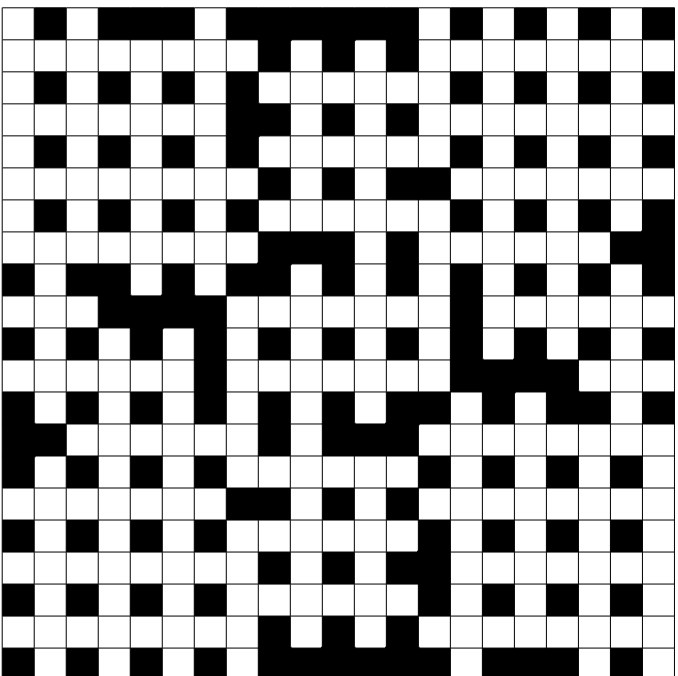


GUARDIAN CRYPTIC CROSSWORD - DO NOT USE WITHOUT EDITING THE LAYOUT



No 26,346 set by Maskarade

The clues are listed in alphabetical order of their solutions, which should be entered jigsaw-wise in the grid, as they may fit. In each pair of solutions beginning with the same letter one will fit a theme, not further defined in the clue.

- B** Husband leaves spiritual leader holding garland (8)
- Z** No time for enthusiasm as grandma enters harems (7)
- M** Temple boss, briefly (6)
- A** Backed slave distributing coal outside – outside! (8)
- Q** Depart with marijuana child consumed (6,5)
- V** Wild carnivore runs away (8)
- C** Lad by the northern factory (6,5)
- S** Small instrument provided that party in Oz (9)
- F** Somerset town where silver is removed from French cheese (5)
- Y** Pointer at end of jetty (6)

- J** Tasks involving a touch of class – that’s a snag (6,6)
- O** Topless helmsman, one with Lily (6)
- V** Composer back from Maltese ravine (6)
- H** A rhyming poem rewritten (4,8)
- K** Glaswegian tough – one seen in university (6)
- E** Snakes slip away endlessly (5)
- C** Beaten prisoner questioned without one being present (9)
- U** Infidels represented in blue verse (11)
- G** Steer is inside, ailing unfortunately (8)
- S** Rigorously isn’t right – unusually tenderly (11)
- W** Seek support, rollicking in bed (8)
- T** Oddly, they answer to Labour leader (6)
- G** Fellow penned inside historic region of southwest France (7)
- T** Transatlantic expression, it seems, for Waterloo, say (8)
- N** Nehru takes nap – out of sorts (8)
- X** Cross hit man confused about film rating (8)
- J** Hit the jackpot – odd to tick off Ham’s brother (7)
- R** Male ewe, apparently (6)
- U** Burmese address party (3)
- B** Goods train truck that gives support to capricious knave (5,3)
- D** Almost crazy about swimming pool (8)
- L** More suspicious, having both sides outside – strange! (7)
- I** Responsible for measure and gear change (2,6)

- A** Just removing top, leaving down under (6)
- O** Equal heard to show respect to Henry’s Queen (2,1,3)
- E** Fenland drainage channel surrounding open ditch (6)
- Y** Arab state, including section for sycophants (3-3)
- R** Narrow-minded anarchist with audacity (7)
- W** Cry like a curlew and circle around top of pillar at end of cove (7)
- H** Harsh frost over the Home Counties (6)
- M** Note about novel return (6)
- Z** Great North Road turning after last pub (6)
- F** Baffle Liberal embraced by senior Tory politician (8)
- P** Poor farm labourer holding monkey at prayer (8)
- D** Young troublemakers were raised on new set (8)
- I** Timeless river exists (6)
- L** Finnish eating seaweed – just the opposite (8)
- P** Money short on highway (8)
- Q** Former prison holding nationalist till noon? (7)
- K** Relatives receiving grand trophy (7)
- N** Chinwag with “blue” painter – left (6)
- X** Our associate editor, Brooks, gets cross with a leading newsman (3)

Solution No. 26,345

