

12. Reverse hidden answers

As promised several sections ago, there would be a twist on the standard hidden answer clue, and this is it: the *reverse hidden answer*. In this clue type, the answer is hidden backwards within other words, indicated by a combination of a hidden word indicator and a reversal indicator. For example, in this clue,

Sweet wine brought back from Laos or Oman (7)
Sweet wine / brought back from / Laos or Oman (7)

we find AMOROSO (sweet wine) hidden backwards in "la**OS OR OMA**n", as indicated by "brought back from". The hidden indicator is "from", while "brought back" is the reversal indicator.

Reverse hidden answers also work in down clues, as this corker from Osmosis in *The Telegraph's Toughie* crossword demonstrates:

Up in spare room, I'm editing actress on film (4,5)
Up in / spare room, I'm editing / actress on film (4,5)

This leads to DEMI MOORE (actress on film), which is neatly buried away backwards in "spar**E ROOM I'M ED**iting"; the indicator is a devilishly sneaky combination of the very subtle down-only reversal indicator "up" with the very subtle hidden answer indicator "in".