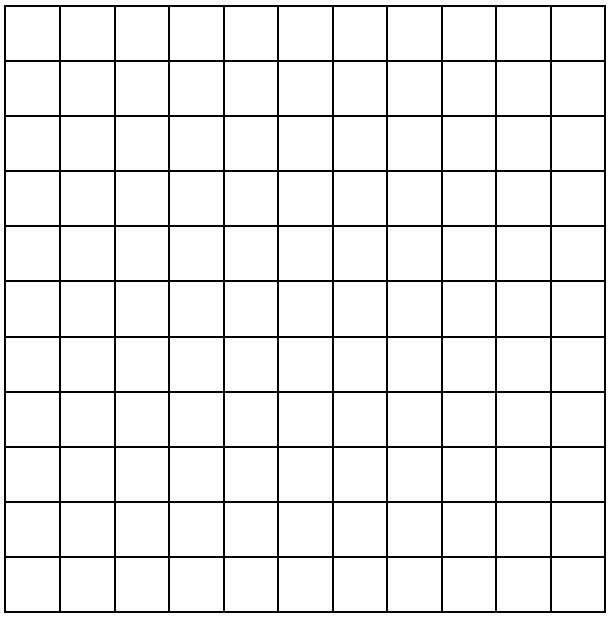
Guest Puzzle December 2017 "Lightning" by Arthur Schless

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from four to twelve letters; three are capitalized, one is foreign, and one is an abbrevitaion) then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right continue on the next row, and down words that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column. Seven across words and six down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is removed. Those thirteen letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words, spell a two-word phrase related to the title and the mystery entries. Thanks to John for making this puzzle shine.



Across

1. *Mystery entry*
2. Fuel bin adrift with large tuna
3. Rumor has year turning out poorly
4. Say "Be aware of us" in survey
5. Actor in a torn garment
6. Wise guy I included in taxon
7. Dust off upright support
8. Drayage reassessed for distance
9. Sharp Crosby grasping IT
10. Harry upset arrangement
11. *Mystery entry*
12. Complain vehicle parked upfront
13. Bolger took train for race
14. Building block of male gonads
15. Stunt failed after losing rubber
16. Salve made from arecaceae Paul left for brother
17. Place for each menu, finally
18. I left older person for Mexican gent
19. Weapon kept in Indian dwellings
20. Recap tumultuous adventure
21. Murdoch's flower
22. Follow railroad line
23. Impertinent coward Anita replaced Ivy
24. Cotton's thermal conversion without latent heat
25. *Mystery Entry*

Down

1. Deluge of distorted modern truths
2. Wait a minute; the tea is brewing
3. Shrub in Calabria replanted
4. Unusual augular rocket
5. Enzyme best erased internally
6. Touch Spalpeen's innards
7. Proposition crazy sister to pay rupee for heroin
8. Lad to keep up in speech
9. Only mother is French
10. Antiseptic found in disorganized cabinet
11. Bailey at end of day is very pale
12. Offense to argue arbitrarily
13. Climax came after transposition
14. Judge in Arcadia
15. Scorpion involves concern, in brief
16. Odd feast characterized by security
17. Ingenuous and unusually fain
18. Eats cooked heart
19. Family guard is sovereign
20. Reformed greasers are yes-men
21. Vessel scene revised at range
22. Translate "pass" in hard language