

February 2026 Slot 2 by Valkyrie

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Across

- 7** Walk with a swagger before end of match? Good Heavens! (6)
- 8** Measuring instrument confused them more (8)
- 10** SUV perhaps, model with power for old tradesman (10)
- 11** E-response? (4)
- 12** \$1 and £1 raw spicy dishes contain tips of essential natural chillies (4,10)
- 14** Bird poo turned up in weed (6)
- 15** A gentle land (6)
- 18** Treat unsightly tinea without a second thought (14)
- 20** Easy for Spenser to peel 19-down (4)
- 21** Reject wrong lace associated with pump footwear (6-4)
- 23** A father caught between two men creates trouble (8)
- 24** Dark times when prospects change direction (6)

Down

- 1** Join together with diplomat wanting drug turn over (6,2)
- 2** Short and sweet, hot not cold discomfort (4)
- 3** Quality tea crate is smashed, credit reduced (14)
- 4** Take more than one's share of tent, start of yobbish coarseness (7)
- 5** Appealing to individual embracing experience with church (10)
- 6** Some berate chief engineer (6)
- 9** Lustreless male conjurors get time for tricking terminal operators of numbers and letters (14)
- 13** Finds fault with agent about height limits (10)
- 16** Parts of barns somewhat too flashy, lacking nothing (8)
- 17** Obsessed, persecuted and initially imprisoned (7)
- 19** Lower nitrogen before anaesthetic (6)
- 22** Greek letter said to produce sound of relief (4)