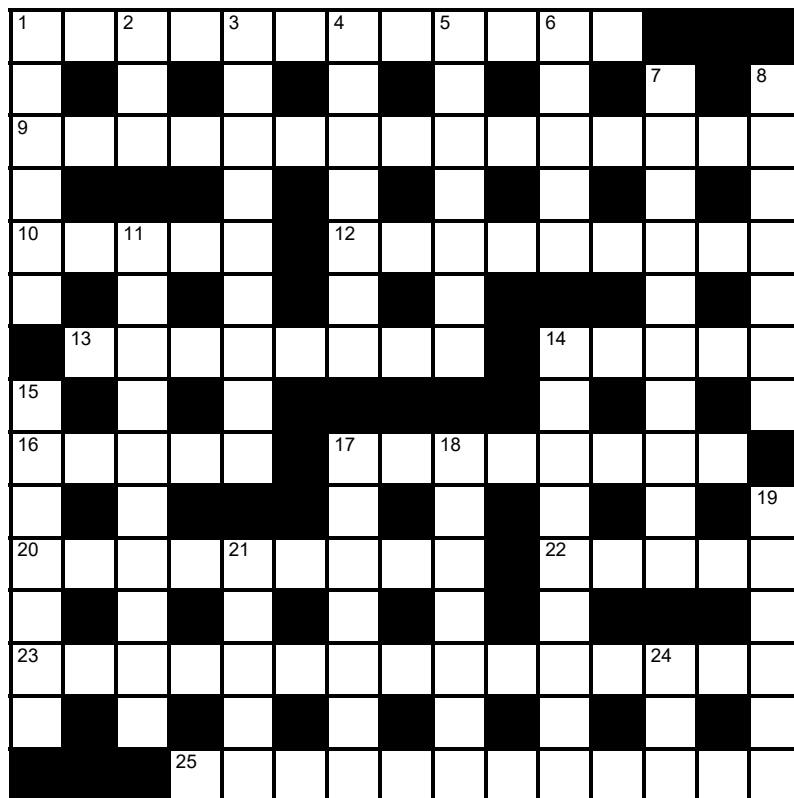


Across

- 1 Mysterious person with innate skills is after retiring agent, me and you! (12)
- 9 Wandering off endangers all the fairy tale characters (6,3,6)
- 10 Scoundrel has Burgundy, maybe gallons, flowing westwards (5)
- 12 Sent out to cover Editor's letter, as is necessary (5,4)
- 13 Grave message has landlady rejecting outsiders, resulting in comebacks (8)
- 14 Run out by slip (5)
- 16 I flap horribly making rice dish (5)
- 17 Take advantage of money and help farm worker (8)
- 20 Home time, managed to settle on the way (2,7)
- 22 Make engine's opening right for spinning part (5)
- 23 Officer's choice to abandon ship is a political event (7,8)
- 25 Dish from hotel requires a wad of dollars - but nothing cooked! (7,5)

Down

- 1 It's round this place, by the banks of swamp (6)
- 2 Find fault with move to follow God (3)
- 3 Fluently recited very loud poem, getting sideways look sent back (6,3)
- 4 Piece of propaganda gains traction in opposition (7)
- 5 Remove outfit of deranged



- 6 nerds infiltrating America (7)
- 7 Influenced by a piece - poignant and thus oddly moving (2,8)
- 8 Small bet that indicates failure of heart? (7)
- 11 See parting remorse in face of exiled killing machine (10)
- 14 Fruit stacks in sets of five lines (9)
- 15 Elastic band stolen by someone hoping to go undetected (7)
- 17 Forced key Civil Service union member to return (7)
- 18 More wee as brood left inside (7)
- 19 Pressed De Niro to act (6)
- 21 Central courts overturning some unfair tariffs (5)
- 24 Charged out of bed, it's bad (3)