deliberation

ominous

potent

Ignominy

transient

cajole

livid

traversed

precarious

sagacious

trepidation

opaque

opulent

ambiguous

impartial

loquacious

fickle

discern

In the dark, (1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ alley, a sketchy man crouched in the shadows. He was a (2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ visitor to the city, so no one knew his name and no one would miss him. A (3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ couple walked down the street, deeply engaged in a (4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about the upcoming presidential election. They did not realize has they (5) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through downtown, they would find themselves in a (6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ situation. The hidden stranger was (7) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_regarding his victims, but he could (8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from her (9) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ outfit that they had come from a classy date and he would make a killing from them. He laughed in his mind at the morbidity of his pun. He waited for them to stop in an (10) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ area, but they were (11) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, staying under streetlamps and using their cell phones as flashlights. The man attempted to (12) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the woman to join him in the apartment, but she was (13) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, flirting, kissing, and then pulling away. The man wasn’t sure how to read her (14) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ signals. His desire for her was (15) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but she was determined to make him wait. Just as he was going to give up, he saw a figure come from the shadows. The figure’s face was contorted with rage as if he were (16) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at them for standing in his way. The woman stepped back with some (17) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but she was mostly surprised. Instead of running past them, the figure lifted a switchblade and stabbed her in the neck with a swift, skilled movement. He turned and disappeared back into the shadows. The man stood there in shock while his date crumbled to the ground. He would have to live with (18) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the rest of his life because he did not step in to protect her and save her life.