

# Better Than One

By Aaron Riccio and George Ho

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8	G	R	E	A	T	M	I	N	D	S				9	B	E	T	A		
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11	A	M	P	L	E			12	T	O	P	S	E	C	R	E	T			
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13	A	C	14	C	I	D	E	N	T	S				15	A	Z	T	E	C	
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16	A	G	R	E	17	E	T	O	D	18	I	S	A	G	R	E	E			
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19	T	A	R	O	T			20	E	X	C	A	21	L	I	B	U	22	R	
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23	U	N	D	E	R	G	R	A	D			24	O	P	25	T	I	C		
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26	S	T	E	M		27	T	H	I	N	K	A	L	I	K	E				
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## Across

- 8, 27** In the dark, smile at king after some serious banging - both of us came to the same conclusion (5,5,5,5) **GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE.** (IN THE DARK SMILE AT KING)\*
- 9** Stake a prototype version (4) **BETA.** BET + A
- 11** Liberal representative loses Massachusetts's 9th (5) **AMPLE.** [s]AMPLE
- 12** Extremely sensitive with respect to rent (3,6) **TOP SECRET.** (RESPECT TO)\*
- 13** Stresses about documentation errors, maybe (9) **ACCIDENTS.** ACC(ID)ENTS
- 15** Sounding like IT support specialist is someone who may have made sacrifices? (5) **AZTEC.** "as tech"
- 16** Tear George's idea to pieces - that's one way to end an argument (5,2,8) **AGREE TO DISAGREE.** (TEAR GEORGES IDEA)\*
- 19** Some card sharp, winning nothing (5) **TAROT.** TAR(0)T

- 20** Legendary brand of Tex-Mex/Cali burrito filling (9) **EXCALIBUR.** tex-mEX CALI BURrito
- 23** Two foreign articles by good, cool college student (9) **UNDERGRAD.** UN + DER + G + RAD
- 24** Symbolized by the eye in defaced Egyptian language (5) **OPTIC.** [c]OPTIC
- 26** Hold back support (4) **STEM.** Double definition
- 27** See 8a

## Down

- 1** Iowa captures tailless, batshit reptile (6) **IGUANA.** I(GUAN[o])A
- 2** Something clogging snorkel, perhaps! (4) **KELP.** snorKEL Perhaps (&lit)
- 3** Take heed at the beginning of the end (6) **ATTEND.** AT + T[he] + END
- 4** Japanese company has no plan on the inside (8) **NINTENDO.** N(INTEND)O
- 5** Takes up physical training amid troubles (6) **ADOPTS.** ADD(PT)S
- 6** Dreamboat to take off following trace of tryst found in home (10) **HEARTTHROB.** T[ryst] inserted in HEARTH + ROB
- 7** "Mixed up patches" may describe one! (8) **PASTICHE.** (PATCHES)\* containing I (&lit)
- 10** Dave turning around somewhere in North American state (6) **NEVADA.** (DAVE)< inserted in NA
- 14** Loads truck and drives, after adding a bit of gas (10) **CARTRIDGES.** CART + RID(G)ES
- 16** Selflessness of key RuPaul quote? (8) **ALTRUISM.** ALT + RUISM
- 17** Doctor fired after disrobing - gross (6) **ENTIRE.** ENT + [f]IRE[d]
- 18** Event tab is around \$101 (8) **INCIDENT.** IN(CI)DENT
- 20** Crude shortage after failing to start refinery on the eastern border (6) **EARTHY.** [d]EARTH + [refiner]Y
- 21** Ha! Ass-backward scrub (6) **LOOFAH.** (HA + FOOL)<
- 22** Rackenfracker's first five themers beginning to make noise (6) **RACKET.** RACKE[nfracker] + T[hemelesses]
- 25** Cancel last of cable in duplex (4) **TWIN.** TWIN[e]