Picky, Picky  by Ucaomhu

Each Down clue in this puzzle contains one or more extraneous words, which must be removed before solving. Specifically:

(1) Seven Down clues each have an extraneous sequence of two or more words; these sequences clue answers A–G at the bottom of the page, in order. When their letters are transferred to the extra grid, they will complete this sentence: What is odd about the Across clues is that .

(2) Seven Down clues each have a single extraneous word; these words form a clue (with enumeration) to a single word that describes what is odd about the letter sequence you can derive from the oddity seen in (1).

(3) Each of the other Down answers will be too long for its space, requiring you to overstuff one square. Each corresponding clue contains a single extraneous word, which clues another answer that would require that square to be overstuffed differently. (Any tagging applies to both answers.) In the grid, connect any two squares in the same row or column that are overstuffed in the same two ways. If each of the resulting connected sets of squares is followed by the two sequences its squares are filled with (in some order), the results are read left to right, you will get a description of the oddities seen in (1) and (2).

Finally, the gray squares in the grid will present two kinds of entertaining activity while alluding to a third; if you repair the letter sequence from (2) and follow it with the letters that make it odd, you will get a description of one last such activity.

ACROSS
1. Two items in your tears will resemble three (4)
2. Revolutionary gives a brief account of item lone uses to separate things (6)
8. Before the end, Bunny is an expert on Jewish slav (5)
10. Sought to imitate the color of roses with a scent (6)
13. Calf dances after a taste of niobium salt (4, abbr.)
15. Toto’s final ceremony is getting Uno points for originality (5)
16. Hurry, at first, through bus (4)
17. Get Fred when taking a spin in ROK’s ninth largest city (4)
18. He and Janet ultimately pound Chad (4)
20. Person working for a while west of pearly city in Arizona (5)
21. Weird Al’s the furthest from pill (6)
23. Briefly getting folks out of a tight spot or twisting grotto (4)
26. Zit captures this French rap star (3 1)
27. The zone Emile loves in South Pacific is, strangely, in Elle (6)
30. How one agrees to do stuff over the lair with the Italian CO (5)
33. Rime exhibited by excited Greeks (4)
36. Butter-like item in Spain is seized by Mia (4)
38. A 101-dimensional substance that neutralizes biases (4)
39. Sis keeping Mr. Weasley in chains (5)
40. Fighting a creature with swings (2 2)
41. Louse claiming one topless club in tent expanded by 800% (6)
42. Elmo is unexpectedly providing booze (5)
43. Vacuous yapper interrupts Elean harp player (6)
44. Caste that’s replaced AIs in movies, maybe (4)

DOWN
1. Roman official that’s whimsical, attractive or pert
2. Weird AI gets prodigy to start burlesquing Ms. Desmond
4. Dad’s shirts clinging to gutless, lazy, coral-making creature
5. Trig final perhaps enraged collier/violinist/composer Arcangelo
6. Brooks grabs Parisian photodetectors and hose again, say
7. That had too much verse by Penny
9. Rod circles initial letters of crazy Tocharian word after “Ulan”
11. As big as a pachyderm band’s resonant sound
12. Loyal Roman’s allied to three grasping underlings, initially
14. He-orc’s code confused a blackjack user (Brit.)
15. Where tars go around drunk with aggressive nude bear (2 wds.)
19. Corrected slogan does not mention M. Hahn, the physicist
20. In Scotland, watchful singer Bush doesn’t appear in this clue
21. Publicize the origins of his and your gym socks
22. Heterogeneous, outwardly exotic, and wildly Celtic brain cell
24. Head of scribe’s chatter, skinner maid, for example
25. Cutesy ending of erroneous text message with ≤140 characters
26. Chef Lagasse is, er, not exempt from duty in English military
29. The thirteenth or fifteenth repetition is getting Edward upset
31. Yak and cool adult baked clay dishes
32. Tim’s primarily curious about Mike, who Welles used to fight
34. Mentioned whitish blue cheese bucket
35. Losing heart, Laurel’s partner Zoe appears in ads for tools
36. The author’s holding weird little tin like a candy cane
37. Agreements in Austria about eleven yellow birds

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