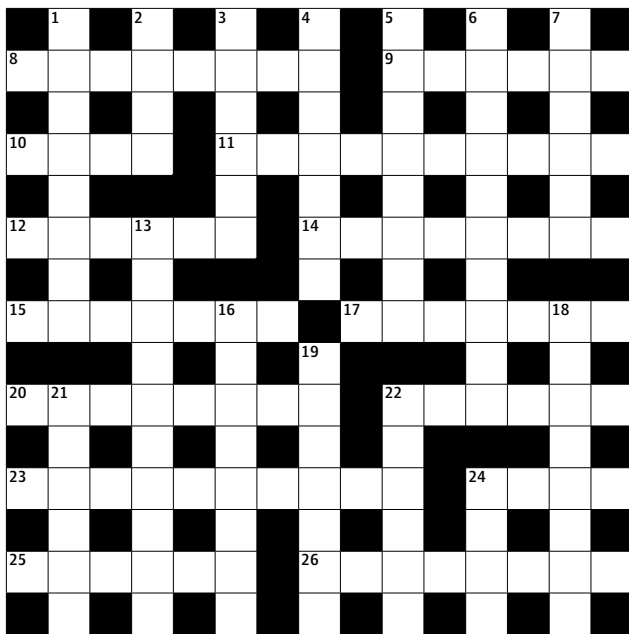


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,554 set by Paul

Across

- 8** Killing gone mad, countless initially die in torment (8)
9 One has to step back beyond cold, cold place (6)
10 I fled 26 neighbour (4)
11 Sounding accusal to premier in Istanbul, hopeless (10)
12 Lively agent stealing Biblical vessel (6)
14 See 7
15 Khachaturian's inspiring mount, main reason being so 26, possibly? (7)
17 One demonstrating hurt with a US-26 voice (7)
20 A game one has first to accept, with good justification (8)
22 Unconscious, potential killer withholding shelter (6)
23 One arresting the flow of blood to vessel, quite tight (10)
24 Initial characters seen in translation of youthful Saroyan plays (4)
25 America on strike over a rift (6)
26 Remain displaced, an early European Christian (8)

Down

- 1** Reptile quietly dividing land (8)
2 Party elected to kill (2,2)
3 A tear coming up over hundred-year crime (6)

- 4** Defence in question supporting leaders in remorseless empire (7)
5 Power declared to be on the rise, or a scattered people? (8)
6 Publication has overlooked information on April 8 across, unfortunately (10)
7,14 Mountain for 26s to climb over report, time to accept blame finally for the song of yesteryear (2-2-2,4-2-2)
13 Consistency shown, say, with every second of guilt – wonder about that? (10)
16 Tigranes distraught, most indignant (8)
18 Ordinary citizen in Yerevan actively maintaining patriotism to the last (8)
19 Pure heart in birth, unaffected (7)
21 French-26 who raced to welcome independence primarily, cheers (6)
22 Disorder while half of this map is incomplete (6)
24 Very little seen of atonement in Yerevan (4)

Solution No. 26,553

