Crossword 15,809 Set by Mudd

ACROSS
1 Flipping precious stuff, Chanel in florid style (6)
4 Wife going up and down like an elephant, possibly? (8)
9 Conservative and socialist split (5)
10 Period when was jousting, reportedly? (9)
11 Qualified to catch fish? Give up (7)
12 Letter is inept, might you say? Literally embarrassing for starters (7)
13 Place like industrial estate unsafe, all kicking off? (4)
14 Note assailant finally boarding craft (8)
17 Farm animal going through hedge so clumsily, beginning to panic (8)
19 High-maintenance performer keen to be laid back (4)
22 Relative area not half in doubt (7)
24 Yoga very briefly going wrong – one tripping? (7)
25 Party animal getting behind a singer (9)
26 After end of tempest, a sea now calm? (5)
27 Writing hard stuff, Athenian letter put in jar (8)
28 Line rejected by that colourful writer (6)

DOWN
1 Rolling Stones fan initially occupying tiny British island (8)
2 Bleak, ever dismal conclusion in game of strategy (9)
3 Craft knife (6)
5 US president – he beat brother again (7,6)
6 Expression of annoyance about writing stuff that’s quite shocking? (7)
7 Metal block obscuring other houses (5)
8 Finally reaching, say, the lowest point to reach? (6)
10 Tense in effect, rupture proving troublesome (6,7)
15 Door fastener almost entering stomach, handle I can’t retrieve? (9)
16 Tough to maintain romance at first, one with an ogress (8)
18 Emollient primarily put on two types of wood, cleansing lotion (7)
20 Illness consuming doctor, a carrier (6)
21 With some regrets, you hauled up shellfish (6)
23 Tiny hairs more ridiculous, we hear? (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 Tuesday March 27. Entries marked Crossword 15,809 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on March 31.

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Jotter pad