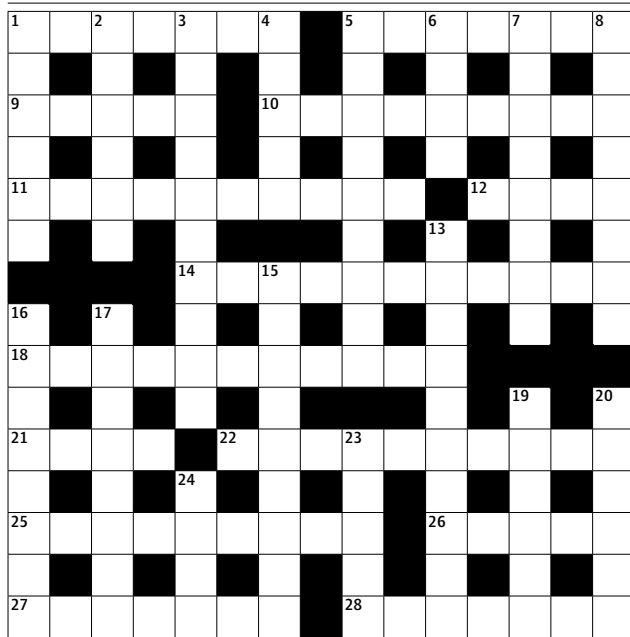


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,600 set by Arachne

## Across

- 1 Novelist enthralled by Eyeless in Gaza (7)
- 5 Factor composed of various viroids (7)
- 9 Harmful mite endlessly biting bovine (5)
- 10 "Get lost, man!" (not originally something Jesus said) (9)
- 11 Wholesale or singly stocking pipe (10)
- 12 Response in church, standing before sinister graven image (4)
- 14 Certain banks conceal atrocious blundering in show of brilliance (11)
- 18 Urge to steal and smash up Kia? Not me, pal! (11)
- 21 Force Russian poet to leave family (4)
- 22 Praise fool's misguided attempt to make pie crust? (4,6)
- 25 She possesses tract with expression of pain hidden between old lines (9)
- 26 Girl, learning with boys about love, murmured softly (5)
- 27 He wastes time being terrible flirt and heartless roué in retirement (7)
- 28 Expert airmen, primarily "right stuff" for sound barrier (7)

## Down

- 1 Most recent recapitalisation of bank essentially ignored (6)
- 2 Team described by Sibyl as "more tempting" (6)
- 3 Old man in Cuzco, perhaps, exhibiting lack of power (10)

- 4 Publicity-shy actress runs away to North African country (5)
- 5 Hooligan finally left Disneyland in a mess, causing wrath? (6,3)
- 6 Two individuals support girl, 8 (4)
- 7 Some policemen to go private (8)
- 8 Defrocked clergyman has large cocktail of gin and white wine (8)
- 13 Crazy commander's way of travelling round large island (10)
- 15 Leaders of ruthless Ukrainian mafia shoot alcohol smuggler (3-6)
- 16 Clergyman's reinterpretation of spiky Old Testament character (3,5)
- 17 Capital investment in brothels in Kiev (8)
- 19 Saint Rock making journey on foot (6)
- 20 Unpredictable podgy Eastern pariah (3-3)
- 23 Bush in which foxes, perhaps, can be heard (5)
- 24 Judge's hooter and saggy jawline (4)

Solution No. 25,599

