

*The Devil Wears Prada*

Lauren Weisberger

Broadway Books

Fiction

360 pages

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Fashion-Filled Fun

By Laura M

Imagine being told to find a dresser located in an antique shop in New York City, without being told the name of the store, specific location of the store, or even what the dresser looks like. This is just one of the many ridiculous tasks that Andrea Sachs was told to do while working as the assistant for Miranda Priestly, the esteemed editor of *Runway* magazine.

Andrea is a determined girl, who ends up working for the fashion magazine trying to get a recommendation from Miranda, which could get her the job of her dreams. Andrea's goal is to become a writer for *The New Yorker*, but she needs to work for Miranda for an entire year before she can get there. *The Devil Wears Prada* follows Andrea's journey, as she tries to balance her personal life and her job, tries to deal with her boss, or the devil who wears Prada, and gains exclusive insight into the fashion industry as she goes.

A strong part of *The Devil Wears Prada* is Andrea's comical voice that helps to move the plot forward. Her amusing inner soliloquys create a light and often sarcastic tone throughout the novel. When she is in the office and Miranda's newest husband asks her about her life, Andrea thinks:

What's going on? Hmm, well, let's see here. Really not all that much I suppose. I spend most of my time trying to survive my term of indentured servitude with your sadistic wife. If there are ever any free minutes during the workday when she's not making some belittling demand, then I'm trying to block out the brainwash drivel that's spoon-fed to me by her assistant in chief.

Andrea's funny thoughts and remarks make the novel much less serious and they help the reader to stay interested in the story.

The characters in Weisberger's novel are all very believable. This is a strength because people tend to like characters they can relate to in a book. I could believe that there are people out there that are as cruel and demeaning as Miranda. The author made Miranda seem very inhumane, but included simple sentences with information about Miranda scattered throughout the novel to make her seem slightly more human. Miranda was talking to Andrea in an unusual moment of warmth when she stated, "You remind me of myself when I was your age". In this conversation, Miranda's character gains more depth, and the reader learns a little more about her.

One weakness is present in the beginning of the novel, when Andrea was driving around in Miranda's Porsche and running errands for her. The story then went back in time, but when it reached the present, the car incident was never revisited. This created an inconsistency in the plot, and the reader never finds out how the situation was resolved.

Weisberger's books all involve the ideas of being rich, the celebrity, and travel. *The Devil Wears Prada*, Lauren Weisberger's first novel, was also made into a movie starring Meryl Streep and Anne Hathaway. Weisberger's other works are *Last Night at Chateau Marmont*, *Everyone Worth Knowing*, *Chasing Harry Winston*, and a sequel to *The Devil Wears Prada* entitled *Revenge Wears Prada*.

I loved *The Devil Wears Prada*, and recommend it to anyone who has an interest in fashion. I give this novel five out of five stars. Other high school students will want to read this book because of its funny narrative. Even students who don't really care about the fashion industry will like it because they will probably relate to Andrea's lack of fashion knowledge and her continuous lack of interest. Andrea is a misfit in the fashion scene, and her cluelessness makes the novel all the better.