Crossword 15,554 Set by Mudd

Across
1, 4 Reprimand skaters for casual footwear (6,8)
9 Taken in the wrong direction, might one be skidding down the motorway? (6)
10 Mars furious with people for an accumulation of weapons (4,4)
12 Language unit one's passed (8)
13 Flower picked by male cat (6)
15 Old instrument spoils broadcast (4)
16 He scored for his country, did you say? (7)
20 Asian having to live in the confines of giant (7)
21 Star thrown back into luggage van (4)
25 Disaster in fancy skirts, overdressed (6)
26 A protein disguised as poison (8)
28 Faculty I place in audition? (8)
29 Fly goes down into treacle, wings only (6)
30, 31 Gift in left sock getting girl excited (8,6)

Down
1 Women's top author into cabbage (8)
2 Consider squeezing hooter that's turned up to produce echo (8)
3 Number in the middle of twelve and ten so? (6)
5 Drunkard supposedly partial to mezcal or daiquiri (4)
6 Something sticky? Hang about, it's a piece of cake! (8)
7 Pass light up over heads of service engineers (8)
8 Cast about to go off for a drink (6)
11 Red claret's drunk (7)
14 Secrecy a shade irrelevant ultimately in first half of show (7)
17 Jerk to go down, don't twist! (8)
18 Hand taken in sincere pardon (8)
19 Preface with a novel for thriller (4,4)
22 T is (immediately) for tiramisu? (6)
23 Setter in game that's fruity (6)
24 Eastern art – good sticking at it, initially (6)
27 Almost land punch (4)

Copies of *How to Sound Clever* by Hubert van den Bergh and *So You Think You Can Spell* by David L. Grambs and Ellen S. Levine, published by A&C Black, will be awarded to the senders of the first three correct entries opened on Wednesday May 31. Entries marked Crossword 15,554 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on June 3.