

Ten clues should be taken literally, and with a little cruciverbal licence.

September 2026 Slot 5 by KA

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Across

- 1** RAPS (9)
- 6** Old Greek hero without ailment is sore (5)
- 9** I (3,2,1,9)
- 10** HY (5)
- 11** Playboy has time with famous spy in toilet (8)
- 13** WOLF (8)
- 15** Croon to the French bachelor (6)
- 17** Food for silly person (6)
- 18** Appellation of Swiss banker taken in by scam (8)
- 20** CU (3,5)
- 21** Special accommodation for the unruly child (5)
- 23** ETIUQ (5,3,7)
- 24** Relatives take drug away from regular hangouts (5)
- 25** Brigadier arranged high-level link (3,6)

Down

- 1** SHELF (5,5)
- 2** RENEG (5,10)
- 3** Sweets for Welshman (5)
- 4** A pinhole incorrectly shows the planet's position in solar orbit (8)
- 5** I judge martial art (6)
- 6** Excitement of International Master in American country (9)
- 7** HER GAIN (7,8)
- 8** Short description of raising mushrooms (4)
- 12** P BIT (5,5)
- 14** Serfs held revolutionary Russian medical assistants (9)
- 16** Car with radiotelephone for Vlad, perhaps (8)
- 19** Ridicule Ukraine in religious Book (6)
- 21** Cut severe loss of energy (5)
- 22** The colour of water (4)