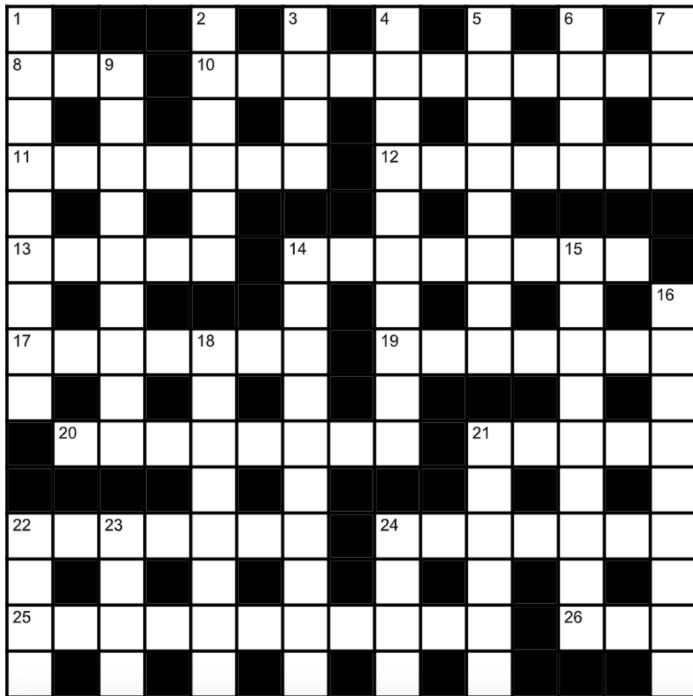


Genius No 237 Set by Qaos



The asterisks indicate the words of a poem, whose author's name is to be entered in the box at the top of the solution form.

Deadline for entries is 23:59 BST on Saturday 1 April. You need to register once and then sign in to theguardian.com to enter our online competition for a £100 monthly prize.

Across

- 8 * * PM in hell (3)
- 10 Honest mistake over * *, one's by fire (11)
- 11 Sang about rubbish outside * * * * (7)
- 12 Rows of bats * * (7)
- 13 Maybe queen's pawn close to capture * * (5)
- 14 First to arrive * direction covering up king's deceit (8)
- 17 * vehicle regularly makes reversing a pain? (7)
- 19 Small creatures * lost in cave, ties broken (7)
- 20 He might be in tears, sadly after starter of grapefruit * (5,3)
- 21 Leader * Conservative party's * (5)
- 22 *** tool for beating flax (7)
- 24 Descartes was one coating boxer with powder (7)
- 25 Is a company corrupt hiring Republican as *****? (11)
- 26 *, * caught out, no point getting flower (3)

Down

- 1 Composed inscription with record — * * * * to gain power and energy (9)
- 2 Spain * bringing in levy, oddly following end of riots, hard to postpone (6)
- 3 It's raised in class when * * * * * the answer in writing (4)
- 4 Food able to be eaten by celebrities taking sport (4,6)
- 5 Visionaries' extremely scruffy style in afterthought (8)
- 6 The opposite of * seen rising in active volcano (4)
- 7 Drinks * wind up, * (4)
- 9 Attempted to win hearts? Romeo's leg * makes shape (9)
- 14 Departing American never agrees * * for trees (10)
- 15 * * * melting in mix (9)
- 16 Dictionary's * puzzle involving final letter overwhelms supporter (9)
- 18 Bridge perhaps appeared over road * state (4,4)
- 21 Lecturer stopping to deliver article (6)
- 22 Drains mugs (4)
- 23 Concerning cool colour * briefly be washed out (2,2)
- 24 * with sailor in land between two rivers joining in south Asia (4)