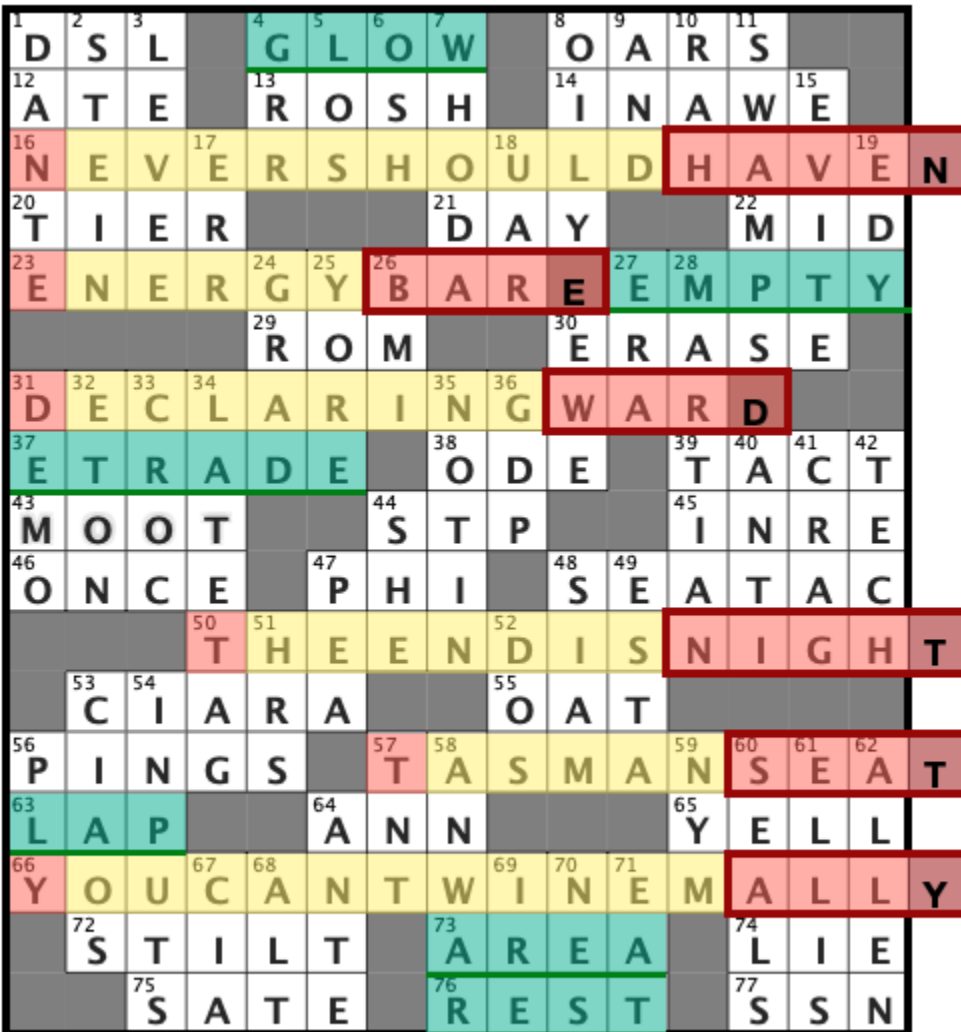


The title was everything for this puzzle! "From Start to Finish" indicated that you should take the first letter of each theme entry and move it to the end to create a new word. For example, moving the N at the start of NEVER SHOULD HAVE to the end makes EVER SHOULD HAVEN - with HAVEN being the important, newly-created word. Following that pattern for the other 5 theme entries yielded 5 other new words: BARE, WARD, NIGHT, SEAT, and ALLY. Then, you needed to find each of those new words hidden in the clues and take the first letter of the resulting grid entry. For example, the clue [Stay at a safe haven] was for the word REST, so you would take the R. Doing this for the other 5 theme entries spelled **REAGLE**, perhaps one of the most well-known crossword constructors, and the inspiration for this puzzle.



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(Merl) REAGLE