Pg 3  gazed – looked
Pg 3  clipped lawn – cut grass
Pg 3  telescopic washing line – the rope
Maureen hangs their clothes on to dry
Pg 3  Post! – mail!
Pg 3  cross – angry
Pg 3  slight – small, thin
Pg 4  postmark – on the outside of an envelope
Pg 4  vivid – bright
Pg 4  scribbled in ballpoint – written in a messy way with an ink pen
Pg 4  letters collapsing . . . – letters running into one another as if a child had written them
Pg 4  prodded – pushed
Pg 4  Hospice – a place people go to when they expect to die within a year
Pg 5  set out – written
Pg 5  muddled – messy, hard to read
Pg 5  precise – careful, exact
Pg 5  sends her regards – says hello
Pg 5  chap – man, person
Pg 5  drew up – sat up
Pg 5  fumbled for – tried to find
Pg 5  fetch out – bring out
Pg 5  took up from – started in
Pg 6  winded – out of breath
Pg 6  trigger an abundance – start lots
Pg 6  laurel hedging – bushes
Pg 6  net drapes – curtains
Pg 6  strip the beds – change the bed sheets
Pg 7  Basildon Bond – paper
Pg 7  rollerball – ink
Pg 7  after, as it . . . – after the person died
Pg 7  Had the shoe . . . – if Queenie been the one writing the letter and he were the sick one
Pg 7  limp – lame, inadequate, not good
Pg 7  nip – go quickly
Pg 8  threshold – the door entrance
Pg 8  slam – shut loudly
Pg 8  estate agents – people who sell houses
Pg 8  elevated – high up on a hill
Pg 8  Their front gardens . . . dear life – the area was very hilly
Pg 8  strode – walked
Pg 8  steep concrete – very high cement
Pg 8  dandelion – a common weed with a yellow flower
Pg 8  Roundup – a brand of weed killer
Pg 8  adjoining fence – the fence between their yards
Pg 8  widowed – his wife died
Pg 8  retirement – when Harold stopped working
Pg 8-9  great length – a lot (on and on)
Pg 9  “you” in the general – you can mean Harold specifically or people in general
Pg 9  attempted a jocular tone – tried a happy voice
Pg 9  an intimation – a hint
Pg 9  posted – taken to the post office
Pg 9  circulars – junk mail, flyers
Pg 9  compost/mulch – different ways of disposing of grass clippings
Pg 9  yachting – boating
midday collection – the mail pick-up in the middle of the day
wagging – waving, wiggling
pavement – road, path
postbox cropped up – mailbox came up
slot – opening in the mailbox to slide his letter through
beds – gardens
chutneys – sauces (food)
potting shed – a small house (shed) for gardening equipment and activities
stone’s throw – not far (as far as you could throw a stone, more or less)
inadequacy shamed – lameness embarrassed (his words were not enough)
overcome – filled with emotion
dark mouth – slot, opening
snap – quick, instant
promptly/anticipated – quickly/expected
beads of perspiration – drops of sweat
obliged – it was necessary
passerby – someone walking by
dinghies lolled – small boats lay around
hobbled – walked unsteadily
pints – glasses of beer
absorbed – involved, concentrated
nursing home – place for old people to live

Chapter 2, pages 13-19
He had passed . . . – lots of stores
estuary – small river
flecks – spots, bits
cul-de-sacs – road (French)

Magnolias – flowering trees
tide him over – keep him from getting hungry
gap – break, space, pause
petrol – gas
till – cash register (at the gas station)
pockmarked – spotted
light refreshments – snacks
ajar – slightly open
nugget – square
cast her eyes – looked
mopped – wiped
gazed/awe – looked/wonder
luminous – glowing, shining
get the hang of – learned
twined – twisted, curled
twiddled – twisting
rapped – banged, hit
made a show – made a big deal
rang – sounded
insistence – urgency
bewildered – surprised
anticipate – expect
A stiffening . . . – physical changes and difficulties
A381 – a highway
hawthorn – type of tree
rigidity – stiffness
wheezing – coughing, difficulty breathing
courier/motorbike – messenger/motorcycle
brewery car park – bar/restaurant parking lot
forwarding addresses – their new address after they moved from Harold’s neighborhood
betrayed – broken her trust
surrendered – given up
mobile – cell phone
staggered – walked with difficulty
grief – sadness
shrieked . . . – barely missed him
kiosk – closet, room
spine – back bone
clamped – put, held
deliberation – questioning
visiting hours – the hours the Hospice allows people to visit patients
exasperated – frustrated
terrible line – bad phone connection
jotting – writing
setting off – starting
trembling – shaking
Cramming – Pushing
PS – indicates an addition to a letter
what in heaven’s name – what on Earth, what in the world (an expression of great surprise)

Chapter 3, pages 20-24
annihilated – killed, obliterated
organism – creature
achieve – do
rang – called
marimba tone – music
Telegraph – a newspaper

Alzheimer’s – a brain disease that makes the brain stop working correctly
crept – walked quietly
cardigan – sweater
plucked – picked
looked about – looked around
stubbed – hit
tone she had adopted – voice she used
regal/squashed – royal/defeated
Devastating images – horrible pictures
firing – running
inert – unmoving, still
preempt – protect her from
reassembled her composed – found her normal
B3196/pub – highway/bar (restaurant)
indignant – angry
dawned on – occurred to, came to
brilliant – very good, fine
chap – man
portentous – very important
spluttered – said
buckled – bent so that her legs no longer held her up
gherkins – pickles
threw her – confused her
spark of heat – touch of anger
appealed to – asked
The spark . . . bolt – she became very angry
line was staccato’d . . . – their phone connection was scratchy (not good)
groped her body – moved her body stiffly, slowly
with a stoop – bent over
low beam – wood to hit his head on
appalled – horrified, upset
peony-bud – flower
keep a low profile – try not to be noticed
brewery – place where beer is made
newly wed – newly married
Keeping himself apart – working alone
admin – short for “administration”
collection – money (to buy him a gift)
voucher – gift card
Thresholders – bar (alcohol restaurant)
teetotaler – someone who doesn’t drink alcohol
lightly sprigged – decorated, covered
elements – parts
finely tuned – carefully laid out, planned
stripped antique… - clothes closet
smudge – erase, cover
mop – wipe away his sweat from
quench his thirst – get a drink
bowled over – impressed
confided his intentions – told him his plans (to walk to Berwick for Queenie)
inquired – asked
crooked/clasping – bent/grabbing
keeling – falling
bulbous join – knuckle
plasters – Band Aids
vivid – clear
Cramp – muscle pain
flex – point
hobbled – barely walked
Clinging – holding onto
fetch his mobile – get his cell phone
give voice to – tell him the
consulted – looked at
hovered – stood, waited
shamed – embarrassed
swiveled – turned quickly
potted fern – green plant
conspicuous – like he stood out, like everyone was staring at him
elation – happiness
tremble – shaky words
sour – bad
dogging – following
senile – crazy
eavesdropping – listening in on other people’s conversations
prohibit – forbid
scalded – burned
amplify – sound louder
crept – moved slowly and silently
mad – crazy
retreated – went back
clank – loud noise
berated – yelled at
under a tap – under water
plait – braid (hairstyle)
plumper – fatter
lips buckled … – he smiled
pitiful – someone to feel sorry for
expansively – in a large way
reprimand – scold, criticize
Characters

Maureen Fry, Harold’s wife

Harold Fry, Maureen’s husband

Rex, Maureen and Harold’s next door neighbor
exhilarating – exciting
fell away – sloped downward
copse/quiff – group/hairstyle
modest accommodation – a hotel
trench – narrow valley
punctually – on time
humbled – felt small
verged on – were almost
striding – walking with purpose
spring of blossom – flower
nettles – prickly bushes
plaster dust – white powder from building a house
patch – area (that he frequented)
vigor – strength
masticate – chew his food
swipe – swat, hit
moist/crimson – wet/red
inflamed/pod – swollen/circle
landlord – owner of the property
eclipsing – blocking
publicans – officials, people of authority
hovering – floating above
unawares – by surprise
ill – badly
vicious sod – mean guy
if you get my drift – if you know what I mean (wink, wink)
bastard/chap – man/man
fell apart – couldn’t keep my life together
tot – add, tally
flicker/propelled – moment/moved
rustled – moved
conjuring – bringing
unlink – untie (the shoe’s laces)
sprinted/hurling – ran/throwing
plowing – running
current – the movement of the water
gazed – looked
dunno – don’t know
bug off – go away, quit bothering me
crammed – filled
accused – blamed
drowning – killing David by water
conjured – brought to him
seemed too angular . . . – was difficult
secured – closed
pegged up . . . – underwear, intimate clothing
trembled – shook
creased – wrinkled
intrude – impose, cause trouble for
align himself – line him up
transient – changing
sought . . . – panted, breathed quickly
got the hang of it – figured out how
limbs – arms and legs (body)
merged – combined
gestured/upturned – motioned/open
greedily – hungrily
ceases to amaze – stops amazing
instinctive – natural
resounding absence – large lack
dimples of flesh – folds of skin
cot – bed
dissolve – disappear
a spectator – someone watching
intensify – get stronger
consumed – filled
fault – problem, flaw
first paragraph = Harold is walking next to mountains and sees a bird flying overhead
bear – withstand, take on, do
diluted – became less
rejected them for good – turned them away forever
flint – stone
buckled – bent without warning
throbbing – hurting
A3121/B3372 – highways
exchanged pleasantries – said hello to each other
tracksuits – clothing
scene – memory
tipped – touched
skewered – punctured
disassociation – lack of connection
thug – cruel person
sadomasochistic tendencies – likes to hurt people, especially sexually
bond – connection
whim of irony – mere chance, fluke
kneecapped – breaking someone’s knees
petty cash tin – a box with a small amount of money in it in offices
rumors – gossip, what people were saying
subjects closer to home – ideas that were more likely to upset Harold
slunk – move in a slow, almost fearful way
clever – smart

implicit/remark/conviction – understood/comment/certainty, sure belief
sherry trifle – a dessert
trod – walked on
plasters – band aids
weeping blister – a painful bump that was oozing (bleeding) clear liquid

Chapter 6, pages 57-61
was convinced – believed
fetch – get
nightdress – pyjamas
lurked – remained
undoing – becoming undone, falling apart
been tempted to call it a day – wanted to quit
common – ordinary, nothing special
album – book of photos
rubbish – trash
dusk fell – evening came
poorly – sick
Elizabeth – Rex’s dead wife
confided – said (in secret to Maureen)
hypochondriac – someone who worries a LOT about their health, always thinks they’re sick
mournfully – sadly
pulse – heartbeat
screeched past – drove noisily
inertia – no movement (sleep)
And reacquainting . . . – Remembering this news again each day when she woke was worse than learning it the first time
well and truly hit home – was finally believed
peculiar/shriek – strange/scream
bragging – saying with pride
torso – body
have a go – give it a try
dawned on – occurred to
strung/radiator – hung/heater
bluebottles – a type of sea fish
off – not at work
unsavory – disgusting, not nice
jigging – moving, shaking
on the verge of – about to
post – mail
stationery cupboard – office supply closet
drab – boring, uninteresting
Contrary – Opposite, against
predictions – guesses
stout – thick, heavy, firm
odd favor – occasional sex act
manner – personality
unprecedented – never before seen
impersonations – pretending to be Queenie
corridors – halls (of the office)
canteen – cafeteria
snuffling/cupboard – crying/closet
sob – cry
squat profile – short body
on the point of – just about to
wept – cried
emotion – feelings
degree – college degree
rumors – stories
reduce . . . to jelly – make the toughest men feel weak
resign – quit
out of turn – badly
fuss – complaining
peaks/frost – mountains/snow
dressing gown – robe (over pyjamas)
saucer/hedgehogs – plate/small animal
overtook – passed
bawling – screaming
paced up and down – walked back and forth
brittle with fury – stiff with anger
abandoned mattress, etc – lots of trash
Harbourneford . . . – cities
sulfuric – chemical
press on – keep going
hit the downward . . . – walked downhill
their upward slopes – going uphill
palms cupping – hands on
rose and fell – went up and down
maiden – unmarried
thumped – banged, hit
lodging/careering – putting/dropping
satchel – bag, purse, backpack
loomed – stood (he was tall)
disarming – caught him by surprise
struck dumb – silent
keenly – clearly
Buckfast Abbey – a monastery [a place where religious people (monks) live]
setting foot – stepping one foot
contemplated – thought about
queuing – getting in line
khaki – tan color
shuffled – organized, put
pros – professionals
streaming – leaking tears, like crying
specialist – socks especially for walking
studied – looked at
twiddled – spun, twirled, played with
macho – very manly or masculine
struck – seemed to
were drawn to – went to
row – fight, argument
affectionately – fondly, happily
bloody – a swear word (like shit, damn)
raised their voices – were talking louder
cooped up – stuck
impulse – sudden desire
played it otherwise – acted differently, made different choices
quay – water
ticking/remnants – fabric/left over fabric
setting eyes on – looking at
sprig of holly – flower
fancied – imagined
dug – put
source of . . . – cause of so much anger
howled – screamed
in essence – in general
rang – called
halting – with many pauses
proper – correct, appropriate
gave a knowing reference – told her about
trodden – stepped
come across – heard of
chaotic – crazy

wrenched – taken back
hovered over the surface of – avoided
unfathomable – unthinkable, impossible
be bridged – be able to be spoken of
weary – tired
implying/fund – saying/money
for it – to do
dressing gown – robe
profound – absolute, complete
tinkled – filled
doubling over – bent over at the waist
sought/amuse – looked for/entertain
pulled faces – made his face look funny
bulge – stick out, swell
pads/plasters – bottoms/band aids
Midges – insects
drooped – hung down (was too big now)
chafing – rubbing
forget-me-nots – flowers
a further – another

Chapter 8, pages 81-90
cathedral – church
street theater – acting in public (hoping people will give them money)
did it for me – ended my praying
rooted/bin – looked through/trash can
shambolic – crazy, disorganized
juggling/batons – throwing in the air/sticks
piggy in the middle – a game where one person stands between two others and tries to catch a ball thrown back and forth above his head. Americans call this game Monkey in the Middle.
jerky/unrefined – clumsy, not smooth
diluted itself – thinned out, went away
discourteous/abandon – rude/leave
jiving – dancing
jiggering – moving, jiggling, shaking
emcee – the person hosting the show
roared – laughed loudly
traitor – betrayer, not loyal
top marks – good grades
let him down – disappoint him
as much – so
bowing/confrontation – looking down with/arguments or fights
spilled from . . . – here is his own son, looking him in the eye and daring him to fight
grinned/jived – smiled/danced
embracing/invisible – hugging/unseen
for it – to do
fumbled a passage – moved
urine/vomit – pee/throw-up
limping – walking unevenly
tarmac – walking
resolved – decided
deliberated – tried to decide
long since abandoned – long ago left
such an array – so many choices
faltered – waivered, waited, stalled
rucksack/pedometer – backpack/distance counter
wind-up torch – a flashlight
ingenuity – creativity, creative thinking
wept – cried
gulps – gasps of air
nipping – touching
Even her . . . – Even her sadness held a small amount of dignity (respect)
negotiating – walking through
free/urged – available/encouraged, asked
smart – tasteful, good-looking, fashionable
crease – fold
steeples – fingertips straight and touching
distinguished – respectable, successful, elegant, dignified
let down – disappointed
slim soldiers – narrow pieces
opaque – couldn’t be seen through
dolly bird – ? (it’s British)
marveled/posted – was in awe/put
mopped – licked
intact – uncut
decent sort – good kind
lodged – stuck
gulp/tonsils – swallow/part of the throat
grown fond of – started to like
polio/limp – muscle disease/walk unevenly
faltered – stopped, was unsure of himself
trembled/steered – shook/brought
rim/slopped – top of his cup/spilled
He moves me – this is an expression of deep emotion
intrusion/witness – violation/see
mop – clean
trainers – shoes (like running shoes)
quivered – shook (with emotion)
offend – insult, make him feel bad
an avalanche of – a lot of
petrol/posting – gas/mailing
irises – colored part of the eye
atone – make up for
neglected – not taken care of
small piece of generosity – much
our paths will cross – we will meet

Chapter 9, pages 91-95
numbing shock – unfeeling surprise
galvanizing fury – huge anger
squandered – wasted, spent
dare he – could he be so cruel as to
humiliate – embarrass
Hoover – vacuum cleaner
sucking . . . – vacuuming them up
shot/disinfectant – sprayed/anti-germ
preoccupied – she was thinking about
regret – wish she hadn’t told
bearing – bringing
dreaded – hated
stout silhouette – thick shadow
ER – Emergency Room (at the hospital)
bear – stand, do
lifts – rides
felt stripped – hurt
paced – walked
own up – admit, be honest
blaze of righteousness – fire of being right
distract her – make her think of other things

Chapter 10, pages 96-108
replenished – new
petroleum jelly – cream, medicine
seeking to avoid – trying not to think about
chattered – talked
in terms of – through
plot – yard
dug in – planted

blazing tenderness the fragility – exquisite (lots of) emotion how delicate was
Page 97  hollow cackle/crow – sound/bird
Page 97  overwhelmed with – feeling lots of
Page 97  loomed over – stood much taller than
Page 97  tassels – ends
Page 97  daft – dumb
Page 97  eased/hold – took/fingers
Page 97  smudged – looking messy
Page 97  plunge – dive, jump
Page 98  pried – removed, taken
Page 98  confectionery, dusted – sweets, covered
Page 98  foil – aluminum foil
Page 98  thatch – sticks
Page 98  flint – rocks (gray)
Page 98  spiraea, etc – lots of flower names in this paragraph
Page 98  Buoyed up – encouraged, happy about
Page 98  overtook/buggies – passed/strollers
Page 98  top up – fill to the top of the glass
Page 98  riddle – joke, question
Page 98  sweet tooth – loved sweets
Page 98  pear drops . . . – candies
Page 99  do the trick – fix her
Page 99  pork rind – food
Page 99  back me up – agree with me
Page 100  settle – go away
Page 100  sprouting/knuckles – coming out of/back of his hands
Page 100  persistence – trying again and again
Page 100  taut – tight, stiff
Page 100  frocks/strewn – dresses/thrown
Page 100  perched/scrap – sitting/little bit
Page 100  credit – believe
Page 100  nails – fingernails
Page 100  spasmodic – terrible
Page 101  took shape – became real (in his mind)
Page 101  upward slant – slight hill
Page 101  slumped – sitting as if very tired
Page 101  been sick down – thrown up on
Page 101  swerved – moved
Page 101  most offensive – disliked most (his father looking away from him or the smell of his father’s vomit)
Page 101  consoled – tried to make his father feel better
Page 101  unprecedented abundance – a lot
Page 102  handbags – purses
Page 102  scent – perfume
Page 102  dash – run
Page 102  His father began . . . – His father filled the emptiness left by Harold’s mom by bringing home other women
Page 102  dressing gown – robe
Page 102  drenched – became very wet
Page 102  craving – longing, desire
Page 102  appeased – satisfied
Page 102  spittle – saliva (liquid in the mouth)
Page 102  handkerchief – Kleenex, cloth
Page 102  gulps – swallows
Page 102  sick – throw up, vomit
Page 103  affectionate – loving
Page 103  aunts – women his father brought home
Page 103  shrank – moved away
Page 103  olive trousers – green pants
taste/budget – liking/money available

obliged – like he had to

tablemats – rectangles of cloth to put under dinner plates

nib/inclination – button/need

species – type of animal

pasty – white and unhealthy

spot of biliousness – bit of liver problems

mumbles – speaks weakly, softly

Weary/forlorn – tired/sad or lonely

preoccupied with – focused on

retired – went to bed

isolated – single

muscular flex – use of his muscle

relentless slog – never ending work of it

practical anxieties – worries about regular things

insidious – horrible, terrible

hedges/barbaric – bushes/bizarre, weird

blared – honked

berated/managing – yelled at/walking

creased – wrinkled

on the verge of – just about to

Cambridge – university

clever – smart

impenetrable – unreadable, blank

scoffed - laughed in a mean way

direct – straight

granite swell – gray expanse

cowered – hid

peppercorns – small black balls (spice)

They swirled . . . – there was a lot of water on the sides of the road, and the cars splashed him

chafing – scratching, rubbing

stooped – ducked, moved downward

bargain/albeit – agreement/even though it was

lorry/blaring – truck/honking

credit – believe

To the east . . . – there was some blue sky

witness – see

giddy – unbelievably happy

Chapter 11, pages 109-115

receptionist – person greeting patients

check Maureen in – register her

clammy – damp, wet, sweaty

queue/groaning – line/sounding unhappy

GP – doctor (General Practitioner)

intern – medical student

round – time

pensioners – retirees, people

will – desire, self-discipline

pale – sick, lacking color

reassuring – telling

anxiety/suffer/surgery – tension/feel/doctor’s office

quayside – seaside

distract herself – not think about Harold

scrambled – got quickly

polished/chestnuts – shiny/brown nuts

twist/anguish – feeling/sadness

bowed – sat down
crane – lean
mobile – cell phone
rawness – painfulness
dared a glance – quickly looked
drawn in thick worry lines – made him look worried (about her)
colleague – co-worker

Page 12

instinctively – automatically
scowled – frowned
crowns – dental work
throttle goes – engine stops
lit up – opened brightly
depressed – sad (mental condition)
Alzheimer’s – disease of dementia, his brain is no longer working correctly
disconcerting clunk – disturbing noise
solemn/shivered – complete/shook
diagnosed – determined by a doctor
senior moments – slang for forgetfulness
irritated/batted – angered/said
patronizing – superior, fatherly
prone to – likely to have
taken up . . . women – had a lot of women
showed H the door – kicked him out of the house
estranged – separated, not speaking
out of the blue – without warning, suddenly
rang – called
mad as a hatter – crazy
nursing home – live-in medical facility
Suffer rapid . . . – change emotions quickly

Page 13

flick – wave
rang – sounded
tidied – carefully placed
set out – intended, decided
impose physical order . . . – make her body look calm, even if she wasn’t feeling calm
psychiatric evaluation – an examination by a doctor to see if he is mentally okay
insane/out of character – crazy/not like Harold
against all the odds – completely unlikely
little senior – little bit old
desolate – lonely
cash point – cash register, checkout
intimidating – scary, frightening

Chapter 12, pages 116-129

summoned – called
on-site – at the location, at the pub
unawares – by surprise
senior reps – older workers/employees
obvious candidate – perfect person (to drive Queenie to the pub)

Page 14

wily figure – skinny person
sorted – settled, figured out
reptile – snake, lizard, turtle
faltered – stumbled (mentally), was surprised
His chain of . . . – he changed subjects in a heartbeat (instantly, quickly)
All brain . . . – smart, but not a real man
prized – valued, loved
possessions – belongings, things he owned
but to Harold . . . – to Harold the clowns looked ugly and strange, as if they were making fun of him, making him very angry (at Mr. Napier)
Hennessey = Queenie (her last name)
aptitude – intelligence, skill
audit books – accounting (money) records
landlord/slippery – owner/not trustworthy
conscious – aware
groped/pavement – reached/cement
physical definition – shape
mortified – very embarrassed
beetroot-faced – red-faced (from anger)
demon(thing past her – devil/do anything wrong without her knowing
Don’t mention it – it was no problem
look out for – protect
violent stain of crimson – big red spot
suspect/suffering – notice/having
sending on – her to send him
nursed – nurtured, fed, made permanent
cliches – common phrases or sayings
whiz – rush, speed, quickly go
sodden – soaking wet
soles – bottoms
declined – said no
catch her eye – looked at her
screwed – hardened, stiffened
frail – weak, fragile
spent – worn out
rift/complicit – separation/agreed upon
compound – increase, magnify
railed – screamed angrily
unbearable/wept – awful/cried
salvage – save
give voice to – say
gesture/make amends – action/say he’s sorry
tortured/sobs – hurt/crying
bridging the gap – closing the distance
gaping/assault – open/hitting her
bowed – down
shoulder – edge of the road
barrier/tore/drenched – wall/moved/wet
mourning – missing, feeling sad about
accommodation – a place to stay
letting their hair down – getting wild
kept a low profile – wasn’t noticed
emptied himself – had an orgasm (sex)
ram it home – shove it into the shoe
sharp stubble – pointy hairs (unshaven)
draining/descended on – finishing/came into
burst of fluorescent Lycra – they were wearing bright, stretchy athletic clothing
ringleader – leader
skeletal – bony, skinny
flat – apartment
settling – marrying
wolf whistles – loud, happy whistles
febrile – nervous
celibacy – not have sex
whooped – cheered
affairs – love relationships outside their marriages
stomach – courage, desire
scooping/vital – taking/important
fragile envelope – breakable covering
make his excuses – give reasons for leaving
embrace – hug
lacerated – cut
scissored/flesh – cut/skin
roadside memorials – a Christian cross (and often flowers) marking the spot where someone died in a car accident
evidently – it appeared that
baubles – balls, shiny decorations
cellophane/bled of – plastic/without
eulogy – words spoken at a funeral about the person who died
catapulting – falling
desolate – sad, hopeless
drove – pushed
outskirts – outer edges
surged – came
repressing – stopping
swell – get bigger
buckled/lurched – bent so they no longer supported him/fell

Chapter 13, pages 130-145
collapse – fall
rescued – saw and helped

pot – jar
pulse – heartbeat
troubling – worrying
with more volume – louder
thick – strong, difficult to understand
benefits – government help
papers – newspapers
intervals – spaces of time
spectacles – glasses
foulest expressions – worst words
suitable – appropriate
trousers/frayed – pants/torn
sodden – very wet
faltered/anguish – paused/sadness
shit hole – she’s making apologies for her not very nice house
curse – use profanity (swear words)
fillings – dental work
throbbing – hurting
will – desire
carry on – continue
shame – embarrassment, self-hatred
stirred himself – awakened himself
distinguish – tell the difference between
threshold – door entrance
slouched – put, carried
plasters – band aids
amused – entertained, happy
wept/gratitude – cried/thankfulness
jamming the branches . . . – the tree branches hitting the windows
blisters – lumps, swelling areas
inflamed sacs of pus – infected bumps
winced/scalded – cried out/burned
shot of its own accord – went all by itself
sardonic – irritated
palm – hands (the insides, with creases)
sole – bottom
spasm fireworking – pain shooting
clench/buttocks/grimace – squeeze/butt/look like he was in pain
punctured – poked a hole in
pocket of pus – swollen bump filled with liquid
fluid/intact – liquid/unbroken
lacked color – didn’t have any excitement
offend – hurt or anger anyone
shown him the door – made him leave
mothballs – chemical balls to keep moths (insects) from eating the fabric of the coat
sidelines – refers to the edges of a soccer field – people who are not in the game
squirited antibiotic cream – put medicine
forged – created, made
wardrobe – closet
lavatories – toilets, bathrooms
bolted – charged angrily, went quickly
taut – stiff, tight
perspective – way of looking at things
stung – hurt
antiseptic – medicine
Periodically – from time to time
flexing – moving

not inconsiderable – a lot of
Casanova – romantic man
pitful – pathetic, like a loser
metaphorical – like aunts, but not really aunts
recalled thrill of landing – remembered excitement of getting
confided – shared
clear – work in (gardening)
velvet – very soft fabric
tackle/obscured – work on/blocked
resoled – with new bottoms
fresh laces – new shoelaces (for tying)
first light – dawn
reconfigure – change
abruptness/brutal – suddenness/mean
buckled – crumpled, fell, changed
turns up – shows up, comes to the house
boot them out – make them leave
sniff – breath in through the nose
shred – little tiny bit
rucksack – backpack
nipped – quickly turned

periodically

Chapter 14, pages 146-54
further decline – deeper depression
apathy – no interest, no enthusiasm
strip the beds – change the bed sheets
keenly – clearly, acutely
plot – yard, garden
bleached and annihilated – blotted out, erased, refused to think about

confess to – tell

came clean – told the truth

lopsided – crooked, uneven

smothered – covered

slanted – ran down

put the kettle on – make us some tea

intervening months – time since she died

mournning – grieving (sad because of death)

astonishment – surprise

surfaces shone – furniture was shiny, clean

Potted cacti – desert plants

sitting room – living room

intrusion – something unwanted

mantlepiece – shelf over the fireplace

bovine jaw – cow-like chin

intern – doctor

china/saucer – very nice dishes/plate

brim/scalding – top/burning

midlife crisis – panic in midlife about how you’ve spent your life, where you’re going, etc.

ice was broken – they were now talking

full of it – proud of himself and his journey

petrol/Rover – gas/car

straight off – right away

floundered – felt unsure

nagging – complaining, bothering

rumors – stories people tell about other people without knowing if they’re true

spilling the beans – telling everything

reels – spins in shock

all around – for everyone

eyes swollen – puffy from crying

could do with/sherry – would like/wine

teatotaler – someone who doesn’t drink alcohol

spit/ley – little bit/grassy area

warblers/crested grebes – birds

mis laid – forgotten

Jiving – dancing

stiff partings . . . – formal, rigid

transfixed – couldn’t look away

threaded – weaved, made

vividly/stooped – clearly/bent down

parted a small lock . . . – pushed a small amount of her hair aside so he could talk

the gesture – his action (touching her hair)

Penny for . . . – what are you thinking?

horse chestnut – a type of tree

faltering – stumbling, making mistakes

replenished – refilled, re-stocked

toiletries – personal items

naïve – French for childish, ignorant

carrying on – continuing

mist/pylons – fog/guard rails

pungency – strong smell

rose quartz/twig – stone/small stick

Ladies’ Auxiliary – women’s group

beret – cap, hat

cathedral – church
slipped to his knees – began praying

Druid – religious leader?

solitary - lonely

judged – thought badly of

unique – one of a kind

dilemma – question, puzzle

exiled herself – so removed herself (from him, from their marriage)

sentient – actual feeling

velvet – a very soft fabric

bold/claim – strong and courageous/get

get on – get back to what he was doing

pictures – movies (movie theaters)

discreetly – as to be unnoticed

rubbish/conductor – trash/driver

terminus – end of the bus line

nipping – coming (for a brief visit)

thumbing – browsing, scanning

tremulous – shaking

slip – thin dress worn under a dress

bolt – run

spectator – someone who watches, but does not participate

pinned – held

swell of her growing – pregnant

look after – take care of

his undoing – the thing that destroyed him

engrossed – interested, engaged

shift/jumble – walking time/mix together

kestrel – bird

modest accommodations – simply, inexpensive places to sleep

inside world/barrier – his mind/block

superfluous – unnecessary, extra

receded into . . . – went to the back of his mind

Mars Bar – candy bar

confectionery – candy, sweets

knickers – short pants (I don’t get this joke)

violent snort – strong exhale through the nose

crimson – red (in embarrassment)

punch line – funny part of the joke

hilarious/smutty – funny/inappropriate

punt/punting – boat/boating

cannabis – marijuana (drug)

Mr. Napier – Queenie and Harold’s boss

fixed – arranged

crack – very funny joke

nauseous stirring – sickening feeling

swaying – moving your body without moving your feet

let it go – forget about it

taken the rap – taken the blame

on the spot – immediately

rumor he hurled – talk that he threw

stood her ground – was strong and brave

gist – general idea

fuss – issue, problem

kicked the living shit – beaten her up

double brandy – alcoholic drink

downed it one – drank it in one swallow

coward – someone who is not brave

impression – idea, thought
Chapter 16, pages 167-182

Pg 167 diluted – weakened

Pg 167 resoled/cobbler – new bottoms/shoemaker

Pg 167 party - group

Pg 167 fragile/trill – delicate/sound

Pg 168 wobbled – shook, trembled, quivered

Pg 168 undone – moved to sympathy

Pg 168 lingering – staying, hanging around

Pg 168 on the verge of – about to

Pg 168 let the guide down – disappoint her

Pg 168 picturesque – pretty

Pg 168 appalled – embarrassed

Pg 168 frayed – torn

Pg 168 hire/trunks – rental/bathing suit

Pg 168 goggles – glasses for swimming

Pg 168 keen/trousers – happy/pants

Pg 169 catches my eye – looks at me

Pg 169 pass out – become unconscious

Pg 169 dig – poke, pain

Pg 169 clamping – sticking

Pg 169 hen party – bride’s party (called a Bachelorette party in the US)

Pg 169 charged five pounds – made him pay $5

Pg 169 lavatories – bathrooms, toilets

Pg 170 intrude – bother, interrupt

Pg 170 Pekingese – type of small dog

Pg 170 interjections – comments

Pg 170 They haven’t the first idea – They don’t understand at all.

Pg 170 flattering – a compliment, nice

Pg 170 Pitlochry – city in Scotland famous for its theater festival every year

Pg 170 barest – fewest, minimal

Pg 170 applauding – clapping

Pg 171 nipped – ran

Pg 171 rubbish – trash

Pg 171 serial shagger/cock – person who has sex many times/cocaine (drug)

Pg 171 went down on – had sex with

Pg 171 cock – penis

Pg 171 chat shows – talk shows on TV

Pg 171 reckless/grim/gesture – adventurous/sad/behavior (his laughing)

Pg 171 atoning – making up for

Pg 171 unnerved – taken aback, very surprised

Pg 172 scowl crept – frown came

Pg 172 Bullocks – Nuts! Forget about

Pg 172 trembled – was shaky, was weak

Pg 172 slogging – walking slowly

Pg 172 the implications – what could happen

Pg 172 lift – ride

Pg 172 urinal – men’s toilet

Pg 173 arse – British for ass, or jerk

Pg 173 cobbler – shoemaker

Pg 173 take refuge – find comfort, relax

Pg 173 abbey – a building like a church

Pg 174 reckoned – thought, decided

Pg 174 neatly chiseled – very angular

Pg 174 revealing/toffee – showing/coffee

Pg 174 scones – biscuits, muffins

Pg 174 dulled with such apathy – so disinterested in life or anything
Pg 175 **take a backseat** – do something unimportant at work

Pg 175 **feel obligated to** – think he should

Pg 175 **Reluctantly** - Unwillingly

Pg 175 **oncologist** – cancer doctor

Pg 175 **a regretful** – an “I’m sorry”

Pg 176 **probing/scalpel** – poking/knife

Pg 176 **slik with moisture** – wet and slippery

Pg 176 **eased/hovered** – moved/stayed in the air

Pg 176 **untidy squiggle** – messy mark

Pg 177 **care worker** – nurse

Pg 177 **pulse** – heartbeat

Pg 177 **hospice will** – hospital must

Pg 177 **plainly intended** . . . – obviously meant to make Harold feel better

Pg 177 **slant/irregularity** – leaning/inconsistency

Pg 177 **botched attempt** – failed try (at writing)

Pg 177 **trembling** – shaking

Pg 177 **stifle** – quiet, stop

Pg 178 **tumor** – a bunch of cancer cells

Pg 178 **flinch** – look away or seem uncomfortable

Pg 178 **may reproduce** . . . – can become cancer

Pg 178 **ascertaining/dictated** – knowing/determined

Pg 178 **lymphatic system** – whole body

Pg 178 **the end** – her death

Pg 178 **immunity** – the body’s ability to fight germs and infections

Pg 178 **take the bill** – pay (for lunch)

Pg 179 **exchange of commonplaces** – everyday conversation

Pg 179 **splendidly** – very well

Pg 179 **patterned flock** ... – flowery dress walked past the pay phone closet Harold was using

Pg 179 **strained/bruised** – pulled/injured

Pg 180 **cheerio** – goodbye (in a friendly way)

Pg 180 **work out** – decide, figure out

Pg 180 **overwhelming** – too difficult

Pg 180 **wind up ... - close up her shop**

Pg 180 **striding/billowing** – walking/blowing

Pg 180 **staggered** – stumbled, walked awkwardly

Pg 181 **paces** – steps

Pg 181 **wrenched up** – opened

Pg 182 **inoperable** – not able to be operated on, not curable

Pg 182 **blow** – injury

Pg 182 **swallows** – birds (that come in the spring)

Chapter 17, pages 182-193

Pg 183 **rings** – calls

Pg 184 **dawn on/creeping** – occur to/slow

Pg 184 **turning point** – change in her thinking

Pg 184 **prickle of panic** – little bit of fear

Pg 184 **unspecified weight of pain** – general feeling of pain that she couldn’t describe

Pg 184 **duvet** – bedspread, bed covers

Pg 184 **rail** – the bar to hang clothes on

Pg 184 **tug the knot free** – untie the scarf

Pg 185 **go quiet** – stop talking

Pg 185 **up my sleeve** – in my mind

Pg 185 **a hunch** – an idea
**Vantage point** – viewing place (window)

**Spied/from the Rover** – saw/that he got from his car (a Rover)

**Intrigued** – curious, interested

**Pegged/line** – hung/clothes line

**Taking an early night** – going to bed early

**Puttering about** – moving around

**Rap/letterbox** – knock/door

**Ushered** – brought

**Clasped** – folded

**Gasped** – sucked in his breath

**Mounted on pin board** – glued to a board that you can stick pins into

**Pushpin** – tall thumbtack, thick pin

**Lopsided** – crooked, tilted, uneven

**Anchor** – nail holder

**Departure** – thing

**Taken an outing** – gone out

**Crematorium** – cemetery

**Estuary** – river, water

**Intruding** – bothering her

**Breakdown** – emotional

**Crates/hammered** – boxes/nailed

**Windbreaks** – tents for the beach

**Scampering/in pursuit of** – running/chasing

**Fumbled** – reached

**Cross** – angry

**Sorted out** – in order, all right

**Appalling** – terrible

** Slack** – loose

**Duvet** – bedspread, bed cover

**Wardrobe** – closet

**Distraction** – something to do

**Higgledy-piggledy** – in a mess, disordered

**Fraying/ lapels** – tearing/collar

**Cardigans/patch** – sweaters/fix, mend

**Cast her eyes on** – looked at

**Eased** – took

**Boiled crustacean** – lobster, crab

**Hunched** – drawn upward toward his ears

**Lash out** – say angry things to Harold

**Holiday** – trip, vacation

**Stopgap** – something to do in between other things

**Fired** – said angrily

**Holdall** – purse, bag

**Clunked/banisters** – banged/stair railing

**Took it out of him** – exhausted him

**Get up** – get out of bed

**Clever** – smart

**Stole a glance** – looked

**Convinced** – sure

**Inconsistencies** – things that didn’t make sense

**Unravel** – seem untrue

**Prospects** – potential jobs

**Throw H off balance** – make H uncomfortable or unsure of himself

**Notes** – paper money

**Reassured her** – told her she hadn’t done anything wrong

**Suitable vacancies** – job openings

**Fixed** – made
prescription - medicine

dressing gown - pyjamas

roll-ups - marijuana

scalp - head

nicks/trembled - cuts/shook

barbarity inflicted on - horror done to

to distraction - so much

fingered the coarse tweed - touched the rough texture, or the bumpy weave

shrimp garment - pink suit

scooped/draped - picked/placed

tucked/cuff - put/sleeve

embrace/cardigan - hug/sweater

loitering/wardrobe - hanging around/closet

drawing up - pulling into the driveway

runner beans - green beans

shoots - baby plants

bamboo stakes - wooden sticks

lest they be pecked - afraid they would be eaten

frost - cold temperatures, ice

subsided - went away

She cleared the rubble ... - She cleaned out their small man-made pond

ringing - calling

retraced - went back

yielded its promise - gave him what it was supposed to

Chapter 18, pages 194-203

done - felt if he were

pick up the pieces - put their life back together, finish all the things he had left undone

smarting - hurting

stay for/pass - keep living for/die

marked - clear, obvious

stretcher - wood or cloth for a person to lie on and be carried by two people

slumped/booth - leaned/phone closet

kiosk - phone booth or closet

gravity - seriousness

came up with - thought of

chuckling - laughing

mopped - blotted, dried

dusk - early darkness

violent doubt - extreme lack of belief

outsides - outer edges of Stroud

As it dipped... - As the road came toward the center of town ...

scaffolding - a raised platform for painters, window washers, construction workers

dumpster of building rubble - trash can of the trash left over from making a building

padding bulged - insides stuck out

superficial - on the surface, not deep

petrol/held up - gas/robbed

vigilant - careful, aware

a little apart - a little bit separate from other people

shed/padlocked - garage/locked

rooted - dug, looked

under construction - still being built

mackerel - type of fish
corrugated – wavy, like between the two flat sides of some cardboard boxes

tarpaulin – plastic cloth

bales/rafters – bundles/ceiling

gain a footing – be steady on his feet

rucksack/beret – backpack/hat

limpid – relaxed

substantial – significant coming

gaps – spaces, or holes, in the walls

incredulity – disbelief, shock, surprise

stooping for springwater – bending down for water from streams or rivers

stall/kebab – vendor, mini restaurant/food

in remission – cured

beech carpet – beech trees

profound – deep

was inevitable – could not be avoided, had to happen

stick to – continue with, keep

wear and tear – usage

estranged – separated

as opposed to – instead of

launderette – place to do laundry (wash clothes)

torch – flashlight

by way of distraction – in order to help the boy forget think about something else

parceled up – boxed

coiling/parcel – winding/box

stowed – put

lupins, roses, etc. – flowers

allotments/geroning – gardens/growing

surplus – extra

lifts – rides

lavatories – bathrooms

tufts – patches, bunches of hair

overtake – drive by

convivial – friendly, happy

proffering – offering, tipping it toward H

at the mercy of – in the hands of, at the will of

mug/embrace – rob/hug

chipped – broken

push it/hang about – rush/waste time

savoring – enjoying

pilgrimage – an important journey, like a trip to a religious holy land

darts – a throwing game

Could you manage it – Can I take your photo

shagged out – exhausted

confounded – confused

point-blank – without blinking (as if in shock or surprise)

busker/accordion – entertainer/musical instrument

silhouette – outline, profile

spire – point (high point of hills)

Seven miles on – seven miles later

sob – cry
Chapter 20, pages 209-215

Pg 209 without event – without something happening
Pg 209 slack – boring
Pg 209 and spawned ... - H’s walk got everyone talking about making journeys, etc.
Pg 210 crazy paving – driveway
Pg 210 lodged... - waiting behind R’s bushes
Pg 210 unfeasibly – impossibly, unbelievably, very
Pg 210 at ease – comfortable
Pg 210 tangled in a mop – was a messy pile
Pg 210 crept its passage ... – tracked H’s progress across England on Rex’s map
Pg 210 pace – speed
Pg 210 flourishing – success
Pg 210 post/bereft – mail/sad, empty
Pg 211 solitariness – aloneness, being alone
Pg 211 drew/duvet - closed/bedspread
Pg 211 wailed – cried and cried
Pg 211 rang – called
Pg 211 PR representative – public relations worker (someone you hire to make you look good to the public)
Pg 211 marital – marriage
Pg 211 sympathetic picture – the story that would make Maureen look (sound) the best
Pg 211 clients – the people who hire her
Pg 211 B-list – A-list would be the best parties ;)
Pg 211 madder – crazier, more crazy
Pg 212 forwarding address – address for H
Pg 212 paled – lost the color in her face
Pg 212 grief – sadness, tragedy
Pg 212 tumult – upheaval, confusion
Pg 212 spent – used up, worthless
Pg 212 waxen/portly frame – waxy/fat body
Pg 213 raged – gotten very angry
Pg 213 grew low – became depressed or sad
Pg 213 start – look twice, jump
Pg 213 A cold shiver ... - A tingling sensation went up and down her back (excitement, fear)
Pg 214 albums – books of photos
Pg 214 felted – covered
Pg 214 Blotting – holding, stifling
Pg 214 tucked – included
Pg 214 craned – stretched
Pg 214 peering – looking
Pg 214 everyday – ordinary
Pg 214 current – water that is moving quickly
Pg 214 fiddling over – messing around with (David’s shoe laces)
Pg 214 rebuking – criticizing
Pg 214 mad/frignt – crazy/fear
Pg 214 white wash – laundry (white clothes)
Pg 214 festering – sitting there
Pg 214 vigor/ancient – strength/extremely old
Pg 215 I take care ... - I’m careful not to break anything. And I never illegally enter any place (by breaking the lock)
Pg 215 recited – told her
Pg 215 keep up – understand what he was talking about
Pg 215 navigation – getting from one place to another
Pg 215 bewildering – confusing
Pg 215 in turn – when it was her turn to speak
mildly high-pitched – in a somewhat high voice
regretted/bunions – wished were different/foot problems

Chapter 21, pages 216-228

spine – back bone
pace/shoulder – speed/edge of road
ribbon of tarmac – winding road
shimmered – seemed to shake gently
gap/darted – space, break/ran
casting an eye – looking
quivering – shaking
regretted – was sorry
took refuge – stayed (was safe)
due north – straight, exactly north
slight – skinny, small
reflective shades/dodged – sunglasses/ran
Gasping – Out of trainers/fluorescent – tennis shoes/bright
suspended – in the air
object/fallen in – say no/started walking
striking/chattering – walking/talking
bitten to the quick – bitten to the skin
asked for a sign – asked God to send him a signal, or message, about walking with H
dove – a white bird, often in the Bible
pigeon – a common city bird
grass verge – grassy edge (of the road)
cantered – half ran-half skipped
pulled a face/glanced – looked confused/looked

panting – breathing (like the dog was hot)
gamboling/trotting – running/running
shrunk/hedgerow – hid/bushes
trotted – ran, jogged
collar – string or fabric around the neck often with identification hanging from it
fetched – got (ran to get)
reckon – think
sauntering – walking happily
a diversion – another route, another way
trainers – shoes
deadheading – clipping off dead flowers
pilgrim – someone who makes a religious journey
boring – drilling, making
a round of – a few
urged – encouraged, invited
gone mad – become crazy
flint – stone (as a sourvenir)
his hostess – the woman who invited him to dinner
chums/impromptu sherry – friends/sudden wine, unannounced wine
animatedly – with lots of excitement
shrill quality – high sound to it
rucksack – backpack
crammed/blini – stuffed/pancake (food)
get on – go, leave
gazed – looked
tender – emotional
cocktail guests – people at the party
linked – joined
they shared... - they felt connected but really weren’t

elderflower/privet – flowers

bats/flitting – blind night birds/flying

accompany – be with

belched further cloud – blew more smoke

limping – walking unevenly (hurt)

stormfelled elm – fallen tree

dryad’s saddle – mushrooms

fungi – mushrooms (dryad’s saddle)
yelping/gross – screaming/disgusting

moss – a soft, carpet-like plant

pus – liquid (in the blister)

petrol – gas (to light a fire)

impress – be admired by Wilf
Jack-by-the-hedge – a plant

shriek – scream

posted – put

hunched – up by their bodies

acquired – bought, gotten

sulfur tufts/branching oysters – types of mushrooms

embers – small pieces of burning wood

crickets – insects (they could hear)
amused/undergrowth – entertained/weeds

yelped/scurried – barked/ran

solitude – being alone

clenched/screwed – made/tightly closed

shivering – shaking as if he was cold

coaxed – helped

fright – nightmares

fucking freaky – very weird

seeds – beginning
dew – drops of water on the grass

sedge, ribwort – plants

Droplets/gems – drops of water/valuable stones, like diamonds and emeralds

verge – edge of the road

painfully/prone to – very/likely to have

low-combed stratus/cirrus – types of clouds
deduce – figure out, determine, find

greedily – hungrily, with energy

poplar – a type of tree

hunkered – sat

rank/arse – weird, gross/ass, butt

riddle – word puzzle, verbal puzzle

paperweight – heavy, rounded glass to hold papers onto a table

gnome – small statue

bin – trash can

was inclined to retrieve – liked to get

Chapter 22, pages 229-239

turn of events – change in the situation

sends her regards – says hello

surname – last name

winging it – living without a plan

adenoidal ring – sounded like he was talking through his nose

He wore ... - He looked like a professional safari hunter

laid off – fired from his job
bit of a breakdown – became emotionally unstable, had a mental breakdown
moors – open lands
conflict – argument, disagreement
as a consequence – therefore
sulked – pouted, was angry or annoyed
companionable – friendly
insecurity/arrogance – fears/he didn’t care
reconvened – gotten back together
widower – a man whose wife has died
gorilla suit – monkey costume
negotiating his passage – walking
transpired – happened
was prone to … - had times of sadness made worse by the extreme heat of his costume
abandon – leave without
sought him out – looked for him
regretted – felt bad about
accommodate – go as slowly as
torsos – bodies
pledged – vowed, promised
was touched – felt very emotional
tensions – arguments, disagreements
egomaniac – person who thinks too highly of him/herself, narcissist
slept with – had sex with
resolve animosity – stop the fighting
punch-up – fight, fist fight
convert/aggravation – make them believe in God/fighting, arguing
pitched up – set up tents
roadkill – dead animals along the road
sparking off another round – starting more arguments or fights
hay fever – allergies
 pilgrims – fellow people on the journey
gather momentum – get bigger and bigger
Land Rover – a large car (SUV)
hell-bent – extremely determined
obliged – agreed
press – newspapers, TV
run testimonies to – print stories about
spiritualist/aura – holy person/glow
on the verge of – about to
moving account – emotional story
talked him down – talked to him and convinced him not to jump (saved his life)
commit suicide – kill himself
You had to strike… - You should take advantage of opportunities when you have them
congestion of incoherent images – confusion of random pictures
ammunition – bullets, weapons
commissioned placards and bunting – bought lots of decorations
pained/confrontation – upset/fighting
slits – a tiny straight line, barely open
conceded/avoided – decided/stayed away from
Then half the group… - Half of the group got sick from poisonous mushroom Wilf found and thought were safe to eat. Just as they were getting better, they ate too many fresh berries and got diarrhea (runny poop).
berating – yelling at (in his mind)
Pg 236  **distinguish** – be able to tell

Pg 236  **been in touch with/PR** – contacted/Public Relations

Pg 236  **There speaks**... - Just like a man to say that – and it’s crap, or stupid.

Pg 236  **press call** – meeting with reporters from the newspapers

Pg 236  **Miss South Devon** – a beauty pageant winner

Pg 236  **clouded** – made less clear, obscured

Pg 237  **His wife is**... - His wife works to save and protect animals

Pg 237  **taking offense** – getting angry

Pg 237  **en route** – on the way

Pg 237  **playing havoc** – upsetting

Pg 237  **talk up** – brag or boast about

Pg 237  **superfluous** – unnecessary

Pg 238  **blow** – strike, hit, punch

Pg 238  **assumptions** – ideas without facts

Pg 238  **discrepancy** – difference

Pg 239  **pulse quickened** – heart beat faster

Pg 239  **stumbled/bundled** – walked/hugged

Pg 239  **clung** – held H

Pg 239  **affection, albeit** – fondness, even if

Pg 239  **suffocated** – strangled to death

Pg 239  **collapsing** – falling, passing out

**Chapter 23, pages 240-250**

Pg 240  **shades/clutching** – sunglasses/holding

Pg 240  **navigate** – help with directions

Pg 240  **added up** – made sense

Pg 241  **peaky** – sick, ill, pale

Pg 241  **overtaken** ... - passed three trucks and a bus (by speeding)

Pg 241  **ushering** – giving directions to

Pg 241  **stout/shifty** – fat/like a criminal

Pg 241  **Catching sight of** – seeing

Pg 241  **disarmed** – shocked, taken aback

Pg 241  **one-dimensional** – flat, simple

Pg 241  **pered-down vitality** – simple strength

Pg 242  **stopped short** – immediately stopped

Pg 242  **broke free** – left the photo shoot

Pg 242  **prickled** – tickled, lightly touched

Pg 242  **assured** – confident

Pg 242  **fancied** – just felt like

Pg 242  **beamed** – looking very happy

Pg 242  **keen to visit** – interested in visiting

Pg 242  **rigid set** – tightness

Pg 242  **megaphone** – like a speaker to make him louder

Pg 242  **broke the ice** – ended the tension between them

Pg 242  **conspiracy** – secret

Pg 242  **It takes all sorts** – there are all kinds of people in the world

Pg 242  **condescending** – belittling, harsh, mean

Pg 243  **reprimanding** – disciplinary, punishing

Pg 243  **overwhelmingly parochial** – very old-fashioned and English

Pg 243  **cuppa** – cup of tea
Page 243  **Earl Grey** – type of tea
Page 243  **fancy** – imagine
Page 243  **place him** – remember who he was
Page 243  **in the way** – a bother, a problem
Page 243  **beacons** – bright lights
Page 243  **peaks/royal icing** – points/frosting
Page 243  **shrill** – almost crazy
Page 244  **bosom** – breast
Page 244  **flushed** – turned red
Page 244  **mates** – friends
Page 244  **witness/inscribing** – see/writing
Page 244  **flinch** – seem surprised
Page 244  **on me** – for free
Page 244  **swell of kinship** – very close
Page 245  **collision** – crash, bump, hit
Page 245  **retreated** – went
Page 245  **whole lot sloshed** – all of it spilled
Page 245  **gets me** – surprises me
Page 245  **inhale it** – breathe it in
Page 245  **shame of...** - embarrassment of not understanding (H’s journey)
Page 246  **colors** ... - how interesting she was, but instead she felt drab and gray
Page 246  **veins** – blood vessels (tubes)
Page 246  **dislodge** – remove
Page 246  **fit in** – belong in your life
Page 247  **jolly** – happy
Page 247  **callused/slight** – rough/small, fragile
Page 247  **numb** – unable to feel anything
Page 248  **flash** – hurry, quickly
Page 248  **lodged** – in the way

Page 248  **parted the blanket of** – interrupted
Page 248  **murmured** – said quietly
Page 248  **trousers** – pants
Page 249  **sunk** – hung
Page 249  **met her eye** – looked at her
Page 249  **blushed** – turned red
Page 249  **gulps/weeping** – swallows/crying
Page 249  **dabbed** – touched (to wipe away tears)
Page 249  **twisted/ignition** – turned/car’s starter
Page 250  **throw a wave** – wave at him
Page 250  **took them to the charity shop** – gave them away to the poor

**Chapter 24, pages 251-263**

Page 251  **wasn’t sure he preferred** – thought he might prefer
Page 251  **party/hospice** – group/hospital
Page 251  **ring** – call (Maureen)
Page 251  **progress of her runner beans** – how her beans were growing (in her garden)
Page 252  **empathy** – concern, understanding
Page 252  **in his gut** – deep inside himself
Page 252  **playing up** – bothering him
Page 252  **chorused** – said together
Page 252  **a shitload/sprinting** – a lot/running
Page 252  **jitters** – shakes (his body shaking)
Page 252  **skewered** – with a stick through it
Page 253  **taken to/rodent** – started/small animal
Page 253  **put H off** – made H not want
Page 253  **strolled/crickets** – walked slowly/insects
Page 253  **cold wave** – fresh feeling
grave concerns – big worries

to voice – to say out loud

hang on – keep living

In light/reconnaissance party –
Because/group to go ahead and get information

fasting – not eating

not up to – can’t continue

call a spade a spade – speak the truth

talk crap – say stupid things

had gone – had been taken, was gone

anecdotes – stories

gaunt/infuriating yelp – thin/frustrating sound

let the boy down – not taken care of Wilf

water mint/cress – plants to eat

flaky – unpredictable, scatter-brained

frills – extras, compliments

confided – admitted a secret

betrayal – lack of loyalty, letting down

clever – smart

top marks – good grades

backfire on – work against

no-hoper – student with no hope (of getting good grades)

brusque/stalwart bulk – rough/solid largeness

tap into it – find it

ex – ex-husband, former husband

flexed – bent

quicken – beat harder

mop – clean

link – connection

Gripping – holding

tugging him... - pulling him away

disturbed – not in his right mind

Glancing/impression – looking/memory

willow/flicker – type of tree/move

Spikes of... - Different flowers

nocturnal game of tag – night time running and chasing game

greatcoat – a nice dressy coat

ranged – thought about many things

infinitesimal – many, many, many

rolling her eyes – an eye movement upwards that shows disgust

compact mirror – the mirror in a woman’s small, round make-up container

catching her eye – getting her attention

flutter – tremble, shake, be unsteady

summoned – found

burst out – immediately began

dimple – indentation, crease

absence of all – without any

shreds – tiny pieces

anguish – deep sorrow

bundle – package

As the profile... - As they came to

bunions – painful bumps on the foot

Flummoxing – Confusing, surprising

detour via Hexam – go out of their way to stop by Hexam

envy – jealousy, desire, wanting

man enough – strong enough
you lot can’t... - you all can’t see the big picture (the important things)

renge on that – not keep his promise

dying embes of the fire – last bits of the dying fire

break free – go off without H

smoldering embes – dying sticks

could almost doubt – wondered if

hunched – bent forward

persuaded/pres ahead – convinced/go on

swallows/skimming – birds/flying over

dying embers of the fire – the important things

flared – got angry

da splinter – another, a separate

campaigning – talking

campaigning – talking

dying embers of the fire – last bits of the dying fire

for her sake – for her benefit

He threw a large... - He waved enthusiastically with both hands

dispute – argument

bin – trash can

wearier – more tired

buzzer/host – doorbell/friend

flat/on holiday – apartment/on vacation

declined – said no to

quay/nuzzling – water/rubbing, kissing

party/troupe – group/group

footage – film (on TV)

renge on that – not keep his promise

endearing – sweet

Ovaltine – hot chocolate

brief reference to – quick mention of

shrinking – moving away

elderly Devon pilgrim = Harold

fatigue/retire from – extreme tiredness/give up on, stop

step in – take H’s place

scoffed – was angry

clasped – joined

moved – emotionally touched

jostling crowd – active group

shot – view, picture

placards/slogan – posters/message

pacing – walked back and forth in

sweeping him under the carpet – getting rid of him, ignoring him

pursed – pushed his lips out, puckered

Chapter 24, pages 264-276

taken up/refreshed – started again/ready

sucked on mints – ate candy

bypass/fringes – go around/edges

bins – trash cans

allotments – properties, areas

obliged – agreed

a passerby – someone on the road

greyhound – a type of dog

wept – cried
heaved – shoved, went
rigid/skittered – stiff/scattered, played
cavernous – hollow and empty (like a cave)
fragility – weakness, smallness
nicks/skull – cuts/head
shiver – shake (as if from cold)
gain momentum – get stronger
fellowship with – comfort in
His need for warmth... - The wind and cold did not even notice his need to be warm
to the core – to his middle, down to his bones
wherewithal – strength
flat, subdued/violently accusing – mild/strong
dwelt on – thought about
souvenirs – gifts, remembrances
arduous – hard, difficult
impression – lasting impact
a shower of panic – afraid
retraced his steps – went back the way he had come from
scouring/gutters – looking carefully/sides of the road
registered its presence – seen the dog
waving down cars – motioning cars to stop
for it – to do
stowed – put
cracks/compelled – light/as if he must
diversions – side trips, paths away from his route
crest – top
Deprived of – without
conjure up – imagine
fringe/flopped – hair/fell
fixing a jigsaw – looking at a jigsaw puzzle
scampering/shelter – running/safety
expansive/glanced – big/looked
gauge/advanced – guess/gone forward
waves of turf – rolling hills
a wonder they stayed up – surprising that they stayed upright (didn’t fall down)
despair – sadness
flexing – moving
limbs – arms and legs
absorbed in – surrounded by
thought better of – felt differently about
gave a gulp – swallowed hard
gorse/bracken – plants
reining in – carefully choosing her
work out – figure out, understand
queuing – lining up
being sick/gutter – vomiting/street
cowered – hid
handset – phone
slapped happy sun shapes – predicted sunny weather
gravity – seriousness
porter – hotel worker
on his behalf – for him
chap – man (the porter)
with a start – suddenly
groped/trouser – put/pants
lift – elevator
unbolted – unlocked
his breath … - his breath hurt
kiosk – phone booth
so vast … - so big that not having the compass felt like it was there
unconsciousness – sleep
waited in – stayed in the house
to no avail – but he didn’t call
tortured her – bothered her very much
Her bamboo stakes... - Her garden was a mess
reckoning – reasoning
resolved to ring – decided to call
surrendered – would give up
keeping vigil – staying awake

Chapter 26, pg. 277-283
stretch – part of the journey
flared up/limp – gotten worse/walk unevenly
surrender – giving up
flailing with an axe – waving an axe
ripped/splintered – torn/cut
shorn – cut
plodded – continued slowly
bulging – bump
bound – covered
a will – ideas
brow/fringed – top/edged
diversions – side trips, distractions
unassuming/flanked – ordinary/edged
wheeled and barked – flew

Chapter 27, pages 284-286
tie the noose – make the circle of rope that goes around the neck
verdict/suicide – decision/he killed himself
bear – handle, deal with
coroner’s report – the findings of the medical person who determines the cause of death
God knows – who knows? I don’t even know
out of it – drunk
dismantled – took apart, dis-assembled
brewery – where Harold and Queenie work
took the blame – allowed people to think she had done the terrible thing that H did
on the spot – immediately
knew what was good for her – wanted to be safe (it’s like a threat)
overheard/landlady – heard/apartment manager or owner
forwarding address – the address where Queenie was moving to

Chapter 28, pages 287-293
gulls – birds
inactive – doing nothing
sallow-faced – not especially pretty
threshold/lank – doorstep/limp, straight
flapjacks – pancakes
fans and journalists – people wanting to see H or get information about him
been obliged – needed
fidgety and anxious – nervous
strand – little bit
gnawed – chewed
Salsa for... - an advertisement for a dance class for people over 60 years old
weeping – crying
wrenched – torn
lacerating/incomprehensible – painful/hard to understand
crease – fold
posted – put
Moved – inspired
confession – saying he did something wrong
betray – be disrespectful to
bawled – cried very hard
saliva – spit (water from the mouth)
fraud – fake person, liar
sob/plunged/handkerchief – cry/put/cloth
She went – She died
tremendous jolt – big shake
dug – pushed
jaw shot – lower chin bone moved
got hold of you – has you (if you have cancer)
terminal – deadly, incurable
trudging – walking slowly
shiver – cold feeling that made her shake
pummeled – beat, tapped
racking shame – huge embarrassment
tugging – pulling
dignified – elegant, respectful
bin – trash can
faltered – had trouble continuing
it had been otherwise – the truth was different, she had made different choices
find comfort – feel better
broken into – gone in without permission, like a thief or burglar
intrude – interrupt
put two and two together – realized what had happened, figured it out
grief – deep sadness
smithereens – a million pieces
hell-bent on revenge – determined to be mean back to the person who smashed his clowns
dabbed – touched (probably with a Kleenex)
thrown off balance – confused
dusting – cleaning
vicious thug – mean, violent person
limp – weak
suffer – feel miserable, feel terrible
walk out on – leave
moaned/rocking – cried/holding
mend – fix
persuaded – asked, convinced
municipal – city, public
lavatories – bathrooms
the bulk – most
prickles/odd tuft – little pieces, occasional patch of hair/beard
flesh/bleached – skin/white
disconnected from the leathery – not attached to the hard
rucksack/hospice – backpack/hospital for people who are dying
hollowed out – empty
tarmac – driveway or sidewalk
buzzer/groped – doorbell/felt
Before him stood a woman... - dressed like a nun (a religious Christian woman)
nun – Christian woman
at the roots – near her head
threshold – entryway
duct tape – tape around his shoes
disinfectant – cleaning supplies
ram – kick
applause – clapping, cheering
loose silhouette – outline, shadow
corridor – hallway
cropped – cut
fixed his gaze - looked
surge of dread – feeling that something bad was about to happen
reducing to – becoming
frail – weak
trainers – sneakers, tennis shoes
a crack/peered – a tiny bit/looked
drawn – closed
wooden cross – a Christian symbol
at its foot – at the end of the bed (where your feet are)
giddying wave – exciting feeling
slight profile – small shape
peered – looked
withdraw – moved back
throbbing – beating hard
gave way – collapsed, fell down
at bay – far away
ventured – risked going
seed head – seedling, baby plant
A shell – an empty body
retreat – leave
struck still – unable to move, immobile
protruded – stuck out, extended
erupt – break through
tugging – pulling
groaned – made a low, painful sound
snatched/glance/gargantuan – stole/look/huge
bulbous mass – round ball
threadlike veins and bruising – red and ugly, as if she had been hit hard
rooted – searched
quartz – glass, crystal
It dawned on him – he realized
pendant – necklace
More brutal ... – More evidence of how weak she was
morgue – the part of a hospital where dead bodies are kept
tugged/yank – pulled/hard pull
look after – take care of
take over – take care of Queenie
hooking under... - putting her (the nurse’s) arms under Queenie’s arms and lifting her
will – desire
catch up – talk to each other
cuppa – cup of tea
slotted – put
sends her... - says hello
conjured – brought
break the ice – begin the conversation
envied her... - was jealous of how sure (confident) she was of herself
stir – rising up
funeral director’s/coffin – person who plans a dead person’s burial/box to be buried in
torching – burning
passerby – someone passing by H
nicotine – an ingredient in cigarettes
rubbish bin – trash can
bitter stench of decay – the awful smell of rotting food
so animal in its intensity – so strong and so much like an animal
struck still, ... - unable to move, still leaning over the trash can
funeral parlor – the room (parlor) in the building where people come to see someone who has died
reverberate – vibrate, go
heaved a white ... - threw up
whole being – whole self, all of her
hovered/bin – stayed/trash can
cremation – burning a body after death
mourners – people at a funeral or burial
prying – looking in at them
railed – yelled, got angry
made a pact that would oblige them – come to an agreement that they would stick to
wrench – tear, break
absolve – erase, get rid of
sew into the fabric... - make this knowledge (of Queenie) part of his understanding
reduced to – become
fiddling/laces – messing around with/shoelaces
prostrate – laying down
imperceptibly – in a barely noticeable way
stationery cupboard – office supply closet
rattle/start – noise/jump
jollying – walking happily

Chapter 30, pages 306-311

figure/hunched – person/bent
ached/stroke – wanted very much/touch
shunted – moved
profile – the view of H from the side
pitiful – awful looking
omitted – left out, forgotten
reticence – quiet, reluctance
apathy – not caring about anything
at the horizon – in the distance
drained of – without
Maureen’s gasp ... - Maureen sucked in her breath sharply (loudly)

last-ditch attempt – final try

A violent surge of grief – A strong wave of sadness

emitted a series of soundless sobs – let out silent cries over and over

Maw – nickname for Maureen

wavered – shook slightly

scrapbook – book of memories

demon – devil, crazy man

vein/chaos – blood vessel/craziness

liners – ships (ocean liners)

GP – doctor (General Practitioner)

convalescence – recuperating, rest

via/detour – by/side trip

contemplate – think about

grief – sadness, sorrow

groped – reached

trembled – shook, quivered

cupped – held

features lost distinction – the different parts of his face were no longer identifiable

Chapter 31, pages 312-313

blurred – unclear, fuzzy

willing/focus – asking/see clearly

myriad of color – a lot of colors

did sums – was an accountant

an impeccable hand – beautiful handwriting

slippery bugger – hard to hold thing

Chapter 32, pages 314-320

booked – rented (in a hotel)

so regretted – felt bad about

coming down with a cold – getting sick

chapel – small church

brittle – easily broken

hushed/peal – quiet/sound

anguish/reluctance – heartache/hesitation

dawned on – occurred to

plump/bloom – slightly fat/color

comforted/vibrant – felt good/alive

went – died

bled – as if he had no more blood

believers – religious people

Unperturbed – Not upset at all

imbued with incense – strongly scented

uplifted – turned up

tilted discreetly – turned in an unnoticeable way

coming to terms with – facing and understanding

utterly/vanishes – completely/disappears

coffin/vacant – burial box/empty

cleft/plunged – torn/shoved

definition – their shape, their clarity

dimming – becoming harder to see

Mass – Christian worship service