CLICHÉS AVOID THEM LIKE THE PLAGUE

 from Laura Hayden's "Left-Brain- Right Brain/Creativity Program"

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They make for great book titles,

but lousy writing...

 ---A---

 ace in the hole

 ace up your sleeve

 acid test

 airing dirty laundry

 all in a day's work

 all talk, no action

 all booster, no payload

 all hat, no cattle

 all foam, no beer

 all hammer, no nail

 all icing, no cake

 all lime and salt, no tequila.

 all missile, no warhead

 all shot, no powder

 all sizzle, no steak

 all wax and no wick

 all that and a bag of chips

 all thumbs

 all wet

 all's fair in love and war

 almighty dollar

 always a bridesmaid

 ambulance chaser

 another day, another dollar

 ants in your pants

 apple-pie order

 arm and a leg

 armchair quarterback

 army brat

 art imitates life

 artsy-craftsy

 artsy-fartsy

 as luck would have it

 as old as time

 at loggerheads

---B---

 babe in the woods

 back against the wall

 back in the saddle

 back to square one

 back to the drawing board

 bad to the bone

 badge of honor

 Badonkadonk

 ballpark figure

 balls to the wall

 baptism of fire

 bare bones

 bark is worse than the bite

 bark up the wrong tree

 bat out of hell

 bats in the belfry

 battle royal

 beat around the bush

 beat the bushes

 beats me

 behind the eight ball

 bent out of shape

 best foot forward

 bet your bottom dollar

 better half

 better late than never

 better mousetrap

 better safe than sorry

 better than ever

 better the Devil you know

 between a rock and a hard place

 beyond the pale

 bib and tucker

 big as life

 big fish in a small pond

 big man on campus

 bigger they are (the)

bird in the hand

birds and the bees

birds of the feather

bite the dust

bite your tongue

bitter disappointment

black as coal

blast from the past

bleeding heart

blind as a bat

blood is thicker than water

blood money

blood on your hands

blood sweat and tears

blow this pop stand / joint

blushing bride

boil it down to

bone of contention

booze and broads

bored to tears

born and raised

born with a silver spoon in your mouth

born yesterday

bottom line

brain drain

brain dump

brass tacks

bring home the bacon

broken record

brother's keeper (thy)

bull by the horns

bull in a china shop

bump in the night

busy as a bee

but seriously

by and large

---C---

 calm before the storm

 candle at both ends

 can't cut the mustard

 case of mistaken identity

 cat out of the bag

 cat got your tongue

 caught red-handed

 chapter and verse

 checkered career

 chickens come home to

 roost

 chomping at the bit

 cleanliness is next to

 godliness

 clear as a bell

 clear as mud

 cold shoulder

 communist conspiracy

 conniption fit

 could care less

 couldn't care less

 couldn't get to first base

 count your blessings

 countless hours

 creature comfort

 crime in the street

 curiosity killed the cat

 curry favor

 cut a fine figure

 cut and dried

 cut to the chase

 cut to the quick

 cute as a button

---D---

 darkest before the dawn

 dead as a doornail

 death and destruction

 death and taxes

 death's doorstep

 devil is in the details

 dim view

 dog days

 dog in the manger

 don't count your chickens before they're hatched

 don't do the crime if you can't do the time

 doubting Thomas

 down and dirty

 down in the dumps

 down pat

 down the drain/toilet

 down the hatch

 down to earth

 drive you up a wall

 dutch uncle

 dyed in the wool

---E---

 E-ticket

 ear to the ground

 early bird catches the worm

 easier said than done

 easy as 1-2-3

 easy as pie

 eat crow

 eat humble pie

 enough already

 even money

 every dog has its day

 every fiber of my being

 everything but the kitchen sink

 evil twin

 existential angst

 experts agree

 eye for an eye

---F---

 facts of life

 fair-haired one

 fair weather friend

 fall off of a turnip truck

 fat slob

 favor us with a song

 fear and loathing

 feather your nest

 fellow traveler

 few and far between

 field this one

 fifteen minutes of fame

 fish nor fowl

 fly by night

 fly the coop

 for the birds

 fox in the henhouse

 freudian slip

 fun and games

 fun in the sun

--G---

 garbage in, garbage out

 get the sack

 get your groove back

 gets my goat

 gift horse in the mouth

 gilding the lily

 give a damn

 give me a break

 gives me the creeps

 go him one better

 goes without saying

 good deed for the day

 good time was had by all

 greek to me

 green thumb

 green-eyed monster

 grist for the mill

 guiding light

---H---

 hair of the dog

 hard to believe

 have a nice day

 head honcho

 heart's content

 hell-bent for leather

 hidden agenda

 high and the mighty (the)

 high on the hog

 hold a candle to

 hold your horses

 hold your tongue

 hook or by crook

 horse of a different color

 hot knife through butter

 how goes the battle?

--I---

 I beg to differ

 if the shoe fits

 I'm okay, you're okay

 in a nutshell

 in a pinch

 in a wink

 in harm's way

 in the tank

 in your dreams

 in your face

 inexorably drawn

 info dump

 influence peddling

 intents and purposes

 it was a dark and stormy night

 it won't fly

 --J---

 Jack of all trades

 jockey for position

 Johnny-come-lately

 joined at the hip

 jump down your throat

 jump in with both feet

 jump on the bandwagon

 jump the gun

 jump her/his bones

 junk in the trunk

 jury is still out

 justice is blind

---K---

 keep an eye on you

 keep it down

 keep it simple, stupid

 keep up with the Joneses

 keep your cards close to vest

 keep your chin up

 keep your fingers crossed

 keep your powder dry

 kick ass

 kickbutt

 kick the bucket

 kick up your heels

 kick you to the curb

 kick your feet up

 kid in a candy store

 kill two birds with one stone

 King's English

 king's ransom

 kiss and tell

 kiss ass

 kiss of death

 kit and kaboodle

 knee-high to a grasshopper

 knock it out of the park

 knock on wood

 knock your socks off

 knocked up

 know him from Adam

 know the ropes

 know the score

 knuckle down

 knuckle sandwich

 knuckle under

---L---

 labor of love

 lap of luxury

 last but not least

 last-ditch effort

 last hurrah

 law of the jungle

 law of the land

 lay down the law

 leaps and bounds

 let sleeping dogs lie

 let the cat out of the bag

 let's split

 liberal media

 lie like a rug

 life and limb

 life imitates art

 life's a bitch

 lighten up

 lights out

 like a sore thumb

 like butter

 like the plague

 like there's no tomorrow

 lion's share

 litmus test

 little black book

 live and learn

 long and short of it

 long lost love

 look before you leap

 lounge lizard

 loved and lost

 low man on the totem pole

 luck of the draw

 luck of the Irish

---M---

 make my day

 male chauvinist

 man's best friend

 many moons

 many-splendored thing

 mark my words

 meaningful relationship

 mellow out

 moment of glory

 moment's respite

 Monday morning quarterback

 monkey suit

 monkey see, monkey do

 motherhood and apple pie

 movers and shakers

 moving experience

 my two cents

---N---

 neat as a pin

 needless to say

 nip it in the bud

 no guts, no glory

 no love lost

 no pain, no gain

 no stone unturned

 no time like the present

 nose to the grindstone

 not in my back yard

 not on your tintype

 number one fan

 numerous to mention

---O---

 off the wagon

 old college try

 old meets new

 older and wiser

 older than dirt

 older than Methuselah

 on the bandwagon

 on the nose

 on the wagon

 on thin ice

 one born every minute

 one foot in the grave

 one in a million

 only game in town

 only to be met

 out of pocket

 out of the frying pan

 out on a limb

---P-Q---

 p's and q's

 pain and suffering

 panic button

 party pooper

 patter of little feet

 pass the sniff test

 pay through the nose

 peas in a pod

 perfect storm

 pig in a poke

 pillar of society

 pinko

 plenty of fish in the sea

 poison pen

 poor as a churchmouse

 poor excuse for

 pot calling the kettle black

 proud possessor

 put my/your foot down

 quick as a bunny

 quick and the dead

---R---

 radical chic

 rags to riches

 raining buckets

 raining cats and dogs

 rank and file

 read my lips

 red herring

 redheaded stepchild

 reign supreme

 remember the alamo

 road to hell is paved with good intentions

 rob Peter to pay Paul

 rock and a hard place

 rocket science/scientist

 rope a dope

 run it up the flagpole

 running dog lackey

---S---

 safe than sorry

 salt of the earth

 save face

 scared stiff

 scared to death

 school's out

 screaming meemies

 senses reel

 set the record straight

 shake a stick should of

 shoulder to the wheel

 shouldered his way

 shut your trap

 sigh of relief

 significant other

 silence is golden

 slept like a log

 small world

 snake in the grass

 snow job

 snug as a bug

 some of my best friends

 something the cat dragged in

 spade a spade

 spare the rod

 spitting image

 spring to life

 squeaky wheel gets the grease/oil

 start from scratch

 stick in the mud

 stick in your craw

 still waters run deep

 stop and smell the roses

 store bought

 stranger than fiction

 straw that broke the camel's back

 stubborn as a mule

 stuff that dreams are made of

 stuffed shirt

---T---

 take one for the team

 take the bull by the horns

 take the plunge

 takes one to know one

 talk turkey

 ten foot pole

 the earth moved

 the final analysis

 the real McCoy

 the same old story

 these things happen

 thick as thieves

 think outside of the box

 third time's the charm

 this day and age

 this point in time

 three strikes and you're out

 through the grapevine

 throw in the towel

 tiger by the tail

 till the fat lady sings

 time and time again

 time is of the essense

 tip of the iceberg

 'tis the season

 to err is human

 to the best of my knowledge

 tongue-in-cheek

 too hot to handle

 touch of blarney

 tough as nails

 tough luck

 tough row to hoe

 traditional family values

 trials and tribulations

 tried and true

 trip down memory lane

 true blue

 turn your smile/frown upside-down

 twist of fate

 twists and turns

 two to tango

--U-V---

 under the gun

 under the same roof

 understated elegance

 unexpected twist

 until the cows come home

 up his sleeve

 up the creek

 up the wrong tree

 very real concern

 view with alarm

---W---

 wakeup call

 was my face red

 watch your tongue

 web of intrigue

 week of sundays

 what a bummer

 what comes around, goes around

 what the cat dragged in

 what the dickens

 what the heck/hell

 what you see is what you get

 what's not to like

 wheeler-dealer

 when in doubt, punt

 when push comes to shove

 when rubber meets the road

 when the cat's away

 when the going gets tough, the tough get going

 who has everything

 whole ball of wax

 whole hog

 whole nine yards

 whole other story

 wild goose chase

 wild oats

 will wonders never cease

 wimp

 win friends and influence

 people

 win one for the Gipper

 wnning is everything

 wisdom of the ages

 without benefit of clergy

 wolf at the door

 words fail

 work like a dog

 worst nightmare

 wrong side of the bed

---XYZ---

 years young

 yellow journalism

 you are what you eat

 you can run, but you can't hide

 you know what they say

 young and foolish

 young and restless

 yuppie