Note: In a "Something Different" puzzle, most of the entries are completely made-up, but the puzzle is still solvable because the clues are just straightforward enough to lead you to the correct answers. For instance, a clue such as [Sort of like Republican presidential candidate Donald] could produce the answer TRUMPISH. My recommendation for solving it would be to start with the shorter answers because those are usually legitimate words, and then try to figure out the longer answers from there.

Across
1 Senatorial monster maker from Minnesota?
15 Table implement for a frightened King Kong, say
17 Old Soviet spy employed by Queen Victoria's royal house
18 List-ending letters
19 Jagged rock
20 "I'm ___ over 'eels in love!" (bit of Cockney swooning)
21 Tribute in verse
22 Reddening cosmetic items
24 Org. whose Twitter account is the only one @Snowden is following at the moment
25 Perceived lunar image depicting a mythical, hairy beast (appropriately enough)
30 "The post-Renaissance language in scientific journals employs some real smart talk"
31 Horse feed stocked inside a grounded J.F.K. jet
32 Story trajectories at a Cambridge univ.
33 Some infomercial figure who would never, ever lie to you (how refreshing!)
36 Atlantic City-based HBO drama starring Steve Buscemi as Dracula
37 Giant star Mel
38 Put in a box
39 Writer LeShan
40 Salt-___ ("Let's Talk About Sex" hip-hoppers)
43 Comment indicating that actor Asner's doing fine
45 Most certain
47 The response I hope you'll have when I ask "Is there anyone who can solve this clue?"
48 "Some ally we haven't yet met happens to be in the vicinity"
53 Boastful comment you'd make after dominating the "Southern Hospitality" rapper
54 Spooky holiday celebrating bird monsters

Down
1 Negative response to someone who says that your tabby could box if it wanted to
2 Historical period marked by people who detest Guinevere's lover
3 Big 'do
4 Gun, in a way
5 Fruity quaff
6 Drug buster's Quest, e.g.
7 G.I. mess crews' downfall
8 "OH MY GOD THAT WILDEBEEST IS TERRIFYING!"
9 Brief description of the matchup between Denver's and Dallas's N.B.A. teams
10 Postbox center?
11 "___, Earl Grey, hot" (frequent drink order from Jean-Luc Picard)
12 Lang. this clue is written in
13 "There aren't any fighting forces to be found at this location"
14 Singer Simone's Academy Award realm
15 "That lady has one of those miniature Japanese trees"
16 "Forrest Gump" mil. character's gym shoes
17 Female sheep mascot for Warren DeMartini's hair metal band
18 "The Glamorous Life" singer
19 With 26-Down, setting for some slides
20 "That's music ___ ears"
21 "Arr! ___ not know what dangers lurk in the sea, matey!" (pirate's comment)
22 "It's nothing special"
23 Nutritional info, for short
24 The whole enchilada