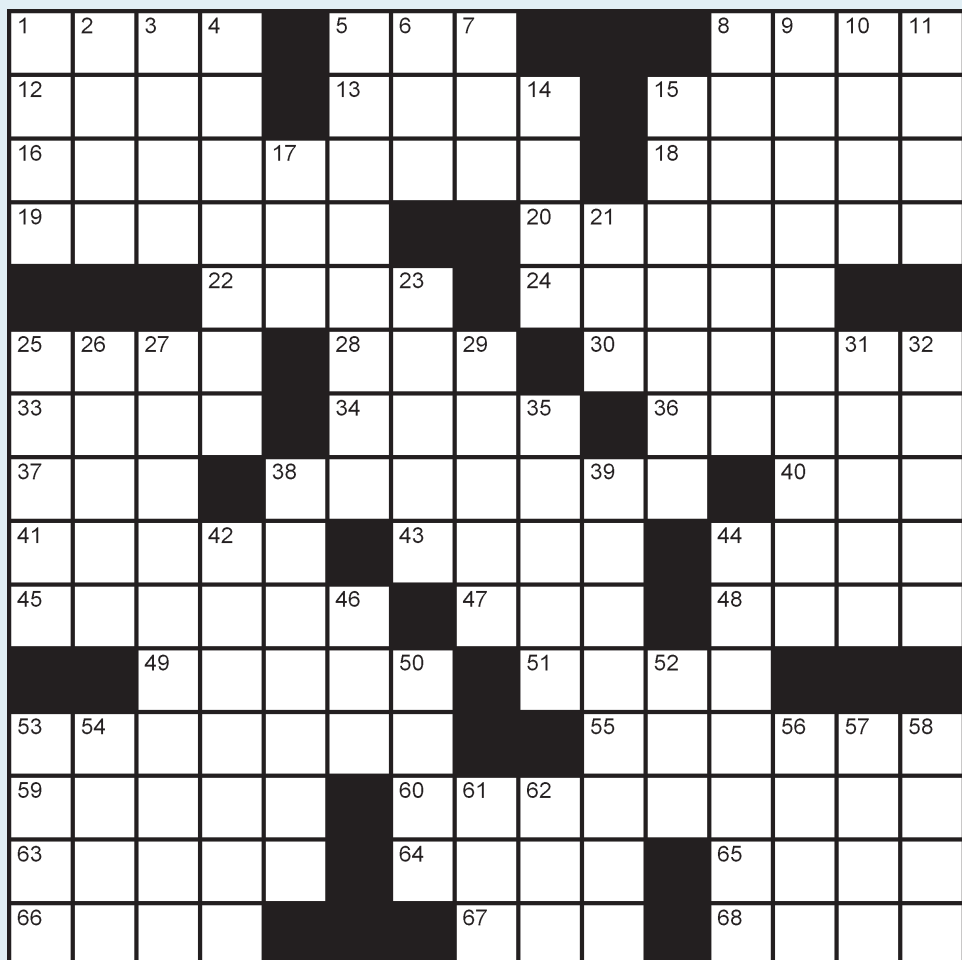


Easy Come, Easy Go by Paul Coulte

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Many AMA members
 - 5 Night ____ (morning person's opposite)
 - 8 Shaving lotion brand whose name sounds apt
 - 12 River to the Caspian
 - 13 Desserts that may have nuts and shells
 - 15 Tornado warning sound
 - 16 Setting for a tiny gem?
 - 18 Tuft on a bird's head
 - 19 Line of business?
 - 20 Varsity team member, e.g.
 - 22 NFL officials
 - 24 Dish with seasoned rice
 - 25 "Broad City" star
 - 28 The "I" in TGIF
 - 30 Name that anagrams to "Dacron"
 - 33 Campus figure with a list
 - 34 Wreck
 - 36 Terminate
 - 37 Word before "gap" or "group"
 - 38 Marriage
 - 40 Soccer legend
 - 41 Thingamajig
 - 43 Fizzy drink
 - 44 Authentic
 - 45 What a spoiler may spoil
 - 47 Aphid's food
 - 48 Ain't equivalent?
 - 49 Cosmetician
 - 51 Beach bird
 - 53 Deep-fried American
 - 55 Boxing matches
 - 59 Oscar winner
 - 60 History of a dog variety?
 - 63 Some are residential
 - 64 Subtle glow
 - 65 Big name in skin care
 - 66 Require
 - 67 Keep out
 - 68 Sweat source
- DOWN**
- 1 Gives a nickname to
 - 2 Face-to-face exam
 - 3 Baja resort, briefly
 - 4 Smirk
 - 5 Where to roast chestnuts, in a Christmas song
 - 6 "The ____" (musical set in Oz)
 - 7 Gymnastics gold medalist
 - 8 Sky route
 - 9 Optician's bonus offer?
 - 10 Makeup at fashion school, say?
 - 11 Poker buy-in
 - 14 High-five sound
 - 15 Junk
 - 17 Sweetie
 - 21 Behavioral quirk
 - 23 Supports for drywall
 - 25 "Haste makes waste," e.g.
 - 26 Launch into
 - 27 What a musicologist who studies folk singer Joan "earns"?
 - 29 Structures near barns
 - 31 Japanese or Javanese
 - 32 Gave out cards
 - 35 Greet silently
 - 38 Chinese soup dumplings
 - 39 North Carolina headland of cinematic fame
 - 42 Interpret incorrectly
 - 44 Wearable candy
 - 46 Come together
 - 50 Idris of "The Harder They Fall"
 - 52 Clear (of)
 - 53 Enthusiasm
 - 54 Reason for an R rating
 - 56 Angel's headwear
 - 57 Russian leader until 1917
 - 58 Eye annoyance
 - 61 ____ elbows with
 - 62 Big time?

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021 Into the Mercury Retrograde



Of all the retrogrades in all the solar systems in all the galaxies, the Mercury retrograde gets the most press. Perhaps it's because there's no press quite like an Earthling's press, and no mess quite like Mercury's. Fear not! This backward stint, which will go until Oct. 23, has the potential to fortify relationships. Stay hopeful and open!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). As strong and grounded as you are, you can always use emotionally sturdy companionship. A trusted anchor allows you to express your passion without fear of taking it too far.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't expect to fail, but you're still prepared for it. Preparedness is the way of the winner! It puts you in a position to help yourself and others, which gives you confidence no matter what happens.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You never stop learning. For a curious problem solver like yourself, there is more school outside of school than there ever was inside. Today features a pop quiz you're likely to ace.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The day is packed with encouragement, some of which feels like urgency rushing you along. Ultimately, it's just the push you need to fulfill a dearly held value of yours.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Being very creative gives you an edge over many other talents, including physical strength and intellectual cleverness. You'll come up with something new to surprise, disarm or humor people.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Take the time to set yourself up for success. Think ahead to the things that will require physical work, emotional labor or the use of willpower. What can you do ahead of time to make them much easier?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Handling emotions well gives you power. The first step in managing emotions is to correctly identify them. It's hard to identify smushed-down emotions. Do you have a safe place to meet with them?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Singing together, dancing, working and playing as a group -- these things build up your joy. Synchronize with the group and be buoyed by a sense of belonging.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Like food, information can be nutritious or junky. You are drawn to what is emotionally and intellectually nourishing, which makes you picky about the media you consume.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). To recognize the terrible ideas of others is a gift that helps you steer clear of bad company and dead-end roads. To recognize your own terrible ideas is the talent of champions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's easier for you to give others your heart when you have a deep and abiding love for yourself. Need a little inspiration? You'll find it modeled in the world today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). No need to spin the story; it isn't necessary for you to come off like a winner. It's better that you're known as a real person who, just like everyone, experiments to get it right. Those who never fail aren't trying hard enough.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 26). To march to your own drum is harder than you thought it would be, as there's a great deal of coordination that must take place with a person who is simultaneously laying down the groove and then marching to it. But it's what you'll do, and you'll do it so well that a whole band forms around you in this year of exuberant music! Leo and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 17, 12, 39, 3 and 22.

Universal SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

			7		5	8		
2							9	
	5			4				
1				3				9
6	3		5	7	2		1	8
	7			8				3
				5			6	
		1						2
		7	8		3			

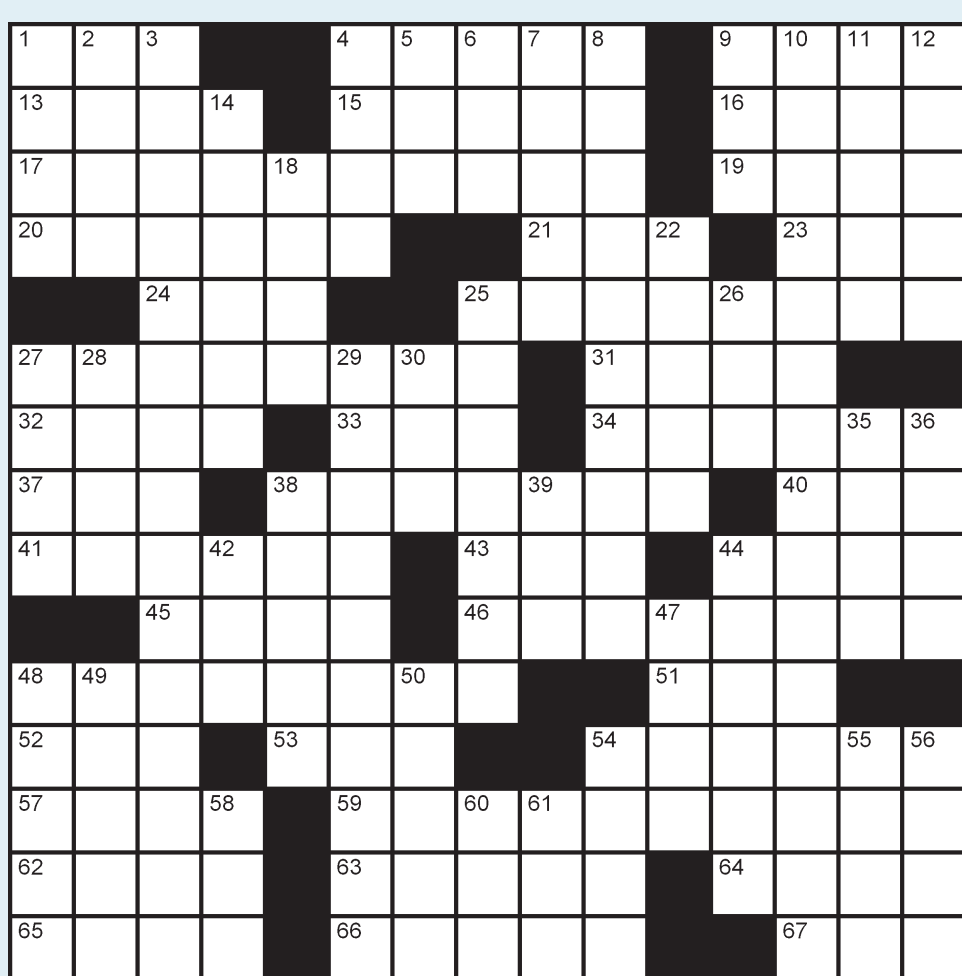
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆☆

SOLUTIONS

4	1	5	4	1	5	4	1	5
2	8	7	3	6	9	7	3	6
6	9	7	6	4	5	1	3	2
3	6	5	8	1	6	2	7	4
8	3	9	5	7	2	4	1	8
7	6	9	3	6	4	5	8	1
9	6	3	8	2	4	9	1	3
5	3	6	9	7	5	8	2	4
3	6	9	7	1	5	8	2	4

In-Flight Entertainment by Jake Halperin

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Fitting
 - 4 Does' counterparts
 - 9 Square :: rectangle :: circle :: ____
 - 13 Songwriter Sammy
 - 15 Tennis champ Simona
 - 16 Country with many alpaca herds
 - 17 Chamber music piece for three
 - 19 1982 Disney sci-fi film
 - 20 "This party rocks!"
 - 21 German exclamation
 - 23 Org. concerned with air bags?
 - 24 Particle written with a superscript
 - 25 More like a sauna
 - 27 Admits one's guilt
 - 31 Voting coalition
 - 32 "Nothing ____ matters"
 - 33 Holler
 - 34 Work in a cockpit
 - 37 European mountain
 - 38 Way underground?
 - 40 Permit
 - 41 Daring poker player
 - 43 100%
 - 44 Grps. that may hold bake sales
 - 45 Asking too much?
 - 46 Quit fretting
 - 48 Remains cross
 - 51 Gnaw at
 - 52 Word after "fish" or "snake"
 - 53 "Down in ____ Forest" (Christmas carol)
 - 54 Coin in 20th-century Spain
 - 57 The universe's will, so to speak
 - 59 On the winning side
 - 62 Buffet carrier
 - 63 Muslim wedding figures
 - 64 "Do for Erykah Badu
 - 65 Flowing garment
 - 66 Like a ghost story
 - 67 Really loud, in music
- DOWN**
- 1 Ballet's beginning
 - 2 Word in a sequel title
 - 3 1984 rockumentary film parody
 - 4 Layup or jumper, in basketball
 - 5 Soak up some sun
 - 6 Chicken ____ king
 - 7 Say indirectly
 - 8 1987 sci-fi film parody
 - 9 Reach a decision
 - 10 Helicopter's ascent, or what 3-, 8-, , 25- or 29-Down could be considered?
 - 11 Became apparent
 - 12 Like some craters
 - 14 Win-win
 - 18 The "S" in trig's SOHCA-HTOA
 - 22 Opposite of "double"
 - 25 1996 secret agent film parody
 - 26 "Little old me?"
 - 27 Coward's predisposition
 - 28 Fitzgerald who recorded over 200 albums
 - 29 2000 horror film parody
 - 30 Self-serve coffee container
 - 35 Oolong and others
 - 36 Amazon Handmade alternative
 - 38 Slobbish
 - 39 "Bravo," in Barcelona
 - 42 Tofurky protein
 - 44 Book of Esther's setting
 - 47 Cake layer
 - 48 A Cyclops has just one
 - 49 Prom queen's crown
 - 50 Japanese cartoon genre
 - 54 ____ as (pretend to be)
 - 55 Sod
 - 56 Status update words
 - 58 A Cyclops has just one
 - 60 Lyft driver's need
 - 61 "I wish I could unhear that!"

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2021 Partnerships in Retrograde



Mercury's retrograde in the sign of partnership begins with a drop of awareness about the nature of the arrangement. Most relationships are run by unspoken rules buzzing below the level of consciousness. It often takes a breach of those rules to be aware of them in the first place. So, welcome the breach. It's where discovery begins.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll put your head down and do the work. The motion gets you out of your own way. Soon it will seem as though the work is being done not by you, but through you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You may think you don't have enough time to follow through with an action, when in fact time is not the issue at all. Procrastination is a fear issue, not a time issue. Just do it, then it's quickly done.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're punctual and courteous, with the insider's knowledge that manners are always cool, and unreliability is among the most selfish and dubious character traits. Your actions set a standard others will adhere to.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Seek the dynamic of a mentorship, which will be good for all involved. The teachers will better understand the value of their own knowledge, and the student will evolve.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The drive to achieve purrs inside you, and like a cat, it is hard for anyone to resist you in this calmly inclusive mood. You will cuddle up to the people and situations with potential to facilitate your aim.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Research will increase your options. The more options you have, the more powerful you will feel. The more powerful you feel, the better you can settle into the moment, which in turn increases your ability to make effective moves.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You take pleasure in being useful to others, and yet your value should not be entirely based in utility. Those who are only there for you when

you are fulfilling a need are not true friends. Cherish the rarity of true friendship.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You have big, interesting plans that, when executed, will be filled with ordinary moments just like this one. It's another good reason to keep training yourself to revel in the wonder of dailiness.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Doing what you tell yourself to do is a matter of self-respect. However, it is unloving to require difficult or unrealistic action of yourself. Command yourself in small increments.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Mutual gain is not only possible, it's probable -- though the way won't be obvious. Brainstorm from all angles. You push your collaborators to new levels of creativity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A group project will make everyone richer, though it's important to note that riches come in many different forms, the least of which is money. Fire signs (Aries, Leo and Sagittarius) will be particularly lucky for you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Yesterday is both gone and ever-present. Handle memories carefully. Just like it is in the movies, as you time travel in your mind, what you touch in the past will change destiny.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 27) The work you do takes a fascinating turn, though the real luxury of this solar return is in the wide array of characters you are involved with both virtually and in reality. Some are people you are excited to know. Others are eager to know you. When those qualities are in the same person, it's heavenly! Sagittarius and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 30, 1, 11 and 12.

Universal SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

5	1			3	2			4
3			4	5				2
9	4	2		1				3
		4		7	3	6		
		7		4			2	
		8	2	9		1		
8				6		2	9	1
4				2	9			7
	2		3	8			5	6

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

SOLUTIONS

6	9	7	2	9	3	6	1	4
4	1	5	2	6	9	7	3	8
1	6	9	7	4	2	9	3	8
3	8	2	5	6	2	8	9	7
2	9	3	2	9	6	5	4	8
7	4	1	7	3	6	9	8	5
6	4	2	8	1	7	5	6	3
3	8	7	4	5	6	9	1	2
5	1	6	3	2	7	4	8	9