

ATB Cryptic #23

Setter: D. Heath

11.08.25

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

Across

- 1 Spare coins with a place to bet them (6)
- 4 I return! Prepare for hug! (7)
- 8 Business girl opened to carve statues (9)
- 10 Below average animal? (5)
- 11 Go into centerpiece (5)
- 12 On a chess board, attack the king - entered endgame (9)
- 13 Mythical creature to last a long time (6)
- 14 Poland subjected to ransack (7)
- 16 Lantern I will keep between old and current (3,4)
- 18 Indented and odd? (6)
- 21 Partner-in-crime e.g. has problem mostly with it (9)
- 23 Heard silence for a bit (5)
- 24 A song's speed addendum is in opening? (5)
- 25 Fragrance-free overdose we have reduced (9)
- 26 Strikes that might cause a flood? (7)
- 27 Diversity policy Father changed (6)

Down

- 1 Stores valuables of ill bloke reportedly (6)
- 2 Mess from one rowing? (7)
- 3 Loudly, you see Niagara thrashing in the Americas (9)
- 4 Recalculate twelve plus one and get the same answer? (6,4,3)
- 5 Before dancing fast, sweat? (5)
- 6 Frustrated rare species without end (7)
- 7 Here archaically, a German made end of fire left to kindle e.g. (1-6)
- 9 Hard-to-see criminal lurking naked in suspicious wasteland (13)
- 15 Ongoing, peacemaker lets out breath with dangerous opening gambit (9)
- 16 Malevolent creature overseeing firm farmland (7)
- 17 Initially leave up my payment, substantial upfront money? (4,3)
- 19 Woman to sleep on mountain (7)
- 20 Rented out to gleeful chap e.g. with head in the clouds (6)
- 22 Even ally signage is telling fibs (5)