Word Substitution List, A Simple Favor

Chapter 1, pages 3-8
Pg 3  post – writing on a website/blog
Pg 3  urgent – important
Pg 3  suspending – stopping
Pg 3  Decent – Good
Pg 4  found each other – met
Pg 4  clicked – worked
Pg 4  mom clocks... - our female bodies were getting older and older
Pg 4  skit – play
Pg 4  deep – deep voice
Pg 4  late – dead
Pg 4  theatrical streak – acting skills
Pg 5  drew me in – interested me
Pg 5  carousel – ride at a fair that goes around and around in a circle, usually has fake horses
Pg 5  merry-go-round – same as carousel
Pg 6  dwell on – be thinking about
Pg 6  zoning regulations – city rules
Pg 7  nanny – childcare provider, babysitter
Pg 7  Wall Street – the financial part of NYC
Pg 7  name-dropping – using a name in a conversation in order to make yourself look more important (because you know a “famous” person)
Pg 7  helicopter – a mom who “hovers” over her children; an overly-attentive mom
Pg 7  makes a beeline – hurries; go straight
Pg 8  ETA – Estimated Time of Arrival (when she expects to be there)

Chapter 2, pages 9-11
Pg 9  out – call out, say out loud

Pg 10  eyebrow colonial – style of house
Pg 10  period – historic
Pg 10  fake-casually – pretend casual, pretending to be unconcerned
Pg 10  blabbed on – talked and talked
Pg 10  five foot seven – her height (average)
Pg 11  Florence – Italy
Pg 11  off-putting – unpleasant

Chapter 3, pages 12-15
Pg 12  robocall – advertising (automated call)
Pg 12  nail this down – finalize our plans
Pg 13  Six Flags – an amusement park; tourist place
Pg 14  in heaven – so happy!
Pg 14  time-out – making a child sit alone for a while as a punishment or time to calm down
Pg 14  substance-abuse episodes – times where he has taken drugs or drunk too much alcohol
Pg 14  heavy damage control – work hard to make everything okay for her boss

Chapter 4, pages 16-19
Pg 16  grief stricken – very sad
Pg 16  vintage Camaro – old, but valuable, car
Pg 16  fall apart – become emotional, cry, etc.
Pg 16  freaking out – becoming hysterical
Pg 17  not together – scattered, disorganized
Pg 18  telling on her/ratting her out – both mean to get someone in trouble, tell their secret
Pg 19  unlisted numbers – phone number that aren’t listed in the phone book (back when there were phone books ;)

Chapter 5, pages 20-21
Pg 20  so psyched – so mentally convinced
sinking feeling – a feeling of dread
flipped out – became hysterical

Chapter 6, pages 22-26

landline – phone that is not a cell phone
dire – serious, seriously wrong
Charlie Manson – Charles Manson, a serial killer in the late 1960s
good sign – positive thing
Venue flytrap – a type of plant that traps flies to eat
jumpy – anxious
dójà vu – the feeling that you’ve had this same experience before
looked up to her – admired her
keep cool – stay calm
gone into overdrive – worked extra hard
carjacking – stealing a car at gunpoint with the driver still in it
amnesiac – with no memory of who she is
upside – positive side, positive part

Chapter 7, pages 27-30

Second Thoughts – re-thinking this problem
Emily sightings – times people have seen Emily (or thought they did)
antsy – nervous, impatient
threw up – vomited
time difference – different time zones for New York and England
groggy – sleepy
thickly – as if his tongue were very thick
tony – cool, awesome
evenly – without emotion; as if his teeth were shut and only his lips were moving

Chapter 8, pages 31-49

passed away – died
heartbroken – very sad
Cincinnati – city in Ohio
exec – executive
groom – the man who is getting married (her father, in this case)
DNA test – genetic test
obituary – death notice
keep tabs on – track, follow, keep up with
hot – handsome
half brother – same dad, different mom
hot – exciting (sexually)
cold cuts – meat for sandwiches
all the fuss – all the talk, all the excitement
state troopers – police officers employed by the state instead of the city (local police)
domestic dispute – a fight between husband and wife, or other family members
old-school porn star – star in a traditional pornographic (sex) movie
straight – understood (with the police)
Brilliant deduction, Sherlock! – great guess, detective! (she is being sarcastic)
tip-off – clue
comfy spa – comfortable resort
spaced out – My mind wandered
had moved on to – continued by
cut me off – interrupted me
estranged – not in contact
gave them license – gave them permission
birthmark/campaigned – spot on the skin/tried to convince Emily
complex – worry about what others’ think
making out – kissing
Peter Falk... - detective in an old TV show
stole away – went away (like in secret)
marginally more competent – a tiny, little bit more intelligent and able to do their jobs
troopers – police officers
an affair – a relationship with another man
In the absence ... - without a dead body or evidence of violence or a kidnapping
hanging on Sean’s every word – listening intently (closely) to every single word Sean said
procedurals – shows on TV
tentative, cursory – limited, with little effort
seventies club-kid – 1970s kids’ club	
tacky – in poor taste
gave me the chills – made me scared
sizeable contribution – money
go that extra mile – try extra hard
teachers – college students working at Nylon
glam head shot – glamorous photo of Emily’s from her shoulders up (just her head)
CCTV – security cameras in stores and buildings
JFK – airport in New York
impression – belief
EZ-Pass – an antenna on a car that pays tolls (fees) for some highways without having to stop. It also tracks where the car is.
toll station – place to pay the toll (fee) before entering the highway
Pennsylvania Turnpike – a highway that charges drivers fees (tolls) to use it
thruway – highway
dead zone – a place with no cell service
new leads – new information
the creeps – a scary feeling
closed-circuit camera footage – security camera film/video
teller’s window – the window where you can make bank transactions from your car. The “teller” is the bank employee.
carjacker – criminal who robs a car at gunpoint with the driver still inside
abducted – kidnapped
unpaid leave – have no salary
so there – so committed to
moved on – went on to other stories
officially designated as
frat boy – college man who belongs to an exclusive group called a fraternity
wannabe – want to be
wannabe master... -someone who wants to be king of the world, but not in a political sense
flaky – scatter-brained, unintelligent
lucrative bit... - profitable, but unimportant, business
issues – problems
withering – condescending, as in “I can’t believe you said something so stupid”
gripe – complain
Milwaukee – city in Wisconsin
Midwestern – referring to the middles states of the U.S. (Michigan is in the Midwest)
pulled that...routine – used that “Sorry, I’m English” excuse
spark of something – little bit of sexual tension, a bit of attraction

in your right mind – smart

Stephanie (mom blogger, Miles’ mom)

Nicky (Sean & Emily’s son) and Sean (Emily’s husband)

Davis, Stephanie’s deceased (dead) husband

Emily (Missing woman, Nicky’s mom)

Chris, Stephanie’s half-brother
Chapter 9, pages 50-54

Pg 50 have each other’s back – take care of each other, support each other
Pg 50 distinct hits on the site – individual/unique visits to her website
Pg 50 flakes out – lets you down, disappoints you
Pg 50 drew the line at – decided against
Pg 51 tabloids – cheap magazines
Pg 51 mega – very large (like $2 million)
Pg 51 prime suspect – first person they suspect as the criminal
Pg 51 alibi – excuse for why he couldn’t have kidnapped or hurt Emily
Pg 51 checked out completely – was solid
Pg 51 CCTV – security cameras in buildings
Pg 51 surrendered the footage – gave the police the film/video from the CCTV cameras
Pg 51 to surface – to show up, to be known
Pg 52 pre-K – public school
Pg 52 came to light – was known about
Pg 52 slipped Sean’s mind – was forgotten about by Sean
Pg 52 picked up Sean and held him without charging him – taken Sean to the police station and kept him there for a short time, even though they didn’t arrest him for any crimes
Pg 52 inconsolable – impossible to calm
Pg 53 persecuted... - treated unfairly
Pg 53 morale/bolster – spirits/lift
Pg 53 thin air – nothing
Pg 53 clingy – unwilling to let go of Stephanie
Pg 53 separation anxiety – fear of letting his mother leave him
Pg 53 sobs – cries

Pg 53 credible suspect – possible criminal
Pg 53 evidence of foul play – indication that anything criminal happened; no violence
Pg 53 assumed name – new (fake) name
Pg 53 crazy-making – something that will make you crazy
Pg 54 gloomy note – depressing/sad topic

Chapter 10, pages 55-61

(This is the old blog post that Stephanie sends her readers to at the end of Chapter 9)
Pg 55 wind up – end up, eventually are
Pg 56 bicker – argue, fight
Pg 56 get anything going – start any friendships
Pg 56 closed ranks... - groups of friends who didn’t allow or want new moms to join
Pg 57 caving in – letting her husband persuade her (to move to the suburbs)
Pg 57 rebound effect set in – reversal of their sympathy for her too place
Pg 57 together women – women who have their lives together; their lives in a good place
Pg 57 poured our hearts out – told each other everything, from our hearts
Pg 57 pre-K – school before Kindergarten
Pg 58 salon blowouts – expensive hairstyles
Pg 58 shifty-eyed – suspicious, can’t look someone in the eye
Pg 58 one-off/prototype – sample/sample
Pg 59 Georgian – elegant style of home
Pg 59 drop...names – mention the names of important people in order to impress you
Pg 59 place mat – cloth for under each person’s dish on the kitchen or dining room table
Pg 59 I marvel – I am in awe of
slipcovers – clear plastic coverings for furniture to keep it looking brand new

Upper East Side – a very rich section of New York City

comfy – comfortable

letting go – letting her defenses down, relaxing, being unafraid of sharing with Emily

bottled up – held inside you

Chapter 11, pages 62-73

feelings – romantic feelings

Tribeca – area of Manhattan, New York

freighted but chaste little peck – heavy with meaning, but not sexual, little kiss

sleeps – has sex

do it – have sex

pick up on it – sense our guilt

opening up – telling Stephanie personal things, sharing his secrets with her

left for a colleague – left their marriage

has come way down in the world – does not have the same upper-class status any more

relief organization - charity

abused – sexually abused (in this case)

estranged – not in contact with them

flirtation with – time that she used

rehab – rehabilitation (a place to help her stop using drugs)

clean – sober, not using drugs

beat their addictions – stop using alcohol or drugs

on purpose – intentionally, deliberately

nursing – encouraging

body to turn up – dead body to be discovered

firestorm – a bunch, a lot

scrutinizes me – watches me closely

infatuated with – intrigued by, interested in

A vicious circle – an idea that leads to another idea which then leads back to the first idea

binge on – watch a lot of

Breaking Bad – a TV series about a high school teacher who made the illegal drug meth in his van and killed drug dealers (see next paragraph)

rapt with – full of

welled up – formed

level – even, without showing emotion

rocky – difficult

bower – archway

taste – liking

light-filled addition – extra room on the house that was bright and cheery

rugged – athletic

fair-haired beanpole – blonde and skinny

confide in – tell to

solid front – outwardly neutral position

estrangement – lack of communication

code-red/code-orange – levels of emergency used in hospitals

playing for time to... - waiting to answer my questions in order to have time to make up a believable story about buying the insurance

add up – make sense, seem true

flatter myself into thinking – think I’m good enough to

Chapter 12, pages 74-75

elements – things

picked up – noticed
appearance of normalcy – trying to act normal, trying to appear as if nothing is wrong

holding pattern – airplanes fly in circles in the sky while waiting for permission to land

beam – send (like a beam of light)

Tiny Tim – a fictional character in Charles Dickens’ 1843 book, A Christmas Carol

Chapter 13, pages 76-78

hasty conclusion I’d jumped to – quick assumption I had made

red-rimmed/ashen – red around the edges (from crying)/pale, white, without color

freighted...embraces – romantic hugs

badly decomposed – hardly recognizable

broke down sobbing – began to cry

hot stolen weekend – the very romantic weekend they took several years ago

Chapter 14, pages 79-82

resourceful enough – had the ability or knew how to get the help she needed; could handle things

oversharing – giving them too much information

adamant – firm, solid, unbending

overwrought – upset

Salvation Army – a charity

closure – final ending

break down – cry

conviction – belief

sobriety – not drinking or using drugs

demons – challenges

the substance issues... - her challenges with drugs and alcohol, which she had fought so hard to overcome

resurfaced – came back

booze – alcohol

cognition – thinking ability

common sense – Emily’s ability to be sensible

condolence – sorrow

Chapter 15, pages 83-89

the insurance policy – insurance companies typically do not pay when the insured person commits suicide

autopsy – inspection of a dead body

junkies – drug addicts/users

maintaining a habit – continuing to use drugs

kept it together – behaved normally

in bed – at sex

to come – to have an orgasm

subtle put-downs – not obvious insults

meltdowns – angry crying episodes/times

tantrums – angry crying episodes

goo – thick liquid

repressed – not expressed, hidden

den – family room, TV room

busted – caught, in trouble

hot – sexual

passed out – fell asleep

tucked him in – pulled the bed covers around him

stripped us bare... - taken everything we had emotionally, left us with no emotions or energy

Jesse Pinkman – character in the TV series, Breaking Bad.
meth-cooking — making crystal meth (an illegal drug)

junkie — drug addict

shuddering — shaking, trembling

torment — criticize

sleeping — having sex

Chapters 16 and 17, pages 90-95

crouced down — squatted, kneeled

my little rock — a person I can depend on

it will pass — it will end, it won’t last forever

luminol — a chemical that reacts with the iron in blood

seared — burned, imprinted permanently

alpha males — males who want to be the leader or “top dog”

street-macho — rough and tough

WASP — traditional (stands for White Anglo-Saxon Protestant)

contract out — find workers to build

Hudson-Packard — old car models

heated — angry

knew his way around — was very good at

porterhouse — a cut of steak

The steak’s on me — I’ll buy the steak

peck — kiss

Camaro — sporty car model

riding shotgun — sitting in the front passenger seat

put my foot down — was firm

barreling up — driving fast on

Chapters 18, pages 96-99

down to earth — practical, sensible

up in the clouds — always fantasizing, imaginative, creative

devoted/doting — caring, committed

blew up — went quickly from just a little angry to very angry

zero to sixty — standing still to sixty miles per hour (like a fast car), meaning they went from getting along to very angry in a flash

Maserati — expensive, fast sports car

fraud — fake, pretender

Cain and Abel — Bible characters, one brother killed the other brother

stalk — walk angrily

cold cuts — sandwich meats

Brokering an accord — Making peace

come to blows — hit each other

save face — not be embarrassed

grumpy — in a bad mood

crying his head off — crying loudly

lairs — homes

blacked out — become unconscious

Chapter 19, pages 100-108

swear off each other — promise not to see each other

drop by — stop by her house

give me hot — make me think of sex

twelve-step group - a therapy type of group to help people stop drinking or using drugs

hold out — (you can skip these words)

cross him — disagree with him

Christopher Columbus — historical person who is said to have “discovered” America

gotten over me — moved on from our relationship
 Pg 102 Frank Lloyd Wright — a famous architect
 Pg 102 a moron — stupid, an idiot
 Pg 102 I’ve dodged a bullet — I’ve avoided getting in trouble (this time)
 Pg 103 relapsed — started seeing each other again
 Pg 103 freaks me out — makes me feel creepy
 Pg 104 in character for him — like him
 Pg 104 shards — pieces
 Pg 104 come to our senses — be reasonable
 Pg 105 walk — sidewalk
 Pg 105 shroud — coffin
 Pg 105 green burial — mixing the dead person’s ashes into the ground to help the environment
 Pg 105 hack into — slice
 Pg 105 a new take on — new ideas about
 Pg 105 upbringing — childhood
 Pg 106 next of kin — closest relative
 Pg 106 sleuthing — research
 Pg 106 rounds — drinks for everyone
 Pg 107 nightcap — late night drink
 Pg 107 tucked me in — pulled the bed covers around me
 Pg 107 picked up — answered
 Pg 107 stave off — calm
 Pg 108 swear off — not have anything to do with
 Pg 108 went out — stopped working
 Pg 108 shrieked/yelped — screamed/made a painful noise
 Pg 108 unhinges me — makes me crazy

 Chapter 20, pages 109-111

 Pg 110 dropping off and picking up — taking the boys to and from school
 Pg 110 cut way back on — reduce
 Pg 110 mini-sabotage — misbehavior
 Pg 111 dark looks — mean looks or stares
 Pg 111 finicky OCD — particular or rigid behaviors OCD = obsessive-compulsive disorder
 Pg 111 hostile — mean
 Pg 111 spare him — save him from knowing

 Chapter 21, pages 112-119

 Pg 112 making up for lost time — working extra hard because he had missed so much time at work
 Pg 112 shatter the calm ... storm — end the calm waters that often come before a storm
 Pg 113 acting out — misbehaving
 Pg 113 straightening up — cleaning
 Pg 114 padded — walked
 Pg 114 tucked him in — put him in bed
 Pg 114 the chills — a tingle in my back
 Pg 115 read her lips — tell what she was saying by watching her lips move
 Pg 115 making it up — inventing the story of seeing his mom
 Pg 115 concept of hallucinations ... - the idea of believing you see something that really isn’t there
 Pg 117 Twilight Zone — an old TV series about mysterious things happening
 Pg 117 losing it — losing your mind, your sanity
 Pg 117 atomizer — spray bottle
 Pg 118 turned on — sexually aroused

 Chapter 22, page 120

 Pg 120 sadistic — cruel, mean
 Pg 120 mistress — woman he’s having sex with
 Pg 120 conspire — work together

 Chapter 23, pages 121-123
Pg 121 *Diabolique!* - name of the movie
Pg 121 stream the film - download it from the internet
Pg 122 sinister-babe - evil woman
Pg 122 control freak - person who needs to be in control at all times
Pg 122 messes with - bothers or is mean to
Pg 122 spoilers - things about the movie that could ruin (or spoil) the ending for someone who hasn't seen it yet
Pg 123 slasher film - a movie with a violent character who chops heads off, cuts people, etc
Pg 123 gore fest - movie with lots of blood and scenes of dead people

**Chapter 24, pages 124-135**

Pg 124 senseless - a lot
Pg 124 Gaslighting - fooling, tricking
Pg 124 conspired - worked together
Pg 125 porn - pornographic (graphic sex)
Pg 125 stable - solid, dependable
Pg 125 circle the wagons - work together to be safe
Pg 126 the place - a storage facility
Pg 126 see through it - know why I was really asking (storage facilities), see through my lie
Pg 126 bear to - skip these words
Pg 127 on leave - on vacation, taking a break
Pg 127 blended family - the new family that forms when two people marry (or live together) who already have children
Pg 127 navigating the... - trying to get past Emily's death and the huge emptiness it left in their lives
Pg 127 hollow note - insincerity, lack of genuine interest
Pg 127 conspiring - working together
Pg 127 crackerjack - skip this word
Pg 127 medicine chest - where people keep their pills and medicines, usually in the bathroom
Pg 127 Xanax - a prescription drug used to treat anxiety
Pg 128 denominations - values, amount they were worth
Pg 128 drug-addled mess - drug addict
Pg 128 estranged - not in communication with
Pg 128 rifling - going
Pg 129 came - had an orgasm
Pg 129 perverted - sexually inappropriate
Pg 129 deco - skip this word
Pg 129 vanity table - a small table with a mirror and a chair where women put on makeup
Pg 129 stages - times of her life
Pg 129 Syracuse - university in New York
Pg 129 upscale - expensive
Pg 129 Tucson - city in Arizona
Pg 130 endearments - loving words
Pg 130 salutation - greeting
Pg 130 fountain pen - old-fashioned pen
Pg 130 penmanship - handwriting
Pg 130 stellar - wonderful, very good
Pg 130 suffered from dementia - couldn't remember things, her mind didn't work
Pg 130 legal pad - extra long lined paper
Pg 131 out of hand - out of control, chaotic
Pg 131 whiff of decomposition - scent of a dead body
Pg 132 autopsy - examination of a dead body
Pg 132 DNA - a unique biological code in every person
humor me – keep me happy
compromises – sacrifices
acting out – misbehaving
heat dies down – sexual attraction declines
Not by a long shot – not at all
mass hysteria – group craziness
hallucination – mistaken (unreal) vision
lasting damage – long-term emotional problems
robocall – automated
vivid – very real
Chapter 25, pages 139-173
Peeping – looking in, spying
tingly nauseous jitters – nervous feeling
God I know I’m one – I’m like that, too; that describes me, too
3-D live-action dollhouse – 3-dimensional realistic home
animated figurines – cartoon-like people
burner phone – a prepaid cell phone which is untraceable
gynecologist – doctor for women
orchid breeder – grower of orchid flowers
finished off – finished
sips – small drinks
cardboard cutouts – made of cardboard
sticoms – comedy TV shows (stands for “situation comedies”)
same rocky road – same path in life
demographic – group of people
Investigative Reports – crime TV show
corny – dumb, uncool
high on – proud of
mess with S’s head – play with Stephanie’s mind, confuse Stephanie
bondage – chains, prison
dipped my toe into – barely started
At the end of the day – When everything is all done, in the end, after all
think less of – think less positively about
stand – agree, want
drops – stops dating, breaks up with
Dennis – Dennis Nylor, her boss
caught on to disinformation – realized information was wrong/incorrect
Dennis’ court-ordered... - Dennis’ required stay at a drug recovery center look like a fun, two-week vacation in India
go on – talk on and on and on, talk a lot
sixth sense – intuition, a power beyond the normal five senses (sight, sound, taste, smell, feel)
predators – animals that hunt other animals; the hunter, not the hunted
crawling with snipers – filled with sharpshooters (accurate gun shooters)
pervert – sexually inappropriate man
Big sloppy gut, wife-beater T-shirt – fat and wearing a white t-shirt with no sleeves
gave him the finger – gave him a disrespectful gesture (middle finger up, alone)
serial killer – someone who kills for fun again and again
impales – stabs
sick – mentally unstable
fringe of an arty crowd – popular with artsy (creative) people who watch unusual movies
counted for – mattered
Pg 144 **straight-arrow** – someone who doesn’t break rules

Pg 144 *The Sound of Music* – a happy, wholesome movie

Pg 145 **little much** – hard to believe, a little too much to ask me to believe

Pg 145 **wussy** – soft, weak, pathetic

Pg 145 **turned him on** – made him think about sex

Pg 145 **pinot grigio** – wine

Pg 145 **Jane Austen** – writer of women’s fiction

Pg 145 **tequila/mezcal** – liquors

Pg 145 **dark TV series** – disturbing or unhappy TV

Pg 145 **eloped** – got married without telling or inviting anyone to the wedding

Pg 145 **Bellagio** – hotel in Las Vegas

Pg 146 **moors** – grassy areas in England

Pg 146 *Wuthering Heights* – classic British novel

Pg 146 **Brontes** – Emily and Charlotte, writers and sisters, one of whom wrote *Wuthering Heights*

Pg 146 **leaches** – goes

Pg 146 **And back to spend...** - And back to spend the night with his old, disagreeable mom in her damp, cold, smelly house – his mom, who didn’t like Sean and liked Emily even less

Pg 146 **linoleum** – flooring

Pg 146 **reeking** – smelling

Pg 146 **reign on King...** - a long ago King

Pg 146 **marketing** – shopping

Pg 146 **sip/flask** – drink/liquor bottle

Pg 146 **Jose Cuervo** – a brand of tequila

Pg 146 **Herradura** – a more expensive brand

Pg 146 **sherry/revelation** – wine/astounding

Pg 146 **conspiratorial alliance** – secret they shared

Pg 146 **dizzy spell** – period of feeling dizzy (like the room was spinning)

Pg 146 **going under or acting out** – becoming unresponsive (?) or misbehaving

Pg 147 **blithered on** – talk on and on and on

Pg 147 **Neanderthal era** – cave man days

Pg 147 **tipsy** – a little bit drunk

Pg 147 **hypercritical** – overly critical

Pg 147 **nagged him** – asked and asked until he finally agreed to

Pg 147 **telly** – television

Pg 147 **tidied up** – cleaned (the kitchen)

Pg 147 **toddled off to the loo** – walked (like a toddler) to the bathroom

Pg 147 **premeditation** – planned ahead of time

Pg 147 **klepto** – compulsive shoplifter/stealer, short for kleptomaniac

Pg 147 **turned the house upside down** – looked everywhere for it

Pg 147 **weepy** – crying, with tears in her eyes

Pg 148 **practical joke** – a joke that you act out instead of just saying it

Pg 148 **itty-bitty/spat** – teeny tiny/argument

Pg 148 **extradite** – bring her back to England

Pg 148 **sadist** – someone who enjoy hurting others

Pg 149 **pledge my troth** – old-fashioned wedding vows: promise to love

Pg 149 **demise** – death

Pg 150 **taken a drunken...** - died in the lake

Pg 150 **lapse** – period of time

Pg 150 **wounded mess** – hurt person

Pg 150 **repent for her sins** – make up for everything she had ever done wrong in her life
hits on – flirts with, is romantically attracted to
Danbury ... - hotel
an assumed name – a fake name
ditched – left, got rid of
ramble on – talk and talk
Peeping Tom – spying on them
cuckoo – crazy
loonier – more crazy
defraud – illegally cheat
carrier – company
show his hand – reveal what he knows
fell into our lap – suddenly came into our life
despises the crooks – hates the dishonest people
righteous Robin Hood – good and honest thing like taking money from the rich to give to the poor (as Robin Hood, in the children’s story, had)
Bonnie and Clyde – American couple who killed 13 people in the 1930s
lottery tickets – inexpensive tickets sold by the state with huge winnings in the millions
Fred M/Barbara S – actors in thriller movies; Barbara is the bad guy, Fred the good guy
suspect – suspect that I was using her; be suspicious of our friendship
sick – throw up
predators – hunters
pedophiles – men who are sexually attracted to young children
It was meant to be – It was fate; it was planned by God or the Universe
Conceiving – getting pregnant with
carrying it to term – staying pregnant for the entire 40 weeks
protection – protection against pregnancy
contraception – methods to avoid pregnancy
_capitulation – agreeing to go along with it
clause after clause – legal phrases after legal phrase, lots of legal words
flagging blanks – pointing to spaces
teensy paycheck deduction – small payment out of each paycheck
pick up... – continue talking wherever I had stopped talking before
fuck them – have sex with a man
just as soon – prefer to
ad nauseum – until I’m sick of hearing it
Put all our... - risk everything (refers to putting all your gambling chips on one game)
flatlined – remained flat; not increased
rat race – busy hectic life of people who are trying to get ahead/be successful in life
You’re having the balls – you having enough courage, being man enough
lie low – hide, stay out of sight
expat – skip this word
we’d take stock – we would reconsider our situation
a long shot – not likely to work
enable – make possible
embraced this scheme – went ahead with the insurance fraud idea
blowing away – destroying, killing
turn us on – get us sexually excited
foreplay – sexual activity before sex
hold down – keep, each have

Hail-Mary pass – in football, throwing the ball super far at the end of the game, hoping that one of your teammates catches it and scores. This often fails.

fall for – believe

buy it – believe it

exit strategy – way to leave their current life

on the prowl – looking out, seeking

made a lot of noise – advertised itself as

trolling – looking for

flutter of disruption – sign of anything wrong

pervert trawling ... - man at the shopping mall looking for an insecure teen girl

Upper East Side – rich section of NY city

frostiness – cold, indifferent people

cold shoulder – rudely ignoring someone

flicker – tiny moment

licensing – company

goofy – weird

prototype – sample idea

swag – free gifts

diva – self-centered woman

demographic – group of people Dennis Nylon advertises to; the people who buy his stuff

You would have thought... - that I had saved Stephanie’s life

kibble – dry dog food

this being snooty... - since this is rude and pompous Connecticut

kindred spirit – someone just like her, a soul mate

fashion shoot – photography session to photograph clothing models

thought it through – given it enough thought, didn’t have everything figured out

Geeky – weird looking, unattractive

George Clooney – handsome actor

thirty grand = $30,000

A drink on – A drink paid for by

salvage – make the best of, save

high-stakes – big money

clinched it – closed the deal, sealed us together

banality – boring, clichéd, trite

fall for her bullshit – believe, and be influenced by, Stephanie’s ideas

deluding – kidding, tricking, deceiving

blabbing – talking

On paper... - Officially, in our (Dennis Nylon’s) advertising, we were a company that welcomed employees with children

shut down – stopped talking

collection – clothing ideas

tree-hugging – feel good

kinky – sexually unusual

chanced to stray – happened to move away

capital – money, currency, power

reticent/chilly – distant, unfriendly

willed us – decided that we were

the creeps – an unsettling feeling, a scared feeling

character witness – someone who will tell authorities that you are a wonderful person

caretaker – babysitter
poured her heart out – told me everything

carrot at the... - prize waiting for her

county fair – a festival celebrating farm life

The rolling vats... - The smells of cheap fast food/food trucks at the fair

shifty – untrustworthy, dishonest looking

drawn – attracted

suspect – are suspicious, know

bottled up – hidden (inside of her)

press S further – ask S more questions

landed in my lap – came without any effort on my part; came unexpectedly

move – take action

make out with... - kiss the hired cook

Good Samaritan – person who helps others

transparent/opaque – clear/clouded

lost his mind – gone crazy

amount to – be

prevail – win

perk – bonus, good thing

bogus IDs – fake identification cards

sworn affidavit – legal document

going be = going to be (a typo)

expat – skip this word

an affair – a romantic relationship outside of her marriage

hunky Brit – handsome British

being privy – knowing (while others don’t)

ditched the rental – got rid of the rental car

Adirondacks – mountains in New York

off the grid – no be in communication with the rest of the world, incommunicado

kicked in – started

tears well – tears form

stationed myself – stood

cheapskate – cheap

extortionist – skip this word

pleas – requests

sippy cups – spill-proof children’s cups

laments – disappointments, sorrow

seduce – persuade Sean to have sex with her

drivel – boring talk/thoughts/writing

posing – pretending to be someone you’re not

neonatal ward – part of a hospital where babies are born

downsides – drawbacks, negatives

pupusa – Salvadoran food

mezcal – tequila (liquor)

D’s drug binges – times when D used a lot of drugs

B’s cyclonic rages – B cycling in and out of anger

perks/buzz – benefits/excitement

stay – remain, continue to be considered

Brady Bunch – a 1960s TV show about a very happy divorced and remarried (blended) family

Chapters 26-27, pages 174-177

lost it – gone crazy

wind up – end up, go to

afterlife – life after you die
Pg 175 **passed** – died

Pg 175 **here goes** – here it is

**Chapter 28, pages 178-179**

Pg 178 **blackmailing** – having information about someone that you can use against them

Pg 178 **bitch** – a negative word for “woman”

Pg 178 **slut** – whore, woman who has sex with many men

Pg 178 **blogosphere** – internet

**Chapter 29, pages 180-184**

Pg 180 **hallucinated** – imagined

Pg 180 **I’m no match for her** – I’m not as strong as she is, I can’t beat her

Pg 181 **incest** – sex between relatives

Pg 181 **inbreeding** – babies born to people who are related

Pg 181 **Bad call!** – Dumb idea!

Pg 181 **pull** – close

Pg 181 **psycho wards** – hospitals for mentally challenged or crazy people

Pg 181 **protective services** – a government agency that protects children by removing them from abusive homes

Pg 181 **foster care** – a government program that finds families for children who are removed from their homes to live with temporarily

Pg 181 **on their hands** – to deal with

Pg 182 **up to** – planning

Pg 182 **count** – depend

Pg 182 **prank call** – phone call not to talk to someone, but to scare them

Pg 183 **moronic** – stupid

Pg 183 **authenticate** – prove it’s Stephanie

Pg 183 **bluffing** – pretending to believe what I said, even though I didn’t

Pg 184 **homing instinct** – the natural desire to be home

Pg 184 **mad** – crazy

Pg 184 **drifted** – moved, walked

**Chapter 30, pages 185-186**

Pg 185 **taken aback** – surprised

**Chapter 31, pages 187-200**

Pg 187 **junk mail** – advertisements

Pg 187 **manila** – cream-colored

Pg 187 **gave me chills** – made me feel creepy

Pg 187 **lingering mom intuition** – remaining basic knowledge of her mom’s

Pg 187 **unnerved** – afraid, unsure

Pg 187 **demented** – unable to think clearly

Pg 187 **Em** = Emily

Pg 187 **Bernice** – Emily’s mom’s caregiver

Pg 188 **paw** – little, unimportant person

Pg 188 **heat** – sexual attraction

Pg 188 **scheme to mess with my head** – plan to drive me crazy

Pg 189 **sixth sense** – intuition, knowing something that can’t be known

Pg 189 **reedy** – scratchy

Pg 189 **fooling around** – playing games

Pg 189 **wistfully** – sadly, with longing

Pg 189 **My heart went out to her** – I felt sad for her, I had empathy for her

Pg 190 **face** – accept
Pg 190 **lost touch** – separated from reality
Pg 190 **mansion** – huge house
Pg 190 **Gone With the Wind** – 1940 film
Pg 190 **hummocks of** – skip these words
Pg 190 **Grace Kelly** – actress who also became Princess of Monaco
Pg 190 **rose potpourri** – dried rose petals
Pg 191 **babbling** – talking without really saying anything
Pg 191 **perched** – sat
Pg 191 **faux** – fake
Pg 191 **PR** = public relations
Pg 191 **88 recall** – when an auto company admits something is wrong with one of its new cars and owners can get them repaired for free (the auto company pays for the repairs)
Pg 191 **toxic** – poisonous
Pg 191 **shuffled/murmuring** – walked/talking
Pg 191 **credenza** – cabinet, piece of furniture
Pg 193 **odious** – ugly, hideous
Pg 193 **rehab facilities** – rehabilitation program (place to get off drugs or alcohol)
Pg 193 **guess-who** = Emily’s mom
Pg 193 **on the street** – homeless
Pg 194 **take in** – learn, understand
Pg 194 **loony bin** – psychiatric hospital
Pg 194 **DNA** – genetic code
Pg 194 **cranking out** – coming up with
Pg 194 **conspiratorial tone** – sisterly, best friend-like tone of voice
Pg 195 **decanter** – fancy bottle for liquor
Pg 195 **sips** – small swallows
Pg 195 **telepathic** – able to communicate without talking
Pg 195 **double picnic** – great time! (sarcasm)
Pg 195 **go down/go up** – have a bad life/have a good life
Pg 195 **vicious** – terrible, hurtful, mean
Pg 195 **cold** – instantly
Pg 196 **some baloney** – something stupid
Pg 196 **seedy motel** – unsafe motel in a bad part of town
Pg 196 **Curiosity killed the cat** – an old saying that means be careful what you look into
Pg 197 **nursing scrubs** – nurse’s uniform
Pg 197 **dreads** = dreadlocks (hair style)
Pg 197 **mess** – interact
Pg 197 **better off** – happier
Pg 197 **what was what** – what was going on
Pg 198 **made a face** – got a frown on her face
Pg 198 **islands** – presumably Jamaica (where Bernice is from?)
Pg 198 **freaking out** – going crazy, becoming hysterical
Pg 199 **together enough** – thinking clearly enough
Pg 199 **desk clerk** – hotel worker
Pg 199 **swam up**... - came in my imagination
Pg 199 **snapshots** – pictures
Pg 199 **caps and gowns** – graduation robes and hats
Pg 199 **dominant** – strong, powerful
Pg 199 **slipped up** – made a mistake
Chapter 32, pages 201-202
Pg 201 closure – final endings, good endings

Chapter 33, pages 203-225
Pg 203 binge – drinking a lot
Pg 203 spiraling toward... - getting closer and closer to needing another stay at an alcohol rehabilitation center
Pg 203 picked up – answered (their phone)
Pg 203 ensuing shit storm – problems, fallout, aftermath
Pg 203 talk D down – calm him down
Pg 203 ramble – talk aimlessly
Pg 204 I’ll take it – I’ll take the phone call
Pg 204 snapshots – photos, pictures
Pg 204 pry – ask questions
Pg 205 inexplicable – unexplainable
Pg 205 I pushed my ... - I pushed myself out of my mother’s womb (was born) first
Pg 205 joint/weed – marijuana
Pg 205 tab of acid – tablet of acid (an illegal drug)
Pg 205 Ecstasy – illegal drug
Pg 205 rave – dance
Pg 206 rest easy – relax
Pg 206 kit – items for giving herself heroin
Pg 206 hypodermic – needle for injecting heroin into her vein
Pg 206 white powder – cocaine
Pg 206 But Mother was floating... - But Mother was on her own high (on alcohol)
Pg 207 blew up – got very angry

Pg 207 pros and cons – good things and bad things
Pg 207 rehab facilities – rehabilitation centers
Pg 207 shacked up – living with
Pg 207 check – admit (enter her)
Pg 208 plot turns – points of the story
Pg 208 sniffling – crying lightly
Pg 208 spirits – mood, hopes
Pg 208 get clean – stop using drugs, alcohol
Pg 208 mental asylum – psychiatric hospital (place to get emotionally healed)
Pg 208 chill – relax
Pg 209 slay our dragons – end our suffering
Pg 209 throw – mislead
Pg 209 nosy – intrusive, someone who asks too many private questions
Pg 210 made a big production of – made sure I was seen
Pg 210 CCTV – security cameras
Pg 210 get something going – make a deal
Pg 210 alibi – a place for Sean to be when Emily “died”, so the police would know that Sean couldn’t have done it
Pg 210 dubiously – doubtfully
Pg 210 heady – exciting
Pg 211 overcommitted – too busy
Pg 211 fuck the fish – have sex with Stephanie
Pg 211 stalk – follow
Pg 211 cover my tracks – make sure no one could follow me
Pg 211 state-of-the-art surveillance – very good/top-notch security
Pg 212 **scheming maniac** – crazy person
Pg 212 **Sandusky** = Ohio
Pg 212 **license suspended for DWI** – driver’s license taken away for driving while drunk
Pg 212 **nicks and dents** – scrapes and damages
Pg 212 **torn screen** – refers to a window
Pg 213 **ratted** – messy
Pg 213 **shot** – small glass
Pg 213 **Vicodin** – prescription drug for pain
Pg 214 **awaiting detonation** – waiting to explode
Pg 214 **stick around** – stay (alive)
Pg 214 **fallen out of touch** – stopped communicating with each other
Pg 214 **the heavy lifting** – all the work
Pg 214 **element** – wind, fire, earth, etc
Pg 214 **tedium** – sameness
Pg 214 **death wish** – desire to die
Pg 215 **theatrical gestures** – drama
Pg 215 **Barbara S and Fred M** – actors
Pg 215 **rich** – full of meaning, too perfect
Pg 215 **dorm** – room
Pg 215 **make amends** – apologize
Pg 216 **ALS** – nerve & muscle disease
Pg 216 **MRI** – machine to see inside the body
Pg 216 **tracked toward dread** – pointed toward something bad happening
Pg 217 **scheme** – plan
Pg 217 **mess with** – irritate, confuse
Pg 217 **total blowout** – big high (on drugs)
Pg 217 **get clean** – stop using drugs/alcohol
Pg 217 **blasted** – high/drunken
Pg 218 **designer mescal** – top quality tequila
Pg 218 **struck** – surprised
Pg 218 **shots** – drinks (alcohol)
Pg 218 **enabler** – someone who allows addicts to drink or get high
Pg 218 **pitch and stutter** – tilt and stumble
Pg 218 **dithered** – looked excitedly
Pg 218 **with mixological ambitions** – hoping to become an expert mixer of alcohol
Pg 219 **dispensed** – gave out, handed out
Pg 219 **Mother’s Little Helper** – the pills?
Pg 219 **trekking** – walking
Pg 219 **wash over her and leave** – come and go
Pg 219 **medication regimen** – pill schedule
Pg 219 **playpen** – confined baby play area
Pg 219 **tolerance** – ability to take pills without feeling high or showing signs of being high
Pg 220 **come down** – are no longer high
Pg 220 **blanched** – turned white
Pg 220 **tackle** – knock her down
Pg 220 **sober her up** – make her think clearly
Pg 220 **somewhere/pump her stomach** – a hospital/empty her stomach of the pills
Pg 220 **sponsor** – mentor/guide in a 12-step drug and alcohol recovery program
Pg 220 **drained** – drank
Pg 220 **doing** – work
Pg 221 keeping up – trying to drink as much as Evelyn
Pg 221 passed out – slept deeply
Pg 221 paced – walked around and around
Pg 221 insomniac – someone who can’t sleep
Pg 222 Adirondacks – mountains in New York
Pg 222 Danbury – city in Connecticut
Pg 222 harassing - bothering
Pg 222 heinous violation – horrible betrayal
Pg 223 code words – secret words
Pg 223 Greenwich Village – part of NYC
Pg 223 embrace – hug
Pg 223 volcanic – super big
Pg 223 Hear him out – let him talk
Pg 224 a line in the ... - something an actor in a stupid daytime TV drama would say
Pg 224 veal chop – meat
Pg 224 charred crematorium-smelling – burned meat smelling like death
Pg 225 second-guess my intentions – trying to figure out what I’m going to do next
Pg 225 spaniel – dog

Chapter 34, pages 229-244

Pg 229 give in, give up – concede, stop trying
Pg 229 Samson, Delilah, David, Bathsheba – Bible people with a strong woman who defeats her man
Pg 229 illusions – ideas (whether real or not)
Pg 229 shit fits – tantrums, angry outbursts
Pg 230 UK = United Kingdom
Pg 230 annulled – revoked, undone
Pg 230 sealed the deal – made it final
Pg 230 shake – dismiss, get rid of
Pg 230 superstitious – illogical
Pg 230 Virgin Atlantic – airline
Pg 230 upper-class loo – first class bathroom on the airplane
Pg 230 in labor – having a baby
Pg 231 blather – talk on and on and on
Pg 231 colleagues – coworkers
Pg 231 idiot savants – people who are intellectually geniuses, but not good socially
Pg 231 preposterous – ridiculous, crazy
Pg 231 scheme – idea
Pg 231 grounded – based
Pg 231 a coward – not brave, scared
Pg 231 reconvene – get back together
Pg 231 enough = enough money
Pg 232 blackmailing – threatening to expose something about Sean in order to get him to go along with her idea
Pg 232 consensus – agreement
Pg 232 blindsided – very surprised
Pg 232 autopsy/DNA – medical reports
Pg 232 Better-laid plans – plans that were better
Pg 232 using = using drugs
Pg 232 mourned – was sad about her death
Pg 232 veered – moved back and forth
Pg 232 excruciating – horrible, intense
Pg 233 contempt – hatred, disgust
Pg 233 carnivore – meat-eater
Pg 233 misery – sadness
Pg 233 dark – bad
Pg 233 jammed – shoved, put
smokers – people who smoked
atmosphere – air
date – man (probably one she didn’t know)
stand her up – not show up at the restaurant, be a no-show for their dinner
so long – want so much
greyhound – sleek, fast racing dog
yippy spaniel – barking family dog
Mercedes/Hyundai – expensive/cheap car
resurrected beloved – loved one who comes back to life
maitre d’ – head waiter (French - pronounced mater – dee)
eavesdropping – overhearing, listening
low blow – unfair accusation
consoling Nicky – helping Nicky feel better
recoiled – jerked backward as if in shock
merciless implacable no – stern, unshakable, un-persuadable no
“Hell hath no fury – like a woman scorned.” It means that even Hell is not as bad an angry woman
cloying – overly sentimental, emotional
rubbed off on me – become mine, too
cow-in-the... - fear that she was heading toward something bad
contagious – able to be passed from one person to another
homeopathic remedies – herbal cures
psychotic episode – mental and emotional breakdown
meds – medications, pills
insomnia – not sleeping
side effect – an unintended effect of the pills, not the effect the pills were made for
deluded/delusional – kidding herself/unable to see the truth
keep it together – remain calm
sheaf – stack
blazer – suit jacket
beneficent sort of cult – a group of people who strictly follow a self-appointed leader of the group, but a nice, kind cult
parishioners – followers
flock – people, followers
took offense – became angry
claim payable – the insurance policy
late – dead
put my head in the sand – refuse to see what’s happening around him
charade – game of pretending
came to this – went this far
pick up – answer my phone
formality – a required procedure
cooked up a scheme to defraud – imagined a plan to cheat
willed Stephanie – In my mind, I begged Stephanie (not to come into the room with Mr. P)
IQ points – measures of intelligence
plopped – sat easily
nothing to be done but – no way to say this except to
mute – silence
of will – skip these words
flinch – move suddenly, react
catastrophic – dangerous, destructive
lodged  stuck

domestic tension  – a couple arguing

not in my line of work  – who doesn’t have my job

gap  – the space (where a tooth used to be)

dental implant  – fake tooth

come up  – been talked about

lies of omission  – lying by “forgetting” to include some of the information

legal authorities  – police

doubtless turn it ... - certainly turn it into a criminal investigation

playing the mother card  – using the fact that she was a mother to her advantage

cards  = business cards

let himself out  – leave by himself (without Sean or Stephanie asking him to the door)

Chapter 35, pages 245-246

you-know-what detector  – ability to know what’s going on, what’s real

Chapter 36, pages 247-263

message in a bottle  – a reference to putting a paper message in a bottle and then throwing it into the sea

incriminating  – that could be used as proof of a crime (like insurance fraud)

played me  – used me without my knowing I was being used

sucker/scheme  – fool/plan

fixated  – focused

groomed  – prepared, made ready

got custody  – became a legal guardian (parent)

split second  – less than a second

despise  – hate

stalked  – watched and followed

hit man  – man who kills other people for money

The Wire  – TV crime show

stalling  – delaying

vibe  – feeling

nerviest  – bold, courageous

CCTV footage  – security camera films

bungling  – dumb, foolish

registers  – remembers, understands

bluffing  – pretending she knew

unsettle  – disturb, upset

calling the shots  – telling me what to do

throwback  – room trying to look like a room from long ago

rise  – hill

nibbling on  – eating

setting me up  – putting me in a position

adulterous lovers on the down low  – people in a secret love affair

gin and tonic  – alcoholic drink

margarita  – alcoholic drink

laying herself open  – making herself completely available to me, to ask whatever I wanted

intrusion  – invasion of (Emily’s) privacy

corpse  – dead body

compartmentalized  – put things into different parts of my brain and didn’t think about some of them

tormented  – afraid
brushes with substance abuse – few experiences with using drugs and alcohol
hiccups – break, distance, gap
courtship – dating life
time-out – break in life
force of nature – strong, powerful
reanimated her features – made her face light up (look very happy)
abusing – hitting, being mean
mega-lawyers – big-time lawyers, powerful lawyers
sharkiest – best and meanest
custody – which parent gets to keep a child
demolish – destroy
PR for S & G – Public Relations (speaking for) two terrible people (from the Bible)
confided – told her
neurotic – crazy
paranoid/skittish – thinking everyone is trying to harm you/easily frightened
illusions – imaginings, imaginations
pattern of abuse – the way abusive relationships are
to process – to think about
PR – public relations (how it would look to the public, what the public would think)
golden parachute – parting gift before retirement, safety net
turn on me – become her enemy
me kept in the dark – keep me from knowing anything
excruciating – painful
take charge – be in control, make the decisions
confronted – spoke to
commit criminal fraud – plan and carry out a crime like making a false insurance claim
shady – something that looked criminal (but wasn’t)
to kill – to wait, to waste
strategized – made plans
vengeful – plans to hurt Sean
on his side – agreeing with him
enlist me as a character witness – use me as someone who would say he was a great guy
dwell – think about, live in
bracing – very cold
nausea – sickness, sick feeling
hypodermic – medical needle
OD’d – overdosed (on drugs)
unsettling/boasting – troubling/bragging
implicating myself – making myself part of
turn Emily in – report E to the police
considerate – kind
secluded pulloff – little used area on the side of the road
up the way – a little ways up the road
ridge/veered – hill/turned
chasm – hole in the earth
collateral damage – innocent people getting hurt
incinerated – burned completely
forensic/ID – dead person/identify
shivers/creeps – shakes/bad feeling
Runs the forensics – does a scientific examination of Mr. P’s dead body
on the shoulder – on the side of the road
child’s play – a child’s game
liberating – freeing
absolved – forgiven
Sheer strength of will – Just by trying hard
Thelma and Louise – movie about two women who commit crimes together
Chapter 37, pages 264-266
addressed – talked about
taken out of the shadows – brought into the light, made okay to talk about
serial abuser – man who abuses women again and again and again
we’re in so deep – our lives are so entangled
lash out – strike, hit
battered women’s shelter – safe place to stay for women who have been abused
driven – forced
lawmakers – Congress (state and federal elected representatives)
heavy stuff – serious topics
a chain – a conversation
Chapter 38, pages 267-70
naïve, dopey malleability – innocent, dumb ability to be persuaded and controlled
the fish – used, the pawn
credible – believable
up to speed – to where he was before
spinning the truth – making bad things seem good (or better than they were)
collateral damage – an innocent person who was killed
killed two birds...one stone – accomplished two things by doing only one
up the food chain – from the lowest secretary up to Dennis N’s office
repulsive – sickening
stints in rehab – stays at rehabilitation centers (for alcohol and drug problems)
jaw drop – mouth open in shock/surprise
Cut the shit – stop fooling around
put my through – connect me
psychic – someone who claims to be able to talk to the dead
the other side – heaven, wherever you are when you die (the dead side, not the living side)
cavernous loft/atelier – huge working studio
coffee-table book – large, oversized book
mezcal-mango cocktail – alcoholic drink
charade/fraud – pretend story/fake
cynical – negative
ID – identification card
credentials – identification papers/cards
stamina – endurance
broken home – home with divorced parents
pang – awful, sharp feeling
in the war zone – here (at work)
red tape to cut through – obstacles to get through
on retainer – who work for the firm
Domestic – family/relationship lawyer
at your disposal – available to you
Chapter 39, pages 271-272
gag order – instructions not to talk
lot – parking lot
Pg 271 **consequences** — things that happen as a result of our choices

Pg 272 **track us down** — find us

Pg 272 **Wanted poster** — a police poster showing a person/criminal they want to find. It includes a drawing or a photo of the criminal.

Pg 272 **had on me** — could use against me

Pg 272 **accessory to** — helper in (this is the official name of the crime: Accessory to Murder)

Chapter 40, pages 273-280

Pg 273 **ferrying** — driving, transporting

Pg 273 **tally up** — add up, count

Pg 273 **on the fly** — impulsively

Pg 273 **pick up the slack** — take over, help

Pg 274 **VP** — Vice-President

Pg 274 **impending** — upcoming, soon to be

Pg 274 **scotches** — alcoholic drinks

Pg 274 **off my game** — not up to my best

Pg 274 **flat screen/stream** — TV/watch

Pg 275 **Let them be** — leave them alone

Pg 275 **fish** — person to use

Pg 275 **I couldn’t stop...** - skip this sentence

Pg 275 **the bloody hell** — skip these words

Pg 275 **curse** — swear (referring to bloody hell)

Pg 276 **baited** — enticed, led her

Pg 276 **booze** — alcohol

Pg 276 **wheeled** — turned

Pg 276 **pathetic** — worthless

Pg 276 **coroner** — person who examines the dead

Pg 276 **precision** — accuracy

Pg 277 **psychotic** — temporarily crazy

Pg 277 **dull** — dumb

Pg 277 **recoiled** — shrank back

Pg 277 **beaming** — smiling broadly

Pg 277 **hold up** — be believed

Pg 277 **hounded** — bothered, bullied

Pg 277 **defraud** — cheat

Pg 277 **conspire** — work together

Pg 277 **perjure** — lie to authorities

Pg 278 **bluffing** — pretending he would take action, but he didn’t plan to

Pg 278 **crack...wide open** — solve the case

Pg 278 **legal staff** — lawyers

Pg 278 **version** — story

Pg 279 **resorting to** — doing

Pg 279 **Carlyle** — a hotel

Pg 279 **murals** — paintings on the wall

Pg 279 **civilized** — normal

Pg 279 **martini** — alcoholic drink

Pg 280 **in the mix** — in the middle of all of this

Pg 280 **amicable** — friendly

Pg 280 **floral bouquet** — flowers

Pg 280 **tipped** — paid

Pg 280 **circumspect** — discreet, vague, cautious

Pg 280 **company rates** — the discounted price the company pays for its lawyers

Chapter 41, pages 281-283

Pg 281 **catching up/caught up** — up to date on the story, know what’s going on

Pg 281 **installment blows...** - part of the story changes everything

Pg 281 **maternal sixth sense** — mom intuition, a feeling moms get

Pg 282 **afterlife** — life after death
come up with a fraudulent scam – invented this idea to cheat the insurance company

desperate measure – extreme thing she did

hustlers and serial killers prey on – cheaters and people who kill again and again look for

spearheading – doing, leading

tracked down E – found Emily

got in touch – contacted her

implicated – charged with a crime

Chapter 42, pages 284-286

cyberbullying – bullying on the internet

libel – writing something about someone that isn’t true (this is against the law)

version – story

trivial – tiny, insignificant, unimportant

policy – the $2 million insurance policy

wear well – still be attractive

Legal – the Legal department (lawyers)

“road less traveled” – reference to a poem that mentions having to choose between two paths (or roads)

dust to settle – things to calm down

portents – clues

gone viral – become hugely popular

His chuckle… - His laugh was without humor

prosecute you – take you to court, charge you with a crime

generated – caused

tax dodge – way to avoid some taxes

extradite me – bring/order me back into the U.S. in order to be arrested

Chapter 43, pages 287-291

rolled over – looked away, gave up

pristine – perfect

cross-stitch = embroidery

gall – the nerve, the confidence

from scratch – at home (not from a restaurant)

chattered – talked and talked

vowed/fling – promised/throw

spooky - scary

vengeful father – father who intends to harm someone (the son-in-law)

The older man… - The father walks around in the dark in Venice, Italy and it’s very creepy

tormented – terrorized, bullied

malevolence – hatred

peered/opaque – looked/black

cost me = cost me in emotional energy, being apologetic, etc.

paranoia – fear that someone is trying to harm you

vengeful – wanting to strike back at someone, get even, harm someone who has harmed you

psychotic – crazy

insane – crazy

lost it – gone crazy, become crazy

slamming/rib cage – beating hard/ribs

bliss – wonderful, perfect happiness

to settle – to be finished

pool – join

cooperative/kibbutz – commune, society where everyone contributes and lives equally
nanny – childcare worker, babysitter
street kids – homeless children
flextime – flexible working hours
backfire – not work the way you plan
fending off – keeping away
truce – peace treaty, agreement
solitude – quiet time

making up for lost time – working extra hard to do the things she missed out on doing while she was pretending to be dead
wax and wane – grow closer and farther apart, then closer again, come and go
comfy – comfortable
press – ask
resilient – able to recover and heal

UK – United Kingdom
in check – to myself
frenzy – state of much agitation, panicked
off the radar – missing, unable to be found
unplug – get away from electronic forms of communication
off the grid – away from civilization
interacted with – also involved
neurotic – crazy
mirthlessly – without joy or humor
A preliminary – An early
interstate – highway
cremains – burned to ash body
beside = besides (a typo) means “other than”

ravine – ditch, hole, valley
blurry/recall – unclear/remember
autopsy – inspection of a dead body
corpse – dead body
dull-looking – boring-looking
clenched teeth – teeth that were pressed together tightly
they got it – they understood
jabbed – pointed
crucial – super important
flinch/falter – move/make a mistake
prodigy – genius, star
treachery – betrayal
dumped her – no longer dating her
had S in their sights – were focused on S
incompetent/bumbling – unable to do their jobs/dumb
on suspicion – because they thought (suspected) the she committed a crime
come in – come in to the police station
hot on S’s trail – in pursuit of S
off the grid – away from civilization, not in communication with anyone
toy with him – tease him
Torment – bully, terrify
In the book...

1. Not everything is told from Stephanie's perspective.

The plot unfolds through Stephanie’s eyes as well as the cryptic narration of Emily and Sean. Readers receive a lot of insight into the main characters' motives, fears, parenting tips, etc.

In the movie, there is no narrator, but most of what we see comes only from Stephanie’s point of view — excluding a few solo Emily and Sean scenes. As a result, Stephanie serves as a reliable narrator and a far more sympathetic protagonist for the film.

2. Stephanie is much creepier (and has a different name.)

Way spookier than Anna Kendrick's take, book Stephanie pursues her relationship with Sean in a methodical and deceit-heavy way. From lying about liking *Breaking Bad* to eating meat for the first time in years, Stephanie changes dozens of aspects of her life to become the perfect housewife stand-in for Emily. Thing get very *Stepford Wives*, very fast.

Even her name is creepier in the book. Stephanie Ward is changed to Stephanie Smothers for the film. Seriously, Smothers? She sounds like an overbearing Cabbage Patch doll not a borderline stalker.

3. And Emily is almost nicer.

At least on the surface. In the novel, Emily never curses out Stephanie and most of her blistering hot one-liners are reserved for her internal monologue.

The change gave Lively's realization a lot more style and room for comedic delivery, but she is a far cry from the stoney woman in Bell's novel.

4. Emily specifically picks Stephanie to take care of Nicky.

The movie gives the impression that Kendrick and Lively become friends through sheer happenstance. The boys want a playdate, Emily wants a drink, and presto: mommy buddies.

Alternatively, Bell's telling involves Emily loosely stalking Stephanie to see if she'd make a good temporary nanny and "fish" for her plotting. Naturally, Stephanie's flawless parenting and gullible demeanor lands her the job... unfortunately for her.
10. Stephanie has a super weird relationship with meat.

Novel Stephanie became a vegetarian following her brother's and husband's car "accident." They had been on their way to pick up steaks to grill for dinner and Stephanie instantly associates meat with death.

Years later, when Stephanie moves in with Sean, she begins serving meat for dinner again. And that's goes totally fine. Right up until Nicky screams at her, "That's my mom. You killed her and cooked her." It's so horrifying and amazing. Anna Kendrick's face would have been priceless.

11. There's no Hope or Faith. (And definitely no Charity.)

I don't mean that metaphorically. Those characters just don't exist.

Emily's twin is actually named Evelyn in the book. And while she is an addict, she doesn't have much of a sordid past. The pair never burn down their childhood home or kill their father. They never have a third sister. And there is no bible camp.

Consequently, Emily and Evelyn's matching charity symbol/flame tattoos are barbed wire tattoos in the book.

12. Bernice figures out the whole twin thing way before Stephanie.

An unsung hero of the A Simple Favor universe. Emily's mom's caretaker, Bernice (who is not an elderly gentleman running around with a shotgun and bucket hat, by the way) is an unabashed badass who puts together the possibility that the body found in the lake isn't Emily's way before Stephanie does.

And then, Bernice does nothing about it because she's too busy. I love this woman. Such self-care. Much self-prioritizing. You do you, Bernice.

Side note: In the book, Stephanie also doesn't have to pretend to be a housekeeper/saleswoman and exploit an old woman's dementia to visit Emily's mom. She just calls and asks. Like a normal person.

13. Emily's twin never tries to blackmail her.

But, Evelyn does call Emily planning to kill herself.

Emily quickly goes to her sister's rescue at the family cabin, but when Evelyn has a change of heart and decides to live, Emily quickly realizes how much she needs her sister's body for her plan to work.
18. Sean and Stephanie are framed for murder.

Shortly after the insurance agent's murder, police officers arrive at Emily's house with questions. They *may* have found the sample of Sean's hair Emily left in the car on purpose... but they definitely have found the sapphire ring she left in the car by mistake.

Through a deft bit of manipulation, Emily convinces the officers that the evidence points directly to Stephanie and Sean. We don't discover if the charges stick, but they do get the cops off of Emily's trail long enough for her to plan her next move.

19. Emily gets away with Nicky.

No orange jumpsuit-ed basketball for this girl. Unlike the film version of Emily, who is serving a twenty year prison sentence, book Emily escapes with her son in tow. The two grab their fake passports before heading out of the US for some mommy and son bonding time.

20. Andrew Rannells character, Darren, doesn't exist.

And that's really a shame. Because him hitting Emily with a Prius was kind of the highlight of my year!

21. No one ever says "brother fucker" and there are no martinis in sight.

Not even one! In the book, Emily and Stephanie bond over white wine. Which is fine... but, like what is this? Book club?