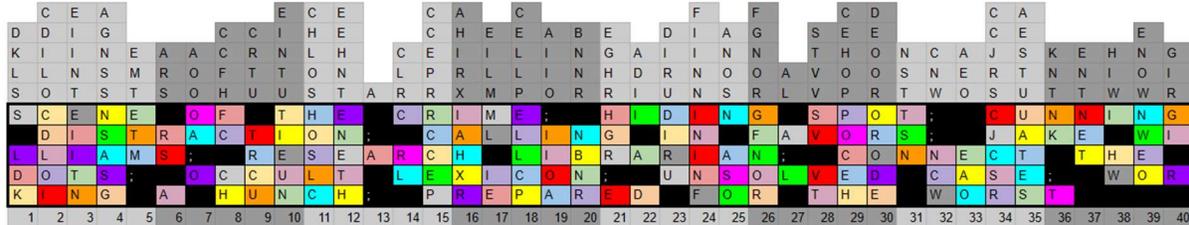**Fear of Heights**
Scott Handelman (ft. Adam Maresca)
*Answer: **CHICKEN COOP***

As it readily appears, the puzzle is a hybrid between a dropquote and an acrostic. Use whatever combination of acrostic and dropquote mechanics suit you best to complete the grid. (Use the column numbers and color coding to match each exact acrostic letter with its final position.)

Notice that all the acrostic words begin with unique letters; reorder the answers alphabetically, then read the first letters of their clues, and the message "DEFEAT AT ALL COSTS" appears. This is in reference to the eleven *Arkham Horror* cards named in the solved dropcrostic. Extract a letter from each card via its play cost.

Name of *Arkham Horror* Card	Play Cost	Extract
SCENE OF THE CRIME	2	C
HIDING SPOT	1	H
CUNNING DISTRACTION	5	I
CALLING IN FAVORS	1	C
JAKE WILLIAMS	3	K
RESEARCH LIBRARIAN	2	E
CONNECT THE DOTS	4	N
OCCULT LEXICON	2	C
UNSOLVED CASE	4	O
WORKING A HUNCH	2	O
PREPARED FOR THE WORST	1	P

This yields the final answer and the widely-held image of Arkham Asylum: a **CHICKEN COOP.**

Author's Notes

Scott: When we were formulating ideas for the Batman hunt, I was sure of exactly one thing: there would be an Arkham Horror/Scarecrow puzzle. It was just too good to pass up. I'm a huge fan of Arkham Horror: The Card Game and have sunk more money into it than I care to admit.

The first draft was written as a series of patient reports and the maladies that they were suffering, a primary ailment and a secondary diagnosis. Each one turned out to be a character from Arkham Horror that could be identified by their signature weakness, and their secondary diagnosis could be determined to be a basic weakness that had been given to them.

In initial editor testing, they felt that the fanciful descriptions of actual, in-game mechanics were a bit grindy to parse out, so I pivoted to this other idea, combining dropquotes and acrostics. (I was inspired by acrophobia, the fear of heights, and that old line about how it's not the heights people are scared of, it's the falling.) I was worried for a while that the puzzle would not be constructible, since the only Arkham cards that provided a K using cost as an index were Jake Williams... and Knife, which just seemed super boring to me.

Thanks to Adam, who really helped out with the acrostic fill. I made several frustrated attempts and basically said "Can you come up with some spooky words" and he nailed it. I then just filled in the blanks and tried to horrorize words he didn't even intend to have a horror connection, like DREAMCATCHER and GRUDGED.

Final thought: I picked the answer CHICKEN COOP for the "chicken" part of it, being a fear-based puzzle. It didn't even occur to me until after it was written that the "coop" part applies just as much, since Arkham Horror is a cooperative game!

Adam: Aw shucks. Like Scott said, he built the card game side and came up with the idea for the drop-crostic hybrid; I just found a decently thematic word set and threw in a few acrostic clues as placeholders, a few of which even survived mostly intact.

You're welcome for that template spreadsheet, by the way. (You're welcome for the rest of them, too, but this one in particular was the most... not intensive. Finicky? Finicky.)