

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 **dwelt 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-casual** – 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

Pg 20 **sinking feeling** – a feeling of dread

Pg 21 **flipped out** – became hysterical

Chapter 6, pages 22-26

Pg 22 **landline** – phone that is not a cell phone

Pg 22 **dire** – serious, seriously wrong

Pg 22 **Charlie Manson** – Charles Manson, a serial killer in the late 1960s

Pg 23 **good sign** – positive thing

Pg 23 **Venue flytrap** – a type of plant that traps flies to eat

Pg 24 **jumpy** – anxious

Pg 24 **déjà vu** – the feeling that you've had this same experience before

Pg 25 **looked up to her** – admired her

Pg 25 **keep cool** – stay calm

Pg 26 **gone into overdrive** – worked extra hard

Pg 26 **carjacking** – stealing a car at gunpoint with the driver still in it

Pg 26 **amnesiac** – with no memory of who she is

Pg 26 **upside** – positive side, positive part

Chapter 7, pages 27-30

Pg 27 **Second Thoughts** – re-thinking this problem

Pg 27 **Emily sightings** – times people have seen Emily (or thought they did)

Pg 28 **antsy** – nervous, impatient

Pg 28 **threw up** – vomited

Pg 28 **time difference** – different time zones for New York and England

Pg 28 **groggy** – sleepy

Pg 28 **thickly** – as if his tongue were very thick

Pg 28 **tony** – cool, awesome

Pg 29 **evenly** – without emotion; as if his teeth were shut and only his lips were moving

Chapter 8, pages 31-49

Pg 31 **passed away** – died

Pg 31 **heartbroken** – very sad

Pg 31 **Cincinnati** – city in Ohio

Pg 31 **exec** – executive

Pg 31 **groom** – the man who is getting married (her father, in this case)

Pg 32 **DNA test** – genetic test

Pg 32 **obituary** – death notice

Pg 32 **keep tabs on** – track, follow, keep up with

Pg 32 **hot** – handsome

Pg 32 **half brother** – same dad, different mom

Pg 33 **hot** – exciting (sexually)

Pg 33 **cold cuts** – meat for sandwiches

Pg 34 **all the fuss** – all the talk, all the excitement

Pg 35 **state troopers** – police officers employed by the state instead of the city (local police)

Pg 35 **domestic dispute** – a fight between husband and wife, or other family members

Pg 35 **old-school porn star** – star in a traditional pornographic (sex) movie

Pg 35 **straight** – understood (with the police)

Pg 36 **Brilliant deduction, Sherlock!** – great guess, detective! (she is being sarcastic)

Pg 36 **tip-off** – clue

Pg 36 **comfy spa** – comfortable resort

Pg 36 **I spaced out** – My mind wandered

Pg 36 **had moved on to** – continued by

Pg 36 **cut me off** – interrupted me

Pg 36 **estranged** – not in contact

Pg 37 **gave them license** – gave them permission

Pg 37 **birthmark/campaigned** – spot on the skin/tried to convince Emily

Pg 37 **complex** – worry about what others' think

Pg 37 **making out** – kissing

Pg 37 **Peter Falk...** - detective in an old TV show

Pg 39 **stole away** – went away (like in secret)

Pg 40 **marginally more competent** – a tiny, little bit more intelligent and able to do their jobs

Pg 40 **troopers** – police officers

Pg 40 **an affair** – a relationship with another man

Pg 40 **In the absence ...** - without a dead body or evidence of violence or a kidnapping

Pg 41 **hanging on Sean's every word** – listening intently (closely) to every single word Sean said

Pg 41 **procedurals** – shows on TV

Pg 41 **tentative, cursory** – limited, with little effort

Pg 42 **seventies club-kid** – 1970s kids' club

Pg 42 **tacky** – in poor taste

Pg 42 **gave me the chills** – made me scared

Pg 42 **sizeable contribution** – money

Pg 42 **go that extra mile** – try extra hard

Pg 42 **interns** – college students working at Nylon

Pg 43 **glam head shot** – glamorous photo of Emily's from her shoulders up (just her head)

Pg 43 **CCTV** – security cameras in stores and buildings

Pg 43 **JFK** – airport in New York

Pg 43 **impression** – belief

Pg 44 **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.

Pg 44 **toll station** – place to pay the toll (fee) before entering the highway

Pg 44 **Pennsylvania Turnpike** – a highway that charges drivers fees (tolls) to use it

Pg 44 **thruway** – highway

Pg 44 **dead zone** – a place with no cell service

Pg 44 **new leads** – new information

Pg 44 **the creeps** – a scary feeling

Pg 44 **closed-circuit camera footage** – security camera film/video

Pg 44 **teller's window** – the window where you can make bank transactions from your car. The "teller" is the bank employee.

Pg 44 **carjacker** – criminal who robs a car at gunpoint with the driver still inside

Pg 44 **abducted** – kidnapped

Pg 44 **unpaid leave** – have no salary

Pg 44 **so there** – so committed to

Pg 45 **moved on** – went on to other stories

Pg 46 **declared** – officially designated as

Pg 46 **frat boy** – college man who belongs to an exclusive group called a fraternity

Pg 46 **wannabe** – want to be

Pg 46 **wannabe master...** -someone who wants to be king of the world, but not in a political sense

Pg 46 **flaky** – scatter-brained, unintelligent

Pg 46 **lucrative bit...** - profitable, but unimportant, business

Pg 47 **issues** – problems

Pg 47 **withering** –condescending, as in "I can't believe you said something so stupid"

Pg 47 **gripe** – complain

Pg 48 **Milwaukee** – city in Wisconsin

Pg 48 **Midwestern** – referring to the middle states of the U.S. (Michigan is in the Midwest)

Pg 48 **pulled that...routine** – used that "Sorry, I'm English" excuse

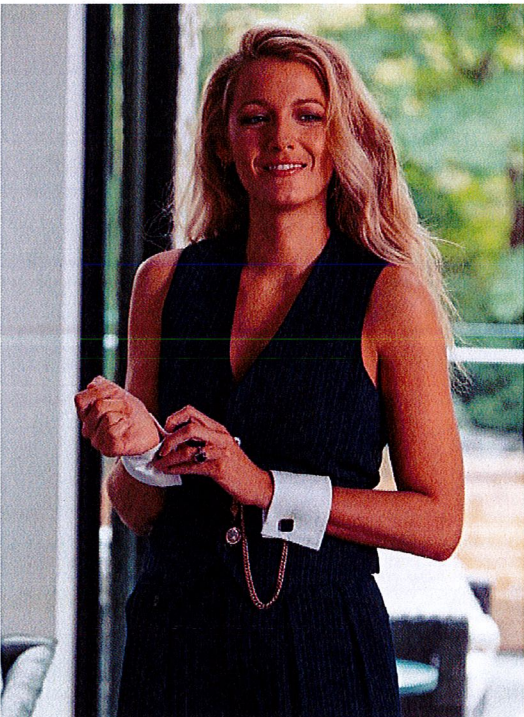
Pg 49 **spark of something** – little bit of sexual tension, a bit of attraction

Pg 49 **in your right mind** – smart

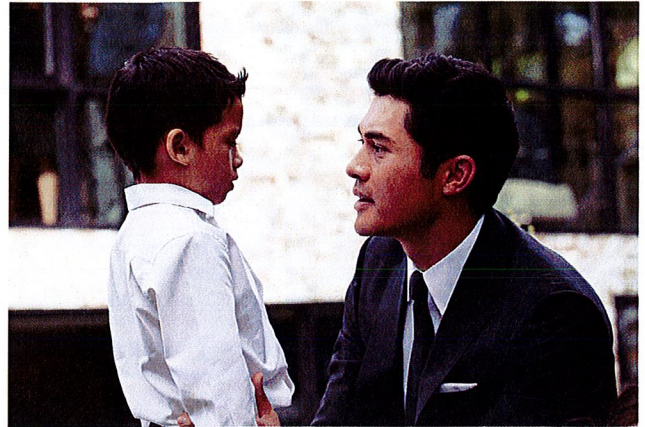
Stephanie (mom blogger, Miles' mom)



Emily (Missing woman, Nicky's mom)



Nicky (Sean & Emily's son) and **Sean** (Emily's husband)



Davis, Stephanie's deceased (dead) husband



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

Pg 59 **slipcovers** – clear plastic coverings for furniture to keep it looking brand new

Pg 59 **Upper East Side** – a very rich section of New York City

Pg 61 **comfy** – comfortable

Pg 61 **letting go** – letting her defenses down, relaxing, being unafraid of sharing with Emily

Pg 61 **bottled up** – held inside you

Chapter 11, pages 62-73

Pg 62 **feelings** – romantic feelings

Pg 63 **Tribeca** – area of Manhattan, New York

Pg 63 **freighted but chaste little peck** – heavy with meaning, but not sexual, little kiss

Pg 64 **sleeps** – has sex

Pg 64 **do it** – have sex

Pg 64 **pick up on it** – sense our guilt

Pg 64 **opening up** – telling Stephanie personal things, sharing his secrets with her

Pg 64 **left** for a colleague – left their marriage

Pg 64 **has come way down in the world** – does not have the same upper-class status any more

Pg 65 **relief organization** - charity

Pg 65 **abused** – sexually abused (in this case)

Pg 65 **estranged** – not in contact with them

Pg 66 **flirtation with** – time that she used

Pg 66 **rehab** – rehabilitation (a place to help her stop using drugs)

Pg 66 **clean** – sober, not using drugs

Pg 66 **beat their addictions** – stop using alcohol or drugs

Pg 66 **on purpose** – intentionally, deliberately

Pg 66 **nursing** – encouraging

Pg 66 **body to turn up** – dead body to be discovered

Pg 68 **a firestorm** – a bunch, a lot

Pg 68 **scrutinizes me** – watches me closely

Pg 69 **infatuated with** – intrigued by, interested in

Pg 69 **A vicious circle** – an idea that leads to another idea which then leads back to the first idea

Pg 69 **binge on** – watch a lot of

Pg 69 **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)

Pg 69 **rapt with** – full of

Pg 70 **welled up** – formed

Pg 70 **level** – even, without showing emotion

Pg 71 **rocky** – difficult

Pg 71 **bower** – archway

Pg 72 **taste** – liking

Pg 72 **light-filled addition** – extra room on the house that was bright and cheery

Pg 72 **rugged** – athletic

Pg 72 **fair-haired beanpole** – blonde and skinny

Pg 72 **confide in** – tell to

Pg 73 **solid front** – outwardly neutral position

Pg 73 **estrangement** – lack of communication

Pg 73 **code-red/code-orange** – levels of emergency used in hospitals

Pg 73 **playing for time to...** - waiting to answer my questions in order to have time to make up a believable story about buying the insurance

Pg 73 **add up** – make sense, seem true

Pg 73 **flatter myself into thinking** – think I'm good enough to

Chapter 12, pages 74-75

Pg 74 **elements** – things

Pg 74 **picked up** – noticed

Pg 74 **appearance of normalcy** – trying to act normal, trying to appear as if nothing is wrong

Pg 74 **holding pattern** – airplanes fly in circles in the sky while waiting for permission to land

Pg 75 **beam** – send (like a beam of light)

Pg 75 **Tiny Tim** – a fictional character in Charles Dickens' 1843 book, *A Christmas Carol*

Chapter 13, pages 76-78

Pg 76 **hasty conclusion I'd jumped to** – quick assumption I had made

Pg 76 **red-rimmed/ashen** – red around the edges (from crying)/pale, white, without color

Pg 76 **freighted...embraces** – romantic hugs

Pg 77 **badly decomposed** – hardly recognizable

Pg 77 **broke down sobbing** – began to cry

Pg 77 **hot stolen weekend** – the very romantic weekend they took several years ago

Chapter 14, pages 79-82

Pg 80 **resourceful enough** – had the ability or knew how to get the help she needed; could handle things

Pg 80 **oversharing** – giving them too much information

Pg 80 **adamant** – firm, solid, unbending

Pg 80 **overwrought** – upset

Pg 81 **Salvation Army** – a charity

Pg 81 **closure** – final ending

Pg 81 **break down** – cry

Pg 81 **conviction** – belief

Pg 81 **sobriety** – not drinking or using drugs

Pg 81 **demons** – challenges

Pg 81 **the substance issues...** - her challenges with drugs and alcohol, which she had fought so hard to overcome

Pg 81 **resurfaced** – came back

Pg 81 **booze** – alcohol

Pg 81 **cognition** – thinking ability

Pg 82 **common sense** – Emily's ability to be sensible

Pg 82 **condolence** – sorrow

Chapter 15, pages 83-89

Pg 83 **the insurance policy** – insurance companies typically do not pay when the insured person commits suicide

Pg 84 **autopsy** – inspection of a dead body

Pg 84 **junkies** – drug addicts/users

Pg 84 **maintaining a habit** – continuing to use drugs

Pg 84 **kept it together** – behaved normally

Pg 85 **in bed** – at sex

Pg 85 **to come** – to have an orgasm

Pg 85 **subtle put-downs** – not obvious insults

Pg 85 **meltdowns** – angry crying episodes/times

Pg 85 **tantrums** – angry crying episodes

Pg 86 **goo** – thick liquid

Pg 86 **repressed** – not expressed, hidden

Pg 86 **den** – family room, TV room

Pg 86 **busted** – caught, in trouble

Pg 87 **hot** – sexual

Pg 87 **passed out** – fell asleep

Pg 87 **tucked him in** – pulled the bed covers around him

Pg 87 **stripped us bare...** - taken everything we had emotionally, left us with no emotions or energy

Pg 88 **Jesse Pinkman** – character in the TV series, *Breaking Bad*.

Pg 88 **meth-cooking** – making crystal meth (an illegal drug)

Pg 88 **junkie** – drug addict

Pg 88 **shuddering** – shaking, trembling

Pg 89 **torment** – criticize

Pg 89 **sleeping** – having sex

Chapters 16 and 17, pages 90-95

Pg 91 **crouched down** – squatted, kneeled

Pg 91 **my little rock** – a person I can depend on

Pg 91 **it will pass** – it will end, it won't last forever

Pg 92 **luminol** – a chemical that reacts with the iron in blood

Pg 92 **seared** – burned, imprinted permanently

Pg 92 **alpha males** – males who want to be the leader or "top dog"

Pg 92 **street-macho** – rough and tough

Pg 92 **WASP** – traditional (stands for White Anglo-Saxon Protestant)

Pg 92 **contract out** – find workers to build

Pg 93 **Hudson/Packard** – old car models

Pg 93 **heated** – angry

Pg 93 **knew his way around** – was very good at

Pg 93 **porterhouse** – a cut of steak

Pg 94 **The steak's on me** – I'll buy the steak

Pg 94 **peck** – kiss

Pg 94 **Camaro** – sporty car model

Pg 94 **riding shotgun** – sitting in the front passenger seat

Pg 94 **put my foot down** – was firm

Pg 95 **barreling up** – driving fast on

Chapter 18, pages 96-99

Pg 96 **down to earth** – practical, sensible

Pg 96 **up in the clouds** – always fantasizing, imaginative, creative

Pg 96 **devoted/doting** – caring, committed

Pg 96 **blew up** – went quickly from just a little angry to very angry

Pg 96 **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

Pg 96 **Maserati** – expensive, fast sports car

Pg 97 **fraud** – fake, pretender

Pg 97 **Cain and Abel** – Bible characters, one brother killed the other brother

Pg 97 **stalk** – walk angrily

Pg 97 **cold cuts** – sandwich meats

Pg 97 **Brokering an accord** – Making peace

Pg 97 **come to blows** – hit each other

Pg 98 **save face** – not be embarrassed

Pg 98 **grumpy** – in a bad mood

Pg 98 **crying his head off** – crying loudly

Pg 99 **lair** – homes

Pg 99 **blacked out** – become unconscious

Chapter 19, pages 100-108

Pg 100 **swear off each other** – promise not to see each other

Pg 100 **drop by** – stop by her house

Pg 101 **get me hot** – make me think of sex

Pg 101 **twelve-step group** – a therapy type of group to help people stop drinking or using drugs

Pg 101 **hold out** – (you can skip these words)

Pg 101 **cross him** – disagree with him

Pg 101 **Christopher Columbus** – historical person who is said to have "discovered" America

Pg 101 **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

Pg 132 **humor me** – keep me happy

Pg 132 **compromises** – sacrifices

Pg 132 **acting out** – misbehaving

Pg 132 **heat dies down** – sexual attraction declines

Pg 133 **Not by a long shot** – not at all

Pg 133 **mass hysteria** – group craziness

Pg 133 **hallucination** – mistaken (unreal) vision

Pg 133 **lasting damage** – long-term emotional problems

Pg 134 **robocall** – automated

Pg 134 **vivid** – very real

Chapter 25, pages 139-173

Pg 139 **Peeping** – looking in, spying

Pg 139 **tingly nausea jitters** – nervous feeling

Pg 139 **God I know I'm one** – I'm like that, too; that describes me, too

Pg 139 **3-D live-action dollhouse** – 3-dimensional realistic home

Pg 139 **animated figurines** – cartoon-like people

Pg 139 **burner phone** – a prepaid cell phone which is untraceable

Pg 140 **gynecologist** – doctor for women

Pg 140 **orchid breeder** – grower of orchid flowers

Pg 140 **finished off** – finished

Pg 140 **sips** – small drinks

Pg 140 **cardboard cutouts** – made of cardboard

Pg 140 **sticoms** – comedy TV shows (stands for "situation comedies")

Pg 141 **same rocky road** – same path in life

Pg 141 **demographic** – group of people

Pg 141 **Investigative Reports** – crime TV show

Pg 141 **corny** – dumb, uncool

Pg 141 **high on** – proud of

Pg 141 **mess with S's head** – play with Stephanie's mind, confuse Stephanie

Pg 141 **bondage** – chains, prison

Pg 141 **dipped my toe into** – barely started

Pg 141 **At the end of the day** – When everything is all done, in the end, after all

Pg 141 **think less of** – think less positively about

Pg 141 **stand** – agree, want

Pg 142 **drops** – stops dating, breaks up with

Pg 142 **Dennis** – Dennis Nylon, her boss

Pg 142 **caught on to disinformation** – realized information was wrong/incorrect

Pg 142 **Dennis' court-ordered ...** - Dennis' required stay at a drug recovery center look like a fun, two-week vacation in India

Pg 142 **go on** – talk on and on and on, talk a lot

Pg 142 **sixth sense** – intuition, a power beyond the normal five senses (sight, sound, taste, smell, feel)

Pg 142 **predators** – animals that hunt other animals; the hunter, not the hunted

Pg 143 **crawling with snipers** – filled with sharpshooters (accurate gun shooters)

Pg 143 **pervert** – sexually inappropriate man

Pg 143 **Big sloppy gut, wife-beater T-shirt** – fat and wearing a white t-shirt with no sleeves

Pg 143 **gave him the finger** – gave him a disrespectful gesture (middle finger up, alone)

Pg 143 **serial killer** – someone who kills for fun again and again

Pg 143 **impales** – stabs

Pg 143 **sick** – mentally unstable

Pg 143 **fringe of an arty crowd** – popular with artsy (creative) people who watch unusual movies

Pg 144 **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

Pg 150 **hits on** – flirts with, is romantically attracted to

Pg 150 **Danbury ...** - hotel

Pg 150 **an assumed name** – a fake name

Pg 150 **ditched** – left, got rid of

Pg 150 **ramble on** – talk and talk

Pg 151 **Peeping Tom** – spying on them

Pg 151 **cuckoo** – crazy

Pg 151 **loonier** – more crazy

Pg 151 **defraud** – illegally cheat

Pg 151 **carrier** – company

Pg 151 **show his hand** – reveal what he knows

Pg 151 **fell into our lap** – suddenly came into our life

Pg 151 **despises the crooks** – hates the dishonest people

Pg 151 **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)

Pg 151 **Bonnie and Clyde** – American couple who killed 13 people in the 1930s

Pg 152 **lottery tickets** – inexpensive tickets sold by the state with huge winnings in the millions

Pg 152 **Fred M/Barbara S** – actors in thriller movies; Barbara is the bad guy, Fred the good guy

Pg 152 **suspect** – suspect that I was using her; be suspicious of our friendship

Pg 152 **sick** – throw up

Pg 153 **predators** – hunters

Pg 153 **pedophiles** – men who are sexually attracted to young children

Pg 153 **It was meant to be** – It was fate; it was planned by God or the Universe

Pg 153 **Conceiving** – getting pregnant with

Pg 153 **carrying it to term** – staying pregnant for the entire 40 weeks

Pg 153 **protection** – protection against pregnancy

Pg 153 **contraception** – methods to avoid pregnancy

Pg 153 **capitulation** – agreeing to go along with it

Pg 153 **clause after clause** – legal phrases after legal phrase, lots of legal words

Pg 153 **flagging blanks** – pointing to spaces

Pg 153 **teensy paycheck deduction** – small payment out of each paycheck

Pg 154 **pick up...** – continue talking wherever I had stopped talking before

Pg 154 **fuck them** – have sex with a man

Pg 154 **just as soon** – prefer to

Pg 154 **ad nauseum** – until I'm sick of hearing it

Pg 154 **Put all our...** - risk everything (refers to putting all your gambling chips on one game)

Pg 154 **flatlined** – remained flat; not increased

Pg 155 **rat race** – busy hectic life of people who are trying to get ahead/be successful in life

Pg 155 **You're having the balls** – you having enough courage, being man enough

Pg 155 **lie low** – hide, stay out of sight

Pg 155 **expat** – skip this word

Pg 155 **we'd take stock** – we would reconsider our situation

Pg 156 **a long shot** – not likely to work

Pg 156 **enable** – make possible

Pg 156 **embraced this scheme** – went ahead with the insurance fraud idea

Pg 156 **blowing away** – destroying, killing

Pg 156 **turn us on** – get us sexually excited

Pg 156 **foreplay** – sexual activity before sex

Pg 156 **hold down** – keep, each have

Pg 157 **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.

Pg 157 **fall for** – believe

Pg 157 **buy it** – believe it

Pg 157 **exit strategy** – way to leave their current life

Pg 157 **on the prowl** – looking out, seeking

Pg 157 **made a lot of noise** – advertised itself as

Pg 157 **trolling** – looking for

Pg 157 **flutter of disruption** – sign of anything wrong

Pg 157 **pervert trawling ...** - man at the shopping mall looking for an insecure teen girl

Pg 158 **Upper East Side** – rich section of NY city

Pg 158 **frostiness** – cold, indifferent people

Pg 158 **cold shoulder** – rudely ignoring someone

Pg 158 **flicker** – tiny moment

Pg 158 **licensing** – company

Pg 158 **goofy** – weird

Pg 158 **prototype** – sample idea

Pg 158 **swag** – free gifts

Pg 158 **diva** – self-centered woman

Pg 159 **demographic** – group of people Dennis Nylon advertises to; the people who buy his stuff

Pg 159 **You would have thought...** - that I had saved Stephanie's life

Pg 159 **kibble** – dry dog food

Pg 159 **this being snooty...** - since this is rude and pompous Connecticut

Pg 159 **kindred spirit** – someone just like her, a soul mate

Pg 160 **fashion shoot** – photography session to photograph clothing models

Pg 160 **thought it through** – given it enough thought, didn't have everything figured out

Pg 160 **Geeky** – weird looking, unattractive

Pg 160 **George Clooney** – handsome actor

Pg 160 **thirty grand** = \$30,000

Pg 160 **A drink on** – A drink paid for by

Pg 160 **salvage** – make the best of, save

Pg 160 **high-stakes** – big money

Pg 161 **clinched it** – closed the deal, sealed us together

Pg 161 **banality** – boring, clichéd, trite

Pg 161 **fall for her bullshit** – believe, and be influenced by, Stephanie's ideas

Pg 161 **deluding** – kidding, tricking, deceiving

Pg 162 **blabbing** – talking

Pg 162 **On paper...** - Officially, in our (Dennis Nylon's) advertising, we were a company that welcomed employees with children

Pg 162 **shut down** – stopped talking

Pg 162 **collection** – clothing ideas

Pg 162 **tree-hugging** – feel good

Pg 162 **kinky** – sexually unusual

Pg 162 **chanced to stray** – happened to move away

Pg 163 **capital** – money, currency, power

Pg 163 **reticent/chilly** – distant, unfriendly

Pg 163 **willed us** – decided that we were

Pg 163 **the creeps** – an unsettling feeling, a scared feeling

Pg 163 **character witness** – someone who will tell authorities that you are a wonderful person

Pg 163 **caretaker** – babysitter

Pg 163 **poured her heart out** – told me everything

Pg 164 **carrot at the...** - prize waiting for her

Pg 164 **county fair** – a festival celebrating farm life

Pg 164 **The roiling vats ...** - The smells of cheap fast food/food trucks at the fair

Pg 165 **shifty** – untrustworthy, dishonest looking

Pg 165 **drawn** – attracted

Pg 166 **suspect** – are suspicious, know

Pg 166 **bottled up** – hidden (inside of her)

Pg 167 **press S further** – ask S more questions

Pg 167 **landed in my lap** – came without any effort on my part; came unexpectedly

Pg 167 **move** – take action

Pg 168 **make out with...** - kiss the hired cook

Pg 168 **Good Samaritan** – person who helps others

Pg 168 **transparent/opaque** – clear/clouded

Pg 168 **lost his mind** – gone crazy

Pg 168 **amount to** – be

Pg 168 **prevail** – win

Pg 168 **perk** – bonus, good thing

Pg 169 **bogus IDs** – fake identification cards

Pg 169 **sworn affidavit** – legal document

Pg 169 **going be = going to be** (a typo)

Pg 169 **expat** – skip this word

Pg 169 **an affair** – a romantic relationship outside of her marriage

Pg 169 **hunky Brit** – handsome British

Pg 169 **being privy** – knowing (while others don't)

Pg 169 **ditched the rental** – got rid of the rental car

Pg 169 **Adirondacks** – mountains in New York

Pg 170 **off the grid** – no be in communication with the rest of the world, incommunicado

Pg 170 **kicked in** – started

Pg 170 **tears well** – tears form

Pg 170 **stationed myself** – stood

Pg 171 **cheapskate** – cheap

Pg 171 **extortionist** – skip this word

Pg 171 **pleas** – requests

Pg 171 **sippy cups** – spill-proof children's cups

Pg 171 **laments** – disappointments, sorrow

Pg 171 **seduce** – persuade Sean to have sex with her

Pg 171 **drivel** – boring talk/thoughts/writing

Pg 171 **posing** – pretending to be someone you're not

Pg 172 **neonatal ward** – part of a hospital where babies are born

Pg 172 **downsides** – drawbacks, negatives

Pg 172 **pupusa** – Salvadoran food

Pg 172 **mezcal** – tequila (liquor)

Pg 173 **D's drug binges** – times when D used a lot of drugs

Pg 173 **B's cyclonic rages** – B cycling in and out of anger

Pg 173 **perks/buzz** – benefits/excitement

Pg 173 **stay** – remain, continue to be considered

Pg 173 **Brady Bunch** – a 1960s TV show about a very happy divorced and remarried (blended) family

Chapters 26-27, pages 174-177

Pg 174 **lost it** – gone crazy

Pg 174 **wind up** – end up, go to

Pg 174 **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 **pawn** – 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 **sniffing** – 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

Pg 233 **smokers** – people who smoked

Pg 234 **atmosphere** – air

Pg 234 **date** – man (probably one she didn't know)

Pg 234 **stand her up** – not show up at the restaurant, be a no-show for their dinner

Pg 234 **so long** – want so much

Pg 235 **greyhound** – sleek, fast racing dog

Pg 235 **yippy spaniel** – barking family dog

Pg 235 **Mercedes/Hyundai** – expensive/cheap car

Pg 235 **resurrected beloved** – loved one who comes back to life

Pg 235 **maitre d'** – head waiter (French - pronounced mater – dee)

Pg 235 **eavesdropping** – overhearing, listening

Pg 235 **low blow** – unfair accusation

Pg 235 **consoling Nicky** – helping Nicky feel better

Pg 236 **recoiled** – jerked backward as if in shock

Pg 236 **merciless implacable no** – stern, unshakeable, un-persuadable no

Pg 236 **"Hell hath no fury** – like a woman scorned." It means that even Hell is not as bad an angry woman

Pg 236 **cloning** – overly sentimental, emotional

Pg 237 **rubbed off on me** – become mine, too

Pg 237 **cow-in-the...** - fear that she was heading toward something bad

Pg 237 **contagious** – able to be passed from one person to another

Pg 237 **homeopathic remedies** – herbal cures

Pg 237 **psychotic episode** – mental and emotional breakdown

Pg 237 **meds** – medications, pills

Pg 237 **insomnia** – not sleeping

Pg 237 **side effect** – an unintended effect of the pills, not the effect the pills were made for

Pg 237 **deluded/delusional** – kidding herself/unable to see the truth

Pg 237 **keep it together** – remain calm

Pg 238 **sheaf** – stack

Pg 238 **blazer** – suit jacket

Pg 238 **beneficent sort of cult** – a group of people who strictly follow a self-appointed leader of the group, but a nice, kind cult

Pg 238 **parishioners** – followers

Pg 238 **flock** – people, followers

Pg 238 **took offense** – became angry

Pg 238 **claim payable** – the insurance policy

Pg 238 **late** – dead

Pg 239 **put my head in the sand** – refuse to see what's happening around him

Pg 239 **charade** – game of pretending

Pg 239 **came to this** – went this far

Pg 239 **pick up** – answer my phone

Pg 239 **formality** – a required procedure

Pg 239 **cooked up a scheme to defraud** – imagined a plan to cheat

Pg 239 **I willed Stephanie** – In my mind, I begged Stephanie (not to come into the room with Mr. P)

Pg 240 **IQ points** – measures of intelligence

Pg 240 **plopped** – sat easily

Pg 240 **nothing to be done but** – no way to say this except to

Pg 240 **mute** – silence

Pg 240 **of will** – skip these words

Pg 240 **flinch** – move suddenly, react

Pg 240 **catastrophic** – dangerous, destructive

Pg 241 **lodged** stuck

Pg 241 **domestic tension** – a couple arguing

Pg 241 **not in my line of work** – who doesn't have my job

Pg 241 **gap** – the space (where a tooth used to be)

Pg 242 **dental implant** – fake tooth

Pg 242 **come up** – been talked about

Pg 243 **lies of omission** – lying by “forgetting” to include some of the information

Pg 243 **legal authorities** – police

Pg 243 **doubtless turn it ...** - certainly turn it into a criminal investigation

Pg 243 **playing the mother card** – using the fact that she was a mother to her advantage

Pg 243 **cards** = business cards

Pg 243 **let himself out** – leave by himself (without Sean or Stephanie walking him to the door)

Chapter 35, pages 245-246

Pg 245 **you-know-what detector** – ability to know what's going on, what's real

Chapter 36, pages 247-263

Pg 247 **message in a bottle** – a reference to putting a paper message in a bottle and then throwing it into the sea

Pg 247 **incriminating** – that could be used as proof of a crime (like insurance fraud)

Pg 247 **played me** – used me without my knowing I was being used

Pg 247 **sucker/scheme** – fool/plan

Pg 247 **fixated** – focused

Pg 248 **groomed** – prepared, made ready

Pg 248 **got custody** – became a legal guardian (parent)

Pg 248 **split second** – less than a second

Pg 248 **despise** – hate

Pg 248 **stalked** – watched and followed

Pg 249 **hit man** – man who kills other people for money

Pg 249 **The Wire** – TV crime show

Pg 249 **stalling** – delaying

Pg 249 **vibe** – feeling

Pg 249 **nerviest** – bold, courageous

Pg 249 **CCTV footage** – security camera films

Pg 249 **bumbling** – dumb, foolish

Pg 249 **registers** – remembers, understands

Pg 251 **bluffing** – pretending she knew

Pg 251 **unsettle** – disturb, upset

Pg 251 **calling the shots** – telling me what to do

Pg 251 **throwback** – room trying to look like a room from long ago

Pg 251 **rise** – hill

Pg 251 **nibbling on** – eating

Pg 251 **setting me up** – putting me in a position

Pg 252 **adulterous lovers on the down low** – people in a secret love affair

Pg 252 **gin and tonic** – alcoholic drink

Pg 252 **margarita** – alcoholic drink

Pg 252 **laying herself open** – making herself completely available to me, to ask whatever I wanted

Pg 252 **intrusion** – invasion of (Emily's) privacy

Pg 253 **corpse** – dead body

Pg 253 **compartmentalized** – put things into different parts of my brain and didn't think about some of them

Pg 254 **tormented** – afraid

Pg 254 **brushes with substance abuse** – few experiences with using drugs and alcohol

Pg 254 **hiccup** – break, distance, gap

Pg 254 **courtship** – dating life

Pg 255 **time-out** – break in life

Pg 255 **force of nature** – strong, powerful

Pg 255 **reanimated her features** – made her face light up (look very happy)

Pg 255 **abusing** – hitting, being mean

Pg 255 **mega-lawyers** – big-time lawyers, powerful lawyers

Pg 255 **sharkest** – best and meanest

Pg 255 **custody** – which parent gets to keep a child

Pg 255 **demolish** – destroy

Pg 255 **PR for S & G** – Public Relations (speaking for) two terrible people (from the Bible)

Pg 255 **confided** – told her

Pg 255 **neurotic** – crazy

Pg 256 **paranoid/skittish** – thinking everyone is trying to harm you/easily frightened

Pg 256 **illusions** – imaginings, imaginations

Pg 256 **pattern of abuse** – the way abusive relationships are

Pg 256 **to process** – to think about

Pg 257 **PR** – public relations (how it would look to the public, what the public would think)

Pg 257 **golden parachute** – parting gift before retirement, safety net

Pg 257 **turn on me** – become her enemy

Pg 257 **me kept in the dark** – keep me from knowing anything

Pg 257 **excruciating** – painful

Pg 257 **take charge** – be in control, make the decisions

Pg 257 **confronted** – spoke to

Pg 258 **commit criminal fraud** – plan and carry out a crime like making a false insurance claim

Pg 258 **shady** – something that looked criminal (but wasn't)

Pg 258 **to kill** – to wait, to waste

Pg 258 **strategized** – made plans

Pg 258 **vengeful** – plans to hurt Sean

Pg 258 **on his side** – agreeing with him

Pg 258 **enlist me as a character witness** – use me as someone who would say he was a great guy

Pg 259 **dwell** – think about, live in

Pg 259 **bracing** – very cold

Pg 259 **nausea** – sickness, sick feeling

Pg 260 **hypodermic** – medical needle

Pg 260 **OD'd** – overdosed (on drugs)

Pg 260 **unsettling/boasting** – troubling/bragging

Pg 260 **implicating myself** – making myself part of

Pg 260 **turn Emily in** – report E to the police

Pg 260 **considerate** – kind

Pg 260 **secluded pulloff** – little used area on the side of the road

Pg 260 **up the way** – a little ways up the road

Pg 261 **ridge/veered** – hill/turned

Pg 261 **chasm** – hole in the earth

Pg 261 **collateral damage** – innocent people getting hurt

Pg 261 **incinerated** – burned completely

Pg 261 **forensic/ID** – dead person/identify

Pg 261 **shivers/creeps** – shakes/bad feeling

Pg 261 **Runs the forensics** – does a scientific examination of Mr. P's dead body

Pg 262 **on the shoulder** – on the side of the road

Pg 262 **child's play** – a child's game

Pg 262 **liberating** – freeing

Pg 262 **absolved** – forgiven

Pg 262 **Sheer strength of will** – Just by trying hard

Pg 262 **Thelma and Louise** – movie about two women who commit crimes together

Chapter 37, pages 264-266

Pg 264 **addressed** – talked about

Pg 264 **taken out of the shadows** – brought into the light, made okay to talk about

Pg 265 **serial abuser** – man who abuses women again and again and again

Pg 265 **we're in so deep** – our lives are so entangled

Pg 265 **lash out** – strike, hit

Pg 265 **battered women's shelter** – safe place to stay for women who have been abused

Pg 265 **driven** – forced

Pg 265 **lawmakers** – Congress (state and federal elected representatives)

Pg 265 **heavy stuff** – serious topics

Pg 265 **a chain** – a conversation

Chapter 38, pages 267-70

Pg 267 **naïve, dopey malleability** – innocent, dumb ability to be persuaded and controlled

Pg 267 **the fish** – used, the pawn

Pg 268 **credible** – believable

Pg 268 **up to speed** – to where he was before

Pg 268 **spinning the truth** – making bad things seem good (or better than they were)

Pg 268 **collateral damage** – an innocent person who was killed

Pg 268 **killed two birds...one stone** – accomplished two things by doing only one

Pg 268 **up the food chain** – from the lowest secretary up to Dennis N's office

Pg 269 **repulsive** – sickening

Pg 269 **stints in rehab** – stays at rehabilitation centers (for alcohol and drug problems)

Pg 269 **jaw drop** – mouth open in shock/surprise

Pg 269 **Cut the shit** – stop fooling around

Pg 269 **put my through** – connect me

Pg 269 **psychic** – someone who claims to be able to talk to the dead

Pg 269 **the other side** – heaven, wherever you are when you die (the dead side, not the living side)

Pg 269 **cavernous loft/atelier** – huge working studio

Pg 269 **coffee-table book** – large, oversized book

Pg 269 **mezcal-mango cocktail** – alcoholic drink

Pg 269 **charade/fraud** – pretend story/fake

Pg 269 **cynical** – negative

Pg 270 **ID** – identification card

Pg 270 **credentials** – identification papers/cards

Pg 270 **stamina** – endurance

Pg 270 **broken home** – home with divorced parents

Pg 270 **pang** – awful, sharp feeling

Pg 270 **in the war zone** – here (at work)

Pg 270 **red tape to cut through** – obstacles to get through

Pg 270 **on retainer** – who work for the firm

Pg 270 **Domestic** – family/relationship lawyer

Pg 270 **at your disposal** – available to you

Chapter 39, pages 271-272

Pg 271 **gag order** – instructions not to talk

Pg 271 **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

Pg 282 **come up with a fraudulent scam** – invented this idea to cheat the insurance company

Pg 282 **desperate measure** – extreme thing she did

Pg 282 **hustlers and serial killers prey on** – cheaters and people who kill again and again look for

Pg 282 **spearheading** – doing, leading

Pg 282 **tracked down E** – found Emily

Pg 282 **got in touch** – contacted her

Pg 282 **implicated** – charged with a crime

Chapter 42, pages 284-286

Pg 284 **cyberbullying** – bullying on the internet

Pg 284 **libel** – writing something about someone that isn't true (this is against the law)

Pg 284 **version** – story

Pg 284 **trivial** – tiny, insignificant, unimportant

Pg 284 **policy** – the \$2 million insurance policy

Pg 284 **wear well** – still be attractive

Pg 285 **Legal** – the Legal department (lawyers)

Pg 285 **“road less traveled”** – reference to a poem that mentions having to choose between two paths (or roads)

Pg 285 **dust to settle** – things to calm down

Pg 285 **portents** – clues

Pg 285 **gone viral** – become hugely popular

Pg 285 **His chuckle...** - His laugh was without humor

Pg 285 **prosecute you** – take you to court, charge you with a crime

Pg 285 **generated** – caused

Pg 286 **tax dodge** – way to avoid some taxes

Pg 286 **extradite me** – bring/order me back into the U.S. in order to be arrested

Chapter 43, pages 287-291

Pg 287 **rolled over** – looked away, gave up

Pg 287 **pristine** – perfect

Pg 287 **cross-stitch** = embroidery

Pg 287 **the gall** – the nerve, the confidence

Pg 287 **from scratch** – at home (not from a restaurant)

Pg 288 **chattered** – talked and talked

Pg 288 **vowed/flip** – promised/throw

Pg 288 **spooky** - scary

Pg 288 **vengeful father** – father who intends to harm someone (the son-in-law)

Pg 288 **The older man...** - The father walks around in the dark in Venice, Italy and it's very creepy

Pg 288 **tormented** – terrorized, bullied

Pg 288 **malevolence** – hatred

Pg 289 **peered/opaque** – looked/black

Pg 289 **cost me** = cost me in emotional energy, being apologetic, etc.

Pg 289 **paranoia** – fear that someone is trying to harm you

Pg 289 **vengeful** – wanting to strike back at someone, get even, harm someone who has harmed you

Pg 289 **psychotic** – crazy

Pg 289 **insane** – crazy

Pg 289 **lost it** – gone crazy, become crazy

Pg 289 **slamming/rib cage** – beating hard/ribs

Pg 289 **bliss** – wonderful, perfect happiness

Pg 290 **to settle** – to be finished

Pg 290 **pool** – join

Pg 290 **cooperative/kibbutz** – commune, society where everyone contributes and lives equally

Pg 290 **nanny** – childcare worker, babysitter

Pg 290 **street kids** – homeless children

Pg 290 **flextime** – flexible working hours

Pg 290 **backfire** – not work the way you plan

Pg 290 **fending off** – keeping away

Pg 290 **truce** – peace treaty, agreement

Pg 291 **solitude** – quiet time

Chapter 44, pages 292-293

Pg 292 **making up for lost time** – working extra hard to do the things she missed out on doing while she was pretending to be dead

Pg 292 **wax and wane** – grow closer and farther apart, then closer again, come and go

Pg 292 **comfy** – comfortable

Pg 292 **press** – ask

Pg 293 **resilient** – able to recover and heal

Chapter 45, pages 294-end

Pg 294 **UK** – United Kingdom

Pg 294 **in check** – to myself

Pg 295 **frenzy** – state of much agitation, panicked

Pg 295 **off the radar** – missing, unable to be found

Pg 295 **unplug** – get away from electronic forms of communication

Pg 295 **off the grid** – away from civilization

Pg 295 **intersected with** – also involved

Pg 295 **neurotic** – crazy

Pg 295 **mirthlessly** – without joy or humor

Pg 295 **A preliminary** – An early

Pg 295 **interstate** – highway

Pg 295 **cremains** – burned to ash body

Pg 296 **beside** = besides (a typo) means “other than”

Pg 296 **ravine** – ditch, hole, valley

Pg 296 **blurry/recall** – unclear/remember

Pg 296 **autopsy** – inspection of a dead body

Pg 296 **corpse** – dead body

Pg 296 **dull-looking** – boring-looking

Pg 296 **clenched teeth** – teeth that were pressed together tightly

Pg 296 **they got it** – they understood

Pg 297 **jabbed** – pointed

Pg 297 **crucial** – super important

Pg 297 **flinch/falter** – move/make a mistake

Pg 297 **prodigy** – genius, star

Pg 297 **treachery** – betrayal

Pg 297 **dumped her** – no longer dating her

Pg 297 **had S in their sights** – were focused on S

Pg 297 **incompetent/bumbling** – unable to do their jobs/dumb

Pg 297 **on suspicion** – because they thought (suspected) she committed a crime

Pg 298 **come in** – come in to the police station

Pg 298 **hot on S's trail** – in pursuit of S

Pg 298 **off the grid** – away from civilization, not in communication with anyone

Pg 298 **toy with him** – tease him

Pg 298 **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. Things 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?