



mentor and *confidant*, “My personal life is hanging by a thread.” He explains, “That’s what happens when you start doing well at work. Tell me when your whole life goes up in smoke. That means it’s time for a promotion.”

It is interesting to compare Andy’s sacrifices with Miranda’s efforts to separate her own personal and work lives. When Andy is required to deliver mock-ups of the magazine to Miranda’s home after ten o’clock each weeknight, she is banned from interacting with Miranda’s children s c

*The Devil Wears Prada* begs comparison with *Swooning with Sharps* (1994, directed by George Huang, Lions Gate), another film in which an idealistic neophyte sacrifices his personal life to be on constant call as the assistant to a demanding executive. In *Swooning with Sharps*, the protagonist, Guy (Frank Whaley), takes a job working as the personal assistant to Buddy Ackerman (Kevin Spacey), an unprincipled bully of a Hollywood studio boss. Whereas Miranda is exacting, she also elicits sympathy; sleazy and abusive Buddy is the true devil. Although the protagonists in both the *The Devil Wears Prada* and *Swooning with Sharps* take their demeaning positions for promised career payoffs and lose their selves to their jobs, there is a key difference (beyond the fact that Miranda calls Millennial Andy's cellphone, whereas Buddy pages GenX Guy on his beeper). Andy is temporarily sucked into her job, but she finally draws the line and regains her values. Able to see herself as her friends see her, she remembers what is important and reclaims her identity and her life. Poor Guy loses his soul.

Do today's twenty-somethings care more about work-nonwork balance than their counterparts a decade ago? The literature on integrating one's personal and work lives is massive and still mounting. But it emphasizes work-family issues. Given that the average age at which Americans start their families is later than it was a generation ago, it is worthwhile to focus on the efforts of young adults to build their careers as they establish meaningful personal relationships.