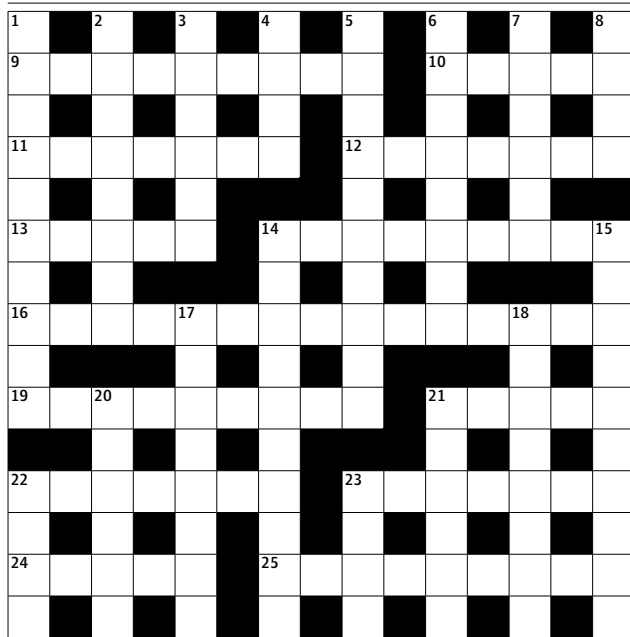


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,184 set by Pasquale

The first five correct entries drawn each week win Guardian Style and Secrets of the Setters, worth £28.99.

Entries to: The Guardian Crossword No 26,184, P.O. Box 6603, Birmingham, B26 3PR, or Fax to 0121-742 1313 by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday 24 February.

A novel of the 4 21 across is based on six solutions not further defined in their clues.

Across

- 9 Agency to make something happen when a country lass (no fool) enters London? (9)
- 10,12 Satisfactory note about money obtained from property on street (5-2-5)
- 11 Only half competent, you, not finishing, may offer excuse (7)
- 12 See 10
- 13 Cautious, making love without sex? (5)
- 14 Queen in bind in mad area associated with 4 21 across (9)
- 16 Nice coppers to lie, almost fooling their senior officer (6,9)
- 19 Turns into barren areas of deserts, possibly (9)
- 21 More than one place has to be found after road junction (5)
- 22 Fielder in the deep catches Kent's tail-ender (7)
- 23 Slumber is disturbed (7)
- 24 Size of paper hat (5)
- 25 Promoter of product making one's lager fantastic (9)

Down

- 1 Damage home computer memory (7,3)
- 2 Lots of wine on bench at market? (8)
- 3 River, one flowing out into dried grass (6)
- 4 Cardinal's expression of disgust about Vatican City (4)

- 5 Philosophical reality that could excite sophist, say (10)
- 6 Line on map in this other empire (8)
- 7 At foot of tree trunk note fungi (6)
- 8 Church officer not operating in ecclesiastical office (4)
- 14 Is wrongdoing admitted by newspapers being goody-goody? (10)
- 15 Man under pressure to make contribution to phonetic dictionary (6,4)
- 17 What may be converted to vitamin A, one trace dissolving (8)
- 18 Kicked around a watery hole, maybe – must get dried (8)
- 20 Heartless criminal takes in holy books (6)
- 21 Someone feared two strike-breakers turning up (6)
- 22 Jam in cupboard, a third gone (4)
- 23 What may be furrowed, like soil mostly? (4)

Solution No. 26,183

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