

A B C D E F G

H

O

The Devil's
Thesaurus

Samuel Faulk

N

U

V W X Y Z

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A

Abandon, v.

The wheels of your car
spun out in the driveway.

Our biggest fight;
I never thought it would be
the last time I ever saw you.

As the rain began to fall, I remember
hoping this wouldn't be the end.
I prayed you'd come back to me.

B

Barter, v. and n.

I had never prayed—or begged—
as hard as I did That Night.

When God did not answer,
I tore the room apart.

I threw everything to the curb
and hung a sign:
For Sale: BABY CRIB, NEVER USED.

C

Caress, v.

Every bump, bruise, or scar
tells a story that I want to read.
I trace my finger along your back,
hoping to unlock what
makes you so kind.

D

Doctrine, n.

I worshiped you
in the purest way I knew.
I prayed at your altar.
I drank your wine.

I recited your creed
of what it meant to love.

Why then did nothing
wash away my sins?

E

Ensnare, v.

They say one “falls”
in love,
as if love is a trap set
in the woods, covered

by brittle leaves.

As if love is a pool of water
you can drown in.

As if I did not take
one look and jump.

You do not fall in love.
You take a running leap
and pray someone will
catch you.

F

Fable, n.

Icarus taught us to not fly
too close to the sun.

The Ugly Duckling taught us that
beauty needs to be nurtured.

Avoid Midas' touch lest you
become greedy for more than me.

If only our happy ever after
did not have to end.

G

Guilt, n.

If only trashy
television shows
were your only secret.

H

Harangue, n.

I screamed at
the top of my lungs.
*How could you forget
the vows we made?*

I quoted, reasoned,
ranted and pleaded.
But your thoughts
were still on *him*.

I

Indulge, v.

I want to swim in your veins,
drink from your pool,
blend every part of me with you
until our souls touch.

Let me find the colors
of the rainbow
inside your eyes.

J

Jeer, v.

You asked me
what I thought of
your new dress and
this time I was honest.

K

Kerfuffle, n.

I wanted you to scream;
I wanted you to fight for us.

You did nothing,
resigned to your fate.

You walked out the door,
hoping I would follow.

L

Livid, adj.

When I think about *him*
all I see is red.

M

Magical, adj.

Light shone not from
your smile or your eyes,
but from your fingertips.

Stars disappeared
one by one,
only to return
in your eyes.

N

Narrow, adj.

Is the
road to
happiness as
thinly traveled

as the
road to
heaven? Is
it any
different?

O

Obedient, adj.

I checked all your boxes,
I wore the right clothes.
Said the right things.

I became who you wanted.
Why, then, did you no longer
want the man I became?

P

Permanent, adj.

Silver rings forged in fire,
eternal symbols of our
once in a lifetime love.

Vows made before God,
proof that this will
last forever.

Q

Quality, n.

The ring on your finger,
with real diamonds,
was my grandmother's.

Worth more than our
entire wedding.

How did it feel to have
that much responsibility?

R

Romantic, adj.

The setting sun glinted,
reflecting off the water.
We stood on the cliff side
watching baby seals play
down at the water's edge.
I looked you in the eyes
and kneeled.

S

Scatterbrained, adj.

Sometimes I wake up
and reality hasn't hit me yet.
In that silver moment
between dreaming and daylight.

Then I reach over to shake you awake
and my hand touches nothing
but the empty space
where you used to be.

T

Temporary, adj.

I never thought emptiness
would feel as heavy
as the absence of you.

I never thought emptiness
would feel as heavy
as the ring you left behind.

U

Urge, n.

Sometimes when I roll over
in the middle of the night
I just want to pull you
closer to me.

To feel your warmth against my skin.
Sometimes I want more.

V

Vacant, adj.

I stare at these empty walls
where you used to hang photos
of us with friends laughing
and smiling at inside jokes.

It feels like the walls don't deserve
to be filled with light and love
if you deemed that I don't either.

W

Wealth, n.

We dreamed, not of gold
but of stability and happiness.

X

Xenophobic, adj.

It didn't take long
for me to dislike your father
as much you do.

Y

You, pro.

How do I even begin
to put you into words?
I guess this will have to do.

Z

Zenith, n.

As I fall to my knees,
I hear the crunch of metal from
that Night, the car accident

which claimed both your lives, one yet born.

I will never know if the baby was mine or *his*.

I will never hear its cry or see its face.

I never thought it would be
the last time I ever saw you.