

# **The Devil Wears Prada Study Guide**

**The Devil Wears Prada by Lauren Weisberger**

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# Plot Summary

The Devil Wears Prada by Lauren Weisberger is the story of Andrea Sachs, a 23 year old woman who aspires to write for The New Yorker one day. After graduating from Brown University and traveling Europe for the summer, Andrea returns home and looks for a job while staying with her friend Lily in New York. Andrea receives a call from Elias Clark, a major magazine publisher and is surprised to find that they have read her resume and would like to speak with her about a position they have available.

Andrea interviews at Elias Clark and learns that Miranda Priestly, the Editor in Chief of Runway Magazine is looking for a new assistant, a job, Andrea is informed many times over, that a million girls would kill to have. Though Andrea is not sure that being an assistant is what she wants to do she finds out from Emily, Miranda's current assistant, that if someone works for Miranda for a year and does well, Miranda considers them ready for promotion and helps them find the position they are for. Meeting Miranda, Andrea is pleasantly surprised by the grace a woman with such power shows and is pleased with how the interview goes.

Andrea is at her boyfriend Alex's apartment when she gets a call informing her she has gotten the job for Miranda. A bit stunned by the fast pace at which the office would like her to start, Andrea manages to put them off until she finds an apartment in the city. Alex is pleased for Andrea, knowing that the position at Runway will get her one step closer to her dream of being a writer for The New Yorker. Andrea knows that Alex, her boyfriend of three years, is a wonderful man and how lucky she is to have such an understanding partner. Andrea's family and her friend Lily, a student, are also happy for her, and all work together getting her ready to start her new job.

Andrea's first few days at Runway are a training period, as Miranda is on vacation. Despite this the days are hectic and Emily drills Andrea on how things are in the office and making sure that she anticipates Miranda's wishes and performs her duties in such a way that Miranda will find little fault in them. The days are long and a bit stressful but Andrea feels that she is ready when Miranda returns from Europe.

Andrea soon discovers that working for Miranda is as far from easy as anything can be. Miranda has worked her way up to her position from a poor childhood and controls every factor of her life in order to make sure she will never be in such a position again. Andrea learns that there is almost no pleasing her boss and Miranda has no problem at all informing Andrea that she is incompetent at best. Andrea's days get longer and her duties soon begin to take a toll on her life outside of work.

While Andrea struggles to make sure that a hot breakfast waits for Miranda each morning, even if she has to throw out four meals before her boss arrives, or find the review of an unknown restaurant in one of the twelve newspapers that Miranda reads daily, life changes outside of the office for her. Lily, Andrea's friend since grammar school, sinks deeper into a drinking problem, one that Andrea has been in denial of for months. Alex, the understanding boyfriend, begins to question Andrea's commitment to



her boss rather than her friends and family. Andrea is aware that her life is spiraling out of control to a certain degree, but cannot seem to stop herself from trying to please the implacable Miranda.

After traveling to Paris with Miranda for Fashion Week, choosing her job over time with Alex, things come to a head. Alex tells Andrea that they might need time apart and Andrea does not argue the point. Andrea's family is disappointed as well, as they have not seen her in months. Andrea, close to the end of her year with Miranda is unwilling to give up the time she has spent working with the hellish woman. While in Paris Andrea meets up again with Christian Collinsworth, a writer she had met in New York. The two spend an evening together and despite the fact that she has a good time Andrea cannot help compare the man to Alex. Returning to the hotel the night of the party Andrea discovers two calls, one from Alex and one from her mother. Both inform her that Lily has been in an accident and is in a coma. Andrea is devastated but worries that if she leaves Paris Miranda will fire her. After taking a call from her father Andrea informs Miranda of her friend's condition, but reassures her boss that she is committed to stay in Paris and do her job. Miranda, having spoken to Andrea about possibly calling *The New Yorker* when they return to America informs Andrea that she is pleased that she has made the right decision and that Andrea reminds her of herself when she was younger.

Andrea is taken aback by this statement, realizing that she is becoming the woman she has detested working for for almost a year. When Miranda has another unwarranted tirade Andrea snaps and quits, finally breaking free and doing the right thing.

Andrea and Lily move in with Andrea's parents for a few months while Lily recuperates from her injuries and Andrea writes. Before long Andrea is surprised that several of her stories will be purchased, specifically one that she has written that is similar to her own relationship with Alex. Andrea is pleased. Writing is what she has always dreamed of and despite the fact that she is not writing for *The New Yorker* yet, she knows that she can accomplish what she wants on her own and does not need a year working for a woman such as Miranda to get it.



# Chapters 1-4

## Chapters 1-4 Summary

In chapter one Andrea Sachs races through Manhattan as fast as she is able while struggling with the manual transmission of her boss's Porsche. Andrea has been ordered by Miranda Priestly, the editor-in-chief of Runway magazine to retrieve her car from the garage and take it to her garage. Though this task does not seem overly difficult, Miranda is vague when giving instructions and Andrea is left to figure out not only what car Miranda is talking about, but where it is.

After extensive investigation and calling various staff members, Andrea is able to find the car and as she heads toward Miranda's apartment is interrupted by a call from the woman herself. Miranda instructs Ahn-dre-ah, as she calls her, to pick up Madelaine on the way to the apartment and drop her off with the car. Andrea is forced to make more calls and discovers from the nanny that Madelaine is Miranda's bulldog.

Andrea races to the vet, picks up the newly neutered dog and drops her and the car at the apartment, then heads back to the office in a town car. Arriving, Andrea is confronted by Miranda in a rage. Miranda insists that she has told Andrea to fetch the dog and the car and bring them to the office, then gives her fifteen minutes to do so. Andrea leaves, fuming, wondering if she might be so lucky as to have Miranda die before she returns. Andrea gives up the fantasy, as it would mean she would never have the joy of killing the woman herself.

In chapter two Andrea revisits her brief life, growing up in Avon, Connecticut and attending Brown University, where she met her boyfriend Alex in their Junior year. After college Andrea travels through Europe and meets Alex in Amsterdam and the two head to India. In India Andrea falls ill and returns home where her mother cares for her until the nurturing is overwhelming. Andrea then moves into her best friend Emily's apartment and hunts for a job.

Waking with a hangover Andrea rushes to an interview at the Elias-Clark building in Manhattan. Arriving on time, Andrea is overwhelmed a bit by the thin and beautiful women everywhere, knowing that she cannot compare to them in looks and style. Upstairs, Andrea meets with Sharon in the Human Resources department. Sharon informs Andrea that though jobs at Elias-Clark are coveted, an opportunity that a million girls would kill for has just come up; assistant to Miranda Priestly. Andrea has no idea who Miranda Priestly is.

Sharon sends Andrea to interview with Emily, the junior assistant that she will be replacing. Emily is being promoted to the position of senior assistant. Emily seems bored and details the job description to Andrea, then leaves her. Emily is replaced by Allison, the senior assistant who has been promoted to an editorial position. Allison tells Andrea that though the job is not an easy one, after a year she can have her pick of



jobs in the industry as Miranda rewards good work. As Andrea dreams of one day writing for *The New Yorker*, it seems that working for *Runway* would be a great opportunity.

Andrea finally meets with Miranda herself and though the woman seems very important Andrea does not feel overly intimidated. Andrea answers Miranda's questions and begins to feel comfortable when Miranda asks her if she reads *Runway*. Andrea answers honestly and does not feel the need to elaborate. No, she does not. Miranda bids her good day but despite this, Andrea feels she has gotten the job.

In chapter three Andrea discusses her positive sense of the interview with her boyfriend Alex at his Brooklyn apartment. Alex is a bit put off by Andrea working as an assistant in a fashion magazine but agrees that it is a great opportunity if Andrea can rise quickly to the position of her dreams. Alex himself is struggling with teaching in a public school, saddened by the jaded attitude of the young children in his class. Andrea feels bad for Alex, knowing he wants to change the world by teaching.

The two fall asleep and are awakened at 7:15 the next morning when Lily calls to tell Andrea that someone from Elias-Clark is looking for her. Lily is not happy to be awakened, having been out drinking until the early hours. Andrea apologizes and then calls Sharon at Elias-Clark.

Andrea is stunned when Sharon tells her Miranda likes her and she is her new assistant. Head swimming with the news, Andrea is even more shocked that Sharon wants her to start the following Monday. Andrea finally agrees to start the following Monday, as she has to find a place to live in New York and move out of her parents home in Avon. Alex is happy for Andrea and lends her his car so that she can head to Avon and begin packing.

Andrea's parents are happy about the job but concerned about the quick pace. Andrea begins checking with friends about apartments that might be available and visiting them, trying to find a place to live. Nearly giving up after finding nothing, Lily comes through with a connection. Two Indian girls that work in banking are looking for a third roommate. Andrea meets with Shanti and Kendra and accepts the small room that she will soon call home.

In chapter four Andrea moves into the tiny apartment and spends three days trying to get herself organized. The first day of work Andrea bolts out of bed and tries to pull together an outfit that will work, then showers and leaves, struggling to find her way to the office in a dark city. Once there Andrea runs into Mickey and Eduardo, the security guards in the lobby of Elias-Clark. Mickey informs Andrea of the building policies and wishes her luck, telling her she will need it.

Andrea heads to the office, happy that by some luck she will be at work for almost a month before Miranda will be in, since she is on vacation with her family. Andrea has looked up Miranda on-line and is impressed with what she has found.



Miranda was born Miriam Princhek in London, one of eleven children in a poor Jewish family. Miranda struggled and saved when she was younger, dropped out of high school and got a job as an assistant to a British designer. Working her way up, Miranda transformed herself, working in the Paris offices of Runway for ten years before taking over in New York.

Emily arrives and begins the task of teaching Andrea, commenting on how lucky she is that Miranda is not in, then quickly stating how great she is. Andrea will come to know this type of comment as the Runway Paranoid Turnaround or PRT. If anyone makes a comment that might be taken as negative they are quick to make themselves clear, as if the offices are bugged.

Andrea watches the beautiful men and women stream into work. All are thin and gorgeous though the men are obviously gay. The flow of people as Andrea answers the phone and Emily returns calls is a bit overwhelming but Andrea tries to get a feel for the routine.

Miranda throws things into an uproar when she calls and informs Emily that she needs a skirt. Emily sends Andrea to Tommy Hilfiger's studio to fetch what Miranda will need. Andrea heads out, amazed at the fact that Miranda can make a phone call and obtain what she wants from famous designers without blinking an eye.

After being driven around the city obtaining the things that Miranda wants, Andrea arrives back at the office to find Emily wrapping various bottles of wine for Miranda to give as gifts. Andrea settles in to help and Emily gives her more information on Miranda, such as the fact that she always wears a white Hermes scarf. The two continue to talk when a large flamboyant man enters and yells for Andrea to stand up so he can see her, then berates her outfit. Despite this, Andrea likes the man who she discovers is Nigel a famous fashion authority. Nigel welcomes Andrea, ending her first day, but welcomes her in his loud and flamboyant way.

## Chapters 1-4 Analysis

The reader is introduced to the main character, Andrea Sachs, a young woman who grew up in Avon, Connecticut living a comfortable middle class life. Andrea, recently graduated from Brown University and a summer in Europe, is struggling to find her place in life in an awkward transition from student to gainfully employed. Andrea majored in English at Brown and her dream is to one day write for The New Yorker. While her friends struggle in entry level positions and work their way up the ladder or success, Andrea has yet to begin, recovering from dysentery after a trip through India with her boyfriend, Alex.

Andrea recovers from her illness and moves onto her best friend Lily's couch as she begins her job search. Waking from a hangover, forgivable to Andrea as it is just a leftover symptom or college and youth, Andrea pulls herself together, barely, for an interview at Elias-Clark, a prestigious publisher of many magazines in Manhattan. There



is much thought about the outfit Andrea decides to wear but she convinces herself that no one is going to hire her or not hire her because of her clothing. Once she arrives at the building Andrea wonders if she might have been mistaken, judging by the thin and beautiful women that stream around her.

Meeting with Sharon, in the Human Resources Department, Andrea is a bit overwhelmed by the woman. Though Sharon begins by saying that jobs at Elias-Clark are hard to come by, she immediately tells Andrea that an opportunity is available, one that millions of "girls" would kill for. This is a phrase that will be repeated many times in the novel, one that gives a sense of foreboding. If so many millions of "girls" as the women that work at Elias-Clark are referred to, want it, why has the position not been filled?

Andrea interviews with Sharon, then Emily, the current second assistant of Miranda Priestly, then Allison, the senior assistant. Both Emily and then Allison tell Andrea that Miranda is a fabulous woman and the chance to work for her is fantastic. Both tell Andrea that working for Miranda for one year virtually guarantees her a chance to work anywhere she wishes to. Andrea is swept up and finds that she wants the job badly.

Meeting Miranda is a bit odd, as Andrea pictured the powerful woman quite differently. Despite the fact that Miranda is so important, Andrea feels comfortable and not intimidated in the least. Miranda asks Andrea if she reads *Runway* and Andrea answers honestly that she does not, but still feels as if she has won the job she suddenly wants.

Andrea spends the night with Alex, her boyfriend of three years, after her interview. Andrea and Alex are close, and know each others feeling and moods instinctively. Andrea needs to talk to someone about the interview and the opportunity, and does not want to spend another night on Lily's couch. Alex seems a bit unsure of the job at first but is clearly the type that supports those he loves without question. Andrea is happy for the opportunity yet worries about Alex and his disillusionment in his teaching position. Alex has longed to make a difference in the lives of children but is struggling with the inner city kids he teaches in the Bronx. Despite her worries for Alex's happiness, Andrea still discusses her options, something that will happen often in the novel. The reader will learn that Andrea tends to ignore what goes on in her life that does not directly affect her.

The two are awakened by Lily early in the morning when she calls to inform Andrea that Sharon has called from Elias-Clark. Lily is not happy about being woken up so early as she was out late drinking and had barely fallen asleep. Lily, a graduate student, still seems to live the college life that Andrea and Alex have left behind them, a fact that will be revisited often in the novel.

Andrea calls Sharon and is stunned to find out not only that she has gotten the job as Miranda's assistant, but that she is expected to start the following Monday. Andrea manages to negotiate a week until her start date but her head swims at the short time she will have to move to New York and arrange her life. In the back of her mind Andrea once again questions why things are moving so fast, and what the details of the position





entail. Despite her misgivings Andrea is excited and takes the steps necessary to move to the City.

Andrea manages to find a room with two women that work in a bank and prepares to start her new job. Arriving at Elias-Clark, overwhelmed and apparently dressed incorrectly, Andrea is thrown into the thick of things immediately, despite the fact that Miranda is out of town on vacation with her family.

Andrea meets the "girls" in the office and gets a taste of Miranda's power when she calls and tells Emily she needs a skirt. The business in the office basically stops as everyone scrambles to do the boss's bidding. Andrea is sent all over New York, fetching the things that Miranda wants, amazed at the power of the woman she works for. Returning to the office and finding Emily wrapping Christmas presents for the hundreds of people that have already sent Miranda presents again alerts Andrea to the woman's power.

While wrapping, Andrea finally meets one person who appears to have no concern for what others think. Nigel, a famous fashion authority, while criticizing Andrea mercilessly, makes her feel more welcome than anyone she has met on her first day at work. This is revealing about the type of people that Andrea has to deal with day to day for the next year.



# Chapters 5-8

## Chapters 5-8 Summary

In chapter five Andrea finds the week routine, though a bit stressful. During a lunch with Lily, Andrea details some of the events that have taken place. Lily is studying for her PhD in Russian Literature at Columbia while working whenever she is not studying and tells Andrea that her job sounds much more exciting. Despite Lily's declaration, Andrea knows that Lily loves the life she leads; she loves learning and being a student.

The week rushes by and Emily presents Andrea with her badge, complete with a photo taken by one of the many security cameras in the building. Andrea is a bit put off when she discovers that the swipe cards track the employees everywhere they go, as well as what they buy for lunch in the company cafeteria.

On Friday, Emily tells Andrea that she is going to lunch with a few of the girls and leaves. Andrea assumes that Emily will return with food as they always do but after several hours she has not. Andrea finally can stand the hunger no longer and leaves the office unattended to grab soup in the lunch room. As the soup is fattening, no one is ever in line to purchase it, so the trip is fast. Unfortunately not fast enough, as Emily finds Andrea before she is able to return to her post. Emily is livid, telling Andrea that if Miranda had called while the office was empty, Andrea would have ruined her position, a position that a "million girls would die for." Thankfully, Andrea discovers that Miranda had called but the nanny, Cara, covered for her error and told Miranda that she had just spoken to the girls in the office. Emily warns Andrea about making such a mistake again.

Though Andrea is supposed to meet Alex for dinner, having not seen each other all week, she is too tired. Stumbling into her bedroom, Andrea calls Emily and gets a report on her unlucky love life. Alex arrives, surprising Andrea with take out, knowing that she is probably too tired to feed herself. Two burgers, fries and candlelight remind Andrea how lucky she is to have Alex as he makes a toast with his vanilla shake to his best girl.

In chapter six Andrea goes home for Thanksgiving to visit with her parents and her sister Jill, who lives in Houston with her husband Kyle. Andrea tells everyone about her job and reminds them that after a year with Miranda she can pretty much name the job she would like next. Jill and Kyle surprise everyone with the news that they are going to have a baby, thrilling Andrea's mother to distraction. Afterward Andrea and her father settle in for a game of Scrabble, something they both enjoy. Andrea's dad reassures her that she will do a great job and will be writing for *The New Yorker* next year.

At work Andrea's next task is to obtain two copies of the yet unreleased Harry Potter book and ship them to Paris for Miranda's twin daughters so that they will have the book before anyone else. Miranda checks in, telling Andrea to rearrange the lunch reservation that she had instructed her to make for Mr. Tomlinson, Miranda's third



husband. Andrea and Emily refer to Mr. Tomlinson as B-DAD, or Mr. Blind, Deaf and Dumb as he is not only married to Miranda but speaks only in the third person. Andrea calls Mr. Tomlinson and informs him of the change in reservation and continues with her task to obtain the books so that she can head out for a weekend with Lily. After making contact with someone at the publisher, Andrea arranges to have the two books picked up and taken to the airport in the morning where they will be flown by private jet to Paris.

Lounging with Lily, watching movies, Andrea discovers a voice mail from Miranda on her cell phone. Andrea hates her cell phone and the fact that she is virtually tied to her boss. Andrea listens in horror to Miranda's message stating that the Harry Potter books have not arrived in Paris. Andrea quickly calls to make sure the books were picked up and driven to the airport, then calls the pilot who assures her they made it to Paris. Having no choice but to call The Ritz, Andrea says goodbye to Lily and goes to the office. Calling Monsieur Renaud, the concierge, Andrea is informed that of course the package arrived in the morning, just as it should have.

Andrea is forced to speak to Miranda, something she has avoided to this point. Miranda informs Andrea that she should listen more closely, that the package arrived, but had contained only one book, not the two requested. Miranda ominously warns Andrea that she is sure her orders will be followed from now on and hangs up after saying "That's all," her standard end to every conversation. Andrea realizes that despite the fact that she had done her job, Miranda had called her just to drive her a bit more crazy, with no thought for anyone but herself at all.

In chapter seven the New Year has begun and James, a beauty editor at the magazine wants Andrea to go with him to a party. Andrea wants to go but has plans with Alex, plans that she cannot break as they have not seen much of each other lately. Things work out when Andrea gets an email from Alex informing her that he has to attend an emergency faculty meeting and needs to cancel.

Andrea's happiness is short lived when Emily announces that Miranda has arrived back in the country early and is headed into the office. Andrea rushes to the lobby to buy the newspapers that Miranda wants each day. Rushing back upstairs Andrea is held up at the turnstile by Eduardo whose morning routine includes making Andrea act out and sing-along a song with him each day. Andrea does, then hurries back to the office, gathering ice, water and a lime for her boss on the way.

Miranda arrives just as Andrea is finished pulling herself together and looks at her without acknowledging her, tosses her coat on the desk and goes into her office. Andrea hangs up the coat and is not even back in her seat when Miranda appears and asks for her coat. Andrea retrieves it and Miranda leaves, informing Emily that she would like "The Book" that evening. Emily tells Miranda that Andrea will deliver it and without another word, Miranda leaves.

In chapter eight Andrea agrees to go to the party with James but has to wait until "The Book" is ready. The Book is the daily work completed at the magazine and Miranda has



it delivered to her penthouse each night when it is complete. Emily takes Andrea to Miranda's apartment building and instructs her to use a key to open the apartment door, place the book on the table, hang up the dry cleaning on the hook next to the closet and leave.

Andrea heads up in the elevator and unlocks the door, stunned to find Miranda and her family eating dinner feet away. Andrea places the book on the table and heads for the closet when she is stopped by Miranda, calling her Emily and informing her to put the clothes on the hook next to the closet.

Andrea stumbles through the delivery and leaves as Miranda warns "Emily" not to let it happen again. Downstairs the real Emily is waiting for reassurance that everything went well, then leaves.

Andrea makes it to the party with James and is floored by all the famous people there. One of the handsomest men Andrea has ever seen speaks with her and they banter back and forth. Andrea realizes after a few minutes that she is speaking to Christian Collinsworth, a famous and amazingly lauded author. Andrea is amazed and a bit in awe as the two flirt back and forth. After a bit Christian sets out to get Andrea a cab home but she informs him she has a car waiting. Christian kisses the back of Andrea's hand and bids her goodnight and Andrea heads home dialing Alex's number, feeling a bit guilty.

## Chapters 5-8 Analysis

Andrea's life at Runway begins, minus Miranda who is on vacation in Europe with her family. Despite this, the days are long and filled with mundane tasks, mundane in the life of Miranda's assistant, at any rate. The first week is spent wrapping thousands of dollars of liquor that will be delivered all over the world as Christmas gifts from Miranda. Emily instructs Andrea on the details of taking care of Miranda's every wish, some of which seem fairly ridiculous to her. Andrea does her best, regardless, keeping an eye on her future and the chance to work at The New Yorker.

The days get longer and more difficult and Andrea learns valuable lessons while trying to keep from losing her job by making a terrible mistake. One such mistake, leaving the office unattended to get lunch, almost ends things before Andrea ever gets the chance to work with Miranda directly. Emily reminds Andrea that the office is never to be unattended, Miranda is their only priority. Once again Andrea wonders at the sheer strangeness of Emily's devotion to Miranda. Throughout the novel Andrea will become more and more like Emily, something that she will not realize until it affects her life in many ways.

The reader learns more about Lily, Andrea's best friend since childhood. Lily was raised by her grandmother after her parents left her in a commune in New Mexico to follow the Grateful Dead. Lily has always been on the quirky side and still is, studying for her PhD in Russian Literature, a field that she knows she will likely never find gainful

employment in. Despite this Lily loves being a student, spending late nights working as a bartender to make ends meet.

The relationship between Andrea and Alex is also discussed. Andrea and Alex have been together for three years and each is working to reach their personal goals while supporting the other. Alex is more than understanding about the demands that Andrea is under in her new position, going so far as to bring a candlelight dinner to her when she is too tired to go out after her first week of work. Though Andrea is interested in Alex's work as a teacher and tries to be as supportive as he is, it is clear early in the novel that Andrea tends to be a bit self-absorbed, forgetting about others in her desire to do her job well and get through her year at Runway.

The reader also gets a sense of what working for Miranda Priestly entails. It seems that Miranda expects her assistants to be at her beck and call at all hours of the day and night. Miranda also tends to give orders with very little detail, requiring Andrea to puzzle out what Miranda wants before the task can be performed. Money is no object to Miranda, as evidenced when she has Andrea obtain the new Harry Potter book as soon as it becomes available and fly it to Paris on a private jet so that her twins will have it immediately.

Miranda knows the effect she has on people and never hesitates to put people in their places. She is not above playing mind games, calling Andrea by the wrong name in order to make her feel inferior is just one of the ways Priestley makes a statement. Excuses are not permitted, even if the problem is completely outside Andrea's control.

Andrea meets Christian Collinworth, a famous author, one night while out at a party in Manhattan and is taken with him almost immediately. The two flirt and enjoy an easy conversation though Andrea feels a bit guilty when the evening is over and she calls Alex on her way home. Though nothing happens between Andrea and Christian, it seems that Andrea feels as if she has been unfaithful to Alex. This is a bit telling, as it reveals that Andrea felt a strong attraction to the other man.



# Chapters 9-12

## Chapters 9-12 Summary

Chapter nine finds Andrea spending a typical day at work for Miranda. Finally deciding to wear the clothes that Runway deems appropriate and make her life easier, Andrea takes a cab to work and arrives before seven. Outside the building she is greeted by Benjamin, a former boyfriend of Lily's that treated her badly. Andrea cannot find it in her heart to feel badly for him, but does complain about working for Miranda. Andrea then finds herself proclaiming that Miranda is a very important person, perfecting the Runway Paranoid Turnaround that she has seen so many do before her.

In the lobby Andrea performs a musical duet with Eduardo, the security guard, a task he makes her endure each morning before she can get through the turnstile and enter the building. Finally upstairs and alone Andrea orders Miranda's breakfast, a task she often repeats so that Miranda's breakfast is never reheated. Once Andrea is alerted to the pending arrival of Miranda by her driver, it is time for a mad dash to Starbucks for Miranda's morning latte. Miranda calls to tell "Emily" that she will be in the office in ten minutes. Miranda now calls both of her assistants Emily, apparently believing they are interchangeable.

Andrea passes Emily on the way out, skips the line at Starbucks after making arrangements with the manager to do so, buys Miranda's latte and several more for the homeless people outside of the office building and rushes back. Miranda is angry, having arrived before both her breakfast and latte, then sends Andrea for another drink as hers is cold. Andrea gets a call from Lily while on her second coffee run to inform her happily that she has been evicted and now they can get an apartment together.

The morning is quiet for a bit, then "Emily" is told to get Miranda's lunch. Calling the usual restaurant, Andrea heads out to pick up the food, receiving a call from Christian on the way. Christian invites Andrea to a new restaurant on Saturday but she declines. Christian teases her about her boyfriend and they banter back and forth for a bit before Christian says goodbye.

Andrea gets Miranda's lunch but once again has taken too long in Miranda's eyes. A scathing phone call from her boss sends Andrea scurrying to a taxi and back to the office. Dashing into the empty office Andrea arranges Miranda's rib eye and vegetables on her plate and places them in the proper position on her desk. Miranda strolls in and calls Andrea to her desk, asking what is going on, as it is clear that she just had lunch in the CEO's office. Disgusted, Andrea removes the lunch and tosses it in the garbage.

Andrea is late meeting Alex and Lily for drinks that evening and arrives to find Alex unhappy at having to babysit a very drunk Lily. Alex has to leave to get more work done before he sleeps and Andrea takes Lily to her apartment after she vomits on herself a



few times. Andrea stumbles to her own bed well after midnight, too exhausted to eat before she sleeps and starts the same routine in the morning.

In chapter 10 Mr. Tomlinson stops in the office to drop off Miranda's things as she has an appointment. Andrea talks to B-DAD until Emily arrives and greets her boss's husband as well. B-DAD leaves and Emily talks to Andrea about the trip in October she will be making with Miranda to Paris. Miranda always takes her senior assistant to Paris to help her with the parties and events that take place during fashion week.

Jeffy arrives with bags of clothes for Andrea from the closet, the large room where all of the clothing from previous and future fashion shoots are stored. Andrea is well on her way to becoming one of Runway's best dressed employees.

In chapter 11 Andrea wakes up on moving day. Lily managed to find them an apartment as Andrea could not leave the office to help her. Lily gets angry at Andrea for not contributing at all and the two get into an argument about Andrea's commitment to a job she claims to hate. Andrea calls Alex and tries to get sympathy from him but they argue as well. Now, a week later, things have settled down between Andrea, her best friend and her boyfriend, but things are still a bit off.

Andrea's parents arrive to help her move, as does Alex. The three manage to move Andrea's belongings to the new apartment but Lily is not there. Alex calls her and informs Andrea that Lily will not be moving in today as she spent the night in jail. Lily got drunk the night before and dropped her pants on the streets of New York and wound up getting arrested. Andrea is upset that Lily did not call her the night before but Lily reassures her that she is fine.

At work on Monday Andrea takes calls and enters information on the Bulletin, Miranda's bible of daily activities. Miranda arrives and calls to Andrea to go over details of a dinner party she is throwing for her brother-in-law at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Andrea takes notes and begins another day of dealing with Miranda's demands.

In chapter 12 Miranda leaves for Europe for two weeks. Andrea anticipates a break but soon discovers that her boss is even more demanding from Paris. Alex sends an email requesting Andrea call him at 3:30 and she writes herself a note to remind her of the call.

Miranda calls from Paris repeatedly, demanding Andrea and Emily connect her with important people, find her driver and make sure plans are confirmed for the week. Miranda also informs Andrea that she is to line up girls to interview as her daughters are in need of a new nanny. Cara has been let go for sending the twins to their rooms for being disrespectful.

The day flies by and Andrea and Emily work hard making sure Miranda is happy in Paris. It is not until 9PM that Andrea realizes she forgot to call Alex. Andrea calls and apologizes, explaining how crazy her day was and trying to smooth things over.





Alex tells Andrea that she obviously was not as concerned as she claims or she would have taken the time to call. Andrea begs for him to tell her why he needed her to call and Alex explains that he had made the arrangements for the two of them to go to homecoming in the fall. Andrea had been talking about it for weeks but thought that Alex had not been paying attention.

The two say goodnight and Andrea sits on her balcony alone, trying to figure out how to explain to the people she cares about that she does not like her job more than she likes them.

## Chapters 9-12 Analysis

The reader gets a taste of a typical day working for Miranda when Andrea crawls out of bed in order to be at the office for 7AM. Andrea has finally decided after four months of working for the fashion magazine to dress in the designer clothes that everyone keeps pushing on her. Though Andrea had been wearing her own clothes, she knows that the others in the office make fun of her. Andrea has also recently been informed by a co-worker that by not presenting the right image of Runway, she could be in danger of losing her job.

Andrea's day is spent anticipating Miranda's every whim and preparing to fail at the task. Miranda is very demanding, something that Emily tells Andrea she should not take personally; apparently Miranda just cannot help it. One of the things that Miranda cannot seem to help is calling both of her assistants Emily. Andrea is not sure if Miranda does this to make the women feel like they are interchangeable, or unworthy. There are times in the novel that Miranda does call Andrea by her own name, usually when Andrea has made her boss angry or upset.

Miranda is demanding, expecting Andrea and Emily to handle every detail of her life while providing very little information. An example of this is when Miranda tells Andrea to "find the store in the Seventies" that sells antique dressers. With no further information Andrea spends three days scouring dozens of stores, trying to find out where Miranda has been. Finally having no choice but to ask for clarification, Andrea discovers that not only is the store in an entirely different area of the city, but that Miranda had the business card for the store the entire time.

Though Andrea dreads her job, and dealing with Miranda every day, it appears that it has become somewhat of an obsession. Though there is clearly no pleasing Miranda, Andrea does her best to anticipate her boss's every wish, hoping to make it through her year of employment and move on to The New Yorker. Andrea knows that she has become absorbed in her work and sometimes questions her own level of sanity.

Andrea's family and friends are clearly becoming tired of her new life at Runway. Working late every night, Andrea has no time to see Alex or Lily, let alone her family. The idea that she and Lily can once again be roommates excites Andrea, who hopes to regain some of her life. Problems begin to surface almost immediately when Andrea





meets Alex and Lily to celebrate. Lily is already drunk, something that Alex points out to Andrea has been happening more and more. Andrea once again makes excuses for her friend, pointing out how stressful her life is. Alex is also clearly not happy about being left with Lily so long, once again waiting for Andrea to finish another late day. Alex's unhappiness is clearly conveyed, but the reader gets a sense of exactly how understanding Alex is. Alex wants what is best for Andrea and if working at Runway will get her closer to her dream, he is willing to sacrifice time with her.



# Chapters 13-15

## Chapters 13-15 Summary

In chapter 13 Andrea takes Lily out to dinner to celebrate the end of the semester for her friend. After leaving the restaurant, the two run into Christian. Lily immediately picks up on Andrea's attraction to Christian and suggests the three go for a drink.

The three head to Au Bar, where Christian is meeting his agent. Lily heads off on her own and Christian gently kisses Andrea on the neck and goes to get drinks. Andrea is torn about her loyalty to Alex and talks to Lily about it. Lily tells Andrea to relax, that if Alex is the one for her he always will be, and that a kiss from Christian is no big deal.

Andrea meets Christian's agent Gabriel Brooks, who gives Andrea his card and tells her to contact him when she is ready for an agent, flooring her. Christian laughs it off as he walks Andrea out, telling her that Gabriel knows a good thing when he sees it.

Still feeling guilty, Andrea heads over to Alex's apartment to spend the night, and barely thinks about Christian at all.

Andrea spends the morning trying to locate a restaurant review for Miranda from "the paper." Not having any idea what paper the review was in, or what the restaurant's name is makes it a bit difficult. Andrea also opens the mail, mostly junk, but is moved by a letter from a young girl who worships Miranda and her magazine, and expresses her wishes to look like the thin girls on the pages and dress like they do. Hours later, having no luck finding the article, Andrea heads down to the lobby to get Miranda's magazine and a soda, knowing that she will be forced to face Miranda and ask her for more information. Andrea heads back upstairs and finds herself alone in the elevator with Miranda. Miranda does not acknowledge Andrea in any way until they are on the 17th floor. Only then does Miranda begin speaking to Andrea, waiting to have the door to the office opened for her after berating Andrea for her choice in footwear. Miranda asks about the article and Andrea tells her that she is unable to locate it. Miranda tells Andrea that if she had been listening she would know that the article was in the "Post," then sends her for coffee.

Andrea calls Alex who is excited about a breakthrough with a child in his class and Andrea tries to be happy for him. The two make arrangements to see each other that evening. Returning to the office Andrea once again fails to find the review that Miranda wants and tells her boss. Miranda tells Andrea that the article was in the Washington Post, and the restaurant in question is in Washington, DC. Andrea is dumbfounded, as Miranda had not told Andrea anything of the kind. Miranda then tells Andrea that she is expected to attend the party for her brother-in-law that evening, effectively ruining Andrea's plans to spend time with Alex.



In chapter 14 Andrea gets ready for the party with Lily's help. Andrea had arrived home earlier to break the news to Alex that she had to work that evening and Lily was nowhere to be seen. Alex tells Andrea that he saw a guy wandering the apartment before but not Lily. Andrea knocks on Lily's door and finds a scrawny, tattooed man in bed with her passed out friend. Andrea tells the man to leave, upset that Lily had obviously been so drunk that she had no idea who she had brought home. Lily wakes and does not even remember the man from the night before. Andrea tries to talk to Lily about it but Lily brushes it off, deciding instead to help Andrea and avoid the topic.

At the Met, Andrea readies herself to greet the guests as they arrive, having memorized their faces from the photos that Emily found of them. While waiting for them to arrive, Andrea meets Illana, the representative from the museum. Illana is down to earth and makes a comment about Miranda and her behavior. Andrea uncharacteristically breaks down in tears, unable to contain her misery at having to work for Miranda. Illana shows Andrea a picture she has photo shopped of Miranda with a snake's body. The photo makes Andrea smile, as Miranda is very snakelike on occasion.

Andrea greets the party-goers, amazed that Miranda is such a good hostess to people that she would normally consider beneath her. Those attending may be very wealthy, but the southerners are clearly outclassed by Miranda. The night moves on until Miranda dismisses Andrea and she heads home where she finds a copy of Miranda as the snake, dropped off by Illana to cheer her up. Andrea is touched, but rips up the photo, realizing that though Miranda is a bitch, tonight she also seemed a bit lonely.

In chapter 15 Andrea receives a call from Emily at home. Emily has been diagnosed with Mono and will be unable to travel to Paris with Miranda, which means Andrea will have to go instead. Emily had her doctor call Miranda, insisting that Emily would not be able to work for at least three weeks.

Andrea talks to Lily who has been dumped by her latest boyfriend after the man she had picked up while drunk answered the phone when the boyfriend called. Now drinking instead of working on a paper that is due the following day, Lily avoids the subject of her drinking with Andrea again.

Alex arrives and Andrea announces that she has to go to Paris with Miranda, trying to make it sound better than it is. Alex is understandably upset, as the trip to Paris is at the same time he and Andrea were supposed to attend homecoming weekend. The two argue as Alex is finally fed up with the demands of Andrea's job and the fact that nothing seems more important to her than her work. Andrea defends her job, pointing out that she has been there for almost a year and her time is almost up. Alex shocks Andrea by stating that perhaps they need a break from each other, kisses her on the cheek and leaves.

Andrea's phone rings and she answers assuming it is Alex but it is Christian calling to invite her out the following evening. Andrea decides to flirt with the attractive Christian rather than think about the upcoming trip, her roommate's drinking problem, or her sad looking boyfriend.



## Chapters 13-15 Analysis

Andrea feels guilty about the time she spends at work and tries to connect with Lily and Alex as often as possible, though it is becoming more clear that her relationships are suffering. Taking Lily out to dinner to celebrate the end of her school semester, Andrea and Lily have a good time, laughing and talking like they used to in the days before Andrea's job at Runway.

Running into Christian while out with Lily is a bit of an awakening for Andrea. Though she is committed to Alex, Andrea cannot help feeling attracted to Christian, something that Lily picks up on immediately. Andrea is a bit flustered when Christian flirts with her and kisses her neck, but it would appear that this is because Andrea feels as if she is being unfaithful to Alex. The fact that Andrea is so uncomfortable with her feelings for Christian, and that she has to convince herself that there is nothing wrong with spending time with him, speaks volumes. If the time spent with Christian was indeed innocent, Andrea would not have to spend so much time worrying about it, and she would share the fact that she had met the famous writer with Alex. Andrea going to visit Alex after getting drinks with Christian also shows that she is feeling guilty about her interest in another man, especially since Alex is such a wonderful sweet person, almost the exact opposite of Christian.

Lily's drinking problem comes up again and Andrea finally realizes that perhaps she has been downplaying the issue. When Andrea discovers a seedy looking man in her roommate's bedroom, one who Lily apparently has no memory of, Andrea does try to talk to Lily, but in a half-hearted manner. It seems that Andrea does not want to stir up trouble, and also that she feels a bit guilty. Having been so busy at work and catering to Miranda, Andrea wonders if she might have noticed how bad Lily's drinking had become if she were around more. Lily is nonchalant about the issue, brushing off Andrea's questions and refocusing the conversation on Andrea and her life. Though Andrea is worried about her friend, her life is also out of control and she gladly lets things pass. It is clear, however, that Lily's drinking is an issue that will come up again.

Andrea finally breaks down while working the night of Miranda's party at the Met, though not to Alex or Lily, but to a virtual stranger. Illana is someone outside of Andrea's circle, someone who does not appear to care about the powerful Miranda Priestly. The fact that Andrea is talking to someone who, a few months earlier, is just like she was, might be what finally has Andrea in tears. The compassion that Illana shows in that moment is understandable, but the reader is left with the question as to why Andrea does not feel that she can talk to her friends about how she truly feels.

Andrea struggles with trying to please the demanding and unreasonable Miranda daily. The level of contempt that Miranda seems to feel for anyone beneath her is highlighted when she rides in an elevator alone with Andrea and does not address her until they are on the 17th floor. Refusing to so much as open the door to the office herself, Miranda clearly believes that those who work for her are meant to do exactly as she asks, no matter how vague her orders may be.



An example of this is the restaurant review that Andrea struggles to find for her boss. After hours scouring the papers and talking to food editors, Andrea is finally forced to ask for clarification from Miranda. Miranda's disgust that Andrea has not done what was asked is typical, though there was no way for Andrea to know that Miranda was talking about a newspaper in an entirely different city.

Though Andrea struggles to get through each day trying to please the unreasonable Miranda, she does try to do her best. Andrea feels contempt as well and judges those around her as superficial and sometimes ridiculous. Despite this, the reader gets a sense that Andrea is becoming more a part of the world at Runway, and losing her footing in her old life along the way. Andrea does stop a moment when she opens Miranda's mail and reads a letter from a young girl who longs to look like the beautiful models in the magazine, and wear the designer clothing she sees. Andrea wonders how many other girls wish the same thing; how many see the unrealistic women depicted on the pages of the magazine and wish to change.

Andrea's unplanned trip to Paris is what finally pushes things over the line. Alex, who has been more than understanding about Andrea's life and her high pressure job finally breaks and questions whether Andrea feels her job is worth so much. Andrea defends herself, though it might be because she feels guilty about never having time for anyone else. Alex tells Andrea that they need a break and need to re-evaluate where they are in their lives and what they want. Though Andrea is upset by this, there is the question of whether she might have seen the situation coming for quite some time. After Alex leaves the apartment, Andrea decides that flirting with Christian on the phone is the perfect way to keep her mind off things, but one wonders if Andrea might feel a sense of relief having one less thing to worry about.



# Chapters 16-19

## Chapters 16-19 Summary

In chapters 16 the plans are made for Andrea to replace Emily in Paris. The entire office is thrown into a frenzy preparing Andrea's wardrobe and make up for any event she might have to attend with Miranda. Though Andrea will also have hair and make up artists available to her, Allison, Miranda's former assistant and now beauty editor, gives Andrea a crash course in what she might have to do to prepare herself in an emergency.

While the preparations are taking place, life goes on at Runway and Andrea is forced to do her job as well as Emily's, though Emily does try to help from home when she can. Meetings are held and Miranda's demands are met at all costs. Miranda's demands increase daily and Andrea instinctively reaches for the phone to call Alex and complain about her day frequently, then remembers that they are taking a break from each other for now.

Andrea heads to Paris, prepared for a week of hard work with Miranda, though looking forward to seeing the city. Arriving at the hotel, Andrea is met by Monsieur Renaud, the concierge whom Andrea has spoken to several times on the phone. Renaud informs Andrea that Miranda is waiting for her and has someone show her to the suite.

Miranda greets Andrea by issuing orders and demands, something she has been doing for a while, judging by the tearful maid that has opened the door of the suite. Andrea heads to her own suite to handle the demands of her boss and try and get some rest but she is summoned back to Miranda at once.

Miranda is livid, having discovered that she is receiving an award at a luncheon that afternoon and needs to make a speech. Miranda berates Andrea for not knowing what is going on and demands a speech or Andrea will lose her job. Andrea rushes to call the Paris office of Runway and get the details. Luckily, the ceremony will be in English so Andrea will be able to write the speech. She does and returns to give it to Miranda, only to be informed that she is required to attend the luncheon as well.

Andrea and an increasingly impatient Miranda go to the luncheon but as time drags on Miranda gets more angry and leaves Andrea. The award is announced and an embarrassed Andrea is forced to accept the award for Miranda, who had taken Andrea's speech with her when she left. Andrea is so disgusted afterward she simply throws the award that Miranda obviously does not care about in the garbage.

In chapter 17 Andrea manages to live through the busyness of Paris and work with Miranda. Andrea is thrilled when she discovers that she will have a day in the hotel without Miranda and books a massage and manages to fit some sleep into the day.



Miranda calls and informs Andrea that they will be attending a cocktail party that evening and to be ready on time, along with rearranging the schedule.

Andrea manages to throw together an outfit that does not displease Miranda and the two drive to the party. Miranda informs Andrea that she will be entertaining the son of the host and hostess of the party, leaving Andrea aggravated at being brought along as a babysitter.

Upon arrival Andrea discovers that the son of the host is Christian Collingsworth, who suggested to his mother that Miranda bring her assistant to keep him company. Andrea and Christian dance and chat all evening and Andrea realizes she is having more fun than she has in years. The evening ends after midnight when Miranda orders Andrea to fetch her some water and have the car brought around.

Andrea is shocked when Miranda questions her in the car about her time and Runway and if she has learned anything valuable. Andrea responds enthusiastically and reminds Miranda that she has been working for her for almost a year. Miranda is a bit put off by Andrea's desire to work at The New Yorker, but informs Andrea that if the rest of the trip goes well, perhaps she will place a call to someone she knows in their office.

Andrea floats into her hotel room, thrilled with the evening and Miranda's seeming willingness to do as she has promised. Andrea checks her messages and discovers one from Alex and one from her parents. Upon returning her mother's call, Andrea is horrified to discover that Lily has been in a serious accident and is in a coma. Andrea then calls Alex and he informs her that Lily had been driving a friend's car and had hit a cab head on while driving drunk. Alex asks Andrea when she will be coming home and the two argue again. Alex assumes that Andrea will rush to Lily's side and though she wants to, Andrea knows that if she leaves Paris she will lose her job and the time invested.

The following morning Andrea's head is still spinning but she has decided to stay in Paris for one more day and attend Miranda's party, then try and convince her boss that she needs to leave for home a bit early. Andrea receives a call from her father while in the car with Miranda and he informs her that Lily seems to be doing well and has shown signs of waking. Miranda asks Andrea what the call was about and Andrea tells her, reassuring her boss that she will stay in Paris and honor her commitment. Miranda smiles and tells Andrea she is proud of her decision and that Andrea reminds her of herself at a younger age.

At the show Andrea's head swims with worry over Lily while Miranda delivers constant demands. Andrea's anger grows as she realizes that she has turned into a clone of the woman she despises. Miranda storms up to Andrea and informs her that her daughters' passports have expired and Andrea had better fix the problem before the following day. Andrea has finally had enough, calls her mother to inform her she is flying home and tells Miranda to go fuck herself in front of a large group of people. Miranda is shocked and tries to speak to Andrea, who calmly tells Miranda she will not be attending the party and leaves.





In chapter 18 November has arrived again and Andrea and Lily are living with her parents, having sublet their apartment for two months. Andrea's sister, husband and new baby are in town for Thanksgiving and life is almost back to normal.

Lily has been through a multitude of tests and, other than a broken ankle and stitches in her face, is healthy. After going to court, Lily is ordered to attend substance abuse classes and perform community service. Andrea is thrilled that her friend is going to be alright and the two have settled into a easy going routine.

Andrea recalls that it was Emily that actually fired her, less than five minutes after she had left Miranda inside the fashion show. Emily is floored when Andrea tells her exactly what happened but quickly reminds Andrea that it is Miranda's right to expect things from her assistants. The two say all the right things but both know that they will never have reason to speak again, as all they have in common is Miranda.

Andrea also hears from Christian immediately after being fired but Andrea tells him that her life is complicated enough and she will call him if and when she chooses to.

Andrea and Alex decide that it is better that they remain apart and see where things go. Andrea is sad to lose someone who has meant so much to her in the past, but realizes that she has changed quite a bit in the past year. It is possible they are no longer compatible.

Andrea is shocked to receive a call from Loretta Andriano, an editor at Seventeen Magazine. Loretta tells Andrea that she loves the story that Andrea has sent in and they would like to publish it. Andrea had written a short story about a college girl who gets so caught up in life that she neglects those who matter, but had not heard anything from the many magazines she had sent it to.

Andrea also discovers that Loretta once worked at Runway and does not like Miranda either. Relieved that there are still people that will hire her despite her behavior toward her employer, Andrea makes arrangements to meet with Loretta.

Andrea informs Lily of her happy news and drives her sister and her family to the airport so they can return home to Texas.

In chapter 19 Andrea gets a coffee from Starbucks and heads to the Elias Clark building to meet with an editor at The Buzz. It has been five months since Andrea worked for Miranda and she is a bit nervous about possibly running into anyone she knows.

Andrea has been writing, trying to make a living as a freelance writer and work her way to The New Yorker. After selling all of her designer clothes from Runway for almost forty thousand dollars, Andrea has enough to live on while she tries her hand at writing for herself. Andrea had only kept one dress, and had mailed it to the young girl who had written to Miranda so long ago.

In the lobby of the building Andrea hears Eduardo start singing and assumes that he is continuing their tradition of having to sing to get through the turnstiles. Instead, Andrea





discovers a tall, beautiful woman struggling with coffee from Starbucks and overloaded with material that is clearly Miranda's. Andrea watches her replacement sing the chorus so that she can be let through, amazed that time has moved on. Eduardo sees Andrea an after a smile and a wink, buzzes her through as if she is a valuable person, not a servant to an uncaring boss.

## Chapters 16-19 Analysis

In the final four chapters of the novel it becomes very clear to the reader how Andrea's life has become centered on her career at Runway Magazine. It is also clear how powerful Miranda is and how the company will do anything to accommodate her needs. The office is thrown into a frenzy preparing Andrea for her trip to Paris, not because they care if Andrea does well, but because they do not wish Miranda to consider them incompetent. Despite the short notice of the change in assistants, the Runway staff is able to accomplish their goals and provide Andrea with everything that she might need while attending to Miranda in Paris.

Andrea is once again subjected to the demands of Miranda while in Paris and Miranda once again proves herself to be unreasonable and uncaring. Several clear examples of this are present, including Miranda's lack of compassion when dealing with the hotel staff, and demanding that Andrea write a speech for an award neither knew Miranda was to receive. Miranda's disregard for the fact that Andrea could not have known about the award, and then leaving before she receives it, demonstrates clearly that Miranda lives in a world of her own.

Andrea meets up with Christian again while in Paris when the writer arranges for Andrea to attend his parents party with Miranda. Christian is clearly interested in Andrea and flirts with her throughout the night. Andrea realizes that she has not had such a good time in years, and certainly not in her time at Runway. This revelation expresses to the reader that perhaps Andrea's relationship with Alex has gone on for so long simply because it was comfortable for the two of them to stay together.

Miranda's seeming interest in Andrea after the party and her announcement that she might call *The New Yorker* when they return to America is the end to a perfect day for Andrea. Though Miranda makes it clear, even while praising Andrea's growth, that she is still substandard, the reader understands yet again that there is no pleasing the editor. Despite this it appears that Andrea has grown accustomed to the lack of respect as she is thrilled with the comments that Miranda has made.

Andrea's life changes immediately when she receives the news that Lily is in a coma, brought on by drunk driving. Andrea is forced to recognize that Alex has been right about Lily's drinking problem and that she has ignored it in order to keep her life less complicated. Andrea is still torn, wanting to be with Lily, but afraid, knowing that leaving Miranda will be the end of her job. Andrea is not as concerned with the loss of her job as she is with the loss of a year of her life. To leave so close to the end of her time makes it seem that catering to Miranda for a year has been for nothing.



Andrea finally makes the decision to honor her duties with Miranda and get back to Lily as soon as possible. Though Andrea is disappointed in herself, it is nothing compared to how she feels when Miranda expresses pride in her decision and declares that Andrea reminds her of herself.

Andrea's mind swims with the thought that she could ever be anything like Miranda, yet she realizes that she has allowed her life to be taken over by the woman she hates. The thought that Miranda is proud of her for letting everyone that matters in her life down is too much to bear. When Miranda makes another completely unreasonable demand of Andrea it is finally too much to take and Andrea snaps, quitting her job and returning home.

Andrea discovers that she easily can take her life back, though it is clear that she has changed over her year with Miranda. Andrea and Alex do not make up and recover their relationship as it appears both have changed over the course of the year. Andrea discovers that she can still achieve her dreams, though she will have to work at them like the rest of the world. Accepting the job at Runway in the hopes of getting further in life faster, has taught Andrea that sometimes working for something gives it more value. Andrea did learn a lot from Miranda over the course of her employment, but the lessons have nothing to do with becoming a success in business. Instead, Andrea learns what it takes and the sacrifices that need to be made in order to succeed in life.



# Characters

## Andrea Sachs

Andrea Sachs, Andy to her friends and family, is a 23 year old recent graduate of Brown University that dreams of being a writer for *The New Yorker*. Having grown up in Connecticut with her mother, father and older sister Jill, Andy is ready to strike out on her own and make a success of herself.

Having spent the summer in Europe and India, and returning with dysentery, Andrea moves into the apartment of her best friend Lily in New York and looks for work. After an interview at *Elias Clark*, Andrea learns that she has been hired as the junior assistant to Miranda Priestly, the Editor in Chief of *Runway Magazine*. Though working for a fashion magazine is not what Andrea thought she would be doing after college, the opportunity is too good to let pass. Andrea learns that if one works as Miranda's assistant for one year and does not get fired, Miranda will promote her assistant, or help that person get the job of her dreams. Andrea accepts the position, hoping that her one year at *Runway* will land her a job at *The New Yorker*, and avoid five years of struggling through the ranks somewhere else in order to achieve her dream.

Andrea soon learns that working for Miranda is not only demanding but horrible. Miranda makes demands that are unreasonable and sometimes impossible, though Andrea struggles to do her best for her employer. There are very few days that Miranda is pleased, and she has no problem letting Andrea know that she is disappointed at best, or disgusted with Andrea's excuses at worst. Despite this, or perhaps because of it, Andrea works harder to please Miranda, and her relationships with friends and family suffer in the process.

Though Andrea's boyfriend is extremely supportive at the outset, Alex soon becomes disappointed in Andrea's actions and the two take a break from their three year relationship. Lily, Andrea's student friend struggles with her studies and an ever increasing drinking problem, one Andrea excuses as what students do.

Events spiral out of Andrea's control and she has to chose between her job and her life while in Paris with Miranda. The catalyst for this decision is twofold: Andrea discovers that Lily has been badly injured in a car accident while drinking and driving in New York and Miranda's reaction to Andrea staying in Paris is to tell Andrea that she reminds Miranda of herself when she was younger. Andrea finally realizes that she has been modeling herself after Miranda, however unintentionally and she does not want to become what Miranda is. Andrea gives up her job after her year is almost complete and flies home to her family and friend. Once there Andrea begins writing, what she has wanted to do all along, and though she does not write for *The New Yorker*, she realizes that she can succeed on her own, and that sometimes taking the easy route turns out to be the hard way after all.



## Miranda Priestly

The Editor in Chief of Runway Magazine, Miranda Priestly is a woman who knows what she wants, how she wants it, and expects those who work for her to do as she wants. Having grown up in a large, poor Jewish family, Miranda dropped out of high school and went to work in Paris as the assistant of a prominent designer at the age of 17. Miranda then worked her way up until she became the editor of Paris Runway, then finally was promoted to the position of Editor in Chief of Runway Magazine in New York City.

Miranda lives in an enormous apartment with her twin daughters, Cassidy and Caroline, as well as her husband, Mr. Tomlinson, also known to the women at Runway as B-DAD, or blind, deaf and dumb. Miranda rules her home and her magazine with an iron fist, expecting everyone and everything to be exactly as she wishes, despite the trouble that others might have to make things perfect for her. Nothing is beyond her reach and no one is beyond her control, in the world of Miranda Priestly.

Miranda treats people as insignificant things, with little or no value beyond what they can do for her. This is evident in the way Miranda refers to both of her assistants by the same name, clearly showing that they are equally insignificant to her.

Miranda controls the life of Andrea for almost one year until she tells Andrea that her decision to remain in Paris despite her friend's accident is the right choice. Miranda goes one step further and tells Andrea that she reminds her of herself when she was younger. This statement is the catalyst that finally causes Andrea to stand up for herself and break free from a woman who refuses to acknowledge her own responsibility in any part of her life.

## Alex Fineman

Andrea's boyfriend, Alex is a sweet, understanding and supportive person. Alex is happy when Andrea gets the job working at Runway, knowing that it will put Andrea that much closer to her dream job as a writer for The New Yorker. Alex has dreams of his own and is struggling to obtain them. Alex has dreamed of being a teacher and making a difference in the lives of young children, but his first teaching position at a public school in New York is a shock to his system. Alex struggles with trying to reach children who are already jaded and hardened by life, and also struggles to maintain his dream of making a difference. Alex also works at making time for Andrea and supporting her through the difficult and stressful days at Runway.

As the novel progresses Alex begins to lose patience with Andrea and the constant demands of her job. Though Alex seems frustrated with the lack of time that he gets to spend with Andrea, he is more concerned with the changes he sees in Andrea's priorities.

Alex realizes that after three years he and Andrea have grown apart and though he is saddened by the situation he realizes that the two are better off apart. Alex, always the



calm and gentle man, handles the situation and helps Andrea come to the same realization.

## Lily

Andrea's best friend, Lily is still a student, struggling to get her PhD in Russian Literature while working multiple jobs to put herself through school. Andrea is Lily's only real family aside from an aging and sick grandmother. Lily has been raised by her grandmother since she was in eighth grade, after her parents left her at a commune in New Mexico to follow the Grateful Dead. Lily has always been different, living life in the moment and enjoying it, never one to settle down.

Lily's joy in life begins to manifest itself in a drinking problem, one that Andrea refuses to acknowledge when Alex tries to bring it to her attention. Even when Lily brings home a man who would be frightening to her if she were sober, Andrea and Lily continue to ignore the problems that Lily is having.

While Andrea is in Paris, she discovers that Lily is in a coma, hospitalized after driving drunk and being involved in a head on collision. Lily's accident is the last straw for Andrea, who realizes how consuming her job has become. It is her relationship with Lily and the thought of letting her down which finally wakes Andrea up and prompts her to change her life.

## Emily

Miranda's senior assistant, Emily worships Miranda and strives to please her. Though Andrea and Emily get along, it is clear that the only thing they have in common is Miranda.

Emily has perfected the Runway Paranoid Turnaround, where one complains bitterly about Miranda and working for her, then just as quickly praises their boss in case someone might overhear them and report back to Miranda.

Emily is forced to stay in New York when she comes down with Mono, thus paving the way for Andrea's trip to Paris with Miranda for Fashion Week.

## Mr. Tomlinson

Mr. Tomlinson or B-DAD, (Mr. Blind, Deaf and Dumb) as the women of Runway call him, is the husband of Miranda. A prominent tax attorney, Mr. Tomlinson does as his wife tells him to and finds it easier to get through life this way. Tomlinson is friendly and kind but always speaks of himself in the third person.



## **Allison**

Miranda's former assistant and now beauty editor of Runway Magazine.

## **Christian Collingsworth**

An attractive and intelligent author, Christian meets Andrea while at a party one night and the two flirt back and forth. It is clear that Christian is interested in Andrea but Andrea is unsure of her feelings, and feels guilty because of Alex.

Christian is an accomplished and well-known author, one who has been praised as a genius by critics the world over. His flirtatious manner and easy going charm have Andrea enthralled. When the two meet again in Paris after Christian arranges for Andrea to be at his parents' party, the two have a wonderful evening. Christian shows Andrea a different world filled with the famous and wealthy, while still managing to be down to earth and fun.

Though Andrea never moves forward with her relationship with Christian in the novel, he plays a big part in how her relationship with Alex changes. Alex and Christian are completely unlike each other and Andrea realizes that if she is attracted to Christian, it is possible that her feelings for Alex have changed as well.

## **Jill**

Andrea's sister, who lives in Texas with her husband and baby.

## **Kyle**

Andrea's brother-in-law

## **Isaac**

Andrea's nephew.

## **Mrs. Sachs**

Andrea's mother, a well rounded woman who supports her daughter, while trying to understand the changes that take place in Andrea while she works at Runway.



## **Mr. Sachs**

Andrea's father, a psychologist who shares his love of Scrabble with Andrea. Mr. Sachs supports his daughter, but tries to help Andrea discover what she needs as she struggles through her year at Runway.

## **Cara**

Miranda's nanny, Cara helps Andrea as she struggles to meet Miranda's expectations. Cara is fired after she sends Miranda's daughters to their rooms for being disrespectful.

## **Eduardo**

The security guard at the Elias Clark building, Eduardo makes Andrea perform a musical duet with him each day in order to gain access to the lobby.

## **Anita Alvarez**

A young girl who writes a letter to Miranda expressing her wish to be just like her. The letter strikes Andrea when she reads it and makes her wonder how many other girls worship a woman like Miranda and strive to be like the beautiful women they see in the pages of the magazine.

## **Loretta Andriano**

The editor at Seventeen Magazine that buys the short story Andrea wrote after leaving Runway. Loretta becomes a mentor to Andrea and helps her in starting a new career as a freelance writer.

## **Monsieur Renaud**

The concierge in Paris at the hotel where Miranda and Andrea stay while attending Fashion Week.



## **Objects/Places**

### **Runway Magazine**

The fashion magazine where Andrea works as an assistant to Miranda Priestly.

### **The New Yorker**

The magazine that Andrea hopes to write for one day.

### **Elias Clark**

The publishing company that puts out Runway Magazine and many others. Andrea works in the Elias Clark building in Manhattan.

### **Au Bar**

The bar that Andrea visits with Christian and Lily.

### **Paris**

The city in France where Andrea assists Miranda with fashion week. Andrea is in Paris when she finds out about Lily's accident and finally decides she has had enough of Miranda.

### **The Metropolitan Museum of Art**

The location of the dinner party Miranda throws for her brother-in-law and his fiance.

### **Avon**

The small town in Connecticut where Andrea grew up with her best friend Lily.

### **Starbucks**

The coffee shop across from Andrea's office where she fetches Miranda's daily coffee.



## **Seventeen**

The magazine where Andrea gets published after leaving Runway.

## **Clackers**

The name Andrea gives to women that work in the fashion industry that think of nothing but fashion and dieting.



# Themes

## Self Awareness

Self Awareness is a big part of *The Devil Wears Prada*, by Lauren Weisberger. In the novel, the main character, Andrea Sachs obtains a job as the junior assistant to Miranda Priestly, the Editor in Chief of Runway Magazine. Runway is a fashion magazine, and though Andrea has no real interest in fashion, she accepts the job because she has been told that anyone that works for Miranda for a year and does their job without being fired will have the opportunity to be promoted to the position of their dreams. As Andrea longs to be a writer for *The New Yorker*, she hopes to work for Miranda for a year and then, with Miranda's contacts, be able to obtain her dream job.

Andrea discovers that working for Miranda is an all-consuming position, one that takes all of her time and usually most of her energy. Performing tasks for Miranda at all hours of the day and night soon begins to pull Andrea away from her family, and friends. Though Andrea is aware of this, her desire to do her job well and obtain her goals begins to overshadow her desire to please others in her life. Andrea's parents, boyfriend and best friend are all supportive when she accepts the position with Miranda, but all begin to see the changes in Andrea as time passes, and wonder if Andrea sees the changes herself.

Andrea does not seem to see the changes that are taking place in her life as she is struggling to get through her year with Miranda. When issues arise involving her family or friends, Andrea becomes defensive, reminding all that she is working toward a goal that they supported when she started her job. Andrea works and lives in the haze that has become her life; trying to please the unreasonable Miranda.

Through the year that Andrea is with Miranda, Andrea loses touch with herself, not just those she cares about. It is clear to the reader that Andrea functions in a state of denial; if what goes on in her life and in the lives of those she cares about is not recognized, then it is not an issue. Events come to a head when Andrea's best friend, Lily is injured while driving drunk. Though Andrea's boyfriend, Alex, has tried many times to make Andrea see how bad Lily's drinking has gotten, it is easier for Andrea to make excuses rather than face the issue head on. Since Andrea takes the easy way out, she is left with having to make a decision about Lily that will affect both of them no matter which way Andrea chooses to go.

In the end, Andrea once again becomes aware of herself and the changes in her life. Andrea feels shame at how she allowed herself to be swallowed up by the glamor of the fashion world, sadness at the loss of her relationship with Alex and regret that her friends and family were hurt in the process. At the same time Andrea realizes that she grew personally in the year she was at Runway, and that perhaps the changes in her life were necessary in order for her to become a stronger, self sufficient person.



## Desire

Desire, defined as a sense of longing by a person for an object or outcome, is central in the life of the main character, Andrea Sachs. Andrea wishes to become a writer for her favorite magazine, *The New Yorker*, and is offered a job that may get her there faster than she thought possible. Though Andrea comments in the novel about her college friends that are just starting out in their desired careers, struggling with menial, entry level positions, Andrea is handed what she believes to be the opportunity of a lifetime when she accepts the position as junior assistant to Miranda Priestly at *Runway Magazine*. Though Andrea has no interest in fashion, and her position will require no writing on her part, she accepts the job with the knowledge that she will obtain her desire to write for *The New Yorker* in one year, rather than having to struggle and make a name for herself over many years.

The problem with desire in this case is that it blinds Andrea to life outside of her job. Andrea's desire to obtain her dream is so consuming that she begins to neglect everything and everyone else in her life. Though Andrea despises her job and her boss, this does not stop her from convincing herself that the year of servitude for Miranda is worth the sacrifices that she makes along the way. As the novel progresses and Andrea becomes more and more isolated from the "real" world, it becomes clear to the reader that Andrea is the only person who cannot see how lost she is becoming.

As Andrea becomes more and more determined to please Miranda, it also becomes clear that Andrea's desires have shifted. Though the main character still claims to be working toward her ultimate goal at *The New Yorker*, in reality her only desire seems to be pleasing Miranda. Andrea dislikes her employer to the point of entertaining fantasies of killing her, yet she struggles to win Miranda's acceptance on a daily basis. This shift in focus, not recognized by Andrea, is the beginning of the end for her relationship with Alex. Alex has supported Andrea from the beginning but can no longer accept the changes in the person that he has loved for three years.

## Regret

Regret can be defined as a sense of sorrow or remorse over an act, or a sense of loss for things lost. Both definitions apply in the novel *The Devil Wears Prada*, by Lauren Weisberger.

Andrea Sachs, the main character of the novel, suffers regret for the way she allows her position at *Runway Magazine* to become the total focus of her life. Though Andrea accepts the position with the intention of working for Miranda for one year and moving on to her dream job as a writer, it becomes clear as the novel progresses that Andrea is losing focus on her dream and simply existing in a world that revolves around her boss. This all-encompassing focus causes Andrea to lose touch with her friends and family. This loss of connection leads to the end of Andrea's three year relationship with her boyfriend Alex, and almost ends her friendship with her best friend Lily.



When Lily is injured in an accident while driving drunk, Andrea feels a true sense of loss and regret that she is not able to be at Lily's side. This feeling is mirrored by the regret that if Andrea were to do what she wanted, fly back to America to be with her friend, she would also lose her job.

There is also a sense of regret when Andrea finally breaks free from Miranda Priestly in a very loud and public way. Though Andrea despises her boss, there is emptiness as well. Andrea's job over the past year has been so overwhelming it leaves quite a big hole in Andrea when it is gone.



# Style

## Point of View

The Devil Wears Prada is written in the first person, from the point of view of the main character, Andrea Sachs. This is helpful to the reader as it gives insight into the thoughts and feelings of Andrea during the year that she works at Runway Magazine. Andrea goes through many emotional moments and changes quite a bit during the novel and being able to see and understand things via her directly allows one to get a sense of the feelings that war within Andrea during this time.

The novel is very descriptive and there are many portions of dialogue as well. The descriptive passages give the reader a sense of the two worlds that Andrea lives in. Though Andrea grows up in an average middle class family in a normal middle class neighborhood, she becomes part of the glamor and excitement of the New York fashion world rather suddenly. These two worlds differ greatly and the reader is able to get a better grasp on this through the eyes of the main character, as well as the way Andrea describes the things she sees and the people she meets along the way.

The dialogue in the novel gives the reader a sense of the people that Andrea shares her life with, either by choice or because of her job. The reader is able to get a sense of the many personalities that Andrea deals with daily, but because the novel is written from Andrea's point of view, the reader is also able to understand Andrea's feelings for those she deals with daily.

## Setting

The Devil Wears Prada is set in New York City for the most part, though there are a few different areas visited within the novel. The majority of the book takes place in the offices of Runway Magazine where Andrea Sachs is the junior assistant to Miranda Priestly. Andrea's job as Miranda's assistant is the main focus of the novel so setting the majority of the novel within the walls of Runway makes sense. Though Andrea visits several areas in the city while performing the tasks required of her, she always returns to the office, often working for sixteen to eighteen hours a day trying to please Miranda.

Andrea also visits her hometown in the novel, once at the beginning and once at the end. Both visits take place over the Thanksgiving holiday and highlight the changes that take place in Andrea's life over the course of a year. Despite the life that Andrea leads in New York and the way her life begins to spiral out of her control, her life at her parent's home in Avon, Connecticut barely changes. In this the reader gets a sense of the support system that Andrea has behind her, something she forgets herself from time to time.

The climax of the novel takes place in Paris during Fashion Week. Andrea is in Paris working for Miranda when she discovers that she can no longer deal with the woman



who has been her entire focus for a year. Though Andrea longs to see Paris and enjoy her time there, life is too busy for this to be possible. It is in Paris however that Andrea spends an evening with Christian Collingsworth and realizes that perhaps her relationship with Alex is something from her youth, not something that will last forever. As Paris is sometimes referred to as the "city of love," it is a fitting place to have such a revelation.

## Language and Meaning

The language in *The Devil Wears Prada* is modern and fairly uniform throughout the novel. As all of the characters are adults and of the same background, more or less, the reader gets a sense of their personalities by the way they communicate with each other.

In the case of Miranda Priestly, Andrea's boss, the language of the character is a bit more formal as Miranda is from England, and her accented way of pronouncing Andrea's name is reflected in the novel. Though Miranda often refers to Andrea by a different name, clearly to express her opinion of Andrea's value, as the novel progresses Miranda calls Andrea by her own name more frequently. It also becomes clear to the reader that the more Miranda uses Andrea's real name, the more Andrea is pulled into the world that she openly despises.

The novel is free-flowing, giving the reader a sense of the constant pressure and motion that has become Andrea's life. The story moves at a very fast pace, also expressing the constant state of anxiety that Andrea is in, trying to maintain her position with Miranda while still holding onto herself as well.

## Structure

*The Devil Wears Prada* is broken down into nineteen numbered chapters that vary in length from ten to twenty pages. Each chapter depicts clearly the hectic nature of the day to day life lived by Andrea Sachs. The chapters tend to be long, containing quite a few of the details of the main character's actions, as well as her feelings about the life she leads and the people she interacts with.

The plot of the novel is fairly straightforward. The novel details the life of Andrea Sachs over the period of about one year as she struggles in her position as Miranda Priestly's assistant. Though Andrea accepts the job with her eye on moving forward in a year, it becomes clear fairly early on that Andrea's life becomes consumed by her duties to her employer. While Andrea struggles with the changes that take place within her over the course of the year, she also struggles with the changes in her relationships with those she cares for. At the end of Andrea's employment Andrea's life is completely different from what it once was, and though the goal she had hoped to reach is not obtained, Andrea learns that sometimes working honestly toward what you want is better than trying to get there the easy way.



## Quotes

"Miranda Priestly is the single most influential woman in the fashion industry, and clearly one of the most prominent magazine editors in the world. The world! The chance to work for her, to watch her edit and meet with famous writers and models, to help her achieve all she does each and every day, well, I shouldn't need to tell you that it's a job a million girls would die for."

Chapter 2, pg. 16.

"Stay organized? I was working for a company who defined good 'organization' as knowing which floor each employee visited, whether they preferred onion soup or Ceasar salad for lunch, and just how many minutes they could tolerate the elliptical machine? I was a lucky, lucky, girl."

Chapter 5, pg. 60.

"I simply do not understand what takes you so long to speak after you pick up the phone," she stated. From any other person on earth that would have sounded whiny, but from Miranda is sounded appropriately cold and firm. Just like her. "In case you haven't been here long enough to notice, when I call, you respond. It's actually simple. See? I call. You respond. Do you think you can handle hat, Ahn-dre-ah?"

Chapter 6, pg. 79.

"She had taken to calling both Emily and me 'Emily,' suggesting, quite rightly, that we were indistinguishable from each other and completely interchangeable. Somewhere in the back of my mind I was offended, but I'd grown accustomed to it at this point. And besides, I was too tired to really care about something as incidental as my name."

Chapter 9, pg. 136.

"I briefly wondered if Lily might be drinking too much these days. After all, she did seem to be drunk pretty consistently. But when Alex had brought it up the week before, I'd assured him it was because she was still a student, still not living in the real world with real, adult responsibilities (like pouring the perfect Pellegrino!) I mean, it's not like we hadn't together done too many shots at Senor Frog's on spring break or too ambitiously worked our way through three bottles of red wine while celebrating the anniversary of the day we'd first met in eight grade."

Chapter 9, pg. 163.

"A big fucking joke, huh? That's what my job is to both of you! Oh, Andy, you work in fashion, how hard can that be?" I mimicked, hating myself more with every passing second. "Well, excuse me if we can't all be do-gooders or Ph.D. candidates!"

Chapter 10, pg. 187.

"She's a lunatic, Emily," I said softly and slowly, willing her to agree with me. "It's not you, it's her. She's an empty, shallow, bitter woman who has tons and tons of gorgeous clothes and not much else."

Emily's face tightened noticeably, the skin on her neck and cheeks pulling taut, and



her hands stopped shaking. I knew she was going to bulldoze me at any moment, but I couldn't stop.

"Have you ever noticed that she has no friends, Emily? Have you? Sure, her phone rings day and night with the world's coolest people, but they're not calling to talk about their kids or their jobs or their marriages, are they? They're calling because they need something from her."

Chapter 12, pg. 207.

"The letter smelled of Jean Nate, that acrid-smelling waterspray preferred by preteen girls the country over. But that wasn't what was causing the tightness in my chest, the constriction in my throat. How many Anitas were there out there? Young girls with so little else in their lives that they measured their worth, their confidence, their entire existence around the clothes and the models they saw in Runway?"

Chapter 13, pg. 245.

"Alex's words from a few months before came back to me: Lily did drink more than was normal—all the signs were there. She was missing classes regularly, had gotten arrested, and now had dragged home the scariest looking mutant of a guy I'd ever laid eyes on."

Chapter 14, pg. 261.

"What are you suggesting, Alex? Are you suggesting that this is my fault because I didn't see it coming? That she's lying in that hospital bed because I'm in Paris right now? That if I had known she was hanging out with Benjamin again none of this would have happened? What? What exactly are you saying?" I shrieked, all of the confusing emotions of the night boiling over into a simple, urgent need to scream at someone.

Chapter 17, pg. 334.

"In a move that was fundamentally out of character for this woman on every level, she placed her hand on top of the one I had resting on the seat between us and said, "You remind me of yourself when I was your age." And before I could conjure up a single appropriate syllable to utter, the driver screeched to a halt in front of the Carrousel du Louvre and leapt out to open the doors. I grabbed my bag and hers as well and wondered if this was the proudest or the most humiliating moment of my life."

Chapter 17, pg. 339.

"When I looked back to Eduardo, he smiled quickly in my direction and winked. And then, while the pretty brunette girl finished singing her verse, he buzzed me through like I was someone who mattered."

Chapter 19, pg. 360.





## Topics for Discussion

What is Andrea's relationship with Alex at the beginning of the novel? How does it change as the novel progresses?

What is Andrea's opinion of Miranda Priestly? How do Andrea's feelings change throughout the novel?

What is Andrea's goal in life? How does she hope to attain it?

How does Andrea's job affect her relationship with her best friend Lily? Do you think that Andrea is responsible for Lily's behavior in any way? Why or why not?

Andrea is attracted to Christian Collingsworth, yet tries to keep the relationship simple. Why do you think this is?

What does Miranda say to Andrea that finally makes her realize the mistakes she has made over the past year? Why do you think Andrea reacts as she does?

Do you think Andrea's time at Runway working for Miranda was worth it? Why or why not?