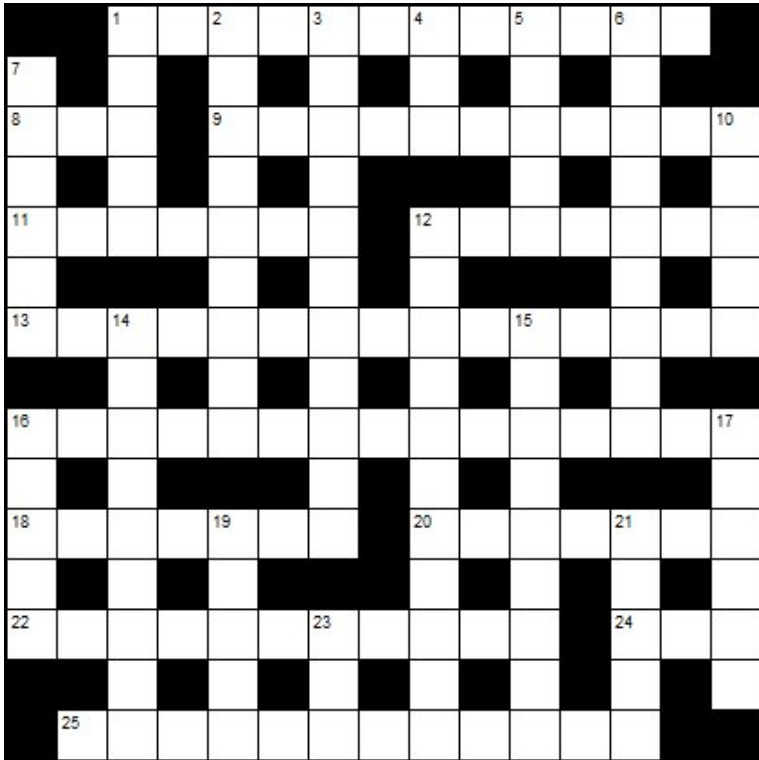


Puzzle 3 by Maize

Here is another very entertaining puzzle from Maize. It is proof that setters don't have to resort to dubious grammatical devices to provide fresh and amusing ideas. 8 across is very clever, though it may take you a long time to see how subtle it is.



ACROSS

- 1 Shiny steps coming down from Machu Picchu (12)
- 8 $9 \div 2 + 50 - 54.5$ (3)
- 9 Visual indication of a 10? Eva Green's one, fancied and paid accordingly (11)
- 11 Spacecraft – one entering landing stage (7)
- 12 Maybe area of Jerusalem, leaderless and without third of Palestinians, going backwards (7)
- 13 Refugee seeks, potentially, this House at PMQs? (9,6)
- 16 Fornicated with ruler in order to obtain position of authority at the end? (7,8)
- 18 Start changing sides to get allegiance to the Crown (7)
- 20 Student of Shakespeare relates characters in disguise (7)
- 22 During game in African jungle, America's out of place (11)
- 24,23 down Horse, 9, destroyed but not eaten, surprisingly (3,3)
- 25 Novel about rebuilding manse on dressed blockwork (12)

DOWN

- 1 Toilet, after interesting contents spilled round building (5)
- 2 Tradesman's line of work involving bit of plumbing and good book (9)
- 3 Mary, struggling with clue 8 being written the way it is (11)
- 4 Age of enlightenment provider? (3)
- 5 No time in Arctic for messing around (5)
- 6 Vegetarian favourite's head chopped half off – lethal! (3,6)
- 7 Grab bargain pans in Crosswordland? (4,2)
- 10 Bosom, via the cantilever method, ends up perfect (5)
- 12 Sweet-sounding lines by this writer provided text you put in uplifting kind of music (11)
- 14 Wings from Lower Saxony put on eight German means of transport (4,5)
- 15 One of literature's best; even sonnets show it (9)
- 16 Semi-prescient language (5)
- 17 Desperate desire to live (6)

- 19** Russian leader, fifty-nine, taking retirement (5)
- 21** Remain as two rivers in one (5)
- 23** See 24 across