Crossword 15,710 Set by Mudd

ACROSS
1 Wearing frown, girl beginning to berate Murano worker? (5-6)
7 Revolutionary provided origin of background story (3)
9 Service charge’s ultimate swerve on the table? (5)
10 Considering the world failed to impress island, Grenada’s leader going ahead (9)
11 Drug expecting evidence slower? (5,4)
12 Compare some fine kilts from behind (5)
13 Intently study sweetheart with a belly that’s wobbly (7)
15 So I must hold back in war (4)
18 Force down (4)
20 River, river to ebbing river (7)
23 Tethered spring (5)
24 Soldier king, perhaps, a sailor on paper (3-2-4)
26 Doctor entering behind a South American (9)
27 Saw doctor injecting too much (5)
28 Previously known as Capone, evildoer’s imprisoned (3)
29 In bombing nine times one needing uranium, radioactive element (11)

DOWN
1 East Germany changed, though not any better (8)
2 Returned as new, mulled wine (8)
3 Issue surrounding rear of draft horse (5)
4 Joke on jerk (3-4)
5 Joy made little round ring (7)
6 Tory punched by nobleman gets a shiner (4,5)
7 Playful female, ticklish (6)
8 Grand houses can chill (6)
14 Plenty suggesting a trip round the bakery? (9)
16 A horse that’s thoroughbred invariably heads for the biscuits (8)
17 Freezing weather, wind comes with it – that’s about right (3,5)
19 Unknown native of Banjul masking face, African (7)
20 Withholding information, bet it’s spicy (7)
21 Earn duck, bat badly batting! (6)
22 I move cages for bird (6)
25 Favourite climbs around a thousand and one paces (5)

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 November 29. Entries marked Crossword 15,710 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on December 2.

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Jotter pad