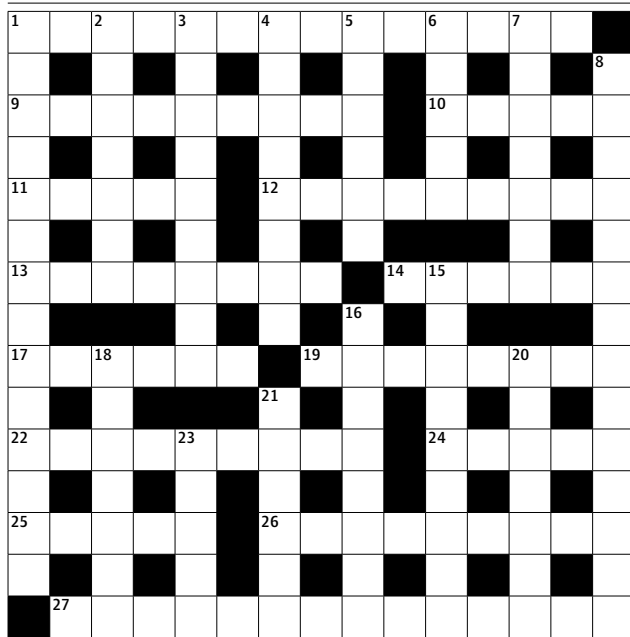


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,079 set by Philistine

Across

- 1 Story that has no beginning, that has no end – Jesus, that is a writer! (6,8)
- 9 It would be stupid if mother leaves, in a manner of speaking (9)
- 10 Better picnic (5)
- 11 Some womanising Arab ... (5)
- 12 ... still giving pussy a drink (9)
- 13 Willing, after a fashion, when not playing host (4,4)
- 14 Serious, lonesome and heartless man (6)
- 17 Among undesirable persons (6)
- 19 Those leading clubs ruffed Omar Sharif's spade in new game of bridge (8)
- 22 Keeping away from extremely tempting *liaison diabolique* (9)
- 24 Nag mouse-like creature (5)
- 25 Store in the middle of the winding road (5)
- 26 Light setback in vote: rift escalating (3,4,2)
- 27 Anne McGregor is, perhaps, being alarmist (14)

Down

- 1 Compiler to slip into a clever and attractive person (1,3,2,3,5)
- 2 Valid core degrees for woodcutter (3,4)

- 3 Disturbed mind in bigger one that's really big (9)
- 4 Tunnel across in uneven combat (8)
- 5 Read out list of ingredients quietly – lost for time (6)
- 6 Games of shaven swine? (5)
- 7 Vivid in future, possibly (7)
- 8 It's a safe bet car now got damaged, if held by juvenile (3,4,2,5)
- 15 Fanatical Philistine has first leaders swapping leaders (9)
- 16 Cow not left in lowland (8)
- 18 Picaroon's not on? That could be dull (7)
- 20 Is priest following god, one from the Middle East? (7)
- 21 Oriental offering obscure problem (3,3)
- 23 As a source of dread leading to ophiophobia (5)

Solution No. 26,078

