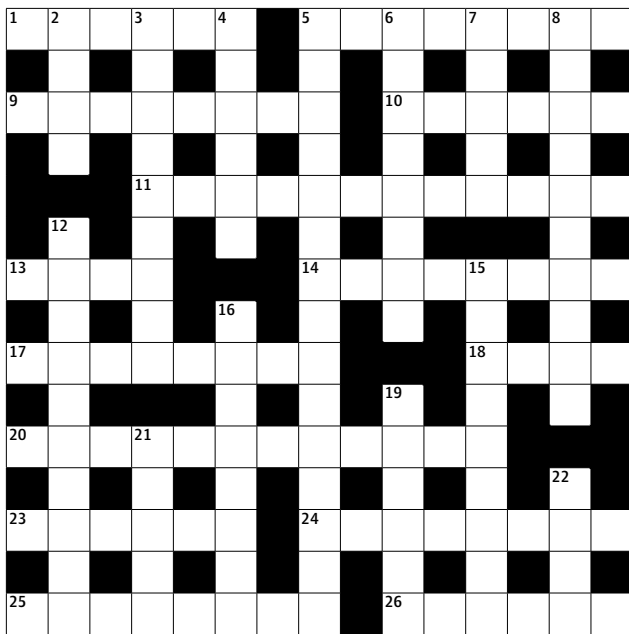


## Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,498 set by Boatman

### Across

- 1** Kingdom acquired by matricide? (6)  
**5** Hard natured? I could be improved (8)  
**9** As said of old, did raven and dove dance and turn crimson? (8)  
**10** One sings in cage, cautious, giving out initial warning (6)  
**11** See 22  
**13** See 22  
**14** Confident about homework? That's easy! (8)  
**17** Number 1 Queen disc Flash – it's first given a spin on AM (8)  
**18** Headless chickens? Proverbially, the opposite (4)  
**20** Scrambled eggs endorsed and used in an emergency by the army (5,7)  
**23** Copy section about redstart and duck (6)  
**24** Samba man from Brazil broadcast in flight (3-2-3)  
**25** Figures out the end in acts (8)  
**26** Ultimately, one learns not to be horrid (6)

### Down

- 2** See 22  
**3** Boatman thus greets one; going on theory, he waves (4,5)  
**4** Fine pintail carried by pointer (6)  
**5** With it, lark perhaps rises over shore; poet likewise begins singing, but not all at once (2,5,3,5)  
**6** A number of years before part of the Bible becomes corrupt (8)  
**7** Revive wren horribly pecked by eagle's beak (5)  
**8** Capsize, following report of one seen flying, a sea creature (4,6)  
**12** Beneath cuckoo's wings (so artful, so wrong!), not about to run (6,4)  
**15** Spooner to control birds with old weapons (9)  
**16** You may not imitate a bird (6,2)  
**19** Picked up fuel, one seen in flight overseas (6)  
**21** One wades in with a bill, say? About time (5)  
**22,11,2,13** Use a crafty throw – and, lo, siskin and tit now bleed (4,3,5,4,3,5)

Solution No. 26,497

