUST DESERTS
What one might use to address the man in the family	SIR NAME	SURNAME

These eggcorns fit into the provided answer blanks on the second page in alphabetical order, which provides a confirmation of the answers, as well as helps in the solving of any remaining clues. The eggcorn icons are at the changed letter positions between each eggcorn and its original phrase. Extract these respective letters from each answer, and reordering them based

on the given number in each icon, yields the clue phrase THESE EGGS ARE HIDDEN. Solving this gives the answer to this puzzle, **EASTER**.

Constructor's notes:

This is a relatively straightforward wordplay puzzle, built around the thematic idea of eggcorns arising from the puzzle answer. Eggcorns also happen to be quite interesting as they are less commonly used and encountered, and unlike other similar linguistic expressions like malapropisms and mondegreens, retain some of the original meaning. So the clues could also be somewhat similar to that for the original phrases, but with some new twist or emphasis, which solvers need to spot or figure out.