

## **Tough as Nails Mini Cryptic #15—Explanations**

### **ACROSS**

1. MISO is the “paste” made from “bits,” or the first letters, of MASTIC, ISOMERS, SERUM, and OLEIN.
5. FENCE (“enclosure”) is FEN (“wetland”) plus CE (“Chile’s borders,” or the first and last letters of CHILE).
6. OKRA is the “vegetable” “contained” in the phrase “coOK RAmen.”

### **DOWN**

2. INNER (“private”) is DINNER (“meal”) “after the commencement,” or minus the first letter.
3. OPEN (“give access to”) is the central letters (“losing margins”) of cOPY and mENU.
4. AFRO (“natural style”) is A (given in the clue) plus FRO (“tailless amphibian,” or FROG minus its last letter).