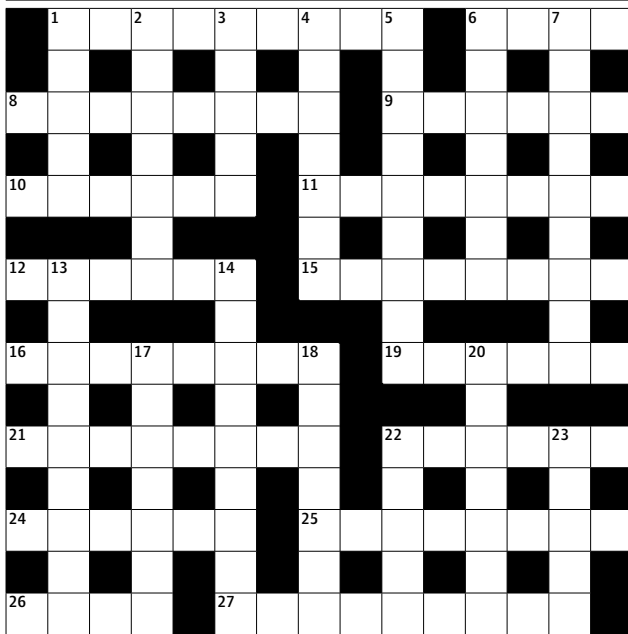


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,990 set by Paul

Across

- 1** Book challenging paper (4,5)
6 See 15
8 See 27
9 Cook dressing in private ultimately for Sunday best (6)
10 See 15
11 Anything but an island, lake is imaginary (8)
12 Fringes back on church soil (6)
15,10,6 Paint piece: scene's up for interpretation as work of 26 21 (4,4,3,3,4)
16 Bag with smack sent over – want to lose head? (8)
19 Turn one's nose up at garbage (6)
21 See 26
22 Books in bundle missing the last book (6)
24 Nightmare, describing Greece originally (6)
25 Weird doctor yearning after smelly guts (8)
26,21 Artist framing "Endless Time" and "Winter Vehicle", not quite a surrealist (4,8)
27,8 As utter misery beginning to advance, use ill-conceived cuts (9,8)

Down

- 1** Cap in hand over foreign money, a beast picking over carcasses (5)
2 One liberating another snooker player's assistant shortly before snooker player? (7)

- 3** It's here or there, perhaps (5)
4,22 Private meeting place where parent and child, one an idiot, say, raised (7,5)
5 Security finally appearing during fast race after a crash – this vehicle? (6,3)
6 Game ending in soup over and over again (7)
7 Average assets half lost through less than zero responsibility, this looming large over Greece? (9)
13 Neon in its natural state, element initially inferior to fellow element (9)
14 Philosophers originally accommodated by the Lhasa New Resort (6,3)
17 A part in exercise for one conditionally released (7)
18 Savers look to catch salesman up (7)
20 Director hit the water with last of Bacardi (7)
22 See 4
23 Cheap as nails? (5)

Solution No. 25,989

C	H	O	C	I	C	E	I	M	A	G	I	S	T
E	O	I	S	O	A	P							
B	A	L	D	S	U	P	E	R	D	U	P	E	R
L	O	T	I	O	C	C							
A	T	O	N	C	E	L	O	N	G	H	A	U	L
H	R	T	S	E	L								
H	Y	P	H	E	N	A	T	E	B	R	E	A	K
E	H	I											
E	S	S	A	Y	M	E	L	A	N	E	S	I	A
T	R	M	B	T	N								
P	R	O	T	R	U	D	E	T	A	U	N	T	S
A	L	S	A	A	N	O							
H	Y	P	E	R	S	O	N	I	C	M	I	T	E
E	S	E	S	H	A	A							
D	R	Y	S	A	L	T	K	E	N	N	E	L	S