ANSWERS TO NOV/DEC CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. **Nom de plume** (model *pun adjusted* [anag.] = NOMDE PLU; me = ME; pen name = definition}
7. **Cafe** (unfamiliar *face* [anag.]; coffee house = def.)
9. **Versifier** (*Fie! I serve* terrible [anag]; lyricist = def.)
10. **English** (2 meanings)
12. **Lecture** (break *rule, etc.* [anag.]; talk = def.)
13. **Raconteur** (witty storyteller = def.; right = R; silly *Nature Co.* = ACONTEUR)
15. **Slate** (first of speakers = S; behind = LATE; schedule = def.)
16. **Savored** (*raved so* wildly [anag.]; (thoroughly enjoyed = def.)
22. **Execs** (fed[EX ECS]tatic; insert = hidden word indicator)
23. **Trappings** (return = reversal indicator; piece = part = TRAP; brooch = PIN; tips of [g]old, [s]ilver = GS; ornaments = def.)
26. **Initial** (excitedly *I nail it* [anag.]; first = def.)
27. **Pungent** (caustic = def.; humorous use of words = PUN; dapper fellow = GENT)
29. **Alignment** (torn *ligament* [anag.]: holds [container]; new = N; hence ALIG[N]MENT; adjustment = def.)
30. **Dons** (English professors = def.; put on = DON; first of [s]eminars = S)
31. **Penetrated** (quill = PEN; treated badly = ETRATED; grasped = def.)

DOWN

1. **Novelist** (author = def.; back *on* = NO [reversal]; volume = V; E= E; register = LIST)
2. **Moroccan** (order *room* = MORO [anag.]; $100 = C; allowed = CAN; book binding = def.)
3. **Epicures** (*pie* mix = EPI [anag.]; relieves = CURES; gourmets = def.)
4. **Loiter** (hang around = def.; restless *toiler* [anag.])
5. **Mire** (besmirch = def.; initial [m]eanness = M; anger = IRE)
6. **Hamlet** (showy performer = HAM; allowed = LET; great part = def.)
8. **Ease up** (pl[EASE UP]holster; interior = hidden word; let out = def.)
11. **Noose** (rope = def.; ring = O; in [container indicator]; hence n[o]ose)
14. **Among** (surrounded by = def.; one = A; mile = M; circle = O: not = N; good = G)
17. **Alien** (a = A; legal charge = LIEN; non-citizen = def.)
18. **Designer** (editor = ed, comes back = reversal, hence DE; *reigns* disastrous = SIGNER [anag.]; artist = def.)
19. **Penitent** (writer = PEN; a = I; temporary shelter = TENT; remorseful = def.)
20. **Isolated** (one = I; very = SO; tardy = LATE; daughter = D; deserted = def.)
21. **Ground** (great = G; spherical = ROUND; Earth = def.)
24. **Paging** (2 meanings)
25. **Simile** (expression = SMILE; contains [container indicator]; a = I; hence: s[i]mile; literary comparison = def.)
28. **Tale** (listen to *end* = tail [homophone]; story = def.)