Crossword 15,934 Set by Mudd

ACROSS
1 Mean, sticking key in nose (6)
4 Pipe in which heat abounding (8)
9 Servant – need you back! (6)
10 Beastly condition beginning to grate in veterans (8)
12 Promise of apple tart and hot starters (4)
13 Career set, I moved desk (10)
15 Scratching head, subversive gradually changing (12)
18 Figure has long flowing dresses for Levantine region (5,7)
21 A cloth pulled back in yielding Caribbean fruit (5,5)
22 Hot – or not? (4)
24 Soldier guarding queen in queue for frilly nightwear (8)
25 Trendy comedian, great success (4,2)
26 Spot in which abstract art is lacking quality? (8)
27 A US girl in Canada perhaps? (6)

DOWN
1 Top stop? (8)
2 Light orange colour initially, at ten sun finally setting (8)
3 Dance that's proper for audition? (4)
5 Total drinks miscalculated in great pub (8,4)
6 Conservative supporter in creative thinker (5,5)
7 Entering ceasefire, Nicosia favouring peace (6)
8 Group of Americans after good supporter (6)
11 Dot claimed woozy – nothing in drink? (7,5)
14 Not funny, description of popped eyeball? (10)
16 Train champ to speak repeatedly? (4-4)
17 Cut off deal, so it fails (8)
19 Final word on charity book (6)
20 Sheep and bird conversing in the country (6)
23 Branch to ascend, not reaching the top (4)

Copies of How to Sound Really 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 August 22. Entries marked Crossword 15,934 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on August 25.