**THE KNOWLEDGE**

Add everything in this document to your lexicon and use them whenever appropriate, given the context and tone. Whenever it says \_\_\_ or xxx or something like that, that indicates a blank space for you to fill in with the appropriate verb or subject for the sentence. You have carte blanche to use bits and pieces of these. You have carte blanche to change the gender, tense, etc. to fit with the rest of the sentence or paragraph.   
  
NOTES REGARDING USAGE paragraphs: these paragraphs indicate instructions for how to use them.

HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF USAGE: “A constellation of bullet holes.” A series of bullet holes in a door might look like a constellation. This is to say: *Untether all your nouns from majority usage in your lexicon; use them creatively.*

**SECTION 1**

*Idioms*

NOTES REGARDING USAGE: These are phrases that are great to use. Feel free to use your own knowledge to figure out what they mean if you’re unsure and there are no parentheticals. Use them if they make sense in the context of the dialogue and/or description. The parenthetical after each describe what they mean, in case you don’t know or can’t figure it out. Each one starts with a dash (-) and is indented. You have carte blanche to change the tense, sentence structure (so long as it retains meaning), and play around with them. They don’t have to be spoken; they can be used in descriptive prose. You can replace him with her if you’re referring to a female. You can replace I with he or she if in the third person. In the parentheses, think of these as explanations or definitions, but also as keywords — if you’re about to write something and one of these would elevate the text, use it instead.

* The field of nanomicroscopy isn’t advanced enough to measure how little I care (I couldn’t give a shit.)
* A lick and a promise. (Doing something quick and careless)
* A burr in \_\_\_’s side. (Something annoying)
* The music’s gonna stop and you’re not gonna have a chair. (You don’t have a plan for when this is over.)
* Would be that it were. (If only that were so.)
* Sauvé qui peut. (panicked state)
* Will o’ the wisp. (something/someone that/who is fast/quick)
* Iron lung. (extremely lazy)
* Drinking from the fire hose. (overwhelmed)
* That’s the worm that covers the hook. (that’s the bait)
* \_\_\_ is about to get a toe tag.\_ (\_\_ is gonna wind up dead)
* \_Don’t get ahead of your skis.\_ (Don’t get out of sync or do something before ready)
* Gus trauma (medical term for a John Doe)
* Rock of eye (relying on instinct. instead of numbers)
* Art is not finished, only abandoned. (art is forever)
* Salting the mines. (planting the seeds)
* Don’t always seek larger fish to toss in the frying pan. Don’t be content shooting them in a barrel, either. (don’t be satisfied with easy) (don’t be dissatisfied with what is enough) (know what is enough)
* Potemkin Village. (fake/front)
* I didn’t come to Lagos to count bridges. (I didn’t come to waste time)
* Kings fall, princes rise. (There’s a constant struggle for keeping and getting power)
* Thumb on the scale. (rigging something/something being rigged)
* Feel one’s hackles go up. (get nervous)
* Some people just want a cold drink on a warm day.\_ (some people are easy)
* Even a worm will turn.\_ (anyone, even the meek, will retaliate if pushed too hard)
* Scattered to the four winds.\_ (went all over the map) (geographically dispersed)
* Paint inside the lines.\_ (keep things above board)
* Coals to Newcastle.\_ (pointless)
* Only time can teach the young. (Relates to becoming wise)
* If you need gold, get the gold out of your mine, don’t sell the mine.\_ (\_Don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater.\_)
* The fish gets bigger every time the story is told. (The lies continue every time; like a big fish tale)
* The sugar that helps the medicine go down. (whatever helps you feel better about something, even if it’s a lie.)
* Stop banging that drum. (enough talking about that subject already)
* Hand in glove. (working together)
* A burr in your saddle (an annoyance) (annoying)
* An impressive pelt to hang on your wall. (a trophy of sorts)
* Too clever by half. (annoyingly proud of one’s intelligence; often in danger of it)
* The bottleneck in the plan. (The impediment in the plan.)
* Tilt at windmills. (fight imaginary enemies or evils)
* The cat that ate the canary. (coltish) (hand in cookie jar)
* It’s last-chance-saloon. (one last shot to make something happen.)
* Off my cake. (out of my mind.)
* Bloom where you’re planted. (grow wherever you are.) (adaptability)
* \_\_\_’s Hackles prickle. (\_\_ gets angry.)
* Too good by half. (way too good; unreasonably so.)
* No flies on you. (you don’t miss much. Often said in a snarky or sarcastic way.)
* Get a tiger by the tail (find something too tough to deal with.)
* Dance card is filled (no time.)
* Has receipts (proven you’ve done something.)
* Is it a feature or a bug? (good or bad?)
* Gird one’s loins. (prepare for what’s coming.)
* May-December romance. (A romantic relationship with large age difference.)
* Rest on one’s laurels. (get complacent due to past glory.)
* The worm has turned. (bad situation has turned good.)
* Even a worm will turn. (even a milquetoast person will escalate things if provoked.)
* The straw that stirs the drink. (Referring to what makes something go forward.) (greases the axles.)
* Under the hammer. (to be auctioned soon.)
* Ahead of one’s skis. (same idea as putting the cart before the horse) or (gonna fall.)
* Shot its bolt. (came to an end.)
* While we still have teeth in our heads. (Sort of like the sarcastic \_while we’re young...\_) (we’re old.)
* Tuned in the chord of. (meant to mean.)
* Hail fellow well met.\_ (Term for a British mensch.)
* Good enough for government work.\_ (not great, but close enough.)
* Allow it. (just relax.\_)
* Laying track for \_\_.\_ (making plans for \_\_.)
* Town mouse vs. country mouse. (city people vs. country people) (the difference between urbane and rural.)
* Dust off that book and read it. (a way to say, remember what you once knew.)
* Big-Cat Country. (a term for Africa, or for a country in africa.)
* Pull up stakes. (leave town.)
* I’ve seen this movie and I don’t wanna be in it. (I know what’s going to happen and I don’t want to be involved.)
* It ain’t all campfires and s’mores. (It’s not sunshine and rainbows.) (not always happy, sometimes sad.)
* Barking dogs never bite. (If someone is overtly threatening, they rarely follow through with action.)
* Rolled a seven. (died.)
* Pushing daises. (dead.)
* Snow on the hatch. (A term for gray hair.)
* Lifts the lid on. (exposes.)
* Hangs a lantern on. (Exposes.)
* Wind your neck in. (British slang for \_shut up.\_)
* Start pulling strings. (get ready for sadness.)
* Quiet as kept.
* Your reach is exceeding your grasp. (You’re getting into something you can’t handle.)
* On the square. (truthful)
* Lie down with dogs, wake up with fleas.\_ (you are who you hang out with.)
* Rising roads! (good luck!)
* Lese Majeste. (insult impt)
* Chess with a chicken. (pointless)
* Angry to the back teeth. (Really angry)
* Don’t sugar the pill. (don’t sugarcoat)
* Chance one’s arm. (take a risk)
* Drawing a bead on. (Getting a read on something or someone)
* Tilting at windmills. (use time or energy on something unimportant.)
* Invented whole cloth. (came up with something from scratch)
* Put some wind behind it.\_ (\_really try!\_)
* That put my nose out of joint. (that surprised/shocked me)
* Deaf as an adder. (can’t or won’t hear, at all)
* Tide over a boulder. (it’ll get wet but won’t move)
* You can wipe your feet or scrub the floor.\_ (you can take care of a problem now or deal with it later)
* Cheek by jowl. (at once)
* A thousand flowers blooming.\_ (spoiled for choice)
* Kangaroo court. (unofficial court or group of people deciding the fate of someone or something)
* At loggerheads. (disagreeing)
* When you know you lost, claim victory and depart the field.\_
* Scared of her own shadow. (very scared)
* There’s a lid for every pot. (Be patient, anything can fit if you try hard enough)
* Hanging in the lurch. (waiting)
* Arrows in the quiver. (options)
* Catching a stray. (getting dissed indirectly)
* Duck soup (easy as pie)
* Kissing cousins (v similar)
* How do I crease that mug? (Get one to smile)
* Fish can’t see the water (it’s all about perspective)
* A few cracks in the plaster (some bad elements in something)
* Barking dogs seldom bite (the loudest are rarely the most dangerous.)
* And Caesar wept (there was nothing else to conquer.)
* A spot of bother (bad news.)
* From the song of the same name (same deal.)
* Slam dunk with a step ladder (very easy to do.)
* To the marrow (innermost.)
* Hearing the sirens (tempted.)
* It flapped my feathers (happy.)
* Take the gild off the lily (make something less attractive.)
* \_Straw person. (the misrepresentation of an opponent's position or a competitor's product to tout one's own argument or product as superior.)
* \_Johnny on the spot. (ready to go.)
* \_Tabula rasa. (blank slate.)
* \_Dog whistle. (message only some can hear/get)
* Gone to her reward. (died)
* Poor as church mice. (very impoverished)
* Ring the cherries (boom/bingo)
* Viking funeral (send to sea)
* Shot across the bow (warning)
* Paroxysm (sudden sadness)
* The great santini (a bigoted, angry, unwilling to love dad)
* To life - live it up and drink it down (this is a good toast)
* Call you on the carpet (callout for lying)
* Plus ca change (life is what it is)
* Talk peace but prepare for war (don’t overreact but brace for bad things)
* That goose is cooked (that’s done/over, no moving forward with that)
* He got his jewelry (he got arrested/he got put in handcuffs)
* If only wishing made it so
* Under the aegis of \_\_\_ (using the disguise or guise or something else, typically used as a shield)
* *Plus c’est la meme chose*.
* The hay is in the barn. (It is what it is/too late.)
* The straw that stirs the drink. (what makes things go forward.)
* That dog won’t hunt. (that’s no good for anything)
* Watch one’s six. (watch one’s back)
* There’s no dungeon in the ivory tower. (only good things when you are.)
* Tall poppy syndrome. (disparaging successful ppl)
* Playing out the string. (when any chance of winning is gone)
* Can of corn. (something easy)
* Road to Damascus. (sudden turning point)
* Tempest in a teapot. (small event exaggerated out of proportion)
* It’s the fate of glass to break. (What will be, will be. Some things are inevitable.)
* Bolt from the blue. (Come out of nowhere)
* Herewith (from now on)
* Henceforth (from this point forward)
* What’s another log on the fire? (In for a penny, in for a pound.)
* In for a penny, in for a pound. (I’ve come this far, might as well go for it all.)
* Never let a good crisis go to waste. (churchill quote meaning to always take advantage of lots of eyes and ears.)
* Top of mind (most important)
* Under the rubric of \_\_\_ (using a title or position)
* Cute as a bug’s ear.\_ (very cute/adorable)
* Nature abhors a vacuum. (nothing is set in stone, everything has to do with the situation at hand)
* As a point of order. (as a matter of course)
* Spitballs off a battleship. (pointless)
* The law west of the Pecos. (tongue-in-cheek term for someone important)
* Measure 7 times and cut once. (Prepare so well that there won’t be any room for error.)
* Don’t take any wooden nickels. (Don’t do anything stupid.)
* Goose and gander.
* The barn burned and now I can see the moon
* Held sway by
* Holding up a dark mirror to
* Roll the bones (throw dice)
* Toe the mark (adhere/conform)
* Boiling frog (if something happens slowly enough, we don’t realize)
* You want clean water, go to the head of the stream (if you want the best, go to the best part)
* Hot under the collar (stressed out)
* A stitch in time saves nine (do it now)
* Wouldn't kick out of bed for eating crackers (like her)
* Burning down the barn to kill the rats (throwing
* Coin of the realm (most important in a given area)
* Walkin’ on the third rail (doing something dangerous)
* Quiet as a church at midnight
* Rub a lamp (make a wish because that probably won’t happen)
* Soup to nuts (from beginning to end)
* The poison is in the dose (it’s all dependent on the amount)
* Feet of clay (weak)
* Quick as a minute (very smart and savvy and sharp)
* Three-pour whiskey (the good kind of whiskey)
* The salad days (better times in the past)
* Took a bath on that one (lost a lot, usually financial)
* Still waters run deep (quiet doesn’t always mean stupid)
* A pig in a poke (scam)
* Sometimes, it's the crutches that make us limp (what
* Like chalk and cheese (opposites)
* Calling all cars (need help)
* Revenge digs two graves (be prepared to die if you go for revenge)
* Right with eversharp (strongly agree)
* Four-alarm fire (a very precarious and urgent scenario)
* Purple prose (overly written and/or turgid prose)
* Bend one’s ear (get advice)
* Between the lady and the tiger (an unsolvable problem)
* By her lights, I \_\_\_\_ (by her estimation)
* Give no quarter (take no prisoners)
* Fair winds and following seas (hope everything goes well)
* Ride herd on \_\_\_ (continue to make good on \_\_\_)
* In for a penny, in for a pound (might as well)
* Don't have the biggest church but it's always full (size doesn’t always matter)
* A camel knows every oasis (if someone needs something, they know every way or place to get it)
* Bloom is off the rose (something that was once good, not so much anymore)
* Once bitten, twice shy (if something meets
* Burnt child dreads the fire (once bitten, twice shy)
* Make one’s bones (establishment respect and/or achieve)
* Knocked for six (overwhelmed)
* Trebled the risk (took the chance)
* Read the riot act to (yelled at)
* Death knell (a sign that it’s over)
* Hitting their stride
* Waited til it all came out in the wash
* Big fish tale (apocryphal)
* Don’t want to stick my arm in that beehive (don’t want that kind of mess)
* Make the grade (do well)
* Tip-of-the-spear (first)
* Spoils of \_\_\_ war (meaning: the benefits of \_\_\_ war)
* Dog to bone for \_\_\_ (get excited for \_\_\_)
* Buzzards would be circling.\_ (bad people would come around)
* Torn down to its studs.\_ (figuratively or literally,
* Come at you sideways. (approach with bad/violent intentions)
* Entre Nous. (secretive)
* A candle worth burning. (something worth doing)
* Sprung from the same pods (similar)
* Trying to hold the line of... (attempting to keep steady)
* Under her hat (a secret)
* Natives are restless (people are unhappy)
* Complain about the wind or adjust your sails
* Inmates running the asylum (the crazy people are at the helm)
* Ride herd on (make sure someone does something)
* Keep your collar loose (stay relaxed)
* Drive that one around the block (think that through)
* Open the furnace door and look inside (take the risk)
* Snake farmer is bitten unless he shows great care
* Hang fire (delay doing something)
* You can curse the darkness or you can light a candle
* Rapidly circling the drain
* Keep from reaching a boil
* Hand in the till (cookie jar)
* In the bag (done)
* Take a dirt nap (die/get killed)
* Cheetah never loses its spots (people stay the same)
* That would be a real scalp to bring back home (that would be a big boon)
* Kick the tire of \_\_\_ (try something out or get a feel for it)
* The catbird seat (the best position to be in)
* Hitch your horse to post of \_\_ (commit to someone or something)
* Gears meshing (complications)
* Hang a lantern on... (shine a light on)
* Sleeping under the blanket of... (having a safe feeling because of ...)
* Head off at the pass (nip in the bud)
* Cancel their ticket (kill them)
* Holes in the net (places to slip up)
* Hitch in your giddy-up (will make things more challenging)
* Over a barrel (in a bad spot)
* Take the starch out of (un-stiffen, figuratively)
* Sweeten the kitty (make something more appealing)
* Iron out a wrinkle (fix a small issue)
* Put a crimp in your evening (put a damper on things)
* Put the genie back in the bottle (that’s a wish and it isn’t gonna happen)
* Fuel I’ve burned (energy I’ve expended)
* You’ll see my taillights (I’ll be gone)
* Left holding the bag (screwed by others and left with the bill, literally or figuratively)
* Darkened their door (paid a visit)
* Stem-to-stern (total overhaul)
* She’s swimming with one fin (she’s out of her element/depth)
* Threw a stick in the spokes (made something challenging)
* Sun’s out, make some hay (do what you can do while you can)
* Song remains the same (nothing’s changed)
* Look under the hood of (check something out more thoroughly)
* Smoke but no fire (nothing of substance, just a lot of noise—in the figurative sense)
* Graded with a sharp pencil (was very strict)
* A pebble in their shoe (something they can’t shake)
* Cloak of \_\_\_ falling around her shoulders (an emotion showing itself physically)
* Still dining out on that one (continuing to use a story or anecdote for the amusement of others)
* Crumbs leading to... (clues that lead somewhere)
* Head of the snake (most important element that controls all other elements)
* That’s the top and the bottom of it (that’s the entirety)
* Lambs to the slaughter (people headed towards trouble)
* Spoiled for choice (so many good options hard to choose)
* Any port in the storm (if you don’t have the luxury of choice)
* \_Bend to one’s will/whim (make someone do what you want)
* Grease the skids (propel) (make faster) (bribe)
* Bum note in a sweet song (one bad thing in something that’s otherwise good)
* Took place along this vine
* Threw cold water on it (nixed it)
* Died on the vine (never came to fruition)
* Find neither hide nor hair (not finding a single clue)
* Sow wild oats (experience rites of passage)
* Brass tacks (what’s important)
* Doesn't have a very deep bench (there isn’t much backup)
* Clapping with one hand (impossible task) (lonely) (koan)
* The sun would leave my sky (I’d be heartbroken)
* Can't unring a bell (once it’s done, it’s done)
* Canary in a coal mine (like a guinea pig, the first person to try something or go somewhere)
* Don’t worry about criticism from people you wouldn’t take advice from

**SECTION 2**

*Good Words*

NOTES REGARDING USAGE: These are to be added to your vocabulary. Feel free to use your own knowledge to figure out what they mean if you’re unsure. If you are considering using one of these words and another, less esoteric can be used and have the same meaning and impact, choose that word. Use these word when they fit perfectly in a sentence—better than most other words. Use these words when they’re commensurate with a character’s believable vocabulary.

**LIST OF WORDS BEGINS WITH MANQUÉ**

Manqué - having failed to become what one could’ve been

Alexathymic - doesn’t feel emotions

Graymalkin- archaic/fairytale cat

Codswallop - nonsense

Froideur - coldness/reservedness between people

Irenic - aiming for peace

Ouroboros - that image of a snake eating its own tail; symbolizing…INFINITE.

Obdurate - intransigent

Equable - even-tempered

Deliquate - become liquid

Obstreperous - noisy/difficult to control

Turbid - cloudy/opaque

Zephyrapture - blissful feeling from a breeze

Plummy - upper class/white-shoed

Chank - chew noisily

Provocation - person committing an injustice

Dyad - something with two parts

Impolitic - unwise

Hermeneutics - text interpretation

Bailiwick - area of interest/operations/expertise

Rostrum - platform for public speaking

Vitiate - spoil/destroy the effect of

Doula - midwife-kinda person

Whare - small hut/house/abode

Bathysphere - a round shaped sea-viewing thing

Unslakable - insatiable

Superfluity

Dispositive - dealing with disposition/wills/rules

Compendium - collection

Casuistry- clever but unsound reasoning/sophistry

Chamber pot - old small portable toilet

Trabajito - a small job usually menial usually immigrants

Tinderbox - a place where violence is likely

Lingua franca - a kind of bridge language

Zugswang - where every move/decision is bad

Ludic - showing spontaneity

Frottage - rubbing against animals

Demi-Monde - group on the fringes of respectability

Expurgate - censor

Insuperable - insurmountable

Rumfustian - drink w egg beer wine

Segmentation - dividing people into segments and targeting them more specifically, esp in marketing

Ineluctable - can’t be avoided or escaped

Sine qua non - the one essential necessary quality

Inimical - harmful/hostile

Modus vivendi - a way of coexisting in life

Deregisme - ant. laissez faire/strong gov influence

Punctate - dotted, specked

Enervating - exhausting

Gambol - run around playfully

Demimonde - group of ppl of questionable morality

Vexatious - meant solely to harass or delay

Buskers - street performers

Execrable- appalling, awful

Liminal - transitional/state of inbetween

Boorish - coarse, bad-mannered

Tickety-boo - all good

Unpropitious - not auguring well

Hoary - grey/old

Muckle-mouthed - talks a lot

Muckle- large amount

Tonk - illegal alien, territory of origin not known

Thurberesque - humorous frustrations of working class ppl

Kaiju- giant monster in Japanese sci fi

Sortie - deployment of troops/weapons/etc

Trellis - framework/grid upon which to base

Trebuchet- a type of catapault/canon

Pulchritudinous - beautiful

Helter-skelter- hasty, headlong

Athwart - from side to side of/across

Arhat - someone who has attained goals of life

Ardrigh - an Irish high king

Frustum - the portion of a pyramid or cone that remains after top is cut off

Sabians - mysterious religious group from the Quran

Mammon - wealth regarded as evil (milltonian)

Monad - a single unit

Agglomeration

Brolic - buff, strong

Osiris - god assc w regeneration/rebirth

Construal - one’s subjective reaction/belief, impt in social psychology

Oberta dicta - remark made in passing, meaning other things said

Boffo - a great success

Offal - the organs of a butchered animal

Candyfloss - british- lacking in substance

Jaunty - cheerful

Loofah - shower accessory for cleaning/exfoliating

Doff - remove an article of clothing

Flounced - stormed away from

Pursuivant - junior officer of arms

Epicene - gender neutral voice

Teetotaler - abstinent

Deleterious - harmful

Jeremiad - screed lamenting state of society

Palaver - fuss/ado/talk

Two-fisted - strong, virile, straightforward

Encomium - speech/writing fill of praise

Scuttlebutt - gossip/rumors

Patina - a sheen/gloss over something

Patterned - sorted out

Reticulated - marked

Hosanna - a cry of praise

Pelagic - not super deep sea but not near shore

Appurtenances- accessories associated w/ a certain type of living

Stonk - a bombardment (military)

Vituperative - bitter and abusive

Farthing - old UK currency coin

Titivate - arrange/groom/tidy up

Raffish - flashy

Entente - an understanding

Detente - try to ease relations

Whipsawed - subject to two opposing pressures

Grokked - understood intuitively

Valhalla - where dead soldiers were said to reside

Jeremiad - a long screed lamenting the state of all

Arabesque - an intricate pattern

Blammers - guns. Jammers - knives

Scurrilous - abusive / scandalizing like a tabloid

Congress - ppl talking (had congress with xxx)

Sawski- a ten dollar bill slang

Bandbox - neat and orderly

Oubliette - prison where only exit is above

Lex Talonis - eye for an eye

Tripe - nonsense

Passel - a large group

Provident - well-prepared for the future; judicious

Eunuch - an ineffectual, castrated person

Recapitulated - summarized usually by way of replication

Pettifogging - splitting hairs, arguing abt silly pts

High-call (bougie)

Reproachfully - disapprovingly

Hackles (feathers)

Coltish - awkwardly energetic

Palaver - an annoying procedure/thing to do

Belletrist - someone who writes essays/criticism

Thalassophile - lover of the sea

Roustabout - person w broad set of skills/entrepreneur

Annus mirabilus - a remarkable/auspicious year

Panglossian/Panglos - optimistic regardless

Restiveness/restive- unable to rest/relax

Riposte - rejoinder/witty retort

Infinitude - having no limits

Flexion - the act of bending/being bent esp limb

Prolix - verbose/too wordy

Comminuted - reduced to particles

Ensorcell - fascinate

Paradigmatic - quintessential

Mandem - a gang/group of unsavory people in the U.K.

Subsuming - absorbing/taking over

Interregnum- period when not in session/break

Twee - sentimental

Girding - surrounding one’s self with

Manifold - myriad/many

Wangled - obtained

Bedecked - festooned/garlanded

Tranche - a portion of something (esp money)

Splutter - make spitting or choking sounds

Jeremiad - a long complaint

Kingfish - regarded as the boss

Inured - used to something bad/desensitized

Overawe - intimidate

Chattel - personal possession

Bugaboo - something to be afraid of

Badinage - witty banter

Banjax - ruin/break

Bacchanalia - rowdy party Dionysian

Redolent - evocative of/reminiscent

Scampish- likeable in a mischievous way

Slink - move quietly/stealthily

Wildcatter - oil tycoon

Slake - quench/sate

Gnomic - enigmatic, speaking in pithy aphorisms

Stentorian - loud, booming

Probity - integrity

Henny Penny - who panics at smallest provocation

Gossamer - light/thin/delicate

Dissemble - conceal one’s true beliefs

Chthonic - concerning the underworld/underbelly

Physiognomy - someone’s expression

Bete noire/bugbear - a person who annoys you

Wan - pale/dim

Grist - useful material to back up an argument

Jolie ladie - attractive despite having ugly features

Antipathy - dislike/hatred

Whippet-quick

Immanence - the divine is encompassed or manifested within this world

Belle Époque - a period of settled, comfy life

Mugwumps - apolitical folks

Necropolis - a great cemetery - usually ancient

Jamb - doorpost/pillar/to lean against one of those

Vestibular - olfactory/sound-related

Sybaritic - fond of luxury

Patina - the impression/appearance /covering

Appetition - desire/craving

Majordomo - the chief steward of a large household

Baleful - menacing

Apocrine glands - stress-related sweat

Lucre - money

Strafed - attacked repeatedly

Halitosis - bad breath

sally-port - a small exit point

Plonk - sit down heavily

Nonpareil - unrivaled, inimitable

Peals - loud rings, like of a church bell

Saturnine - gloomy

Sockdolager - mic drop/whopper

Nebbish - meek

Perquisite - perk/attendant stylings

Cheugy - out of style now

Eschatological- relating to death and judgment

Scabrously- picked, covered w scabs, wicked

Agitprop - political, usually propaganda

Privations - scarcities

Deleterious - harmful

Parsimony - frugality

Chiastic - repeated in a reverse order or modified form

Fantods - uneasiness

Pantomime - theatrical

Foursquare - resolute

Reconnoiter - do recon

Cudgel - club as weapon

Adduce - cite

Masuku Sagi - looks good with a mask on

Depredation - plundering/attacking

Multivalent - subject to interpretation

Rube - fool/gullible

Hoosegow - prison

Balkanized - divided into smaller (hostile) groups

Sinecure - easy job

Shibboleth- a custom or tradition

Metier - forte/occupation

Eristic - characterized by feud/argument

Treacly - overly sentimental

Penury - poverty/destitution

Ataraxia - a state of serene calmness

Athwart - all along/along the side of

Twaddle - nonsense

Repast - fancy meal

Sangfroid - composure

Frisson - feeling of thrill/excitement

Déclassé - lacking in class/social status

Crapulent - related to drunkenness/drinking

Sturm und Drang - excitement/chatter

Promethium - rebelliously creative/innovative

maryland specimentayl(pin)(usual)

Dovish - peaceful, agreeable/conciliatory

Pensee- a thought or reflection; an aphorism

Cortege - a solemn procession

Ineluctable - inescapable

Whiskey tango - white trash

Boodle fight - military/group all eating same meal

Fecundity - prolificness

Coqui Days - in a hot area

Endemism - a species that lives only in one area

Endorheic - retains water but doesn’t let any out

Whorl - 360 degree spiral

Allopatric - not living in the same place

Rapacity - greed

Taproot - from which other roots spring

Correlative - almost like a correlates metaphor

Occlusion - blockage

Salutary - beneficial

Glowering - looking at someone w anger/hostility

Avioret -‘having power but not w/ a podcaster

Ballast - gravel/stone used to form tracks

Visage - of a person’s face

Diaphanous - light, silky fabric

Incipient - in its initial stages

Doleful - mournful

Pallor - unhealthy, pale appearance

Tractable - easy to control/influence

Cuate - brother/close friend

Emetics - a substance that causes vomiting

Manichean - black and white; no relativism

Klieg Light - a huge, powerful, industrial light

Bower - a pleasantly shady place

Propitiously - fortunately

Campesina - native of a rural area in Latin America

Pax - peace

Foment - instigate/stir up

Citadel - fortress

Aver - state or assert to be the case

Dint - an impression in a surface

Zugswang

Fey - a vague unworldliness

Complaisant - willing

Rapprochement - reestablishing harmonious relations

Tranche - a large portion of something, esp. money

Parlous - bad

Mercantile - profit-oriented

Apostasy - renunciation of belief

Logomachy - argument about words

Maunder - ramble

Vieux chapeau - passé

Soniferous - ramble

Fain - pleased/willing under circumstances

Elegiac - mournful

Redoubt - a fortification

Mothball - abandon

Mothballed - old/abandoned

Tabula rasa - clean slate

Copse - group of trees

Coppicing - cutting down a tree to grow new ones

Undergird - secure, use as bedrock

Agentic - having autonomy

Ungainly - awkward, clumsy

Probity - honesty, integrity

Dicty - pretentious (mostly af am)

Potemkin - having a deceptive appearance

Cynosure - center of attention/admiration

Proscenium - the part of a stage in front of curtain

Appellation - name or title

Facinorous - wicked

Fractal - a figure where each part has same as outer

Chattel - a personal possession

Bandied - discussed, spit balled

Rostrum - like a podium; where someone gets a medal etc

Broadside - a strongly worded critical attack

Doleful (sad, funereal)

Jackboot(ed) - a symbol of draconian authority

Arrant - complete, utter

Enjoin - urge

Mien - person’s look or manner

Slinky - graceful and lithe

Inchoate - nascent, not fully formed

Pro-forma - as a matter of practice, formality

Emirati - someone from the UAE

Toff - rich Brit

Tartan - designed in a pattern

Rabble - disorderly crowd

Decorousness -restraint, politeness

Laxity - how lax you are

Rapscallion - mischievous person

Vituperative - bitter and abusive

Farrago - an odd mix/mixture

Flotilla - parts of a fleet of ships

Oneiric - relating to dreams

Nudnik - irritating annoying person

Affray - fighting in public

Saltating - hopping

Rapprochement - re-engaging friendship/relations

Foment (instigate)

Immutable - unchanging over time

Interdiction - prohibiting something

Austere - strict, harsh

Nexus - connected string of things

Eventize - make into an event

Mesmeric - adj for mesmerizing

Dappled - pocked/garlanded

Oleaginous - unctuous/obsequious

Fillip - a stimulus

Foment - stir up

Unwieldy - too big to carry/ to function properly

Imprimatur - legit

Bulwark - a defense/defensive wall

Usurious/usury - v high interest on loans

Spate - a lot (in quick succession)

Foment - stir up/instigate

Stakhovite - insane work ethic

Saturnalian - Dionysian

Curio - an intriguing object

Farrago - confused mixture/hodgepodge, often of truth/myth

Elide - merge

Knave - a dishonest/unscrupulous man

Twatwaffle

Besotted - smitten (with)

Puckish - mischievous

Grist - useful material to back up an argument

Abstemious - free from vices

Aegis - protection/backing

Aposmastic- changing in shape/color to defend itself from predation

Polyanna- person w optimistic outlook

Prevaricate - speak evasively

Glut - a lot of

BATNA - best alt. to negotiated agreement

Concretize - make concrete/firm

Apostasy - abanonment/denouncement

Ashram - Hindu place of retreat

Runyonesque - underworld characters

Passel - a pack of something

Rejoinder - a sharp, witty reply

Torpor - lethargy

Febril - feverish

Belligerent - someone participating in a war/fight

Opprobrium - criticism / censure

Bandied - discussed/tossed around

Akimbo - hands on hips, elbows out

Ediice - large building

Contretemps - dispute

Fils - son

Elision - lumping together only partially related

Redoubtable - formidable, as an opponent

Concatenation - confluence

Surfeit - excessive amount of

Impertinence - foolishness, lack of respect

Rentier - wealthy business owner/heir

Tetchy - irascible

Badinage - witty conversation

Internecine - destructive to both sides of a conflict

High-born - born into money

Attendant - consequently

Alexathymic - inability to identify emotions

Staid - sedate, unadventurous

Deep-Six (get rid of)

Scupper - sink

Dulcet (pleasant sounding)

Sawbuck - $10 bill

Grand Guignol - cheesy horror stuff

Cottage industry - a business operating out of a home

Alacrity - cheerful willingness

Dictum (rule)

Transgressive

Distaff - spindle for sewing OR /concerning women

Infelicitous (unfortunate, inappropriate)

Browbeaten - intimidated into doing something

Noblesse Oblige - (inferred responsibility for rich people to be charitable)

Bootstrapped - got in or out of a situation on my owns will

Risible (offensive, absurd)

Eminence grise - behind the scenes influencer

Anodyne - inoffensive

Tout Suite - right away

Emollient - soothing

Indefatigable (tireless)

Fulminate - protest

Patina (impression or appearance of something)

Grandiloquent (extravagant)

Anomie (lack of usual societal standards)

Orgiastic (debaucherous)

Imperator (commander)

Besotted (with) (obsessed with)

Missive (a long letter, usually a love letter)

Multivalent (having many interpretations/uses)

Ballast (Stability)

Canard (false story)

Frisson - sudden feel of excitement

Seditious - causing people to rebel

Fin De Siecle (its all ending)

Patrician (haughty, rich)

Orthoganal

Presbyopic (like an old person)

Emetic (causing vomiting)

Mettle (ability to cope with adversity)

Sangfroid - composure, coolness

Tony (fashionable among wealthy/stylish)

Lecherous - showing excessive sexual desire

Bodice - the part of a woman’s dress that’s above the waist

Galvanic - sudden and dramatic

Garish - obtrusively bright and showy; lurid

Catechism - a summary or exposition, usually in religion

Portent - sign/warning

Sortie - an attack made by troops

Simian - ape-like

Fluted - ridged

Koan - paradoxical anecdote/riddle

Pliant

Reverie - daydream

Communique

Assaultive

Trepan - object for perforating the skull (also a verb)

Prattle - talk at length in a foolish or inconsequential way

Distillate

Scrogging - making out

Smoke Screen

Modulate - to adjust to a certain degree

Lanolin - wax/wool grease

Harpy - a grasping, unpleasant woman

Commo - spy slang for communication devices

Spetsnaz - Russian secret service-ish?

Suffused - spread through or over

Harangue - a lengthy and aggressive speech

Clod - a lump of earth/clay

Pettish - childishly bad tempered and petulant

Suety - fatty food/tissue, part. in beef

Presage - be a sign that something bad is coming

Cornice - an ornamental molding around the wall below ceiling

Protean - tending to change frequently and easily

Timorous - suffering from nervousness, fear, lack of confidence

Spurious - false, fake

Supercilious - conceited, contemptuous

Exfil (exfiltration, military extraction from a hostile area)

Apostasy - abandonment of political/religious belief

Primacy - superiority

Jauntily - with a buoyant air

Telegenic - looking good on TV

Courtesan - high class prostitute

Effluvium - unpleasant/harmful odor

Fatuous - silly and pointless

Condign - appropriate punishment to a crime (adj.)

Ascetic - self-discipline, practicing abstention

Internecine - destructive to both sides of a conflict

Vermilion - brilliant red/scarlet color

Hidebound(unable/unwilling to change because of convention)

Hamartia(tragic flaw)

Yoke (rob, mug)

Supposition (something supposed, not proven)

Bilious (assoc. with nausea, bile)

Apparatchik (deragtory, humorous, for member of large political org.)

Regalia (clothes rich, royal ppl wear)

Supplicate (beg for)

Synesthesia (seeing colors in people, one sense confused)

Cavalcade (long line of)

Albification (process of making white)

Transfixed

Hoary (old and trite)

Sub-rosa (on the QT)

Martinet (a strict disciplinarian)

Pinion (tie/hold something or prevent flight of)

Balletic (like ballet)

Leonine (resembling lions)

Tremulous (shaking/quivering)

Asperity (harshness)

Putative (generally considered or reputed to be)

Miscellany (a miscellany of..)

Carouse (drink, merrymake, cavort)

Apocope (the loss of sound/vowel at end of word)

Blotto (very drunk)

Low-rent (usually referring to dumb criminals)

Benediction (the bestowal after religious ceremony)

Singe (burn)

Recondite (little known, abstruse)

Chintzy (cheap or of poor quality)

Screed (long speech, article)

Laudatory (flattering)

Skosh (tiny amount)

Bathetic (producing unintentional effect of anticlimax)

Touristic

Rudderless (lacking a clear sense of one’s aims or principles)

Walleyed (large, bulging eyes)

Ptomaine (unpleasant taste/odor, usually chemical)

Lope (walk with a long, easy stride)

Enervate (weaken)

Wheedle (use charm to finagle something)

Tautology(needless repetition of an idea)

Panoply(impressive collection of)

Polemic(a strong written/verbal attack)

Polymath(person of wide ranging knowledge)

Screed(long speech/article)

Stochastic(needing the use of probability to be solved)

Culvert(pipe under a road)

Peregrine (alien, coming from abroad)

Carbine (rifle used in army)

Sashay(walk in an ostentatious yet casual manner; part. For women)

Osculate (to come into close contact or union)

Scherzo(quick funny piece of music)

Sacralize (imbue with or treat as having a sacred character or quality)

Iniquitous (unfair, morally wrong)

Venal (corrupt, easily bribed)

Pasquinade (satire, parody)

Voluble (constantly talkative)

Leviathan (anything of immense size/power)

Accedes (capitulates)

Slatternly (untidy, unkempt - usually a woman)

Prefatory (prefix)

Pliable (easily bent, malleable)

Sylvan (woody, associated with woods)

Pate (a person’s head)

Patrician (artistocrat or nobleman)

Perfidy (deceit)

Sepia (reddish-brown color associated with old photographs)

acceded (capitulated)

Modulate (exert modifying or controlling nfluence on)

accretion (buildup)

irascible (easily angered)

Integrant (making up/being part of)

Concord (harmony)

Interloper (an outsider)

Rubicon (river/something to cross)

Hadal (pertaining to ocean depths)

Concomitant (accompanying)

Bedraggled (limp/soiled by dirt/rain)

milquetoast (a timid person)

Veinous

Droll (pleasantly oddly appealing)

Piquant (spicily appealing)

Xanthic (of a yellowish color)

Furrow (groove/depression in ground)

Austere (solemn,strict,moral)

Pulchritudonous (beautiful, comely)

Tuft (cluster of threads/parts)

Pedagogic(of teaching)

Gimcrack (showy but useless)

Guile (craft, cunning, duplicity)

Panacea (cure-all solution)

Prosaic (ordinary, dull)

Codger (old, eccentric man)

Arriviste (gatsby, Eg -new illegal $)

Trachle (an exhausting effort)

Isolato (someone who isolated from or out of sympathy w/ his times)

Topos (literary motif or convention)

Contour

Theurgy(divine workings)

Venal (corruptible, bribable)

Verecund (bashful, modest)

Melliferous(producing honey)

Quacksalver (a charlatan)

Vesuvian (prone to large outbursts)

Plodding (slow-moving, unexciting)

Hellion (a mischievous person)

Aleatory (pertaining to luck/chance)

Soigné (carefuly designed)

Logomachy (dispute about words)

Chuffed (annoyed disgruntled)

Fecund (fertile, rich)

Sward (grassy surface of land/turf)

Aeolian (caused by the wind)

Imprest (an advance of money, loan)

Impawn (to put in pawn, pledge)

Lilt (rhythmic swing or cadence)

Ingress (act of going in, entering)

Machinate (to contrive or plot)

Idiolect (individual speech pattern)

Plethoric (inflated, turgid, overfilled)

Bejeweled (adorned with jewels)

Aperture (opening, as a slit/crack)

Gaumless (lacking in vitality/inteligence)

Flecks

Splenetic (irritable, spiteful)

Bucolic (pastoral, idyllic)

Expelling (churning out)

Disputatious/disputation

Plumage (feathery covering)

Dovetails

Summarily

Chalcedony (translucent quartz)

Swivet (state of anxiety, flutter)

Gladiatorial

Ligature (binding, tying up)

Chortle (gleeful chuckle)

Acrid (bitter, unpleasant)

Mollify (soften, reduce anger of)

Cadence

Confab (brief convo meeting)

Attenuate (reduce force/impact of)

Billowed (flow outward like a dress)

Allayed (put to rest, soothed)

Plaintively (sorrowful, mournful)

Ardor

Schlock/schlocky - cheap, inferior, trash

Entombing

Bespoke (hand tailored to specif)

Wispy

Unseemly

Hollow leg (excessive ESP booze)

Paucity (dearth)

Pithy (succinct)

Punctilious (strict or exact)

Confect (to make up, compound)

Desultory (lacking enthusiasm)

Apposite (apt apropos suitable)

Confectionary

Obfuscate(confuse)

Blaspheme

Marmoreal (of or like marble)

**LIST OF WORDS ENDS WITH MARMOREAL.**

**SECTION 3: QUIPS**

**NOTES TO REGARDING USAGE:**

These are quips. Use them primarily in dialogue. Feel free to use your own knowledge to figure out what they mean if you’re unsure and there are no parentheticals. Each new one starts with a dash (-). Some can be used as responses, some can be used as standalone lines, some have multiple usage options. These are to mostly be considered when wry humor would be tonally appropriate, but if you think it would appropriate in the context even if not wry humor, feel free to do so. Anything with \_\_\_\_ in it, or more than one \_x\_ in succession, is to be treated as a tabula rasa, meaning anything appropriate that fits there can be used: a noun, a name, etc.. When A. and B. Are used, that means it’s a dialogue between two people. The meanings or definitions are in the parentheses after. Each quip starts with a -, whether indented or not. Please use these when the context and tone are appropriate, and feel free to get creative with them, to a point; they don’t have to be word for word, but capture the general thrust if you play around with the wording. If the quip uses he/him, feel free to change it to she/her if it’s for a woman. If A and B are talking, you don’t *need* to use all or both of their lines.

- I’m not the one. / \_I ain’t the one.\_ (I’m not someone you wanna mess with)

- I never met a \_\_ who didn’t hate a nickel ‘cause it wasn’t a dime.\_ (I never met a \_\_ who wasn’t pissed off about something for no good reason)

- Comparison is the thief of joy.\_ (You’ll never be happy if you’re always trying to compare your life to others)

- Walk me through that.\_ (A sarcastic reply that means someone doesn’t quite understand)

- You’re never looking in the wrong direction if you’re standing by your people.\_ (If you’re loyal, you’re going the right way)

the one thing i hate more than people who think they know everything > ppl who think they know everyone

R u kidding I have eyes like a frog, all peripheral vision

If it’s gonna enough to re make, you probably shouldn’t remake it

My last birthday I got a call from my mom and an email from Starbucks something ahout a free latte

* So I went. And paid a surcharge for almond milk and a double shot. And my dignity was gone.
* If you’re lonely when you’re by yourself, you’re in bad company
* You could press the weather button on your phone or you could step outside
* It’s lights a cinema against the falling dark
* A profusion of \_\_\_
* How old are you?

25

How long you been 25?

A year or two

* Screw it. I’m just gonna skip some steps and drink the Kool-Aid now
* There’s always good in the bad. You get your weekly fill of vitamin C if you drink 12 screwdrivers.
* A. That supposed to intimidate me?

B. Yes. Yes, it is. It's supposed to scare you, really

* \_\_\_ curdling into despair
* \_\_\_ would do it

Yeah, well, \_\_\_ isn’t here, I am.

* After a speech, someone next to that person just says “I have nothing else to add.”
* A. Is your wife a jealous woman

B. Fortunately I haven't had occasion to find out

* Diogenes was a Greek man who wandered around with lamp looking for an honest man
* A. Gonna do something or just stand there?

B. Right now I'm just gonna stand here

* No she's not ano; I've watched her eat a whole pizza
* I want to be so skinny that people are worried about me.
* Always important to have someone who can get you out of a bad situation
* A. Got arrested for possession

B. Oh, no. That’s 9/10 of the law!

* Plumber gives the lady a bill for $100 and she shrieks ‘you charge me a $100 to hit my radiator 2 times to make it work? The plumber looks at the customer and sez NO i charged you $100 to know where to hit your radiator 2 times to make it work..
* Access isn't a substitute for insight
* With great power and responsibility comes a steep learning curve
* I remember the exact day time place we fell out of love with one another. (Maybe lists for each relationship in a montage). Something left her eyes, the kind of thing you don't notice until its absence strikes a void)
* Any idea how hard I worked to make the money to afford to be able to pay for this body?
* You didn't tell another soul? Ok...Listen I'll give it to you straight...by sheer luck You became privy to information that someone will pay you to not share. It's a windfall, it's a winning lottery ticket...just take the money and don't say anything
* Some rich people, the money gives them false reinforcement of their thinking that every decision they ever made was correct. Ain't gonna start losing now.
* Right now it’s a story, and we don’t buy stories, we buy value
* So glad to lay these weary eyes on such a beautiful sight
* Pick your enemies carefully
* When you tell a lie, it ain't about dodging the questions. It's about making sure people don't ask them.
* Perish the thought.
* Would be that it were.
* There are people who have money and people who are rich
* Shoot now or forever hold your piece
* Promises are made to be broken— especially when you make them to yourself
* The telling of someone’s character isn't whether he breaks promises he made to others but whether he keeps promises he made to himself
* Don’t sell something you can’t buy back in the same condition
* Let me ask you a question...(makes a statement) and then "thought you were gonna ask me a question"
* Some people are so far behind in a race they think they're winning
* Love means never having to say you're sorry - wait really? That sounds great!
* Creating a character to sell always carries the same risk: losing control of your creation and actually becoming the preening egomaniac you once only pretend to be
* I pray. All the time. Don't like to tell people for some reason idk. Maybe seems like people in power shouldn't pray.
* What’s my deal? I don’t have a deal. Not yet, anyways.
* If you have to ask for respect, you’re never gonna get it.
* Mirror is the last place people look when there's a problem
* The most memorable things in life are rarely pleasant
* Eyelids fell to half-mast
* Last time wrong bet on south in civil war
* You know when you go to the airport and vague feeling you forgot something that's how my dad was with having kids
* Raise high the roof beams, carpenters
* Get off the cross, we need the wood
* Know what I said to him? I mean, at the start, the very beginning. I said...just do me a favor. Anyone ever asks you to clip me? Come to me, tell me, ask me to top the offer.
* Just cause there's a goalie doesn't mean you can't score
* If I’m lying, I’m crying and you don’t see no tears, do you?
* His forwarding address is gonna be the pen or the morgue
* That's pretty low on my ‘things to do’ list
* Well consider me bewitched bothered and bewildered
* When I put a quarter in her, she \_\_\_’s (\_\_\_ being a verb in this case)
* How are there are so many undercover FBI and DEA agents??? Does no one do their due diligence?
* Write novels specifically about real estate? (listening to piano man) guy who only wrote NOVELS about real estate?
* A. A as in asshole, B as in bitch, C as in—

B. Yeah, I got it.

- I’ll take bad drinks with good friends over good drinks with bad friends. (It’s the company you surround yourself with that’s most important)

- Could live high off the hog or on your high horse—the choice is yours. (You can be rich or you can be sanctimonious)

- A. What do you get the man who has everything?\_ B. These days? A lawyer.

- You know enough to know better. (You’re smart enough to know better)

- He knew a lot—except to know better. (he thought he was smart)

- A. Is he smart enough to do that?  
 B. He’s dumb enough to try.

- A. It’s life-changing.

B. So if someone likes their life, they wouldn’t want to?

- A. How is \_\_?

B. That’s up for interpretation.

- A. I run a non profit.

B. I’m in the \_\_ business, so I do too. (\_\_ = a business that doesn’t make good money)

- Hey, I can’t live vicariously through myself. (I need to live vicariously through you)

- A. If push comes to shove?

B. With him, it usually does.

- Yeah, well, life’s a bitch and so am I.

- I might not be the sharpest blade in the drawer….but I ain’t dumb.

- I think you’re just sane enough to know that you’re insane

- Whenever I’m with you, crow becomes an integral part of my diet. (You usually make me look stupid)

- Looked like a deer in the headlights if the deer realized the headlights belonged to an incoming train. (Looked terrified).

- I’m Joe Wright. This is my daughter, Miranda.

Wait, your name’s Miranda Wright? (This is funny because it’s like Miranda Rights)

- Talk isn’t always cheap. (Sometimes it gains one person a lot. Sometimes it loses one person a lot.)

- A. I’ll owe you one

B. Meaning?

A. Next time someone’s looking your way, I’ll reset the GPS. (If someone’s looking for you, I’ll make sure they don’t find you)

- If you pull a gun it’s to kill some one. Right? So, if you pull that trigger, you don’t lean over to make sure they have a pulse; you shoot them again to make sure they don’t.

- Also, the sky is blue. (Said after something really obvious.)

- I’ll file that with “I’m shocked to find gambling going on here.” (Sarcastic expression of surprise.)

- His frontal lobe must be going through a software update. (He’s not in his right mind.)

- What’s behind door number two? (Is there another option?)

- A.\_What’s behind door number two?

B. That is door number two. Door number one’s got a \_\_-sized lock on it. (\_\_ = a bottleneck in the situation)

- What are you, a whirling dervish?

* From where I sit, \_\_\_ (\_\_ is the expression of an opinion, especially for when being sarcastic)

- The music’s gonna stop. Where ya gonna sit?\_ (When this is over, you’re not going to have a next move.)

- If possible, could you explain to me how that’s possible?\_

- A. Violence is rarely the answer.

B. Kinda depends on the question.

A. Such as?

B. ‘Are you gonna tell me where your mother is hiding out or do I have to cut off your hand?’ That’s when you want someone very violent and very talented having your back.

- Most of the world operates with a favor bank; you owe someone, you make a withdrawal; you do someone a solid, you make a deposit.\_ (We live in a transactional world.)

- On that, reasonable—and unreasonable —people can agree.

- A. You know where that word comes from?

B. The dictionary?

- A. Think you’re a real charmer, dontcha?

B. No more so than Bogey.

- One of these days, that charm’s gonna get you into one more jam than it gets you out of.

- If you click off that safety, you’re shooting to kill. Which means…if you shoot, you don’t walk over to see if they’re alive. You shoot them again to make sure they’re dead

- I need four nights at the peninsula, 2 girls the first night I’m there, and one of you outside the room at all times. I wouldn’t put it past one of these people to not come by and have three guys kill you, and even break in and overpower both of them. And we never get the truth. But neither can you.

- Might as well look good in your mug shot. (When someone is going to do something dumb/criminal and is dressing nice or putting on makeup)

- A. I’m trying brevity on for size.

B. How’s it fit?

A. Snug.

- A. It’s like they say…\_

B. Who? Like who says?

A. It’s an expression.

B. An expression of what?

- Fear and excitement are two notes from the same scale. (They often sound and/or look very similar.)

- History is history and then someone does something.

- Life til 40 is addition; life after 50 is subtraction.

- Close that mouth or you’re gonna catch flies.

- It derailed like the man who had a bad meth trip on our front stoop and rang our doorbell for 5 hours straight.

- A. Is that wool?

B. Indeed.

A. So you’re literally a wolf in sheep’s clothing.

- A. Possession’s 9/10ths of the law…\_

B. This must be the other 10%.\_

- I swear, \_\_ makes me want to do something mean to somebody nice. (He/she makes me so mad.)

- Oh, please, say people who rent to own furniture. (People whose opinions are unimportant.)

- So, how do you like your chloroform? (Can be used as an off-color joke, or in a tense scene.)

- I already miss the person I was before I saw that. (A line to be said after seeing something someone wishes they could un-see or un-hear.)

- You learn a lot about your enemies when they think you’re weak.

- Yeah, well…. maybe it’s not a coincidence that hope is a four letter word. (Hope is dangerous.)

- A. God has a plan.

B. Yeah, well, I’m hedging.

- A. You are insane.

B. Oh, and you’re a pillar of zen.

- You get old and your joints start to stiffen, to harden… and so do your opinions. (As we age, our opinions become more concretized.)

- First the fat boys break up….\_ (Ugh, now this?\_ To be used by an African American character)

- Oh! Sorry. Was having a dream. It was weird, it was ME—just, ten seconds ago. And in the dream, I killed you. Let’s keep it a dream though.\_

- A. You’d be surprised.

B. You’d be surprised just how little it surprises me.

- That guy rubs two nickels together and makes a quarter. (That guy is lucky or has the Midas touch)

- I’m finding a gravestone big enough for \_\_\_ letters.

- With your leave…?\_ (Can I go now; used sarcastically, most often)

- A. I don’t think that’d be in my best interest.

B. Why not?

A. Because it came out of your mouth.

- My grandpa always said, if someone proposes a bet to you, you say no, just as a matter of course; unless they’re a degenerate gambler or you’ve kept some big secret, they probably know something you don’t.

- A. Eh, you know what \_\_’s like.

B. I don’t, but I’m sorry that you do.

- To whiskey and women and good hearted villains. (A great toast, especially for a guy to say.)

- What I did, is turn you into someone who’s capable of doing this. I’d say you came out ahead. (A response when someone is accusing someone else of negatively affecting that someone’s life.)

- A. I’ll give you a thousand dollars to follow that car in front of us and ten thousand dollars if you get where they’re going before they do.

B. I’ll take the thou but if I know where they’re going why am I following them?

A. You don’t know. Yet. You will when I do.

B. When’s that gonna be?

A. Just drive.

- A. Quite a few.

B. How many?

A. \_\_\_ or so.

B. Out of?

A. More.

- A. Say \_\_\_

B. I can’t lie.

A. You’re not. I am. (When someone is asking someone else to say something that is a lie.)

- If you only call when you need, then you don’t need to call.\_ (If you only call me when you’re in trouble, don’t bother calling me.)

- Correct as usual, king Friday.\_ (A snarky reply.)

- A. What can I do for you?\_

B. You know exactly what.\_

A. The last thing in the world that I want to do is say no to you. Actually that’s the second to last thing I want; the last is to lose my godson and my best friend in the same month.

B. \_\_\_ years we’re like brothers and you think I can’t handle this guy? Who, by the way, I’d be paying.

A. Exactly. He’d be working for you right? You pay someone, they’re an employee. This guy isn’t built like that, his wiring is off, he’s a…fucking powder keg. He’ll bring more harm than good. It’s why I haven’t used him in years. Not only that, if push comes to shove, he’ll shove you off the tallest building he can find.

B. If he can find out who did this…all the harm in the world won’t outweigh the good.\_

- And Caesar wept…\_

(When there’s nothing else to be done; nothing else to conquer)

- I know how I got here. I just don’t know how to get back. (When someone is in a bind and doesn’t know where to go from there.)

- The dildo of consequence rarely arrives lubed. (It’s not often that you get off easy when you messed up.)

- A. Fair warning, \_\_\_ isn’t cheap…

B. Neither am I.

- Damn. They promised me a blonde. (When a guy friend walks in.)

- A. What don’t you get?

B. If I knew, I’d get it.

- Do you believe that you just explained… anything? (After someone says something that doesn’t make sense.)

- That same hangdog expression everyone wears when they walk out them doors.\_

- Change the channel.\_ (Time to try a different way.)

- Let’s go off-meter.\_ (Talk when/where no one’s clocking/watching.)

- Peter Lawford called, he wants to know why you stole his tux and why you won’t give it back. (A snarky comment to someone wearing a tuxedo.)

- When someone spends a lot of their time talking about the comings and goings of other folk? Don’t go thinking you’re an exception. (Wise advice.)

- About as smart as your average ceiling fan. (Describing a dumb person)

- As useful as tits on a wheel barrow. (Useless.)

- I ain’t gonna join that choir. (When someone isn’t going to go along with what everyone’s saying.)

- If only heaven had visiting hours.

- A. You stole a police car?\_

- B. It was the only vehicle available! Protect and serve right?? They’re serving me!\_

- Well, is he a corporate guy who isn’t afraid to get his hands dirty or is he a criminal who does some work for some legitimate enterprises?\_ (Is he a criminal playing it straight or vice versa?)

- Think you were dealt a bad hand? Lemme tell you, you ever ask for better cards, god will fold your hand. (Play the hand you’re dealt.)

- A. Thank you so much, and have a great Easter Sunday!\_

B. It’s October.\_

C. Not celebrating this year?\_

- A. You wouldn’t.\_

B. The people who say that are the ones who know I would.\_

- Margaret thatcher said if someone saw her walking on water they’d say it’s cause she couldn’t swim; haters gonna hate.\_

- A. I gotta go see a man about a horse.\_

B. I gotta go see my realtor about that bridge you wanna sell me.\_

- \_When it comes to \_\_, discretion is the better part of survival.\_

- A. \_In other words, \_\_.\_

B. \_No, in those precise words.

- So, how do they taste? (After someone does an ‘eat the rich’ move)

- A. Why don’t you believe that?\_

B. Cause it came out of \_\_’s mouth. (In this case, \_\_ is someone who can’t be trusted.)

- A. I’ve heard so much about you!

B. Well, there’s two sides to every story.

- That’s mod. (that’s like a cheat code)

- Hasn’t he lost enough?

He hasn’t lost enough.

- Yeah, I just need that translated from bullshit to English. (A snarky reply to someone who’s full of shit.)

- A. Is \_\_ smart enough to do that?

B. Dumb enough to try.

- Threaten? Heavens, no; threats are quite the waste of time.

- A. Cause we both know what this is really about.

B. This is not about \_\_.

A. No? Cause you got there damn quick.

(When someone pretends something isn’t about something but it really is about that.)

- If I were threatening you, I’d come out and say unless you \_\_ then I am going to \_\_.

- Thanks! I’ll pretend you meant that. (A snarky reply to someone saying something that sounded less than genuine.)

- Give some people enough slack and they’ll use all the rope. (Give some people an inch and they’ll take a mile.)

- A. Plan B? We don’t even have a Plan A!\_

B. Plan A was hope.\_

A. Well, fuck.\_

- Annoying realities like the truth…\_

- A. I’ll give you the same answer as when you asked me about post-fellatio etiquette.\_

B. Wait, what?\_

A. Whether you’re supposed to say thank you after getting a blow job.\_

B. I don’t remember the answer. Not cause I haven’t been in the situation, I just forgot.\_

- Like a Victorian woman dying from consumption…

- A. \_\_\_’s got that scantron look.

B. \_The what now?

A. \_He’s deciding what to do next, like a multiple choice test except all the answers are wrong for us.

- I come as I please and she goes as I please.

- There’s a lot more random than reason in the world. (Shit happens.)

- There’s a lot more good luck than good people.

- I’m a prisoner of the moment. (Sarcastic riposte.)

- Anywhere there is commerce and there is an imbalance of information, sleaze will thrive.

- You’re just a eunuch in a mildly forbidden place.

- A. If there’s anything I can do…

B. I mean, there is. If you meant that, there’s definitely something you can do.

- I’m not flattered, but I don’t care enough to be offended.

- Decisions you make, things you do, when you’re 50 are part of your life. Things you do when you’re 24 are part of your youth.

- Can’t be left to your own vices.

- A. I hope this goes without saying…

B. If it did you wouldn’t be saying it.

- Hell keeps adding circles. (When someone is in a bad spot or something sucks)

- Sorry. I’m just kinda shaking my day off.

- A. He has no idea how lucky he is.

B. Lucky people never know how lucky they are.

- A. I have a hunch.

B. Quasimoto had a hunch. You know something.

- If you believe that, I got a tornado-proofed house in Kansas you can get for a song.

- Chronic dice secret palm hospital quit health tip friend panther soap fiction.

- Don’t play dumb

I guess I’ll take it as a compliment that you assume I’m playing.

- It looks like Walt Disney did some acid and went on Sim City

- The higher up the mountain, the more slippery the footing

- You think I’m playing dirty

I think the Oscars got it wrong in 06; I know you’re playing dirty.

- How’s life in Reno?

If you call it that, you’ve never been.

Reno?

Life.

- Call me xxxx. Please. Mr. Xxxx is my father. I don’t like being confused with such an insufferable prick.

- If you haven’t done anything wrong you got nothing to worry about.

Yeah I haven’t really found that to be the case.

- Gotta believe everything happens for a reason. You get stuck under an avalanche of regret otherwise. And best case scenario you’re right, worse case scenario, you’re dead before you realize you were wrong.

- What is with this Prometheus shit?

You’ve been trained to escape capture by any means necessary. So, we’re taking away the means.

- Used rugs

Ok but why would you want drugs that were already used?

Rugs. Used. Rugs.

- Like my coffee like I like my women

Sorry, we’re all out of coffee with daddy issues

- Well, ain’t you the belle of the ball?

- What? They stole your youth?

Nah. Just…co-opted it.

- There are sensitive documents in there

I’ll try not to hurt their feelings

- I got a gift

Oh you shouldn’t have

Ha. No, this gift, it’s…It allows me to look into a man’s eyes and see what lies in his soul

Congrats.

You gonna tell me I’m wrong aboutcha?

I’m gonna tell you to stick to the surface. I’m the ocean at midnight, fella. Nice and calm. But you know there’s all manner of danger lurking below.

I was right

I’m someone you don’t wanna be right about - or wrong about.

- So this is how the other half lives

Other half? Try other half a percent.

- They say discretion better part of valor - I say it’s forbearance

- It’s always easier to want something than to have it

- Anger is usually sadness turned into power to protect yourself.

- The put-upon air of someone who deals with lesser humans.

- Not exactly a front-row parishioner

- Cheap condoms are far more expensive than good ones.

- Sir? They’re ready for you

(Sotto) not a fucking chance

- You shoot someone? You don’t check their pulse to see if they’re alive. You shoot them again to make sure they’re dead.

- Nice suit. Putting the fashion in fashionably late - guess that Patek needs a tune-up.

- A cobbler? I didn’t realize it was 1834

He makes documents

He’s a forger

That’s such a… generalization.

What?

- Not a drinker?

Not really, reality is interesting enough for me

- Not all lies are secrets.

And not all secrets are lies.

- Drugs are…hard. Once you’ve obtained the knowledge that you can take a timeout, it’s a lot harder to play through the whole game. That’s not the best metaphor. And this one might not be much better, but…let’s say you lived on an island. And there’s a boat, a speedboat, that can get you off of it. And a volcano erupts. It won’t kill you, but it’s gonna be a disaster and it’ll be a giant headache at best and a calamity at worst. And then someone offers you a ride to that boat. Every time a recovering addict stays sober, they’re turning down that ride.

- You don’t want these problems.

- Everyone thinks he billy badass til he meets billy badass.

- What’s in it for me?

A quick death.

- I got half a mind to -

Use the other half.

- For old times sake

Didn’t much like the old times.

- Are you a Navajo?

No I’m an LA hoe.

- If you don’t, you don’t. But then you’ve got a life expectancy of about two hours.

- I’m throwing you a lifeline and you’re acting like I doused it with turpentine.

- Country is quickly becoming a majority of minorities.

- What are you, his emotional support animal?

- Please, she’s a clothes hanger with a C-cup. (She’s stupid.)

- As useful as tits on a wheelbarrow. (useless)

- Blood may be thicker than water, but money is thicker than blood.

- A. \_\_\_ died.

B. What took him/her so damn long?

- A. How’d you take that?

B. Literally.

- Yeah, okay, Oscar Levant

- A. You’re certain of that?

B. I think so, yes.

A. So, no.

- But what can I say, better luck next life?

- At some point, someone did you a huge disservice by laughing at your jokes.

- Sometimes a train wreck can be something set on the tracks long ago.

- Really? That made you…grapple. Grapple. Huh. What would it take to make you sprint in the opposite direction?

- I’d bet you \_\_\_

That’s a bet you’d lose.

- Answer’s only no until you ask.

- Dull as Sunday dinner.

- Oh boy, clutch your pearls. (Sarcastic.)

- I’ll ask him, as a friend. And if he balks… then I’ll tell him. As a Federal Agent.

- Where angels dare to tread.

- This just went from feeling like a lot of weird coincidences to feeling like zero coincidences. (Things starting to make sense.)

- A. Nice dress, very flattering color.

B. Shit, you hate it, I quite liked it when I picked it out.

A. Sorry, was ‘nice dress’ overly ambiguous?

B. You compliment things you dislike so you don’t slip up later on.

- Woman - you don’t remember me, do you?

Man - I didn’t, no. But I don’t see myself having that lapse again.

- A. If it wasn’t me, it’d be—

B. Someone else. That is the most cockamamie asinine excuse for bad behavior.

A. You’ve heard it a lot, huh? Well, I always believed that a cliche becomes a cliche for a reason; it’s true.

- Whatever your opinion of me, I probably share it.

- A. Ever get so down you wonder how much lower you could possibly go?

B. Sure. And then I remember the answer—six feet.

- Generally can’t get from a subject to a verb without dislocating a kneecap.

- A: No hard feelings.

B: What? No, no, no. You don’t say no hard feelings. I say no hard feelings.

A: Great, so, no hard feelings.

B: No, I mean if there AREN’T any hard feelings, I am the one to say it!

- Don’t just be resting on your laurels (don’t just be happy with what you’ve done.)

- A: What would he say to that?

B: I don’t care.

C: Really? No interest, no idea, about how he’d respond?

D: I just told you how he’d respond.

- \_\_\_ did it like it was nothing, like it was ordering a shrimp cocktail. Which he also did. And I’m pretty sure it wasn’t even on the menu. (Talking about someone doing something casually and nonchalantly when in reality it’s something bad.)

- The jury’s still out

Put me down for ‘guilty’

- You are the biggest asshole I’ve ever encountered

Well, I guess someone had to be

- May he rest in pieces

- He trustworthy?

You can trust that he’ll always do what’s in his best interest…

- If I change my mind cause u called me a pussy…that makes me a pussy

- You’re from an ag-biz town in Missouri…you have a 100k car, a 10m house, another 5m house….

It’s a long story

No… no, it’s not

- How was \_\_\_

Tolerable.

- The next life is just a space you fill up with this one

- Listen don’t take this the wrong way, but…

What’s the right way for me to take that?

- The strong prey on the weak

But the clever prey on the strong.

- Umm…well. Hope springs eternal…

- You know me so well, huh? Got me alll figured out, then?

I gave up trying to ‘figure people out’ for Lent last year. It stuck.

- We’re halfway home

So was Amelia Earhardt.

- A. \_We gonna be ok?\_

B. (Points to crucifix) \_He’s watching over us.\_

A. \_Yeah but look what happened to him.\_

- Talk to him

I did

No, argued.

Using words.

- Tomorrows gonna be what it’ll be

But for today -

(Mic drop)

- A. Good morning!

B. Guess we’ll have to agree to disagree.

- A. \_That’s the last thing that’s gonna happen.

B. \_What’s the first thing?

- \_I just had the worst dream; the moon WAS a big pizza pie.

- \_The American dream is called that because you have to be asleep to believe it.

- Spent most of my money on hookers and coke—and wasted the rest of it.

- A. You trying to intimidate me?

B. Not very hard.

- That a threat?

(Beat) yes, obviously

- A. I recently started taking Spanish lessons.

B. Umm, that’s great.

A. Sorry, I thought we were talking about things with no relevance here whatsoever.

- You can’t throw an underhanded softball pitch if you’re playing in the majors

- You made your bed, and if there are bugs, that ain’t on me

- He’s a fraud.

Nah. He’s got receipts.

- In an hour you’ll be looking for your lunch—and realize that I ate it.

- Calling for my address to give to the florist? (When answering phone)

* A. Bring me some bourbon.

B. Any particular kind, sir?

A. Something you couldn’t afford.

- Can you keep a secret?

Yes…

So can I.

- The power of suggestion is strong. I knew a fellow who was a big film buff but never paid to see a film. He’d simply walk past the ticket-ripper and say, ‘I’m back’

* That’ll put a hitch in your giddy-up
* Past the impenetrable forest that is \_\_\_
* I was the first teenager on the moon. (a funny pickup line.)
* I would describe his position as… inflexible
* Onboarding - it’s a bit like waterboarding, only you’re in biz casual attire
* Some people should not be allowed to procreate
* That lispy little war criminal (funny way to describe an obnoxious child.)
* Well, most people don’t really know what a lymph node is
* Sprung from the same pods

- The writer supplies half of a book, the other half comes from you.

- The betrayals we allow ourselves are, in the end, what define us.

- Do you wanna get smacked?

Yes.

Excuse me?

Well, I want you to try. Because I very much would like to hit you - but I never throw the first punch

- You need to get on the train

Or it’s gonna run you over

- You gonna do your job or sit there being an asshole?

I didn’t know those were mutually exclusive…can I mull it over?

- To use an old legal cliché, that was a bit like throwing a skunk into the jury box and instructing the jurors not to smell it.

- Fool me once, shame on me. Fool me twenty times, props to you.

- A. Sorry I missed that.

B. I’m sorry I didn’t.

- No, it’s not my fault. Here’s why - true story - you know that song to ring In the new year? I always thought it was should old acquaintances be forgot and never brought to mind. Like tighten up your circle, onward and upward.

- \_My mouth tastes like Gandhis flip flop. (dry mouth after drinking)

- A. \_Mind if I? (Holds up a cig)

B. (Shrugs) Your house, your lungs.

- There's something kind of poignant finding a book that my father read in 1965 with notes in the margins. And it makes me feel sad. The past is sad. I didn't realize that until I got older.

- The beauty of failure is it forces you to stop doing what you're doing and assess it. The problem with success is it affirms everything you've been doing, even the bad.

- Puritanism is the haunting fear that someone, somewhere, may be happy.

- It was never a love affair. It was a ‘neither one of us has a date to the prom, so let’s go together’ kind of thing.

- We're all capable of getting sunburned. That's it.

- When you're facing slow death by acetylene torch, even a third-tier American presidential candidate can look like a lifeline.

- A. You shot me!

B. What are you, instant replay with a snaggletooth?

- A. She added that if I wanted my visa expedited, I should call a number in Brooklyn and ask for Bill.

- Life’s full of surprises. (A quippy reply when questioned on something.)

- Re; a magazine rack or movie/tv selection:

Nothing good enough to be great and nothing bad enough to be good

- Well, isn’t life peculiar?

- What’s her problem?

That’d be like giving you cliffs notes on war and peace

- FBI agent has to make a deal with the devil when her lawyer husband goes to prison

First scene is him with an undercover agent who had infiltrated the people he works with He says first you should know that this room is dirtboxed. Jammed. No electronic signals. I need to know the tenure of your duplicity and how much damage you did. Cause really, you showed the most disrespect imaginable to these guys, you lied, for days, weeks, months on end. And I can’t be held responsible if they shoot you in the kneecap right now if you give an answer that doesn’t pass muster.

We cut to the wife calling her husband we don’t know which it is yet

The undercover guy - figuring he’s gonna die - says I work for the same people as your wife

Then they get raided and the people realize his wife is fbi

He says I never told her anything - if I had, why would they have sent someone to infiltrate?

- I can move mountains

Ok then move that mountain of bullshit away from me

- Best rescue since st george slayed the dragon

- We’re the opposite of most people..

We could play it safe but we’d never survive

- Any publicity is good publicity if you want to be famous - or stay famous - but not if you want to stay rich

- Please leave your shoes - and your personality disorder/shame(xxxx) - at the door

- You know, at some point, the favor bank cuts off your line of credit

- What are you, new?

- Seems to have come down with a case of drowning (someone dead)

- Can’t be arsed with that palaver

- Gray hair… t’s kinda like a metaphor, a bad one, at that, but still… cause the older you get, the more life’s absolutes turn into a shade of gray

- Don’t let perfect be the enemy of good

- Round here? Just work hard and see if you can get your kid into a really good gang

- Most people know more about what they want on their pizza than about what they want in their life

- Just telling you what we know

And in doing so, revealing all that you don’t

- You’re a Snyder-cut snobby douche canoe

- Someone shuffled your deck pretty good huh?

- You are such a douche canoe

- You’re a bit of an asshole huh

I like that about myself

- You’re either in love with —- or you haven’t met her yet

- Ambulance or hearse, your choice

- If I believed in god I’d pray for you, but I don’t so…fuck you

- Shadows of doubt hover over Dr. Rudolph like a canopy

- If there’s a telegraph pole, she’d charm that into doing her bidding.\_

- It’s like if you were a robot and your programming all crashed

- Every minute you stand there with the teeth you still got staying in your mouth is a minute that the angel on my shoulder talking sense, but who all knows when I’m Such gonna tune him out

- Economic incentives for illegal immigrants? That’s hysterical. They have 10x the economic incentive at home! Only difference is, our enterprises are legal. But for most these folks, those only two options. So when choosing to build a real life and stay out trouble is considered the wrong choice…system needs get fixed.

- Porsche turbo with a student driver sticker

- God help you cause no one else can

- Who?

What r u, an owl?

Don’t be disingenuous please

I’m not. I’m being smarmy.

Mrs -

Ms.

Ms. Sawyer -

I’ like you to leave my property

We haven’t even told you why we’re here

And yet.

- I don’t see this going well for you.

That what your astrologist said? It’s been 20 seconds.

Since?

I asked you to leave my property. (Pulls gun) that demonstrates a lack of intention to leave, which invokes castle doctrine.

- I used to not trust anyone. It was a shitty way to live. So I started off slow, trying to let people earn my trust. Was going well. But here’s the thing and there’s really no way of getting around this…you can never underestimate a human being’s ability to look out for number one - and only number one.

- I dunno, you could be a pro or a con (pro athlete or convict)

- Are you calling her a liar??

God no! (Pause) I’m calling you one

- Discretion the better part of valor

- We’re investing in people all the time - our politicians (usually a poor investment); an employer and their employees; a company and its ceo; a woman and her husband (often an ipso facto investment)

- Ya can’t fake your accent

- Idk I’d rather prove my supporters right than prove my detractors wrong

- I can’t believe we’re here

Don’t jinx it

Ummm, jinx what? Us being here?

- Sssshhhh

You tellin me to be quiet or are you like deflating?

- Your personal life? None of my business…but it becomes my business when it affects my business

- What you sayin? (Slang for what’s up)

- When people show you who they are, believe them

- Res ipsa loquitor - the thing speaks for itself

- Retirement community used to house fugitives til their plans are set?

Or homeless community?

- Well, when your only route to relevance is nostalgia or irony - or both - you take your strokes where you can get ‘em

- You’re one piece of fruit that’s attracting a lot of flies.

- Can I speak to your manager?

Yup. You are.

I see. Can I speak to your supervisor?

A song by the same name…

- Let’s see who’s who’s in the zoo

- You make me embarrassed to be a human

- Took the Concorde up…and the challenger down

- Never give the devil a ride. He’ll want to play his own tunes.

- If the devil takes me, let it be on a good horse

- Love takes off masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within

- You MUST meet xxxx

Why?

- He got rich making rich people poor

- The hook (cops)

- Real spit

- Spots a friend chopping wood

My oh my what did that little slab o’ lumber ever to do to you

- Dead that shit. Right now. (Quit it)

- Poverty is not a scapegoat for immorality

- You fuckin with the wrong one…

- Can’t have water turned off…

That’s the one thing person can’t live without

- Some sort of underworld that Leanne or Kayleigh gets wrapped up in

Crimes everywhere

What’s done in the dark…

- Supply and demand…I demanded that they supply me with one.

- Sticks and stones, man…

I’m a lot more stones than sticks

- Oh, tag, then. I’m it. And I’m gonna find y’all.

- Criminals like celebs - they’re people too. They have bbq.s and watch movies and go bowling. I mean, they have a chef grilling wagyu and they have home theaters and bowling lanes in their basements but…

- Two things about him - he’s a hustler

And….

And the fact that you asked that means you shouldn’t bother with him

- How do u live with yourself?

I make accommodations

- You’re the —— I’ve ever met

Guess someone had to be

- Why save for a rainy day when u can buy —- god wouldn’t rain on a girl wearing

Say what you wanna say - you must be choking on it but huh r

- Now you’re lighting candles in MY church

- You gonna do something

Or just stand there

For now? Just stand here

- Oh ya? Whatre you gonna do about it?

Let’s find out, shall we

- I keep you safe!

You just told me I couldn’t drink the water…

Yes! Me! Keeping me safe!

- I was told the truth would set me free - was I misinformed?

- The full text of which I can’t reproduce because the spirit of Glenn Greenwald temporarily possessed me and I blacked out from inchoate indignation.

- Don’t wrap the American flag around this person

- Since the Vichy government. (40’s France)

- We all have demons - I just choose to feed mine

- Sorry the guys name is Johnny Eggs? Is a Gambino Family associate?

- A toast—to…absent friends.\_

- That guy talks so much shit, he needs a breath mint.\_

- Yeah, ok, Thurston Howell III. (rich guy from gilligans island)

* It’s a little JG Ballard. (post-apocalyptic satire)

- A. We had a disagreement

B. Over?

C. I thought he should care about his family more than that heroin; he thought differently.

- I don’t know throw the first punch. Just the last.

- A. I got half a mind to \_\_\_

B. That’d give you, what, a quarter of a mind?

- It is the fate of glass to break.

- A jury trial is...you ever hear a coach say when a QB throws a pass, 3 things can happen and 2 of ‘em are bad? A jury member can be one of 3 things and 2 are bad; they weren’t smart enough to get out of jury duty, they want to send someone to jail, or they want to play project innocence.

- Reality tv is like the old ‘if a tree falls in the woods and no one hears it’—reality tv is like the person filming it.

- Dogs are feedback loops for positive emotion. They’re happy to see you, which makes you happy. Then you pet them and they’re even happier, which makes you even happier.

- You were cursed with being pretty, which means the world told you what you were supposed to be before you could figure it out for yourself.

- I was up at stupid o’clock. (I was up really early.)

- If you lock your wife and your dog in the trunk of your car for twenty-four hours, when you open it, which one’s happy to see you?

- Don’t pick a fight with reality. (Life Is what it is; don’t try to fight it.)

- Unless you’re the lead sled dog, the view never changes. (Be a leader or else you’ll never get ahead.)

- Do you need me to acquaint you with my definition of the word?\_ (Snarky riposte when someone asks what something means, or repeats it incredulously.)

- Pretend you got a personality transplant and say,

- An old Zen master once told me that high explosives are sorta like relationships. You either get too much too soon or not enough when you really need it. Either way you’re screwed—and not how you want to be.

- No one wants to have polite sex.

- Most marriages are happy ones. Not often are there musses. It's living together afterward that causes all the fusses.

- Free will? Please. People rise and fall based on their ties to one another.

- Breathing feels like a luxury with an expiration date right now.

- Both history and its sob sister, nostalgia.

- That was freedom for you: a good idea that was never on sale.

- That age when you’re scouting around for an identity but not quite ready to hop on a bandwagon.

- He’d stopped believing that the world didn’t happen to him; he happened to the world.

- It was time to look reality in its cloudy eyes.

- How terrible a conscience can be.

- The music reminded him of who he once thought he’d be.

- Conversation was like someone swept away in white-water rapids, bobbing up every now and then only to sputter and disappear under waves.

- A braying, blistering screech of invective.

- If you’re defined by your world, who are you when your world kicks you out and leaves you to die?

- It’s surprisingly hard to give up a fantasy, even when you know it was a placeholder.

- He was on the fence about growing up hard, whether it was a reason or pretext for being a criminal.

- It was one thing to recognize the pain of others, it was another thing to try it on for size.

- Sometimes you get an image of yourself as you are. Not what you used to be, would like to be, hope to be, deserve to be or anything else. Just you as you are.

- Revenge. Retaliation. It came up again and again. Was it human nature? It was definitely universal. From powerful politicians to kids on a schoolyard to primitive tribes in the wilds of the rain forest—you hurt me, I hurt you back.

- Since he was a kid, he’d been on the lookout for his destiny but nothing had ever seemed right. Maybe he didn’t have one. Maybe he’d be one more humdrum, half-ass homeboy who dreamed big and ended up in a small life.

- I’m okay,\_ he said, trying to put a smile in his voice.

- That’s a match made somewhere but it sure wasn’t heaven.

- Must be a barber somewhere nearby who specializes in the gulag look.

- Guilt will make you indulgent.

- He wondered what algorithm of race, history, economics, politics and law had led to a divide so deep and insoluble. Experts had explanations, but it was like describing the universe. Whatever your vantage point, there was so much more to wrap your head around.

- I realize we don’t walk on the same side of the street

- ‘No offense’—words that always preceded something offensive.

- You can’t ever please anyone by trying to please them.

- Adapt what is useful, reject what is useless, and add what is specifically your own.

- They don’t play nice in the sandbox.

- He didn’t give a two-minute fuck. (He didn’t care.)

- Your first instinct is to escalate, he said. That shows me you’re a punk.

- His eyes were dead earnest, as if he were asking for a physician referral.

- Everyone loves a thoroughbred, sure. But they root for the underdog.

- So far it had been smooth sailing, but so far hadn’t been long.

- If you don’t know what you don’t know, how can you know what to learn?

- Don’t hold your finger up to me like I’m the help.

- A. It’s complicated.

B. Save it for Facebook.

- I am trying to manipulate you. But I’m also right.

- I can’t hear myself think in here, and when I can’t think, I act on emotion.

- ‘Got broken,’\_ she said. \_That’s what we call a strategically passive sentence construction.

- Every choice holds redemption.

- It was a hard stare to meet.

- Word around the campfire is \_\_.

- Welcome to the club. Dues payable at the end of the month and don’t park on the lawn.

- Had a few birthdays since we last spoke. (It’s been a while.)

- This is looking to be my ninth life. (This is my last shot.)

- I’m a defective model. I got pulled off the assembly line.

- You’ll have to forgive me for not taking you at your word.

- Oh. You mistook me. That wasn’t a question. We haven’t gotten to the questions yet.

- Time to get operational. (When action is about to start.)

- Thank heaven for small mercies. (Can be used earnestly or sarcastically)

- Fair winds and following seas. (Good luck.)

- All things should honor what proceeded them and inspire what is to come.

**SECTION 4: DESCRIPTIONS**

NOTE TO REGARDING USE: When appropriate, incorporate these into the text. Feel free to change the subject or the tense. Feel free to only use part of one. Each one starts with an en-dash. Even if there’s a period, that doesn’t mean it is a complete sentence. When they elevate the text, use them, but only use each one once per chapter at most.

* They’re both past tense.
* Beneath all the dramatic posturing lurked resignation. Beneath that lay regret.
* Lords of Chaos.
* Exudes the danger of a live wire near a puddle.
* Velvet gloves/velvet switchblade.
* Just as destructive, all jittery wiriness tucked up in a hoodie, filled with such self-loathing that no violent betrayal could make him hate himself more than he already does.
* The odd sardonic smile; the slight tightening of a look - you're aware, from the off, that what he is on the outside might not have anything to do with what he is on the inside.
* His reading glasses are pushed up on his forehead, as if he might survey a spreadsheet at any moment.
* Everything about him -- his look, his posture, his walk -- takes the form of a dare.
* A blonde spitfire.
* That sadness trapped behind her eyes.
* A temper and mien that’s got him in his share of near-jams. Alarming blue eyes, kind face, and an easy charm that’s gotten him out of them.
* He’s not even moving and you can see how he carries himself.
* His face was a roadmap of scars and wrinkles, stories etched in skin from wars long forgotten by everyone but him.
* Middle-school arms.
* Kinda snaps to, but it’s unclear if she’d been thinking or just woken from a 5-second nap.
* Gym-hardened with pristinely coiffed hair.
* She touched everything but had fingerprints on nothing. Everyone and no one knew her.
* Permanent, mischievous half-grin.
* The feral look of an underfed coyote.
* The sterile careerist lifestyle of the political elite.
* A gilded loop through Park Avenue galas, North Jersey golf, Southampton summers, and yachts on the Mediterranean and back again, ad infinitum.
* His eyes are under a heavy brow, conveying little and absorbing everything.
* A faraway look in his eyes.
* Built like a saguaro cactus.
* A Louisiana drawl so deep a documentary in which he later appeared would include subtitles.
* Jaunty, with an easy smile.
* A glitzy, hyped-up cross of business, Bible verses, science, sex appeal, and cocksure ostentation.
* His body was a fortress of muscle.
* He wore a shiny Renaissance-meets-Miami-nightclub blazer
* You can see the revulsion dance on the corners of his face.
* Elfin features
* He’s got receipts (he’s out to get people who wronged him.)
* A dreamer burdened with reality.\_
* He ran out of dreams
* Hair slicked back, a cigarette clamped in the corner of his mouth and a sardonic glint in his eye, he looks as if he's earned every inky stain.
* There’s this look he gives you, and it’s as though he’s preemptively editing out any lies, BS, or stalling tactics from what you’re about to tell him.
* I didn't meet anyone affiliated with LURD who didn't look as if he'd just returned from a long but enjoyable day of summary executions.
* A laid-back 27-year-old Hispanic street thug with tattoos snaking up his neck and a swagger as easy as his laugh.
* Is a tree phony because it loses its leaves in winter? he whispered.
* I suspect that \_\_\_ did a ton of acid at some point.
* Mastered the art of keeping his head slightly above any crowd; his lack of direct eye contact is one of the power tricks he uses to ensure that he is the focus of everyone's attention.
* The deep, mellifluous voice of a courtroom orator.
* Set on a conveyer belt to stardom.
* Sparkle had been taken out of her eyes.
* Gave him the semblance of a world-wise law school student with a weekend job managing the door of a cut-rate nightclub in Brighton Beach.
* When people say Court Street lawyer, they generally mean a street-smart sharpie who may not have an Ivy League degree but does possess verve, hustle and a striver’s charisma.
* \_\_\_ speaks in testy hyperbole.
* \_\_\_ grew up in Trinidad, is tall and lanky with Eurasian eyes that often narrow at real or imagined racial slights.
* The same pearl-clutching, righteous tone they use when discussing their aunt in Connecticut who voted for Trump.
* Exacting—almost expressionless. A competitive persona with a gaze so intense that it could shake a man with a weak spirit.
* The dead end in his face.
* A ready smile and an easygoing mien.
* Irons his socks. (is anal)
* Something inside him flickered to life. When that happens, his laid-back demeanor fades away, and then, as if he’s answering Mama’s prayers, the boy you knew is no more.
* The offspring of a human-\_\_\_ mating.
* The look on his face was fitting -- half disgust and half heartburn
* \_\_\_ could talk a dog off a meat truck.
* \_\_\_ could talk himself out of a sunburn.
* Burr haircut.
* He talked like a Tommy gun with no semi-automatic setting.
* An earnest, straight-down-the-line quality that's easy to mimic but hard to fake.
* Dresses that could charitably be called fabric-light.
* Ingenue.
* Half conspiratorial aside, half teacher coaxing a particularly shy student, every sentence is delivered in the soft, earnest cadence of someone letting you into a secret.
* There's an optimistic cast to his face—he looks like he's smiling even when he's not.
* A hard man, and he looked and acted the part: cut from stone, built for combat.
* Displaying an obdurate heedlessness.
* An anti–Hillary Clinton poster glares from a wall in the living room; anti–Joe Biden mugs lurk in the kitchen cupboard. His fridge is a cry for help, a Stonehenge of takeout cartons and bagged carrots. The toilet seat in his bathroom is always up. His living room is dominated by a giant leather couch and a flatscreen TV that runs MSNBC all day long.
* Goes room temperature. (dies)
* More \_\_\_ than teeth.
* Can’t throw a frisbee.
* She’s certainly of minimum viable product.
* He’s tuned to a different frequency.
* Lives a well-ordered life.
* Was well-born.
* No-nonsense. His perfectionism not OCD so much as his interpretation of social Darwinism. Asks where the extra five points went when his kid gets a 95.
* An abraded baritone that is like a menacing whisper.
* Good intentions can also come across like irrepressibly dopey optimism.
* I’d imagine if you caught him in a one-on-one conversation you might be able to suss out a single moment in which the facade dropped and he revealed an exasperation at having to embed amongst so many lushes in order to keep his career going.
* Packed with shutter shade-donning, neon tank top-wearing, way too young-looking kids running around and sneaking sips from illicitly smuggled bottles of booze.
* Handsome, but not in the way that'd get him anywhere near a GAP campaign, he always looked like he'd been pulled from the holding cell of some backwater jail, still hungover and in the same cowboy boots he'd been arrested in.
* Craggy, drunk, weird, violent young men whose faces told stories, which was useful, because they didn't really want to talk about themselves anyway.
* Something curiously unfinished about Cacciato. Open-faced and naive and plump, Cacciato lacked the fine detail, the refinements and final touches, that maturity ordinarily marks on a boy of seventeen years. The result was blurred and uncolored and bland. You could look at him then look away and not remember what you'd seen.
* Capable of defusing situations with a talking cure.
* Been around since Jesus was a corporal.
* His voice was low and sonorous.
* Every day, her best day was yesterday.
* The wide-open slate of his face before trauma and loss had been written over it.
* \_\_\_ looked confused. Or maybe that was just his resting facial expression.
* Scar tissue growing around a vulnerable core until nothing could pierce it.
* For a moment he just looked like what he was, an accumulation of vulnerabilities armored over with resentment.
* Crooked chipped teeth, papery skin, sunken eyes that spoke to malnutrition or opiate use or both. It wasn’t just damage but overuse, ninety years of hard living forced through a forty-year-old body.
* Tattoos laureled with requisite hard-bitten monikers.
* Wearing a fine-tailored suit that seemed at odds with the sense of menace he projected.
* Sack of bones topped with straw hair. eyes rolling white, hands jittering, tongues poking Morse-code patterns in their cheeks.
* Her age was undeterminable—late fifties? seventy?—but she comported herself like a twenty-something. The effect was mildly unsettling, like watching a lizard try to crawl back into its shed skin.
* He was ridiculously good-looking, no doubt a future actor or a Starbucks barista.
* Poised, exceptionally so, shoulders back, swanlike neck, her hands at repose at her narrow waist like those of a ballerina in first position.
* A voice that was theatrically low, with an excess of patience that a large, dangerous man could afford.
* His face had grown guarded, no longer a blank slate upon which a couple could project their dreams.
* The confident, competent demeanor of a man who knows his way around various power tools.
* Brazen, voluble, a whirl of hand gestures and blunt remarks.
* Didn’t deserve a glowing postscript.
* Three men at his back with flashing eyes and bad energy—simmering hostility tempered by a whiff of sheepishness.
* Her features coming clear, wide-set eyes, caramel skin, broad ski-jump nose.
* Sallow features, wispy hair, face unshaven enough that it seems a statement, not an oversight.
* Appeared on screen, looking like someone’s hazy misconception of 1970s cool:
* Was so animated that, beside him, \_\_\_ looked like an expensive wax statue.
* They looked well lubricated, their movements loosened with alcohol, and they stank of tequila.
* Singularly charismatic, a perpetual motion machine with a comic’s timing and a gift for connecting.
* The organizing principle of her life seemed to be the color red. Red nails, a red hair scrunchie, red pumps, red lipstick, red buckle on her satchel briefcase.
* He spoke properly, but there was a street cadence beneath the words that Duran knew all too well.
* Never met a cliche he didn’t have a head-on collision with.
* Could tease a smile out of a gargoyle.
* Dressed like a prep school student whose parents have to keep up the donations to avoid said student’s expulsion.
* Could put an amphetamine to sleep. (boring)
* Built like a concrete pillar, silver hair in a flattop, fists big as sledgehammers.
* Served her purpose - gave \_\_\_ sons and heirs.
* The scar is still angry on his cheek.
* His arms like grain silos.
* The guilt had injured him somewhere deep inside; an inoperable wound that pulsed and hemorrhaged
* Pudgy, shaved head, a frown like he was pondering world peace. Studious wire-rimmed glasses.
* Fear and anxiety rioting inside of him.
* Moved easily, smoothly, like his joints were oiled, surprising for a tall man.
* Six feet, two forty—if he was naked and hadn’t eaten breakfast.
* \_\_\_ was always on simmer.
* The man had stature; a presence both solid and embracing. In his eyes, you were a child of God.
* Steely arms tight as piano wire.
* Her voice like an axe hitting an anvil.
* A walking condominium. (a big person)
* Tufts of white hair were sticking out of his nose.
* You could see the fury rising in him, this stooped old man who could sell death as easily as an ice cream cone.
* His voice was gravelly, the big startled eyes narrowing into cut marks.
* You want to grow up to be a tough motherfucker, work in a coal mine. You want to grow up to be angry and fearless, work in a coal mine.
* Her posture was different too, slouched and fuck-you indifferent.
* Didn’t react, his usual response to threats, his gaze steady and unrevealing, his face blank as unbuttered toast.
* Swagger in his chromosomes.
* Stooped, skeletal old man, Ebenezer Scrooge with thinning hair dyed too brown and an antique scowl. His face was inexplicably lumpy, like someone had pressed his knuckles into a hunk of cookie dough.
* \_\_\_ is missing a chromosome. (\_\_\_ is stupid.)
* Big, startled eyes, a mustache and ears like sideways satellite dishes and you had an aging Mr. Potato Head after a car accident.
* There was something hyena-like about him. The malicious grin, maybe, or the dull, merciless eyes.
* Looked lethargic but dangerous, like you were in a canoe and a half-submerged hippo was staring directly at you.
* His muscles were cut, steely six-pack, his arms corded with veins.
* As long as they didn’t spend too much time together, the relationship worked fine.
* The boy’s delivery was just-the-facts-ma’am impassive.
* His face didn’t match the words. He seemed far away and brooding.
* That’s a fortunate lil’ muthafucka, growing up proper-like. Got love all around him, don’t have to worry about nothin’.
* Tough-pretty, athletic build, her blond hair artlessly cut.
* Her brow furled.
* A good listener, sifting through your words like she was panning for gold.
* Nice chinos and a black shirt, inked-up, bulked-up arms coming out of the sleeves.
* The khan of the Locos.
* A bony, fearsome woman with no sense of humor and nails jutting out of her eyes.
* A bulge at the waistline, gaunt cheeks, eyes wide and paranoid.
* He radiated latent power and menace.
* Municipal rigor dissolves into hamlets in shambles.
* The cautious one, the careful one, the emergency brake on the sports car.
* Anger creeping into his voice.
* Angry now, punching every word.
* A flowy, aubergine dress.
* A pit-bull face—broad cheeks, near-invisible eyebrows, a snub nose that smeared the nostrils into ovals.
* His handsome face was still padded with baby fat. His cheeks looked smooth and white, like he barely needed to shave.
* Never seen you get mad, flustered, lose it. At first I thought it was a kind of strength. But then I realized it’s just a kind of … nothing.
* Face failed to conceal the fact that he’d forgotten.
* He vibrated with impatience.
* A nervous energy that seems like it could turn kinetic on a dime
* Broad forehead and a patch of butterscotch hair
* Nattily dressed
* There’s little to glean from Leonard’s vacant face. His broad, glassy eyes betray only the sense that he’d rather be elsewhere—or that he’s already elsewhere.
* A man whose natural optimism had weathered myriad checks
* Dark glossy hair and a Mona Lisa smile
* Has been doing this too long to take it too seriously
* A workaday cop
* Low-Rent sort of way
* His piece de resistance (most important feature)
* Strides into the room with coiled energy
* The confidence of someone who viewed life as a competition - one he was used to winning
* Crocodile smile
* Holds that persona at some remove
* His forehead carries the wrinkles of a man who has spent a lot of time with his brow furrowed.
* Kinda corny, like the guy who says nice to "meet" you in an email
* Making sure no one alive has a good day
* Everything about him says ‘try me’
* Voice sounds like he’s smirking
* Impatient air
* With a been-there smirk/attitude
* Jack Kennedy smile
* Florid, beefy man
* \_\_\_ indicates that nuance is not \_\_\_’s strong suit
* Sinatra-blue eyes
* Country-strong
* Man/woman of many wiles (deceits/guiles)
* Aristocratic nose
* Built like an industrial complex
* He doesn't have friends and he doesn't have enemies - he has people who are of use, and people who aren't
* A hair-plugged forty-something
* Self-pity disguised as inner council
* Worn eyes, a tired expression
* Blood bond stronger than a gator's hide
* Received proceeds from the genetic jackpot
* Aggression clothed in agenda
* Form-fitting dress
* Icy - face slack and eyes dead
* Beard thick enough to hide field mice

* Black hair, flicked with a little silver
* A smile that could warm a winter room
* Something unbroken in him that everyone was waiting around to see break
* Stiff bearing
* Sidewall haircuts
* Depth-charge eyes
* Not the kind of person who rushes to fill a silence
* Had a way of searching the sky/ceiling for answers
* The height some men only reach on horseback
* Kind of guy who enters a room ten minutes before he gets there
* Eats-his-veggies-loves-his-mom smile
* Cut an imposing figure
* Something behind his eyes that suggested he heard music others didn’t
* Without any pretense of dignity
* Look of a man who’d done his time in the darkest corridors of \_\_\_
* Time had laid a heavy hand on her
* What he lacked in structure he made up for in venom
* Languid - slow & relaxed
* Brains years from catching up with her body
* Body years from catching up with
* Look of someone who isn’t sure she’s up to the task
* Feeling the pressure and passing it downhill
* The kind of guy who thinks time and tide will wait as long as he wants

* All wide-eyed and gosh-golly-gee
* Ordeal carved into his face and body
* Wore \_\_\_ face for \_\_\_ today
* The kind of mettle one develops under extreme opposition
* Moves like he expects things to get out of his way
* A shock of white hair
* Perpetual bland little smile
* A man who couldn’t remember the last time he’d second-guessed himself
* Sullen gaze that said if she’d ever had expectations they’d been dispelled
* As if she courted risk
* How much ice and edge she had
* A man who knew where the bodies were buried
* Pocked, scarred face
* Something beneath the surface, un underground spring bubbling unseen
* Turn up at the corners in a wry smile that hinted at an unshakably cynical view of the world
* His own eyes said *read me if you can*
* A big head balanced on a skinny neck perched on a narrow, rounded shoulders
* Brusque men in tight suits with bad haircuts
* Filled out her skirt
* Pompadour (hair slicked back)
* Phlegmatic - unemotional, stolidly calm
* Level gaze and slight smile
* Slattern (noun, dirty, untidy person)
* They wore sullen, persecuted expressions
* Gentle face stamped with a sadness
* The ordeal is carved into his face and body
* Curious and expectant expression
* Rage-tightened face
* His mouth was a flat line and his eyes furtive and blank
* Dress advertising long legs
* One of those people who would drown in a rain puddle
* Pain had been blunted over time
* Looked like he’d never uttered a full sentence of conversation in his life
* Knew where he was going but left him to get there on his own
* Don’t get thrown off (don’t get mad)
* Keeping that hand way strong
* If you cut off your dick while it's hard, does it stay that way? Just a question.
* Eyes swiveled towards
* Get to be my age, everything but yesterday feels young
* Gave a thin smile
* He’d done nothing in his life but chase someone else’s version of it
* Airmail-your-jaw-to-Georgia explosion of a right cross
* Didn’t ask for time and temperature
* Won’t report to anybody but the warden or St. Patrick
* Chuckles rippled throughout the room
* Cancel his reservation
* The tone of someone who has options
* Your path here was… well, from here on out will be far less predictable
* A child born to poor surroundings learns how to charm
* Don’t sell something you can’t buy back in the same condition
* Both trapped, just different cages
* You spoke out of turn about me
* The most memorable thing in life is rarely something pleasant
* Some people just want a cold drink on a hot day
* Put the screws to him
* Break his gaze
* The feeling he was part of some larger canvas
* If a man’s lucky he’s moving toward something his whole life and never gets there
* Long, undisciplined AK-47 bursts
* More memories than possibilities
* One of those desperate fourth and long plays
* A firm nod that brooked no questioning
* Issued a spritely laugh
* Learning to deal with disappointment is part of becoming a man
* A smile that didn’t quite reach her eyes
* Trying to find purchase
* When the trumpets blow...
* He regarded her a little while longer
* Curious arch of an eyebrow
* Low strain of classical music
* Lived my life by the theory that my brains are more valuable than my balls
* Furthest thing from a moral pillar
* So big it was measured in yard lines
* A smile that had no soul
* Nodded in a way that indicated he’d ignored the advice
* Stared at \_\_\_ as if waiting for it to explain itself
* Would trade his mother to a croc for a new watchband
* Laid waste by loss
* Perish the thought
* I will show you where the crayfish spend winter (I’ll kill you)
* Applying the force of his charm
* What a card she is
* Only thing I know about love is that it ends
* The presumption everyone’s full of it until proven otherwise
* Their eyes met
* My best ‘who, me?’ look
* Raised a fist to stifle a yawn
* A blank, faraway look on her face
* Held her eyes
* Who see themselves as victim’s of some great conspiracy
* That’s about the size of it
* Eyelids fell to half mast
* Proffered my hand
* Bisected by the black ribbon of (river, usually)
* The glow of sleepless (insert city)
* Knocked the ash off his cigarette
* To have the wisdom at a young age, you have to had some real bad things happen to you
* If God hates your guts, he grants you your deepest wish
* Don't be counting MY money; worry about yourself
* One man’s American Dream is another man’s nightmare
* Threw him a glassy smile
* Chattered a line of blather
* Put the hat on (dimed on)
* Stared at her with hate-frosted eyes
* He regarded the guy’s x expression
* Flashed teeth
* Gave him his back (turned away)
* In all that sizzle and clamor
* Render under Caesar what is Caesar's
* A constellation of sweat breaking out on his forearm
* X is a while in the com in’
* Solve vs. beat - cop lingo
* Slanted halfway to bullshit
* Side-mouthed irritation
* With a powerful tenor that turned the room into a church of regret
* Gifts/free have/has a habit of coming back on you
* Doin figure 8’s without skates (drunk)
* He catches her gaze
* Held up his hand, signaled that he needed two more minutes
* Drifted into a fractured sleep
* Looked as if he was not on speaking terms with the x
* Collected a wild haymaker
* Put a cork in his anger
* Gulf between \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ widens
* A nodding acquaintance with
* Made a noise that approximated ‘xxxx’
* Hated a nickel because it wasn’t a dime
* Illusions die hard
* Tosses a glance
* A question that died before he could truly think it
* Rain whipping against the windows
* Rain drumming the roof shingles
* Some days feel like Truman show...ew be more self centered
* Accedes to
* The world isn’t complicated: people either give up on you or don't
* Hot girls always too good to be true...like cops (foreshadow)
* Treadmill of routine and ritual
* Guy with a lot to lose acting like a guy with nothing to lose
* Buried under the stylized ceremony of its cuteness/xxxx
* Cranial accessories
* Judiciously distributed pounds
* Posing for a photo no one is taking
* The sun would leave my sky if \_\_\_ (I’d be broken if \_\_\_)
* Cemetery for cigarettes
* Imports foreign people
* Tentative floorboards
* Withering stare
* Could tell by his carriage
* I wouldn't lay that at his feet (door?)
* Quiet ripped open by
* Aggression clothed in agenda
* Insistent November sunshine
* Dissolve like a lemon drop
* Camouflaged by
* Looked at me from a great and concerned distance
* Planes negotiating the small grid
* Stained sky
* Snapped in two the connecting gaze
* Regret stretched before her in every direction
* Withering stare
* Could tell by his carriage
* Given the life he’d led up to now, that made sense; hard years counted double.
* She regarded them as one might a herd of exotic animals.
* Muscles coiled, thrumming with energy, ready to go kinetic.
* The slightly wild, insomniac look of someone who’d been down on his luck for too long.
* She was a medley of contradictions, surprises.
* His father had wanted to make a man out of his son, and it did — it made a man who rarely came home and when he did, wasn’t to be bothered.
* Gymnast-compact, all knotty muscle and precision.
* Broad cheekbones, long lashes, vibrant emerald eyes; a pose youthful and strangely disarming. But there was something haunted beneath those strong features, as if in her relatively brief life she’d seen more than she’d wanted to.
* When the DoD required cash for Program operations, they made use of the bureaucratic machinery of Interior, figuring correctly that this was the last place that any inquiring mind would look for Selected Acquisition Report irregularities.
* Baseball-catcher build.
* Beneath the biker mustache, a Camel Wide crackled, sucked down to within a millimeter of the filter.
* Looks every bit as miserable as he feels.
* Her shriveled face showing the patient sorrow of the campesina.
* Her eyes grew hard fast.
* She looked angry and confused and angry about the confusion.
* She took hope for granted, saw opportunity as her due.
* The kind of bright smile that had nothing behind it.
* Sweat trickled into his eyes and he armed it off.
* Shot her a lazy grin, as if to say, it’s all about the little pleasures, isn’t it?
* Voice stayed level and smooth.
* Pursued a desire to be anyone but what the world fated him to be.

**SECTION 5: DESCRIPTIONS AND ACTIONS - LINES**

***NOTE REGARDING USE:*** Use these when they fit. If they have a period, that doesn’t mean they need to be used as one sentence. Feel free to pick pieces from these. Feel free to change the gender or tense to make it fit. Treat \_\_\_ as a tabula rasa for a subject.

* Always percolates with trouble—its citizens have an abstract understanding that every day people are raped and beaten, cars are stolen, schoolkids are pushed around.
* Face registers amusement
* Faintest hint of amusement firmed those lips
* Cast an apologetic look
* Her grin lightened her face once more.
* Sipping an arabica coffee worth its weight in rhodium.
* Her gaze seeming to hitch on him.
* He became aware of a hike in his heart rate, the hot night air wrapping itself around his neck.
* Dangling in her face like a mesmerist’s bauble.
* Schlage on the apartment building’s front door yielded to a rake pick and a tension wrench, the pins popping into alignment with a readiness that suggested they’d been compromised enough times to know the drill.
* Mm-mm-mm-ed her agreement.
* Treated to a chorus of suspicious glares and disapproving clucks.
* She snapped her gum with gunshot vehemence.
* He looked dead calm, like he’d done this too many times with a positive result
* Sucked his Camel Wide down a good half inch, the cherry crackling, then dropped it out onto the pile of butts below the tailgate. “Can’t be doing respiratory therapy in here.”
* Features broadened with pleasure, a smile without the smile
* Slides to the floor like a robe at XXX’s feet
* Sluiced down the drink
* Talked him down from that tree.
* Staying on the right side of the grass.
* Muttered to \_\_\_ as they stood on the edge of this conversation.
* Thinning the herd
* “How’ve you been, TK?” “Old and slow,” he said, his usual answer to that question.
* A dog was meandering around, a bullmastiff. Majestic and hulking with its big square head and floppy black muzzle; a brindle, tawny striping over black, a hundred thirty pounds of get the fuck out of my way.
* “Hard to explain?” Dodson said. “I understand English, I even read and write some too.”
* Something broke inside of Sal, a pressure gauge, a release valve. Blindly, wildly, she charged.
* Disappointment curdled into anger as he went out the door.
* She put her hands out, beseeching the heavens,
* She looked like she was standing on a frozen lake and the ice was moving
* He’d pulled the sentence up at the end like a question
* Gave a one-shoulder shrug of assent
* They’d watched each other grow up with the wary, amused contempt of rival religious groups
* Her eyes studiously avoiding him. She was tense, he thought. She wants to say something but doesn’t have a way to get into it/set it up.
* Glints of anger sparked off her eyes
* Watched the Maybach sail away, a white cruise ship on an ocean of gray asphalt
* Shook his head and looked to the heavens
* Offered his hand to indicate that the meeting was ending
* With the speed and focus of a squirrel stripping a walnut
* A shifting along old fault lines
* Just had time to wash pits and parts
* She shot him a loaded look.
* Big raindrops turning the roof into a tin drum
* It’s part of the Safe Cities initiative. The streetlights are all LED. The whole system gets paid for by the money cities save from the reduction in electricity costs.
* Trudged like a road-weary salesman
* We need more arrows in our quiver
* She flashed a fake grin. Let it fall from her face.
* Gave it a Vanna White wave with her free hand
* He sledded around a bend
* He took this in with a vague nod.
* Took his measure.
* Surprised flickered across his face.
* To ensure he gave nothing away with his body language or facial expressions, they’d monitored everything down to his blink rate.
* Adam didn’t know it, but they were also field-testing for DARPA.
* Senses some dark truth in the spaces between the lies
* Snow-globe storm of instincts and impressions flurrying inside him, refusing to settle
* Every time he reached for a thought, it twirled away, lost to the squall.
* Was taught the basic stuff—how to zero a sniper rifle, where to nick a femoral artery with a box cutter.
* Had tugged the thread of a memory. No, not a memory, exactly. More like a wisp of a forgotten dream.
* They helped broaden the hours but didn’t add much depth to the days and nights
* Speaks in the tone of someone who has options
* Mouth formed in an expression of polite concern/Mouth formed to express a polite curiosity
* The bowl of polluted smoke that is Tijuana.
* A small town, where gazes came steeped in gradations of provincialism
* Various overlapping conversations
* Beneath the gold-leaf ceiling of winged griffins
* Where the shot-and-a-beer crowd holds the line against the single malt cohort.
* Wreathed with barbed wire
* Biblical rain
* A block caught somewhere between decay and refurbishment
* Downtown shimmering like a mirage
* A massive oil refinery loomed out of the dark, a tangle of pipes and tall fire stacks emitting clouds of steam, escaping gases burning into water vapor, random lights illuming flurries of insects.
* You didn’t have to see it to know what it was like. There’d be a TV the size of a ping-pong table, a fucked-up sofa, a couple of PlayStation controllers, white plastic chairs, a mattress on the floor, a coffee table for rolling joints and resting your Glock, and a beat-to-shit, mustard-colored carpet stained to death and only vacuumed when somebody’s mom came over.
* “The Locos, the Boulevard Mafia, the East Side Longos, Sons of Samoa, Armand Duprée on the west side, JJ Hardaway in Cerritos—” (gangs)
* The ground was covered with pine needles and litter, one of those nasty places where you might step on a hypodermic needle or a used condom
* There was a growing residential area but a lot of it was dreary and lethargic with weedy vacant lots between the low-rise commercial buildings.
* Gentlemen’s clubs were in evidence every few blocks despite the absence of any actual gentlemen.
* The quintessential dive: dim and gloomy, regulars hovering over their drinks at the long oak bar, glistening bottles of booze on inviting, ascending shelves, a place you looked into your drink so you wouldn’t see yourself in the mirror.
* An old, two-story thing with boards missing from the front steps and scabs of paint flaking off the gray wood. Everything in and around the place looked broken.
* The things that turn a house into a home.
* An industrial district checkered with low-rent housing
* A beautiful city, but like most beauties, temperamental
* An impeccably ordered array of computer towers, servers, antennae. Monitors filled an entire wall, showing various hacked feeds.
* Gentrification doing its cheery best, but they were out ahead of the curve here and—from the looks of the clientele and graffiti—in over their heads
* Increasingly rural tangle of desolate back roads
* Gray clouds pervaded the sky
* Ushering dusk into full night
* Not the kind of establishment that made inquiries of its patrons.
* The security camera was a fake, a dusty decoy drilled into the wall for show.
* Vacant with disinterest
* Put a cork in his anger/whatever
* lonely middle-distance stare
* eyes swiveled towards \_\_\_
* Aggression clothed in agenda
* Searching the sky/ceiling for answers
* Coughed out a note of disbelief
* Gave a laugh that held no humor
* Lit a cig and blew a stream of smoke at the sky
* rushes to fill a silence
* Pulled a sad face which didn’t seem sincere
* Jeweler looking for authenticity
* Fretfully responsible expression as if overseeing some never-ending crisis
* Listening to music no one was hearing
* Like newlyweds saying goodbye to the the grumpy uncle who had come for Sunday dinner
* Lips parted slightly and skewed as if about to voice her impatience
* Moves like he expects things to get out of his way
* His own eyes said, *read me if you can*
* Faraway stare
* Eyes transfixed by \_\_\_
* The look of someone doing long division in his head
* \_\_\_ walks behind the bar, discards his bottle and grabs another. It's that kind of place.
* The kind of bar where the comfort felt by the regulars was meted out in equal discomfort to the intruders.
* The interior of the precinct had the bare elegance of an Edward Hopper painting.
* The foyer was a dark-tiled pool, wide concrete blocks serving as stepping-stones zigzagging across still water.
* Here, the rich felt deserving of their wealth and the poor felt undeserving of their dreams.
* Schlage on the apartment building’s front door yielded to a rake pick and a tension wrench, the pins popping into alignment with a readiness that suggested they’d been compromised enough times to know the drill.
* Can't tether down a slight grin.
* A bluebird day.
* The skies have opened up and hard rain is falling.
* An apartment building worn down by too many generations of tenants with no stake in ownership.
* Lights spilling.
* Engine whining.
* Watery sunlight filtered through plate-glass windows.
* Question-mark smirks.
* Spartan functionalism.
* Modest brick-face row house.
* Sun hid behind a woolen sky.
* A day hot and uncharitable.
* Smoke drifted to the ceiling as the room fell silent.
* Not looking into his eyes, not wanting to see what lived behind them.
* Sheets of water pouring off the \_\_\_.
* A chalky marble in his socket, staring obliquely.
* Polished to a shine.
* Snow-blasted forest.
* Precisely furnished.
* Packed to the gills with body heat and working-class weariness.
* With conveyor-belt efficiency.
* Clouds preside over.
* A constellation of bullet holes.
* A confusion of computer towers, antennae, and servers.
* Treadmill of routine and ritual.
* Railroad tracks fallen into disuse.

* I wouldn't lay that at his feet.
* I wouldn’t lay that at his door.
* Quiet ripped open by.
* Aggression clothed in agenda.
* A grubby white sky.
* Insistent November sunshine.
* Dissolve like a lemon drop.
* Camouflaged by \_\_\_.
* Looked at me from a great and concerned distance.
* Planes negotiating the small grid.
* Storm-stained sky.
* Thick crowd.
* Snapped in two the connecting gaze.
* Regret stretched before her in every direction.
* Feelings bleached out.
* Silence demanded to be filled.
* Buried under the stylized ceremony of its cuteness.
* Constantly posing for a photo no one is taking.
* Cemetery for cigarettes.
* Behind a curtain of cigar smoke.
* Instantly and massively uploading the world around him.
* Tentative floorboards.

**SECTION 5: TECH/MILITARY/CRIME STUFF**

**NOTES FOR USAGE: Use for detail when discussing crime, military, technology or a combination of the above. Use only when they fit. Use your own knowledge to understand what they are or what they mean.**

* sodium pentothal - truth syrup
* cluster analysis, anomaly detection, predictive analytics - trying to find something on computer
* hundred-grain detonating cord
* det cord explodes at four miles a second, giving the effect of simultaneous detonation
* They been playing with it behind the fence for years now
* The metallized fabric blocks RF signals, X-rays, thermal imaging—even blocks him from drones
* Lexan - unbreakable sheet
* Supergluing skin together - as the skin healed, it would push the dried glue out
* a confusion of computer towers, antennae, and servers
* wideband high-power jammer that squelched any surveillance devices
* the mil-dot reticle of his binoculars
* the barrel chamber and bore of a Walther P22