P 67 besotted - infatuated

She was besotted.

P 76 trousseau – the personal possessions of a bride

She had begun addressing wedding invitations and buying a trousseau.

P 84 ecru – beige, brown, yellow

The stiff ecru paper was engraved with navy ink.

P 113 peripatetic – moving hither and thither

The peripatetic Bushes, Barbara Pierce and CIA husband, George, are once again thinking about a new direction.

P 114 mien - appearance

Baker already had the mien of a wise man.

P 117 legerdemain – display of skill

She developed other techniques, too, including a bit of legerdemain to manage the political imperative to remember names.

P 137 parvenu – new to wealth or power

She never got the reputation that Nancy had to live with, that Nancy was a kind of parvenu with the clothes and the china and all the rest.

P 188 clutch – a group or bunch

Barbara arrived at Grandma’s House accompanied by Burt Lee and Julie Cook and a clutch of reporters and photographers.

P 205 hoop race – a child’s game in which a large hoop is rolled along the ground

She noted that one of Wellesley’s long traditions had seniors compete in a hoop race down Tupelo Lane.

P 206 excoriate - censured scathingly

Woman challenging society’s assumptions often were excoriated for speaking up.

P 216 ersatz – fake, inferior substitute

The discussion began with an ersatz recipe for blueberry pie

P 224 imprimatur – approval or imprint

He had the imprimatur of the United Nations

P 229 inexorable - relentless

The decline in Gorbachev’s political position was inexorable

P 231 sobriquet – descriptive name

Bush is talking about Grave’s disease. Bush joked that the sobriquet “doesn’t mean you’ll go to the grave”; it’s named for the doctor who diagnosed the ailment.

P 243 snark - irreverence

Jennifer Fitzgerald was named deputy chief of protocol at the State Department, an appointment the Washington Post reported with snark, writing that she “has served president-elect George Bush in a variety of positions.”

P 281 neocon - neoconservative

She thought that some of the neocons were pursuing an ideological agenda that wasn’t necessarily in his best interest

P 292 anguished – suffered anguish – pain, distress, or anxiety

She was anguished about sending the letter.

P 297 saccharine – sweet, overly sentimental

Barbara had the saccharine nickname of Ganny.

P 313 dyspeptic - disagreeable

She also sensed a dyspeptic mood in the country, weariness with the political establishment that would disrupt his path.

P 346 gimlet-eyed – sharp-sighted

Barbara Pierce turned out to be George Bush’s indispensable partner – not only as the wife and mother who provided a stable home but also as the gimlet-eyed adviser who weighed in on critical moments during his campaigns and his presidency.

P 347 poignant - touching

She wrote the final, poignant diary entry seventy years later, just twelve days before his death.