

# American Hero



*For over a decade now, Tupac Shakur has been hip-hop's martyred poet, a brilliant mind cut down senselessly at the peak of his game. But all that may soon change. Everybody has that one crazy friend that believes Tupac didn't really go off to that Thugz Mansion in the sky, but that Pac and Elvis have been sipping Coronas (or Hypnotiq, whatever) on some tropical island for years, reaping the benefits of their posthumous sales.*

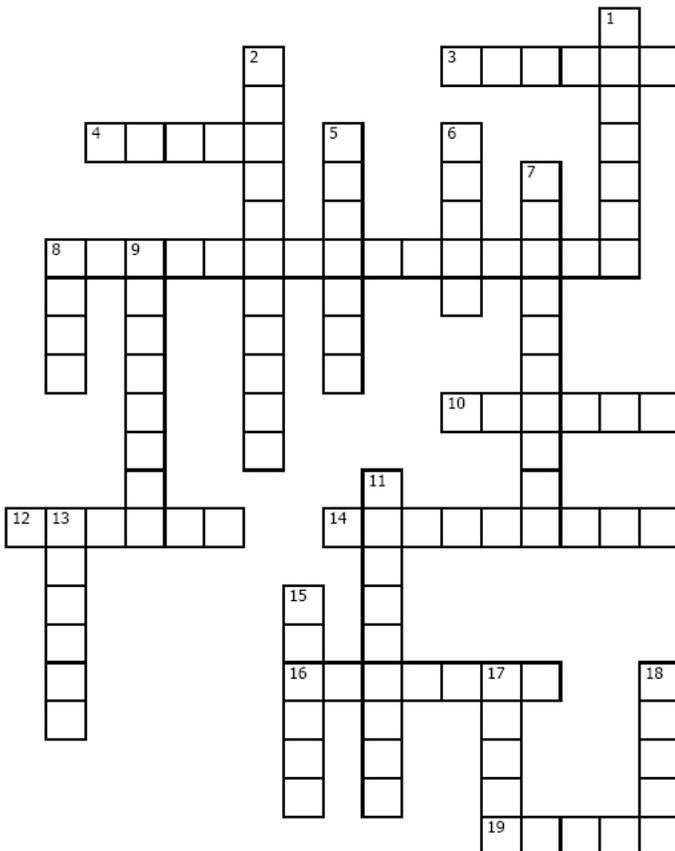
*According to reports by the ever-trusty TMZ and others this week, that crazy friend may have been right. Apparently Pac showed up in Miami last week, very much alive.*

*This really is a shame, because we at The Clarion kind of enjoyed Pac being a*

*legend. Everybody knows that artists' listenability goes up by about 400 percent after they die. If Pac really is alive, his music will just return to its status as heavily sampled pseudo-poetry riddled with cliched statements about race relations—ones that NWA brought up way before he did. It won't be cool to like Pac any more; he'll just be another mid-'90s rapper, like Snow or Biz Markie.*

*Luckily, the blog [hiphopblips.com](http://hiphopblips.com) is reporting that the photo of Pac is really just a lookalike, and thank God for that. For saving the image of hip-hop's fallen star, and for keeping "Changes" cool for at least another 15 years, we salute that blog, a real American Hero.*

## Summer Reading



### ACROSS

- 3 Nabokov's underage temptress
- 4 Algerian stranger
- 8 Dan Brown adaptation hitting theaters this summer
- 10 Albom's Tuesday companion
- 12 Citadel foil; Great Santini's real-life son
- 14 Tyler Durden's literary creator; Survivor author
- 16 Litigious Mississippi writer; started career selling books out of back of car
- 19 Elie Wiesel's holocaust memoir

### DOWN

- 1 Harper Lee's patriarch Finch

- 2 Twain describes life on this river
- 5 Thought good men were hard to find
- 6 Sea-splitting Pentateuch scribe
- 7 Footnote-heavy pop culture philosopher Chuck
- 8 Melville's vengeful sea captain
- 9 Swift's satire protagonist; visited Lilliputians among others
- 11 Salinger's angsty Holden
- 13 Used Napoleon and Snowball to bash communism
- 15 McSweeney's founder; Figured out what the what is
- 17 Lewis' resurrected Lion
- 18 Took the road less traveled by