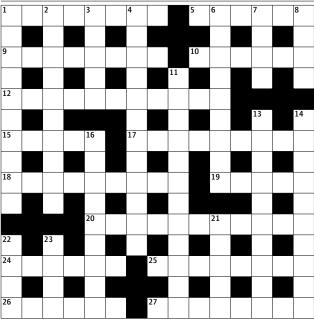
Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,924 set by Picaroon

Across

- 1 Make out fabulous stores close to retail chain (8)
- **5** Hang on! It's a very subdued finale (6)
- **9** Grand confession from show-off (8)
- 10 Notice skirts twirling in opener from Lady Gaga(6)
- 12 Winning back Liberals, virtuous type calls to exert influence (4,7)
- **15** Free toy? About time! (3,2)
- 17 For this, seek knave? King or queen included, too (5,4)
- 18 Anti-capitalist movement thus is ousting North America from Asian country (9)
- **19** Way of speaking Latin pupil rejected (5)
- **20** Crazy family's slippers seen on these? (6,5)
- 24 Boozer gaining weight around middle such a product could help! (3-3)
- 25 One's tied in second till leader drops out of position (8)
- **26** Woman's rear clad in lingerie (6)
- **27** It has a laxative effect in repeat runs (8)

Down

- 1 Trouble in new language? You should have it at your fingertips (4,6)
- 2 Like a joiner's debut in carpentry work value it poorly (10)

- **3** Throwing up portion of crisps ill-advisedly makes sinner less fat? (5)
- 4 Sign of Labour and Tory battles about heads of Treasury (12)
- **6** Fleet Street heart-throb gets closer (5,4)
- **7** Pencil case, mirror, pens, ruler (4)
- 8 Action in 2-D (4)
- 11 Reformed human sin with Pope Victor's tactics (3-9)
- 13 Father becoming "pater" in old German territory?
- 14 Troubled developer requires a financial handout to be on track (10)
- 16 Nothing's stopping complete poet getting beyond the limits of his craft? (9)
- **21** Unqualified, drunken fortune-teller (5)
- **22** Turned up source of light whimper (4)
- 23 Terribly sweet with no end of mawkishness (4)

Solution No. 25,923

