

## Birthday Crossword for Sarah by Mark and Jenny

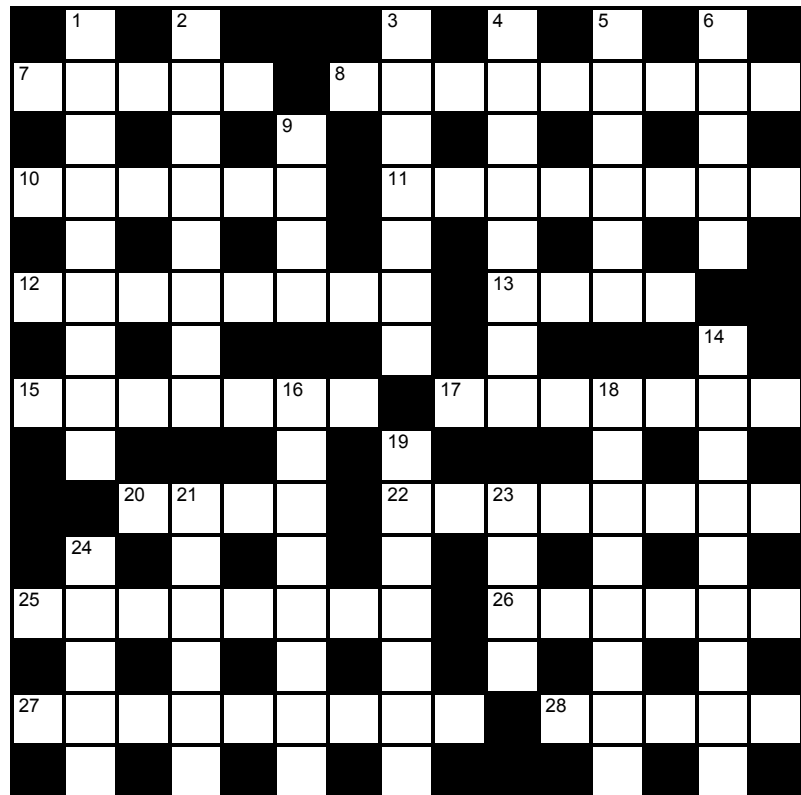
### Across

- 7 What 17 and 23 say to 24 21 is welcome (5)
- 8 Scots Lion confused imperial settlers (9)
- 10 Road has grain beside it for animals (6)
- 11 Contemplated tossing a dime to cover a drink (8)
- 12 Jenny's beginning to get attached to Edinburgh, but not at home - that's a town in the Borders (8)
- 13 I'll take a turn as villain (4)
- 15 Smiley's enemy dropped student and mediocre bridge player for entertainment (7)
- 17 Film critic absorbed by "Moonraker modernism" (7)

- 20 A King in the West End starts to loathe incoherent operatic noodling (4)
- 22 Semi-distressed, getting stuck into wine, and depressed while travelling (8)
- 25 Cheat's mum fronts honourable battle (8)
- 26 Boats Cathy's crashed (6)
- 27 Academic players before the Queen in northern town (9)
- 28 Reads a long extract for literary gathering (5)

### Down

- 1 Chap's information leads to misinterpretation of Mantel (9)



- 2 Palace supporter is dominated by heartless alpha male (8)
- 3 In the evening little one hugs close (7)
- 4 Explosive viola let loose (8)
- 5 Munro-bagging monarch is after a friendly greeting (6)
- 6 Excellent swimmer walks unsteadily, losing time, dropping seconds (5)
- 9 Addict slurred, "You, sir?" (4)
- 14 Teaching sentiment with an old coin for a test (9)
- 16 Capital family has a secret initially hidden (8)
- 18 Spooner says, "Take legal action against ministry artist!" (8)

- 19 Philosopher's rhyming "first profession" with "gas ingestion" (7)
- 21 See 24
- 23 County sauce clinic? (4)
- 24,21 Jack (an ass) is a co-producing actor (5,6)