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Best Lessons from *The Devil Wears Prada*

Is it possible to make a simple girl with no style work in a modern and complicated world of fashion without any insurance and support and believe that certain positive results can be achieved? David Frankel, the director of the film *The Devil Wears Prada*, answers “Yes”, and his explanation lasts 109 minutes (that is the running time of the chosen comedy-drama movie). Not many people believe that one movie can change a human life or, at least, become a good lesson. I was one of such people for a long run. Though *The Devil Wears Prada* was released in 2006, I did not have a chance to watch it till 2014. After watching it, it was hard for me to believe that those 100+ minutes made me look at my closet, think about my present, and understand that my future can be changed in a minute. The peculiar feature of this movie is the possibility to cover a number of topics, including workplace relations, fashion, career promotion, decision-making, friends and family, commerce, business development, and competitions. In this essay, I would like to discuss the lesson I took from *The Devil Wears Prada* and share my opinion about the importance of appropriate human relations in and outside the workplace.

Movie in Brief

From the very first minutes of the movie, two rather strong and different characters are introduced in *The Devil Wears Prada*. On the one hand, there is a kind and ordinary girl, Andy (Ann Hathaway), who cherishes her dream to become a great journalist but has to work in the fashion industry in order to get the necessary

portion of the experience. On the other hand, there is a confident and rigorous woman, Miranda Priestly (Meryl Streep). She has already influenced the world of fashion and continues developing it demonstrating her excessive demands and humiliation of everyone with lower than her rank.

These female characters do not compete directly in the movie. Still, there is definitely a certain tension between two of them. Miranda knows how to work, what to expect from people, and how to put her demands in a clear way saying such phrases as “details of your incompetence do not interest me” or “that wasn’t a question” (*The Devil Wears Prada*). Andrea, in her turn, cannot even realize if she has a future in this industry or even if she wants to have it alongside such a person as Miranda. Andrea says that Miranda cannot be “happy unless everyone around her is panicked, nauseous or suicidal” (*The Devil Wears Prada*). As a result, it is hard for Andy to find people or, at least, a person who can support her or understand in the workplace. “Be serious. You are not trying. You are whining... You have no idea how many legends have walked these halls... what’s worse, you don’t care... this place where so many people would die to work you only deign to work” (*The Devil Wears Prada*). After numerous contests and the whims of fate, Andy makes her final decision to follow her personal interests and choose life instead of fashion where devilish Miranda does not want to change the rules.

Themes Variety

Some people may find *The Devil Wears Prada* as an ordinary movie about fashion and the relations people have to develop in the workplace. I enjoy this movie due to its variety and a unique combination of drama and comedy. That period of Andy’s work with Miranda can be observed in the life of every person. The outcome of such cooperation may vary because it can destroy people or, vice versa, make

them stronger, inspire or frustrate, support or mislead. Besides, this movie teaches how strong human emotions can be. Andy has friends at work and outside. However, it is hard to combine all interests without hurting someone. Therefore, she makes numerous mistakes, which help her realize how wrong and unfair her decisions can be.

The Devil Wears Prada is also a strong commercial movie where people can learn how to sell products and ideas and how to attract consumers and eliminate enemies. The world of fashion is cruel, and if people are able to survive there, they can try something new and be confident in their success. After being hired by Miranda, Andy cannot stop sniggering when she observes how several people cannot decide on two almost similar belts for a dress. With time, she gets a lesson that as soon as “your whole life goes up in smoke... it’s time for a promotion”. Is there no work-life balance? The story of Andy proves that it is really something rare.

Power of Human Relations

Regarding the fact that Andy quits the world of fashion and disappoints with almost everything that has happened to her at Runway magazine, it is possible to think that no positive results and lessons can be taken from the movie. However, *The Devil Wears Prada* is the story that proves that human relations may have different forms. It is not enough to know a person and believe that each decision-making can be predicted. Miranda proves this fact by calling Andy “her biggest disappointment” after she quits but also underlines that any employer who does not hire her will be an idiot (*The Devil Wears Prada*). Human relations are complicated. Still, there is no chance to avoid them or neglect.

The power of relations people can develop is impressive. *The Devil Wears Prada* uses the same people and introduces new lines and situations where

characters have to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and intentions to be improved or to stay the way they are. The world of fashion is seductive and dangerous at the same time, and properly developed human relations become that crucial ballast with the help of which a right and a less risky way can be chosen.

Conclusion

In general, there are several reasons to adore *The Devil Wears Prada*. First, there is an amazing cast such as Meryl Streep and Ann Hathaway. These women play remarkably, and it is easy and interesting to learn from them. Second, a variety of topics for discussion is impressive. Therefore, it is not necessary to be aware of one theme, e.g. fashion, in order to find this story educative and interesting. Different people can take numerous lessons on how to develop professional relations in the workplace, how to follow personal dreams, what diets can be chosen, and why it is not always possible to have work-life balance. Finally, *The Devil Wears Prada* is a story of a young woman whose life is full of numerous comic and dramatic events. Personally, I choose *The Devil Wears Prada* as the next movie to watch on my weekends because it inspires me to be better than I am and to realize that there are no desperate situations, but there are people who have to try hard and discover their best skills.

Work Cited

The Devil Wears Prada. Directed by David Frankel, performances by Meryl Streep, Ann Hathaway, and Emily Blunt. 20th Century Fox, 2006.