

Textual Variations in *The Bell Jar* Publications

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Sylvia Plath's wrote *The Bell Jar* "at top speed and with very little revision from start to finish," according to Ted Hughes (467). It is generally guessed that Plath began writing her "potboiler"



during the spring of 1961 and that it was completed by August 22 that same year.¹ Plath wrote the novel in the privacy of the study of W. S. and Dido Merwin's house overlooking Primrose Hill at 11 St. George's Terrace (pictured left), located just two-tenths of a mile from where she was living at the time at 3 Chalcot Square. Certain details surrounding the novel's pre-publication are unknown, such as when exactly it was submitted to her London publishers, William Heinemann Limited, when they accepted the novel, or when her galley proofs and final proofs were reviewed.²

We do know that in November 1961, Plath was in deep correspondence with James Michie, her editor, over potentially libelous portrayals of characters in the novel.³ On the 14th of that month, Plath sent a list of minor changes to Michie that she hoped would clear up any potential issues regarding the possibility of defamation lawsuits. This letter about the novel changes the protagonist's name

¹ Plath's long journal entry for December 12, 1959, asks the question, "Why don't I write a novel?" Next to this in the margin, in her autograph, is, "I have! August 22, 1961: THE BELL JAR " (438, 696). It is unclear whether August 22, 1961 was the date she finished the novel or if that was when it was accepted by William Heinemann Limited. Plath called the novel a "potboiler" in a letter to her mother dated October 25, 1962, see *Letters Home*, page 477.

² The files of correspondence for Heinemann now reside with the Random House Archives and limited access is permitted to these documents. In the case of papers relating to Sylvia Plath, her Estate will not permit access to them as the correspondence deals with contracts and financial payments (though it is worth pointing out the invalidity of these documents based on Hughes selling the rights to the novel to Faber in 1966). In a letter from Roger Smith to Olwyn Hughes dated March 14, 1986, the then director of Heinemann admits that the correspondence surrounding the editing and publication of the novel may have been destroyed. This letter is part of the Jane Anderson papers at Smith College.

³ This letter is held in the Sylvia Plath Collection, Mortimer Rare Book Room, Smith College.

from Victoria Lucas to Esther Greenwood, in the attempt to distance the likelihood of association between the novel's author and its heroine. In the remainder of the letter, Plath discusses actual places and real people who have been anonymized or are fictitious.

The care and thoroughness with which Plath addressed these concerns is suggestive of the highly autobiographical nature of the novel. The changes to the novel at this stage involved making anonymous or generic references to factual people and places that Plath admits as having a basis in reality, such as Smith College, *Mademoiselle*, her mother, and the inspiration for Buddy Willard. Some real places, such as the Deer Island Prison, remain identified as such as there was clearly nothing potentially libelous in the scene of the book in which the prison appears. The effect the letter can have is that it actually becomes more difficult to separate some scenes and situations in the novel from events that may have happened to Plath during the summer, fall, and early winter of 1953-1954.⁴

The final part of her November 14, 1961 letter had a profound impact on *The Bell Jar*. Plath tells Michie that she has been awarded a grant to write a novel and that it must be kept secret. The grant of course was the Eugene F. Saxton Memorial Fellowship grant.⁵ Her plan, cleverly, was to package up the already finished novel into four installments and submit it to

⁴ Of course not everything is autobiographical in the novel with regards to the factual chronology of events portrayed. The example that comes to mind most immediately is the scene with Irwin in Chapter 19. The events with Irwin and the "one in a million" virginity debacle occurred in the summer of 1954 or the year after Plath's "Bell Jar" summer (1963, 246).

⁵ Plath received notification of the grant in a letter dated November 6, 1961. The letter is held at Smith College. Smith College also holds two "Progress Reports" to the Saxton Trust by Plath dated May 1 and August 1, 1962, each two pages in length. The report filed in May covers chapters nine through twelve of the novel; the August report details chapter thirteen through sixteen. (We can presume based on this scheduled that Plath submitted a progress reports for chapters one through eight in February 1962 and chapters seventeen through twenty in November 1962.) These reports from May and August 1962 are the only extant authorial comments on the novel. The August report is a typed draft with handwritten annotations. Plath drafted the report on "recycled" paper, the second page of this report contains one line of text from "Three Women": "I am calm, I am calm. It is the calm before something awful:" (*Collected Poems* 179). Just as we covet Plath's authorial statements about her poems (see Appendix II in *Ariel: The Restored Edition* (2004) and page 120 of "These Ghostly Archives 3" by Gail Crowther and Peter K Steinberg for more information on the comments Plath prepared for the BBC in December 1962

(http://www.iun.edu/~nwadmin/plath/vol4/Crowther_Steinberg.pdf), we should include these progress reports as authorial comments about *The Bell Jar*.

grant authorities on a quarterly schedule, receiving a check for work by now completed. We can presume Heinemann accepted this arrangement, as they delayed publication from 1962 to early 1963.^{6, 7}

Because she died so young, Sylvia Plath's editors have had to speak for her and to make publication and other editorial decisions on her behalf.⁸ This sometimes has been controversial, sometimes questionable.⁹ This paper will present and examine the final choices Plath made to the text of *The Bell Jar*, based on comparisons between the uncorrected proof of the novel and its first edition (Table 1, below). In addition, it will also compare the first Heinemann edition – my "control" edition, the only version of the novel to be approved for publication by Plath – to the novel's later publications: the first Harper & Row edition (1971) and the 25th Anniversary HarperCollins edition (1996).¹⁰

⁶ A criterion for Saxton grant was that an acknowledgement of the award be placed on the book jacket. However, no such acknowledgement was made.

⁷ The printed uncorrected proof of the novel has the copyright date of 1962. However, because of the Saxton delay, the novel was not published in England until January 14, 1963. There is likely no way to know when in 1962 the novel was originally scheduled to be published, but one cannot help but wonder how it would have been received critically and what effect it may have had on Plath had the novel come out before it did in the winter of 1963. During the course of the grant (November 1961–October 1962), it should be noted that Plath did write another novel. It is largely assumed that based on statements made by Plath's mother, that the novel, which was called "a sequel to *The Bell Jar*" by Paul Alexander, was destroyed by Plath following the revelation that Hughes was cheating on her and no copy of it is known to survive (Alexander 282, see also Wagner-Martin 208). Additionally, Plath began another novel, likely sometime after August 1962, which she called at first "The Interminable Loaf" and subsequently "Doubletake."

⁸ A couple of examples of these decisions include Plath's posthumous periodical publications, as well as the poetry collections of *Crossing the Water* in 1971 and *Winter Trees* in 1971/1972. These poetry collections are artificial constructions, likely published to coincide with, or capitalize on, the sensation of the American issue of *The Bell Jar* as it was to release more of Plath's poetry to demanding public.

⁹ For examples of editorial errors that work against Plath's authorial vision for several poems, see Tracy Brain's "The Plath Archive," pages 22-31 in *The Other Sylvia Plath* (2001). An additional discussion of the editing of Plath's work can be read in "The Archive," pages 65-113, in Jacqueline Rose's *The Haunting of Sylvia Plath* (1991).

¹⁰ Plath was very particular and meticulous about the way her work appeared in print. For example, in a letter to Olwyn Hughes (undated, though circa October 27, 1960) held by the British Library (Add MS 88948/1/2), Plath tells her that she is happy with her thick book of poems (*The Colossus*, which was recently published) and expresses

According to Stephen Tabor's *Sylvia Plath: An Analytical Bibliography*, the first Faber edition published in 1966 under Plath's own name was "[p]rinted from the same setting of type as the Heinemann edition except for pp. (ii-iv)" (16). As a result, a comparison between the first Heinemann edition and the first Faber was not undertaken under the presumption that the texts should be identical. It should be noted however that the first Faber edition lacks the dedication "For Elizabeth and David;" later editions and reprinting's restored the author's dedication. As well, from the uncorrected proof edition through a 1995 reprint, all Heinemann and Faber editions of *The Bell Jar* contained a typographical error in Chapter 16. In the scene where Joan Gilling presents Esther Greenwood with clippings of her disappearance, the text reads: "The next clipping showed a picture of my mother and brother and me grouped together in our backyard amd smiling" (1963, 210).¹¹ The typo was corrected in 1996 when Faber released *The Bell Jar* as part of their Faber Library series. In subsequent editions that I have examined, the typo is also "fixed." This paper will show that changes made to the novel by Plath's American editors distort the only version of the novel that Plath approved – the first Heinemann edition, 1963 – and that particularly these American editions take liberties with Plath's texts that in some instances dramatically and detrimentally change the way it is read.

An unknown number of uncorrected proofs of *The Bell Jar* were printed by Heinemann in 1962. As with many books, these were sent to the author and to reviewers to drum up interest and potentially boost sales. Currently, seven uncorrected proof copies are held either in Rare Book Rooms or in private hands.¹² Interestingly, Heinemann appears to have typed targeted summary information about the novel onto some of the proof wrappers while some copies remain free

frustration at an uncorrected typographical error from the proofing stage. Thanks to Gail Crowther for pointing this letter out to me.

¹¹ The actual clipping to which this refers was printed on the front page of the *Boston Daily Globe* on Wednesday, August 26, 1953. The story title was "Day-Long Search Fails to Find Smith Student."

¹² Copies held in Rare Book Rooms can be found at the Lilly Library (Indiana University), Rauner Library (Dartmouth), and the Wilson Library (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). The location of the those copies held privately are not known, but based on bookseller catalogs and auction records, four have been "located." In discussing the provenance with librarians of their copies, it does not appear that the copies in Rare Book Rooms are one in the same with those that have sold through auction or the catalog records I have reviewed.

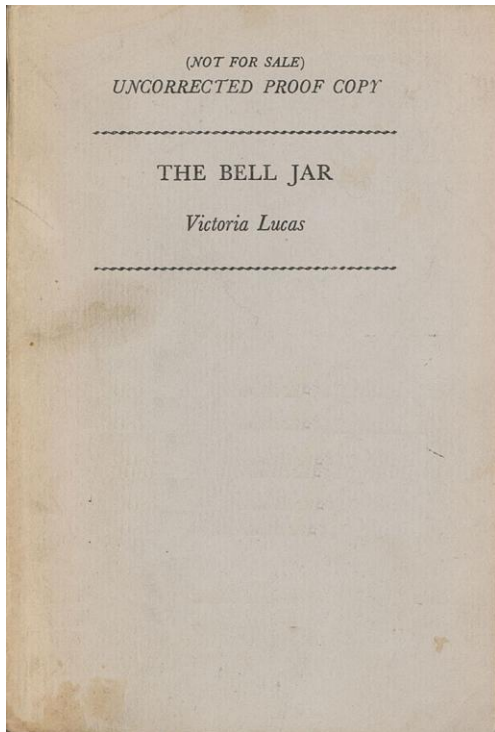
from additional texts.¹³ I obtained a photocopy of the uncorrected proof from the Rauner Special Collections Library at Dartmouth College, and compared it to a copy of the first Heinemann edition held by the Mortimer Rare Book Room at Smith College. There are more than seventy textual variations between the two editions. These textual differences are the result of edits made either by Plath herself when she reviewed the proof or by the editors as they prepared the final typesetting. This shows that Plath read her proofs of *The Bell Jar* very carefully and extends our understanding of her involvement in the creative process beyond the composition of the work itself.

In addition to holding early, partial drafts of the novel, the Sylvia Plath Collection at Smith College holds two final typescript copies of the novel.¹⁴ One contains edits in Plath's hand and is presumably the copy she kept for herself. The other copy is the one she sent to Heinemann which includes editorial notations. The process of editing and finishing *The Bell Jar* is a mystery as very little correspondence is known to exist which would enable scholars to track it. Therefore, we do not know at what point in 1962 Plath reviewed her proof.

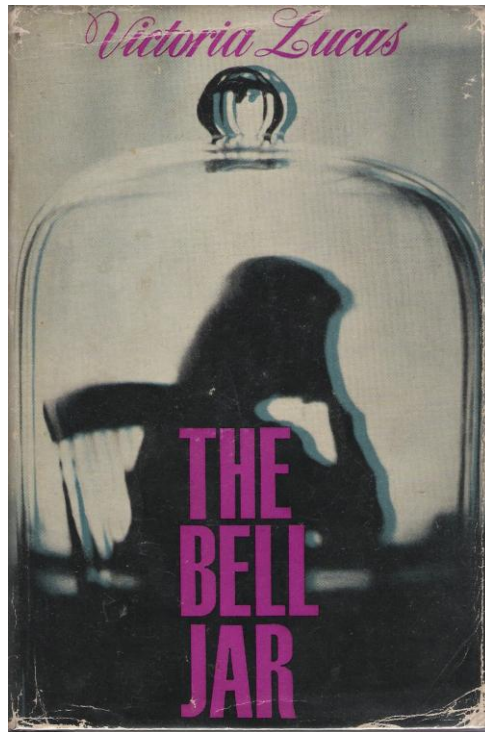
The greatest source for Plath's authorized edits to the typescript is Plath's November 14, 1961, letter to Jamie Michie, cited above. However, there is at least one additional edit to the novel made, presumably by Plath, at a later stage. In the typescript copy she sent to Heinemann, they have updated the name of a character in Chapter 10 from Mrs. Acker to Mrs. Ockenden (1963, 121). The change is not reflected in the typescript copy retained by Plath.

¹³ Heinemann did not maintain either a list of the number of proof copies printed or the reviewer to which they were sent. For more on the text typed onto the paper wrappers of the proof, please see my "Proof of Plath," *Fine Books & Collections*, Spring 2011: 11-12.

¹⁴ The Lilly Library at Indiana University and the Woodruff Library Emory University hold a scatter of pages from early drafts of the novel, too. The Berg Collection at the New York Public Library holds one draft page of *The Bell Jar* – Chapter 12, page 9. On the verso of this page, which is on pink Smith College memorandum paper, is the second typed draft of "Brasilia." The Berg Collection holds a total of six pages of "Brasilia." There are three handwritten drafts and three typed drafts with autographed manuscript annotations by Plath. Page one is handwritten and is blank on the verso. Page two is handwritten and is on the back of "Winter Trees" (dated November 30, 1962). Page three is also handwritten, and on the verso of this leaf is "Trees" (i.e. "Winter Trees," dated November 26, 1962). The first typed draft is on the verso of "Blackberrying." The second handwritten draft, detailed above, has in Plath's hand a list of names (one of which is Charlie Pollard) and what is possibly an abandoned poem to be titled "The Shapes of Love." The last handwritten draft is clean, and dated in Plath's hand December 1, 1962. The carbon for this page was recently sold with her drawing "Cambridge: a View of Gables and Chimney-pots."



Uncorrected Proof, 1962



First Heinemann edition, 1963

The structure of this Table 1 presents the text of the uncorrected proof in the left column and the text of the first edition in the right. Should a cell in the table appear blank, it indicates text which is absent in the proof that was added before the first edition was printed. A "/" in the table indicates a line break. The number in parentheses is the page number of the applicable edition.

Table 1: Textual differences between the uncorrected proof and first edition of *The Bell Jar*

Uncorrected Proof	First Edition
First published 1962 (iv)	First published 1963 (iv)
©Victoria Lucas, 1962 (iv)	©Victoria Lucas, 1963 (iv)
	'for Elizabeth and David' (dedication) (iv)
white tulle; (2)	white tulle, (2)
like sword-swallower's (13)	like a sword-swallower's (13)
'Wye oh why did I ever leave Wyoming?'	'Wye oh why did I ever leave Wyoming?'

(17)	(17)
half-sliding (18)	half sliding (18)
can't sleep (21)	can't sleep, (21)
water faucets (21)	water taps (21)
soap holders (21)	soap-holders (21)
too sloppy (27)	too soppy (27)
a gold chair, (29)	a gold chain, (29)
Betsy and I (30)	Betsy and I myself, (30)
only I can't have (30)	only I couldn't have (30)
faculty, championing (33)	faculty championing (33)
formulas, between (36)	formulas – between (36)
same, silver (44)	same silver (44)
caviare (44)	caviar (44)
and were picking (45)	and was picking (45)
being half-lifted (48)	being half lifted (48)
knew a Plato (53)	knew a Socrates (53)
grey sneakers grinning (60)	grey sneakers and grinning (60)
unior Prom (62)	Junior Prom (62)
half-alive (65)	half alive (65)
his older sister's, (83)	his older sister's; (83)
a feotus in (93)	a fœtus (93)
businesslike way (95)	businesslike way. (95)
watermelon lights (96)	water-melon lights (96)
five or six-year (97)	five-or six-year (97)
the rope two (99)	the rope tow (99)
half-rose (114)	half rose (114)

a pail tail. / A (117)	a pail tail. A (117)
religious smile, lit (122)	religious smile lit (122)
dolls' prams, (122)	doll carriages, (122)
to silent between (130)	to silence between (130)
of the book. (131)	of the book, (131)
like a white broad, (135)	like a white, broad (135)
half-faced him and half-faced my (136)	half faced him and half faced my (136)
turned half-towards the (136)	turned half towards the (136)
SUICIDE SAVED FROM SEVEN-STORY LEDGE! (143)	[this text moved to top of page 144]
a bosky island (145)	a bosky islet (145)
flag flowerbed (145)	flag flower-bed (145)
and muscular, in (150)	and muscular in (150)
hair-pins from my hair. (151)	hairpins from my hair. (151)
the hair-pins in (152)	the hairpins in (152)
the same, dead, black (154)	the same dead, black (154)
Murderers to to a (159)	Murderers go to a (159)
Of course, his (163)	Of course his (163)
my old self if (163)	my old self, if (163)
saying over and over (175)	saying over and over, (175)
is it water repellent (176)	is it water-repellent (176)
ever water <i>repellent</i> (176)	ever water- <i>repellent</i> (176)
earth-bot- / tomed (179)	earth- / bottomed (179)
own, sweet shadow, (179)	own sweet shadow, (179)
me up here;' (187)	me up here,' (187)
her bedtable and (187)	her bed-table and (187)
morning, Miss Lucas?' (187)	morning, Miss Greenwood?' (187)

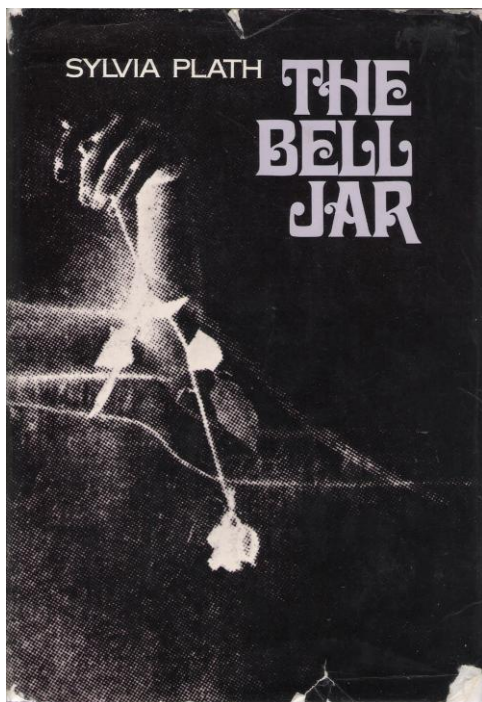
say Fine. (187)	say 'Fine'. (187)
'Thank you, Miss Lucas. (188)	'Thank you, Miss Greenwood. (188)
'Why, no she's not (189)	'Why no, she's not (189)
I smiled at (194)	I smiled and smiled at (194)
what he did to me?' (200)	what he did to me,' (200)
Joan's to have made (208)	Joan to have made (208)
doctor doesn do (208)	doctor doesn't do (208)
didn't take any notice. (209)	didn't pay any notice. (209)
ight the way (224)	right the way (224)
'Yes-es.' (233)	'Ye-es.' (233)
one, spectacular flush (243)	one spectacular flush (243)
'I'm haemorrhaging.' (243)	'I'm hæmorrhaging.' (243)
the stinging, back-shower (254)	the stinging back-shower (254)

What we see in the variations above between the proof and the first edition is the continuation of Plath's vision for the novel after the submitted manuscript was accepted for publication by Heinemann. The changes include word spellings and the addition of words, font style, and punctuation. Some of the changes are subtle, but all affect the pacing of the novel and the way it is read. In a few places it appears that pieces of type were broken or some other error in the printing process was made ("unior" on page 62, for example).

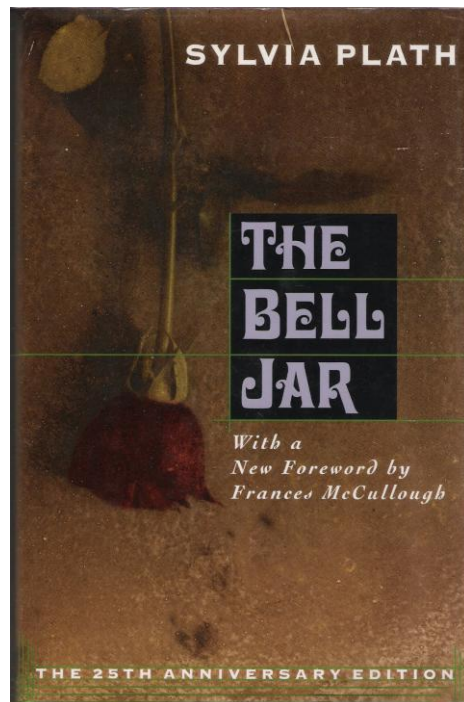
The most thrilling difference is the two instances in the proof where "Miss Lucas" survived Plath's updating of the heroine's name from Victoria Lucas to Esther Greenwood. In the letter Plath sent to James Michie on November 14, 1961, she agrees with Michie's suggestion – in a letter from him that does not appear to have survived – to change the heroine's name. She lets him know that she settled on the name Esther Greenwood. She then lists thirty-six page numbers in the typescript where the protagonist's name, and that of her family, needs to be changed. However, she missed two, typescript pages 193 and 194. The typesetters at Heinemann, following their instructions, therefore let the "Miss Lucas" stand in the text when they prepared

the proof.

When *The Bell Jar* was published in the United States in 1971, certain stylistic changes to the text were made during production (i.e. Harper & Row did not use the word "Chapter" for each heading), as might be expected. British spellings were updated (i.e. grey=gray, coloured=colored), as were the use of double-quotes for conversation.¹⁵ In the table to follow, Table 2, I have not listed any of these spelling changes to the text unless it is in conjunction with another textual "update," such as adding or subtracting a punctuation mark. In each instance when this occurs, I have included a footnote that highlights a change. I have compiled a list of words spelled differently in British English and American English, see Appendix 1 which precedes the Works Cited page.



The 1971 edition



The 1996 edition

¹⁵ The updating of some of the words to American-English actually brought the text back into harmony, in some ways, to Plath's original manuscript of the novel as she had in many instances spelled them in American-English.

The structure of Table 2 will be in three columns. The first column is the text as it appears in the first Heinemann edition (1963), which was above designated as the "control" copy by which all others would be compared. The second column shows the variations that appeared in the first American edition (Harper & Row, 1971). The third column presents the additional editorial changes made to the text for the twenty-fifth anniversary edition (Harper & Row, 1996) that we can presume were endorsed by Plath's estate, but that in certain cases completely distorts Plath's vision for the novel. In the table, the presence of "Idem" in a cell indicates that the edition was in harmony with the one to which it was compared.

Table 2: Textual differences between the first Heinemann edition (1963), the first Harper & Row edition (1971), and the twenty-fifth anniversary edition (1996) of *The Bell Jar*.

Chapter One

afterwards (1)	afterward (1)	Idem. (2)
I knew something...along Madison Avenue. (2)	Idem.	(I knew something...along Madison Avenue.) (2)
size seven (2)	size-seven (2)	Idem. (2)
pocket-book (2)	pocketbook (2)	Idem. (2)
numb trolley-bus. (3)	numb trolleybus. (3)	Idem. (2)
react. I felt very still ... surrounding hullabaloo. (3)	Idem.	react. (I felt very still ... surrounding hullabaloo.) (3)
the make-up kit (3)	Idem.	the makeup kit (3)
plastic sun-glasses case (3)	plastic sunglasses case (3)	Idem. (4)
sewed on to it (3)	sewed onto it (3)	Idem. (4)
afterwards (3)	afterward (4)	Idem. (4)
the sun-glasses case for (4)	the sunglasses case for (4)	Idem. (4)
the sun-roof, yawning (4)	the sunroof, yawning (4)	Idem. (4)
so fashion-conscious (5)	so fashion-conscious (5)	Idem. (5)

pocket-book (5) [twice]	pocketbook (5) [twice]	Idem. (5)
dressing-gown (5)	dressing gown (5)	Idem. (6)
dressing-gown (5)	dressing gowns (6)	Idem. (6)
pony-tail (6)	pony tail (7)	Idem. (7)
reading-lamp (7)	reading lamp (8)	Idem. (8)
dusting-powder (8)	dusting powder (8)	Idem. (8)
I didn't have any illusions (8)	I couldn't have any illusions (9)	Idem. (9)
tooth-paste-ad (8)	toothpaste-ad (9)	Idem. (9)
pocket-book (8)	pocketbook (9)	Idem. (9)
side-show (10)	sideshow (10)	Idem. (10)
Old-Fashioned (10)	old-fashioned (11)	Idem. (11)
æsthetic (11)	aesthetic (11)	Idem. (11)
some day (11)	someday (12)	Idem. (12)
place-mat (11)	placemat (12)	Idem. (12)
bleached blonde negress (12)	bleached-blonde Negress (13)	Idem. (13)
white dress and sipped (12)	white dress, and sipped (13)	Idem. (13)
sword-swallower's (13)	sword swallower's (13)	Idem. (13)
god-like (13)	godlike (13)	Idem. (13)

Chapter Two

round-up (15)	roundup (16)	Idem. (16)
ice-bucket (16)	ice bucket (16)	Idem. (16)
ice-cubes (16)	ice cubes (16)	Idem. (17)
passed them round (16)	passed them around (16)	Idem. (17)
hanging on to their (17)	hanging onto their (17)	Idem. (17)
belly-dancer (17)	belly dancer (17)	Idem. (17)

pine-panelling (18)	pine paneling (18) ¹⁶	Idem. (18)
on to the pavement (18)	onto the pavement (19)	Idem. (19)
cigarette-butts (19)	cigarette butts (19)	Idem. (19)
pocket-book (19)	pocketbook (19)	Idem. (19)
key-rings (19)	key rings (19)	Idem. (19)
used-up (19)	used up (20)	Idem. (20)
weird, green, Martian (19)	weird green Martian (20)	Idem. (20)
bed-sheets (20/21) ¹⁷	bed sheets (21)	Idem. (21)
ceilings (21)	ceiling (21)	Idem. (21)
soap-holders (21)	soap holders (22)	Idem. (22)
near on to an hour (21)	near onto an hour (22)	Idem. (22)
soft, white, hotel bath-towels (22)	soft white hotel bath towels (22)	Idem. (22)
door-jamb (22)	doorjamb (23)	Idem. (23)
day-dresses (23)	day dresses (23)	Idem. (23)
party-frocks (23)	party frocks (23)	Idem. (23)
sewing-machine (23)	sewing machine (24)	Idem. (24)
ironing-board (23)	ironing board (24)	Idem. (24)
hard-working (23)	hardworking (24)	Idem. (24)
her on to my bed (23)	her onto my bed (24)	Idem. (24)
gently on to the (23)	gently onto the (24)	Idem. (24)
On second thoughts, (24)	On second thought, (25)	Idem. (25)

Chapter Three

¹⁶ The difference here is not in the spelling of panelling/paneling but in the removal of the hyphen from the compound word two make two words.

¹⁷ The word breaks at the end of the page. It is unclear whether this was a compound word or if it was hyphenated. Later printings of the book have no hyphen.

over-stewed (25)	overstewed (26)	Idem. (26)
French fries (25)	french fries (26)	Idem. (26)
huge, handwritten (25)	huge handwritten (26)	Idem. (27)
side-dish (25)	side dish (26)	Idem. (27)
hair-nets (26)	hairnets (27)	Idem. (27)
make-up (26)	makeup (27)	Idem. (27)
place-card (26)	placecard (27)	Idem. (27)
technicolour (26)	Technicolor (28)	Idem. (28)
<i>à la mode</i> (27)	<i>à la mode</i> (28)	Idem. (28)
ice-cream (27)	ice cream (28)	Idem. (28)
meat-loafs (27)	meat loafs (28)	Idem. (28)
titbits (27)	tidbits (29)	Idem. (29)
peanut-butter (28)	peanut butter (29)	Idem. (29)
French dressing (29)	french dressing (30)	Idem. (30)
slanted, green (29)	slanted green (31)	Idem. (31)
forgotten clean about it (31)	forgotten about it (33)	Idem. (33)
ice-cream (32)	ice cream (33)	Idem. (34)
– a popular office, (33)	– a popular office – (34)	Idem. (35)
on any intellectual (33)	on an intellectual (35)	Idem. (35)
shirt-cuffs (33)	shirtsleeves (35)	Idem. (35)
fashion show (33)	fashion-show (35)	Idem. (35)
that teaches you (35)	that teach you (37)	Idem. (37)
poetry-composition (35)	poetry composition (37)	Idem. (37)
double-barrelled, (35)	double-barreled (37) ¹⁸	Idem. (37)
off-beat (35)	offbeat (37)	Idem. (37)

¹⁸ The difference here is not in the spelling of barrelled/barreled but in the removal of the comma.

English in England, (35)	English in England; (37)	Idem. (37)
taking the exams, (37)	taking the exams; (39)	Idem. (39)
test-tube (38)	test tube (40)	Idem. (40)

Chapter Four

test-tube (39)	test tube (41)	Idem. (42)
wall-clock (40)	wall clock (42)	Idem. (43)
tent-makers (41)	tentmakers (43)	Idem. (44)
ice-cream (41)	ice cream (43)	Idem. (44)
lip-shape (41)	lip shape (43)	Idem. (44)
finger-bowl (41)	fingerbowl (43)	Idem. (44)
nineteen-hundreds (41)	nineteen hundreds (43)	Idem. (44)
finger-bowl (42)	fingerbowl (44)	Idem. (45)
sunnily-lit (42)	sunnily lit (44)	Idem. (46)
<i>Ladies' Day</i> (42)	<i>Ladies' Day</i> (44)	<i>Ladies' Day</i> (46) ¹⁹
egg-beater (43)	eggbeater (45)	Idem. (46)
technicolour (43) [three times]	Technicolor (45) [three times]	Idem. (46)
lurid new costume (43)	lurid costume (45)	Idem. (46)
clothes-horse (43)	clotheshorse (45)	Idem. (46)
powder-room (43)	powder room (45)	Idem. (47)
moon-brains (44)	moonbrains (46)	Idem. (47)
stomach-ache (44)	stomachache (46)	Idem. (47)
kleenexes (45)	Kleenexes (47)	Idem. (48)
a ninjection, (48)	Idem. (51)	an injection, (52)
window-sill (49)	windowsill (52)	Idem. (53)

¹⁹ In this instance, an oversight (the lack of italics for *Ladies'*) in the 1971 edition was corrected in the 1996.

chain-smoker (49)	chain smoker (52)	Idem. (53)
kitchens on <i>Ladies' Day</i> (50)	kitchens of <i>Ladies' Day</i> (52)	Idem. (53)
claw-meat (50)	claw meat (52)	Idem. (53)
soup into everybody (51)	soup in to everybody (53)	Idem. (54)
pocket-book (51)	pocketbook (53)	Idem. (55)

Chapter Five

come into work (52)	come in to work (55)	Idem. (56)
on to my pillow (52)	onto my pillow (55)	Idem. (56)
to Socrates I knew (53)	to Socrates, I knew (56)	Idem. (57)
eat afterwards. (53)	eat afterward. (56)	Idem. (57)
per cent (56) [two times]	Idem. (59, 60) ²⁰	percent (60, 61)
Lady I gotta (56)	Lady, I gotta (59)	Idem. (60)
out and out (56)	out-and-out (60)	Idem. (60)
<i>Ladies' Day</i> ' in (57)	<i>Ladies' Day</i> ," in (60) ²¹	Idem. (61)
fig-tree (57) [six times]	fig tree (60, 61) [six times]	Idem. (61, 62)
kitchen-maid (57)	kitchen maid (60)	Idem. (61)
I thought of Buddy Willard lying even lonelier and weaker than I was up in that sanatorium (58)	I thought I was up in that sanatorium (61)	Idem. (62)
short story (58)	short-story (61)	Idem. (62)
I guess so'. (58)	I guess so." (62) ²²	Idem. (62)
Prom. (59)	prom. (62)	Idem. (63)
stop staring and said (59)	stop staring, and said (63)	Idem. (64)

²⁰ In the second instance, on page 60, the is compounded to form one word, "percent."

²¹ The presence of the comma is the difference in this example, not the double-quote marks.

²² The period within the quote is the difference in this example.

coming Monday when (60)	coming Monday, when (63)	Idem. (64)
week-ends (60)	weekends (64)	Idem. (64)
said Yes, she said (60)	said yes, she said (64)	Idem. (65)
hitch-hiking (61)	hitchhiking (64)	Idem. (65)
a nosey senior (61)	a nosy senior (64)	Idem. (65)
rocking-chairs (61)	rocking chairs (64)	Idem. (65)
Oh Joan (61)	Oh, Joan (65)	Idem. (66)
week-end (61)	weekend (65) ²³	Idem. (66)
week-ends (62)	weekends (65)	Idem. (66)
rocking-chair (62)	rocking chair (66)	Idem. (67)
pitch-dark (62)	pitch dark (66)	Idem. (67)
Well all during (63)	Well, all during (67)	Idem. (67)
three o'clock (63)	three-o'clock (67)	Idem. (68)
living-room (63)	living room (67)	Idem. (68)
week-end (63)	weekend (67)	Idem. (68)
The <i>chemistry</i> lab? (63)	The <i>chemistry</i> lab? (67) ²⁴	Idem. (68)
week-end (64)	weekend (68)	Idem. (69)
Medical School (64)	medical school (68)	Idem. (69)

Chapter Six

week-end (65)	weekend (69)	Idem. (70)
sickle cell anaemia (66)	sickle-cell anemia (70)	Idem. (71)
out on to the platform (66)	out onto the platform (70)	Idem. (71)

²³ Hyphenated in the 1963 and 1971 editions, this appears as one word in the 1996 edition. The hyphen in the 1971 is due to a line break.

²⁴ It should be noted that in the typescript of *The Bell Jar*, only the first four letters are italicized as in the first edition.

dinner-plate (67)	dinner plate (71)	Idem. (72)
skull-caps (67)	skull caps (71)	Idem. (72)
dog-tag (69)	dog tag (73)	Idem. (74)
make-up (69)	makeup (74)	Idem. (75)
week-ends (70)	weekends (74)	Idem. (75)
summer on Cape Cod (73)	summer at Cape Cod (77)	Idem. (78)
week-end (74)	weekend (78)	Idem. (79)
week-end (75) [twice]	weekend (79, 80)	Idem. (80, 81)

Chapter Seven

protégée (77)	protégé (81)	Idem. (82)
make-up (78)	makeup (82)	Idem. (83)
black-bottom (78)	blackbottom (82)	Idem. (83)
girl-friend (79)	girlfriend (79)	Idem. (84)
odd out-of-the-way (79)	old out-of-the-way (84)	Idem. (85)
race-tracks (80)	racetracks (84)	Idem. (85)
fig-tree (80) [twice]	fig tree (84, 85)	Idem. (85, 86)
off-beat (80)	offbeat (85)	Idem. (86)
dimly-lit (81)	dimly lit (85)	Idem. (86)
bottle-candles that (81)	bottle-candles, that (85)	Idem. (86)
fig-tree (81)	fig tree (86)	Idem. (86)
week-end (82)	weekend (86)	Idem. (87)
taxi-driver (82)	taxi driver (86)	Idem. (87)
coffee-shop (82)	coffee shop (86)	Idem. (87)
peoples' (82)	people's (86)	Idem. (87)
whore house (82)	whorehouse (87)	Idem. (88)
twenty-five watt (82)	twenty-five-watt (87)	Idem. (88)

room-mates (83)	roommates (88)	Idem. (89)
In Defence of Chastity'. (84)	In Defense of Chastity." (89) ²⁵	Idem. (89)
Well for (86)	Well, for (90)	Idem. (91)
sling-back (86)	slingback (90)	Idem. (91)
half-moon (86)	half moon (90)	Idem. (91)
girl friend (86)	girlfriend (91)	Idem. (91)
full-length (86)	full length (91)	Idem. (92)
half-dark (86)	half dark (91)	Idem. (92)
bone-structure (86)	bone structure (91)	Idem. (92)
Five and Ten (88)	five and ten (93)	Idem. (94)
afterwards (89)	afterward (94)	Idem. (95)
I sensed Constantin (89)	I sensed, Constantin (95)	I sensed Constantin (95)
through me, and (90)	through me and (95)	Idem. (95)

Chapter Eight

hitch-hike (91)	hitchhike (96)	Idem. (97)
turn-off (92)	turnoff (97)	Idem. (98)
I thought Mr (92)	I thought, Mr. (97) ²⁶	Idem. (98)
push-ups (93)	pushups (98) ²⁷	Idem. (99)
coffee-table (93)	coffee table (98)	Idem. (99)
semi-circular (93)	semicircular (98)	Idem. (99)
foetus (93)	fetus (98)	Idem. (99)
walk-hours (94)	walk hours (99)	Idem. (100)
lysol (94)	Lysol (100)	Idem. (100)

²⁵ The difference here is the period within the end quote of the article title, not the spelling of Defence/Defense.

²⁶ The difference here is with the comma after the word thought, not the presence of a period after Mr.

²⁷ In the 1971 edition, this is hyphenated at a line break; the 1996 edition has this as one word.

Buddy said No, (95)	Buddy said no, (101)	Idem. (102)
water-melon (96)	watermelon (101)	Idem. (102)
hitch-hiked (97)	hitchhiked (103)	Idem. (104)
set-up (98)	setup (103)	Idem. (104)
'You can't...to bits.' (98)	You can't...to bits. (104)	Idem. (104)
slope towards (99)	slope toward (105)	Idem. (105)
post-mortem (100)	postmortem (105)	Idem. (106)
walk-hour (100)	walk hour (105)	Idem. (106)
half-hour (100)	half hour (106)	Idem. (106)
herring-boned (100)	herringboned (106)	Idem. (106)
half-way (100)	halfway (106)	Idem. (107)
flew towards it (102)	flew toward it (108)	Idem. (108)

Chapter Nine

half-expected (104)	half expected (111)	Idem. (111)
sound sick', (104)	sound sick," (111) ²⁸	Idem. (111)
Well Hilda's (105)	Well, Hilda's (111)	Idem. (111)
tomb-like (105)	tomblike (111)	Idem. (111)
love-seat (105)	loveseat (111)	Idem. (112)
powder-room (105)	powder room (112)	Idem. (112)
rubber plant (106)	rubber-plant (113)	Idem. (113)
love-seat (107)	loveseat (113)	Idem. (113)
on to (108)	onto (114)	Idem. (114)
upper-right hand (108)	upper-right-hand (114)	Idem. (114)
queerly-cut forty dollar dresses... (109)	queerly cut forty-dollar dresses.... (116)	Idem. (116)

²⁸ The difference here is the comma within the quote.

ice-cube (111)	ice cube (117)	Idem. (117)
looked round (111)	looked around (117)	Idem. (117)
thumb-print (111)	thumb print (118)	Idem. (117)
bent towards (112)	bent toward (119)	Idem. (118)
away towards (113)	away toward (120)	Idem. (119)
on to (117)	onto (124)	Idem. (123)
twice ... (117)	twice. ... (124)	Idem. (123)
sank towards (117)	sank toward (124)	Idem. (124)

Chapter Ten

pocket-book (118)	pocketbook (125)	Idem. (125)
hotch-potch (118)	hotchpotch (125)	Idem. (125)
electric blue (118)	electric-blue (125)	Idem. (125)
on to (119)	onto (126)	Idem. (126)
station-wagons (119)	station wagons (126)	Idem. (127)
on to (121)	onto (128)	Idem. (128)
window-sill (122)	windowsill (129)	Idem. (129)
golf-ball-shaped (123)	golfball-shaped (13)	Idem. (130)
rice krispies (123)	Rice Krispies (130)	Idem. (130)
ice-cream (123)	ice cream (130)	Idem. (130)
the pink, wallpaper (123)	the pink wallpaper (131)	Idem. (131)
Hullo Esther, (124)	Hullo, Esther, (131)	Idem. (131)
Co-op (124)	Coop (131)	Idem. (131)
dropped out... (125)	dropped out.... (132)	Idem. (132)
dining-room (125)	dining room (132)	Idem. (132)
business-like (125)	businesslike (133)	Idem. (132)
left-over (125)	leftover (133)	Idem. (132)

scotch-taped (126)	Scotch-taped (133)	Idem. (133)
hamburg (126)	hamburger (134)	Idem. (133)
card-table (126)	card table (134)	Idem. (133)
<i>Elaine sat ...slow insects</i> (127)	Idem. (134)	Elaine sat...slow insects (134)
Why honey, (127)	Why, honey, (135)	Idem. (135)
card-table (127)	card table (135)	Idem. (135)
<i>Inertia oozed...she thought</i> (127)	Idem. (135)	Inertia oozed...she thought (135)
make-up (129)	makeup (137)	Idem. (137)
benzedrine (129)	Benzedrine (137)	Idem. (137)
<i>rivverrun, past... and Environs...</i> (130)	Idem. (138)	rivverrun, past... and Environs.... (138)
<i>rivverrun, past Eve and Adams ...</i> (130)	Idem. (138)	rivverrun, past Eve and Adams ... (138)
<i>...rronruonnthu...</i> (130)	<i>...rronntuonnthu...</i> (138) ²⁹	Idem. (138) ³⁰
familiar, but (131)	familiar but (139)	Idem. (139)
co-ed (132)	coed (140)	Idem. (140)

Chapter Eleven

waiting-room (134)	waiting room (142)	Idem. (142)
end-table (134)	end-table (142)	Idem. (142)
coffee-table (134)	coffee-table (142)	Idem. (142)
magazine-table (134)	magazine-table (142)	Idem. (142)
semi-circles (135)	semicircles (143)	Idem. (143)
half towards (136)	half toward (145)	Idem. (145)

²⁹ The difference here is that in the middle of the long, 100-lettered word from *Finnegan's Wake*, "ruonn" has become "tounn." In Plath's copy of *Finnegan's Wake*, the latter is the correct spelling. In the "later draft" of Plath's novel in which the text had been marked up by Heinemann, Plath spells it as it appears in the first edition, "ruonn."

³⁰ While the spelling is the same in the 1996 edition, the text is not in italics.

pocket-book (137)	pocketbook (146)	Idem. (146)
walking-stick (138)	walking stick (146)	Idem. (146)
strolled towards (138)	strolled toward (147)	Idem. (147)
trolley-car (138)	trolley car (147)	Idem. (147)
A.M.A. (140)	AMA (148)	Idem. (148)
cup-cake (140)	cupcake (149)	Idem. (148)
simple-minded (141)	simpleminded (149)	Idem. (149)
Say Elly, (141)	Say, Elly, (150)	Idem. (150)
Say Elly, (142)	Say, Elly, (150)	Idem. (150)
pocket-book (142)	pocketbook (151)	Idem. (151)
ten cent (144)	ten-cent (153)	Idem. (152)
medium grey (144)	medium-gray (153) ³¹	Idem. (153)
inky black (144)	inky-black (153)	Idem. (153)
door-step (145)	doorstep (153)	Idem. (153)
flower-bed (145)	flowerbed (154)	Idem. (154)
pocket-book (146)	pocketbook (155)	Idem. (155)
Hitch-hiking (146)	Hitchhiking (155)	Idem. (155)
night-time (146)	nighttime (155)	Idem. (155)
as A on the (147)	as A on the (156)	Idem. (156)

Chapter Twelve

living-room (148) [twice]	living room (157, 158)	Idem. (157, 158)
four ... I (149)	four... 1 (158)	Idem. (158)
Panther-like (153)	Pantherlike (163)	Idem. (163)
black wagon (154)	black station wagon (163)	Idem. (163)

³¹ Though the spelling of grey/gray is different in each edition, the variation here is the hyphen connecting the two words.

SIXTY-EIGHT HOUR (154)	68-HOUR (163)	Idem. (163)
pocket-book (154) [twice]	pocketbook (163, 164)	Idem. (163, 164)
<i>set-up</i> (155)	<i>setup</i> (164)	Idem. (164)
Once, on a (155)	Once on a (164)	Idem. (164)
you taped, baby. (155)	you typed, baby. (164)	Idem. (164)
Weekend'. (155)	Weekend." (164) ³²	Idem. (164)
band-aids (155)	Band-Aids (165)	Idem. (165)
Then, I thought (156)	Then I thought (166)	Idem. (166)
on to the calf (156)	onto the calf (166)	Idem. (166)
living-room (158)	living room (167)	Idem. (167)
polka-dotted halter (160)	polka-dot halter (169)	Idem. (169)
pocket-book (160)	pocketbook (170)	Idem. (170)
boarding house (160) [twice]	boardinghouse (170) [twice]	Idem. (170)
pocket-book (161)	pocketbook (171)	Idem. (170)
pocket-book (162)	pocketbook (172)	Idem. (171)

Chapter Thirteen

orange and green (163)	orange-and-green (173)	Idem. (172)
You don't say'. (164)	You don't say." (174) ³³	Idem. (173)
hotdogs (164)	hot dogs (174)	Idem. (173)
hotdog (164)	hot dog (174)	Idem. (173)
on to my (165) [twice]	onto my (175) [twice]	Idem. (174)
Ohhh, (166)	Ohhh. (177)	Idem. (176)
drug store (169)	drugstore (179)	Idem. (178)
beside the scandal (169)	besides the scandal (179)	Idem. (178)

³² The variation in the text here is the period within the end-quote.

³³ The variation in the text here is the period within the end-quote.

these abnormal psychology (169)	those abnormal-psychology (179)	Idem. (178)
doctors, but then (169)	doctors, and then (179)	Idem. (178)
and on to the (169)	and onto the (179)	Idem. (179)
wash-basin (171)	washbasin (182)	Idem. (181)
waste-basket (172)	wastebasket (182)	Idem. (181)
pin curls (172)	pin curls (182)	Idem. (182)
check-up (175)	checkup (186)	Idem. (184)
1940's.	nineteen forties (187)	Idem. (185)
abnormal psychology (176)	abnormal-psychology (188)	Idem. (186)
like tinned salmon (177)	like canned salmon (188)	Idem. (186)
dining-room (177)	dining room (189)	Idem. (187)
hiding-place (178)	hiding place (189)	Idem. (188)

Chapter Fourteen

room-mate (183)	roommate (196)	Idem. (194)
bed-curtains (186)	bed curtains (199)	Idem. (196)
bed-table (187)	bed table (199)	Idem. (197)
bed-curtain (188)	bed curtain (201)	Idem. (199)
her cheek, and thumb (189)	her cheek and thumb (201)	Idem. (199)
co-operate (190) [twice]	cooperate (203) [twice]	Idem. (200)
negro (190-1) [five times]	Negro (203-4) [five times]	Idem. (201)
dining-room (190) [twice]	dining room (203)	Idem. (201)
on to her lap and on to the floor (192)	onto her lap and onto the floor (205)	Idem. (202)
negro (192-193) [seven times]	Negro (205-206) [seven times]	Idem. (202-203)
a wodge of (192)	a wedge of (205)	Idem. (203)
negro's (194)	Negro's (207)	Idem. (205)

Chapter Fifteen

kleenex (195)	Kleenex (208)	Idem. (206)
spam-coloured (195)	Spam-colored (208) ³⁴	Idem. (206)
I'd be, though. (196)	I'd be though. (209)	Idem. (207)
table-cloths (198)	tablecloths (211)	Idem. (209)
labels on to the (199)	labels onto the (212)	Idem. (210)
did to me, (200)	did to me. (213)	Idem. (211)
window-sill (201)	windowsill (214)	Idem. (212)
her pursed, pink (202)	her pursed pink (215)	Idem. (213)
dining-room (202) [three times]	dining room (215) [three times]	Idem. (213)
door-sill (202)	doorsill (215)	Idem. (213)

Chapter Sixteen

morale... (207)	morale.... (220)	Idem. (219)
boots to work, (207)	boots to work– (221)	Idem. (219)
crazy I was – (207)	crazy I was, (221)	Idem. (219)
I moved, my (208)	I moved my (221)	Idem. (219)
his chest... (208)	his chest.... (221)	Idem. (219)
answered it... (208)	answered it.... (221)	Idem. (219)
fur coat... (209)	fur coat. ... (222)	Idem. (220)
In <i>August</i> ? (209)	In August? (222) ³⁵	Idem. (220)
to kill myself, and (209)	to kill myself – and (222)	Idem. (220)
than myself... (209)	than myself.... (223)	Idem. (220)
sick people... (209)	sick people. ... (223)	Idem. (221)

³⁴ The difference here is the capitalized S in Spam.

³⁵ In a "later draft" of the novel, Plath's typescript indicates that the first three letters of August are to be italicized.

ear-rings (210)	earrings (223)	Idem. (221)
SCHOLARSHIP GIRL ... WORRIED. The article (210)	Idem. (223)	SCHOLARSHIP GIRL ... WORRIED.[¶] The article (221) ³⁶
backyard amd smiling (210)	backyard and smiling (224)	Idem. (222)
WITH GIRL. (211)	WITH GIRL (224) ³⁷	Idem. (222)
GIRL FOUND ALIVE!	GIRL FOUND ALIVE! (224)	Idem. (222)
disused hole... (211)	disused hole. ... (224)	Idem. (222)
room-mates (212)	roommates (225)	Idem. (223)
room-mate (212) [twice]	roommate (225) [twice]	Idem. (223)
shock treatments... (213)	shock treatments (227)	Idem. (225)
waste-basket (214-215) [three times]	wastebasket (227, 229) [three times]	Idem. (225-226)

Chapter Seventeen

spam (218)	Spam (232)	Idem. (230)
isn't it Esther? (219)	isn't it, Esther? (233)	Idem. (231)
poker-faces (220)	poker faces (234)	Idem. (232)
next-door (221)	next door (235)	Idem. (233)
early morning (221)	early-morning (236)	Idem. (234)
went into her (221)	went in to her (236)	Idem. (234)
line-up (222)	lineup (237)	Idem. (235)
waiting-room beside (225)	waiting room besides (240)	Idem. (238)

³⁶ After the title of the newspaper headline, in the 1996 edition the following text appears in a separate paragraph (indicated by the¶). According to Plath's "later draft" held by Smith College, the headline and text after should be part of the same paragraph, as it is in the first British and American editions.

³⁷ This textual difference, and the one below, appears centered on the page in American editions, rather than to the left and in line with a new paragraph. Plath's "later draft" instructs that these headlines should be flush left, as it does in the first Heinemann edition.

came towards me (226)	came toward me (240)	Idem. (238)
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Chapter Eighteen

Well it will (227)	Well, it will (242)	Idem. (241)
Chopsticks (228)	"Chopsticks" (243)	Idem. (241)
Well isn't that (229)	Well, isn't that (244)	Idem. (242)
out of hospital (229)	out of the hospital (244)	Idem. (242)
'Yes,' Joan's voice (229)	"Yes." Joan's voice (244) ³⁸	Idem. (242)
all the time; (229)	all the time, (244)	Idem. (242)
hob-nob (230)	hobnob (245)	Idem. (243)
dressing-gown (231)	dressing gown (246)	Idem. (244)
children some day, (232)	children someday, (247)	Idem. (245)
waiting-room (233)	waiting room (248)	Idem. (246)
'Yes'. (235)	"Yes." (251) ³⁹	Idem. (248)
anyway, regardless... (235)	anyway, regardless.... (251)	Idem. (249)

Chapter Nineteen

room-mate's (237)	roommate's (253)	Idem. (251)
to the asylum', (238)	to the asylum," (254) ⁴⁰	Idem. (252)
mid-winter (238)	midwinter (255)	Idem. (253)
steepe-like (239)	steepelike (256)	Idem. (254)
retreated, a few (239)	retreated a few (256)	Idem. (254)
Nuits St George (240) [twice]	Nuits-St-Georges (256) [twice]	Idem. (254)
on to the car seat (242)	onto the car seat (259)	Idem. (257)

³⁸ The difference is the period after "Yes" and not the presence of double-quotes.

³⁹ The difference here is the period within the quoted text.

⁴⁰ The textual variation in this instance is the comma preceding the end-quote.

I mean . . bad. (243) ⁴¹	I mean ... bad. (260)	Idem. (257)
on to the beige (243)	onto the beige (260)	Idem. (258)
half-lead, half-dragged (244)	half lead, half dragged (260)	Idem. (258)

Chapter Twenty

board of doctors (249)	board of directors (266)	Idem. (264)
swamp-land (249)	swampland (266)	Idem. (264)
cat-tails (249)	cattails (266)	Idem. (264)
fig-tree (250)	fig tree (267)	Idem. (265)
negro (250)	Negro (267)	Idem. (265)
Valerie a while (253)	Valerie awhile (271)	Idem. (269)
snow-maiden (254)	snow-maiden (271)	Idem. (269)
back-shower (254)	backshower (271)	Idem. (269)
check-up (255)	checkup (272)	Idem. (270)
snow-pallor (256)	snow pallor (273)	Idem. (271)
six-foot deep (256)	six-foot-deep (274)	Idem. (271)
analyzed'. (257)	analyzed." (275) ⁴²	Idem. (272)
for the road. I was (257)	for the road, I was (275)	Idem. (273)

By and large, the majority of differences between the texts regard punctuation (hyphens, commas, etc.). There are, however, a handful of quite significant editorial updates that drastically transform both how we read the book and more importantly what Plath's vision for her novel was.

As stated above, the 1963 Heinemann edition was the only printing of the novel ever sanctioned by Plath. We have compared a copy of the uncorrected proof to the first edition, noticing the author's attention to the text in comparison to that her editors. In the American

⁴¹ In this instance, the typesetters at Heinemann failed to include all three periods in the ellipsis.

⁴² The difference here is the period within the end-quote.

edition we expect word-spellings to be updated, as well as other stylistic modifications.

The most shocking change between the Heinemann and the first Harper & Row edition of *The Bell Jar* occurs in Chapter Five. The 1963 text reads, "I thought of Buddy Willard lying even lonelier and weaker than I was up in that sanatorium" (58). The 1971 text reads, "I thought I was up in that sanatorium" (61). The deleted phrase "of Buddy Willard lying even lonelier and weaker than" makes Esther Greenwood's compassion for and comparison to Buddy Willard's situation non-existent, proffering an image of selfish preoccupation to Greenwood which was not Plath's intent. The relationship between Esther Greenwood and Buddy Willard was competitive, and this is one of the few instances, if not the only instance, where Esther Greenwood expresses empathy for her boyfriend. One example is that at Buddy's request, Esther explained poetry to him, for "Buddy said he figured there must be something in poetry if a girl like me spent all her days over it" (1963, 70). However, Buddy's initial attitude towards poetry was that it was "A piece of dust" (58). Finally, though, when Buddy is at the sanatorium, he "was reading poems by a poet who was also a doctor ... so maybe doctors and writers could get along fine after all" (58). Buddy's convalescence gave him enough time to practice poetry and even published a poem entitled "Florida Dawn," which shows his attempt at one-upmanship (96). We know that the relationship eventually soured, as is evident in Esther's response to the news that Buddy Willard had caught TB: "I thought the TB might be punishment for living the kind of double life Buddy lived..." (75).⁴³ Nevertheless, in the original text of Chapter Five, where Esther recovers from ptomaine poisoning and she thinks compassionately about Buddy Willard, it both shows a mellowing or distancing of emotions from their time as a couple and her reaching out beyond the chaotic and disappointing world of New York City for some signs of comfort. At the very minimum, no matter how badly she felt, Esther does realize that Buddy was worse off. In the most recent printings of the book, the excised phrase has not been restored.

⁴³ While speculative, this could be a clue to Plath's incomplete, missing novel "Doubletake" (alternately titled "The Interminable Loaf" and "Double Exposure") which, in a letter to Olive Higgins Prouty on November 20, 1962, Plath describes it as a "semi-autobiographical about a wife whose husband turns out to be a deserter and philanderer although she had thought he had been wonderful & perfect" (qtd. in Peel 85). In *The Bell Jar*, Esther Greenwood similarly found Buddy Willard to be "wonderful & perfect" until his own deception and unfaithfulness was revealed; though in this instance obviously the characters were unmarried. If Plath were to write in this vein but from the perspective of a married woman, the social criticism of the double-standard of purity and faithfulness— which is evident through *The Bell Jar* — would shine through loud and clear.

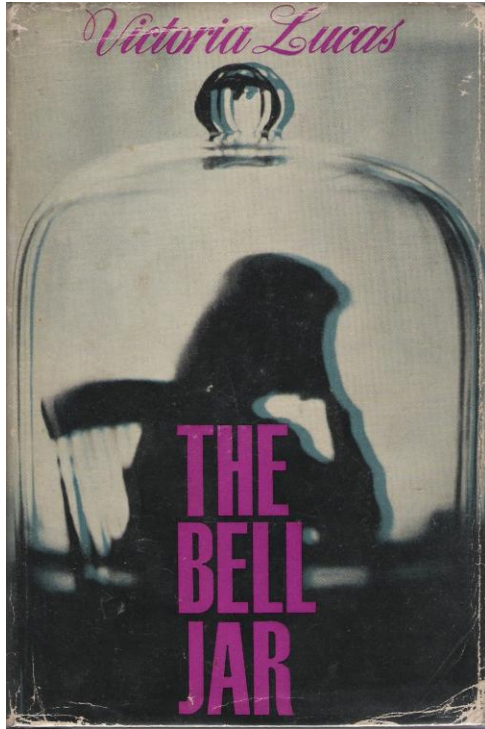
There are two instances in the first chapter where the twenty-fifth anniversary edition, published in 1996 by HarperCollins, modifies Esther's thoughts. In both cases, the editors added parentheses around a paragraph and a sentence. The first instance is the paragraph that begins and ends with: "I knew something was wrong with me that summer...fizzled to nothing outside the slick marble and plate-glass fronts along Madison Avenue" (2). The second is the sentence: "I felt very still and very empty, the way the eye of a tornado must feel, moving dully along in the middle of the surrounding hullabaloo" (3).

We can surmise that the editors at HarperCollins did this to interiorize parts of Esther's narrative in the attempt to suggest that these thoughts did not take place in present action recalled in the novel but rather as an aside, a possibly whimsical remembrance, within the speakers' mind at the time of composition of the book. However, this is unnecessary and inconsistent since there are other occasions throughout the novel where the editors do not employ this strategy.

An additional, minor change in the text worth mentioning takes place toward the end of Chapter Four in the scene in which Esther has been given "a ninjection" to help her sleep and recover from ptomaine poisoning (1963, 48). In "correcting" the hotel nurse's speech from "a ninjection" to "an injection," the slangy, working class, quintessential New York accent Plath assigns to the character of the hotel nurse is normalized and thus made bland. In an "early draft" of the novel, Plath did type "an injection;" however, she crossed out the "n" in "an" and added it to "injection" to make "ninjection" which adds idiomatic working-class diction to the hotel nurse.⁴⁴ In a feat of inconsistency, however, the dialect of the subway employee in Boston is retained as in all the texts of *The Bell Jar* which I have examined; he invariably tells Esther Greenwood that the Deer Island Prison is on "a niland" (1963, 157; 1971, 166; 1996, 166).

In 2000, the abridged *Journals* published eighteen years earlier were expanded and published as an exact transcription from the holdings of those journals held in the Sylvia Plath Collection in Smith College. It was a landmark event in Plath scholarship; perhaps the biggest Plath publication since her *Collected Poems* in 1981. In 2004, the Estate of Sylvia Plath oversaw the publication of *Ariel: The Restored Edition*, which is: "A Facsimile of Plath's Manuscript, Reinstating Her Original Selection and Arrangement" as she left it at the time of her death (cover).

⁴⁴ The "early draft" page of the novel reviewed is on the verso of "Elm" page 15.



As this paper shows, dozens – if not hundreds – of minor changes and a few major ones to the text of *The Bell Jar* have distorted the way that Plath intended her novel to be read. Restoration of Plath's texts allows her unique voice to speak for itself and honors her creative genius and corrects some of the questionable decisions made by her Estate as well as her editors. Rare Book dealer and writer Rick Gekoski said it best recently, "the most reliable text of a novel for scholarly purposes is usually the first edition" (guardian.co.uk). In the case of *The Bell Jar*, all British editions prior to 1996 appear to accurately reflect the novel's contents as sanctioned/approved by Plath before her death. I recommend that all of Plath's readers obtain one of the copies when both reading *The Bell Jar* for pleasure or using it in a scholarly work. As we approach the fiftieth anniversary of the first publication of *The Bell Jar*, those in control of Plath's estate need to consider reinstating the text of *The Bell Jar* back to the version sanctioned by Plath that was first published in January, 1963.

Appendix 1: List of word different spellings in British/American editions of *The Bell Jar*

grey/gray	mould/mold
coloured/colored	liver-coloured/liver-colored
aeroplanes/airplanes	odour/odor
marvellous/marvelous	stencilled/stenciled
colour/color	analyse/analyze
jewellery/jewelry	signalling/signaling
programme/program	dust-grey/dust-gray
theatre/theater	manoeuvred/maneuvered
kerb/curb	odours/odors
pine-panelled/pine-paneled	glove-grey/glove-gray
favour/favor	storey/story
pine-panelling/pine-paneling	neighbour/neighbor
judgement/judgment	neighbourhood/neighborhood
Mrs/Mrs.	dialled/dialed
colours/colors	cancelling/canceling
moustached/mustached	woollen/woolen
centrepiece/centerpiece	honours/honors
travelling/traveling	ravelling/raveling
favourite/favorite	honours programme/honors program
bone-coloured/bone-colored	storeys/stories
Honour/Honor	aeroplane/airplane
offences/offenses	disembowelled/disemboweled
honours/honors	grey-faced/gray-faced
programmes/programs	garnet-coloured/garnet-colored
mould/mold	centre/center
Mr/Mr.	flesh-coloured/flesh-colored
aluminium/aluminum	defenceless/defenseless
honour/honor	paralysed/paralyzed
honourable/honorable	harboured/harbored
amphitheatre/amphitheater	peach-coloured/peach-colored
behavior/behavior	khaki-coloured/khaki-colored
coloured/colored	manoeuvring/maneuvering
water-colour/water-color	tyres/tires
labelled/labeled	moulded/molded
yoghourt/yogurt	pyjamas/pajamas
rat-coloured/rat-colored	rose-coloured/rose-colored
Defence/Defense	funnelling/funneling
greyness/grayness	grey-haired/gray-haired

molasses-coloured/molasses-colored
savouring/savoring
neighbouring/neighboring
pretence/pretense
humouring/humoring
phoney/phony
Sgt/Sgt.
pebble-grey/pebble-gray
Mrs B/Mrs. B.
grey-haired/gray-haired
sand-coloured/sand-colored
chocolate-coloured/chocolate-colored

Pabulum/Pablum
practise/practice
aluminium-coloured/aluminum-colored
practising/practicing
hæmorrhaging/hemorrhaging
towelling/toweling
frost-grey/frost-gray
snowflakey/snowflaky
shovelled/shoveled
shovelling/shoveling
cheque/check

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