

ATB Cryptic #23

Setter: D. Heath

11.08.25

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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 Frustrate 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)