

*The Devil Wears Prada*

Lauren Weisberger

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Teen Fiction

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*Style over Substance in The Devil Wears Prada*

*The Devil Wears Prada*, Lauren Weisberger's first novel, is a fun young adult read. In it, a young woman named Andrea Sachs gets a once in a lifetime job opportunity at a high end fashion magazine called *Runway*. Before working at the magazine Andy was a quiet, naive woman who just graduated from Brown. Andy's initial goal was to be a serious, intense journalist working at *The New Yorker*. She ends up at *Runway* but it's clearly not her first choice and is a far cry from her world of simplicity and no frills fashion. From the beginning of the novel to the end, she grows to become more confident, more sophisticated, and more knowledgeable about the magazine industry and about herself. She becomes more edgy and caught up especially in the New York social scene. Teens or someone just starting out in the fashion world interested in a fast paced career, would be very interested in this story.

Weisberger, an author from Allentown, Pennsylvania, went to Cornell University. Out of college she was the assistant to the Editor in Chief of *Vogue*. Her position as assistant to the editor foreshadows the purpose of her writing the novel *The Devil Wears Prada*. In the novel,

Andrea Sachs is the assistant to the revered and intimidating Miranda Priestly that evokes images of Anna Wintour, the Editor in Chief at *Vogue*. I believe as a reader she wrote this novel from personal experiences. Miranda is the epitome of high New York fashion, imperious, impossibly stylish and very sophisticated. She is on a first name basis with all of the most famous designers and uses her power to get what she wants which includes manipulating Andy and setting impossible goals for her.

Andy's personal journey reveals there is more to life than fame, money, and success. Quickly, Andy becomes Miranda's right hand woman, buying her Starbucks, picking up her dry cleaning and taking calls well after working hours. As the novel evolves, Andrea becomes caught up in the materialistic lifestyle of high fashion as opposed to being the quiet, Brown graduate, she once was. Her personality totally shifts. Her job does get the best of her. This relentless pursuit of fame and success connects to everyday life. People believe they have to live up to this level of sophistication and social status, and it sometimes gets the better of them, but sometimes it's who they are supposed to become. Working for Miranda becomes a twenty-four hour a day job which leaves Andy feeling confused, exhausted and empty.

In Weisberger's novel, her writing technique provides great details. For example, "I'd sleep in my new room for three nights already and still feel like a stranger living in a strange place". The details make you feel as though you are in the novel, and in the moment, Her dialogue and the way the characters speak also is quite realistic and insightful.

*The Devil Wears Prada* is a phenomenal read, and amazing for women to get a quick glimpse of a fast paced working environment in New York City, but there are some weaknesses. Sometimes there was so much detail and description that you wanted to hear the characters talk more rather than hear about detail. In all, the dialogue was spot on and so interesting. I just wanted to hear more talking because I am a young girl interested in the world of fashion, and that's why this novel is just so relatable.

The title itself has a literal meaning. "The Devil Wears Prada" is equivalent to the devil becoming the very thing we either revere or hate the most. Deep in her heart, Andy is not a fashion worshipper but becomes enthralled with the whirlwind and excitement of the fashion world. I could really visualize Andy's world and what it meant to be caught up in it.

To sum it up, I give this book would be given 4.5 stars. It is sophisticated and addictive. I would love to work at a fashion magazine when I grow up so it really gave me some insight. I felt as though I was part of the *Runway* magazine team while I was reading the novel; my opinion, that's what you want out of a book; something you can feel a part of and connect and relate to; and this book did that and more.

