Crossword 15,495 Set by Rosa Klebb

ACROSS
1 Dad mauls fruit (6)
4 Set fire to outskirts of Naseby after a dull recital (6)
8 Dog tore apart present (7)
9 Minute rodents biting before birth (2,5)
11 Crane vendor runs off after March 1 (10)
12 Three sisters holding what sounds like yew twig (4)
13 Italian poet back to front in photo, like 21 (8)
16 Tailless camel eating earth and germs (8)
18 Appearance of chaps on the radio (5)
20 For sale: oddly neglected old capital (4)
21 They criticise miners’ underwear, according to Spooner (10)
23 Used needles and ink around head of tattooed lad (7)
24 Imposing vacuous lunacy on country (7)
25 Bird in huge quarry (6)
26 Heavens weep over American president (6)

DOWN
1 Cut back old plum (5)
2 Wood salesman put up ace structure in garden (6)
3 Catch snakes, rising threat to aviation (9)
5 Asses leaving skin and fluff here? (5)
6 Craft producer of Arabian herb tea closing early (7)
7 Rosy hiker rambling in northern county (9)
10 Trump sources regularly tell me husband wears trousers (9)
13 Stationer smashed slates (5,4)
15 Grid set-to irritated setter’s carer, perhaps (9)
17 Finally tempt tame pig to get up and dance (3-4)
19 Annoy guards stuck without cent over in Siberian city (7)
21 Relative starts to notice if errant child escapes (5)
22 Puerile yelping about chap with luxurious life (5)

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 March 22. Entries marked Crossword 15,495 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on March 25.

Jotter pad