Crossword 16,081 Set by Mudd

ACROSS
1. I swear a lot is beginning to unravel in crazy creature of the night? (10)
6. Shot hits from behind (4)
10. Board finding solution finally in spring, after recession (5)
11. Spring cuties modelled out-of-this-world costume? (9)
12. Currently no piles of cash, always being squeezed (8)
13. Word of comfort entering another election (5)
15. Unpleasant feeling, centre moving back a little towards the left (7)
17. Many following dictation of letter, those in hot water? (3,4)
19. Force on bolt, greyish-white metal (7)
21. Ray, tabloid supporter (7)
22. Parts carried by Chinese lorry in reverse (5)
24. Attack top and bottom (4-4)
27. Polish crate off in dining carriage (6,3)
28. Busy career's not beginning to inspire us (2,3)
29. Noble thing of great worth, heading off (4)
30. Those are cold, cold-blooded animals, crushing unfortunate fowl (10)

DOWN
1. Pontificating leader in writer? (4)
2. Remarkably, no tailors using scissors for work? (9)
3. A river rising to consume lake in Crimean resort (5)
4. Figure punched by male, playing a part? (2,5)
5. Movement in capsized craft isn't surprising (7)
7. A shade underestimated at the outset, breaking record (5)
8. Trying to stuff the king into chest, European (10)
9. Limit on air (8)
14. Taking responsibility for a state in Australia, a rebel reforms (10)
16. Scary women travel northward, hair shaved on top (8)
18. A way to go with fight, lost for words (9)
20. Slicing through beef, trim thick type of cut (AN)
23. Most essential part of ruling judge overturned, as convict given longest sentence (5)
25. Marvellous swimmer (5)
26. Seats almost cleaned up (4)


Entries marked Crossword 16,081 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on February 16.

Jotter pad