

**ACROSS**

- 8 Witty (7)  
 9 Brief flash of light (5)  
 10 Period of darkness (5)  
 11 Ostentatiously refined (7)  
 12 Horse-race opening barrier (8,4)  
 16 Far from necessary (3-9)  
 20 Sparing, tolerant (7)  
 23 All set (5)  
 24 Unpleasant surprise (5)  
 25 Long pillow (7)

**DOWN**

- 1 Shade of brown (5)  
 2 Wolfram (8)  
 3 More suitable (6)  
 4 Eager, expectant (4)  
 5 Thick alcoholic drink (3-3)  
 6 Fully matured (4)  
 7 Unwanted obsessive fan (7)  
 13 Anger, wrath (3)  
 14 Separately on a menu (1,2,5)  
 15 *The \_\_\_ Patient*, film (7)  
 17 Furtive, sly (6)  
 18 Marine reptile (6)  
 19 Gift of the Magi (5)  
 21 Recess (4)  
 22 Big brass instrument (4)

