Crossword 15,761 Set by Rosa Klebb

ACROSS
1 Very articulate precursor of Selassie (6)
4 Sketch of Charles I's pony scampering backwards (8)
9 Quietly entering self-help group with your old lack of emotion (6)
10 Driver in desert arrived with lascivious look (8)
12 Not supposed to follow team of stars (8)
13 Women's joint complaint (6)
15 Twelve regularly skipping into town (4)
16 Release lions, about to be mauled (10)
19 Polite remark from student in class (10)
20 Father and married son leaving plains (4)
23 Infer two diamonds held (6)
25 Wildness of female erotic dancing ending in orgy (8)
27 Grant entry to hidden parts of wintry home city (8)
28 Greeting sadly returned in the morning (6)
29 Extremely giddy sailor pirouetting (8)
30 Drew skinned aquatic mammal in close up again (6)

DOWN
1 Make husky turn north, east and south after frost (7)
2 Bombastic bully adores gin (9)
3 Punjabis here learning to restrain sigh? (6)
5 Interminably long revolutionary period (4)
6 Old vicar gets up and spoils service (8)
7 Hank Williams's last relatives touring Europe (5)
8 Doctor and nurse go travelling (7)
11 Brilliant reworking of Mantel book (7)
14 Routes and fare stages (7)
17 Dull single grandma and I have sex (9)
18 Intimidate poltroons, lacking guts and oddly touchy (5,3)
19 Prowling Peruvian bear losing weight (7)
21 Very bad baby's malodorous clothes (7)
22 Mormon half-cut on beer and spirits (6)
24 Stop cleaners ignoring men's toilets (5)
26 Motor racing roots of veteran champion Raikkonen? (4)

Copies of How to Sound Clever by Hubert van den Bergh and The Superior Person's Book of Words by Peter Bowler, published by A&C Black and Bloomsbury, will be awarded to the senders of the first three correct entries opened on Wednesday January 31. Entries marked Crossword 15,761 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on February 3.