

APPENDICES

SUMMARY OF MAMMON INC.

Chiah Deng Gan is a Singaporean woman who has just graduated from St. L'eh, Oxford, where she studied on a scholarship. She lives in Oxford with her flat-mate Steve, a British guy. One day Chiah Deng receives a letter from Mammon Corps, a subsidiary of Mammon Inc., the largest enterprise in the world serving more than seven billion consumers in over 170 countries. The Mammon Company (mc) is the world's leading brand name. Chiah Deng is offered an interview at the company's headquarters in New York for the Adapter Position. They are looking for an adapter to liaise between their Oxford and Singapore offices.

At first Chiah Deng does not want to have the interview because she thinks she will not fit the job and considers the people who work in that company are people who have a shallow life and are only concerned about their appearance and lifestyle. Besides, she also gets an offer from professor Ad-oy to be his assistant. But her sister, Chiah Chen, forces her to accept the Mammon offer because working at the Mammon Company means big money so her family will get a better life.

Shortly, Chiah Deng flies to New York and has the interview session with Dr Draco Sidious, CEO of Mammon CorpS. Draco says that in order to get the

position as an adapter, Chiah Deng must pass three tests that will examine her ability in different international arenas. First, she has to join the *Gen-Vex* anniversary at Utopia, one of the most exclusive clubs in New York. She has to convince the *Gen-Vexers* that she is one of the rulers of New York night life. Second, she has to take her Singaporean sister to an Oxford gathering, and make her acceptable to the intellectual elite. Third, she has to take her British flat-mate to a Singaporean dinner, and help him to fit in with the guests. Chiah Deng must work hard to accustom her sister and her flat-mate. Finally she passes all the tests. At first she rejects the position offered because she feels she has corrupted her sister and flat-mate, but then after Draco asks Chiah Deng about her feeling when joining the *Gen-Vexers* party, she realizes that the *Gen-Vexers* society is the only society where she feels accepted. After that she changes her mind and decides to join Mammon Inc.

SUMMARY OF THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

Andrea Sachs, a recent Brown University graduate, has an interview with the most leading fashion magazine, *Runway*. She is offered a position as the junior assistant of Miranda Priestly, an editor-in-chief of *Runway*, a very chic and influential fashion magazine published by the Elias-Clark company. It is a job that millions of girls would die for. Andrea considers that by working for *Runway* magazine as Miranda's assistant, she can have reference from Miranda when she applies for her dream job as a writer in *The New Yorker*. Working at the most leading fashion magazine, Andrea is expected to dress fabulously. Before she was a simple and unfashionable girl. But as the time goes, she becomes a fashionable girl. As Miranda's new assistant she is told that her job is primarily doing

personal errands for Miranda. Andrea starts work at 7 am. In the morning of every working day, she must buy a cup of Starbucks coffee and put it on her boss' desk. She has to fulfill whatever Miranda asks and this sometimes upsets her. Miranda has a habit of ordering her assistant to do something without being specific, because Miranda hates to give a second explanation. Luckily, there is Emily, Miranda's senior assistant, who often helps Andrea in completing her tasks. During the time she works for *Runway* Andrea begins to change.

Before working for *Runway*, Andrea's fashion style is not really glamorous. But then she is influenced by the other girls who work for *Runway*; they all have fashionable style. As she is too busy meeting her boss's needs, Andrea begins neglecting her boyfriend Alex, her best friend Lily and her family. One day, Andrea is ordered to go with Miranda to Paris because Emily, the senior assistant, is sick. While in Paris, Miranda asks Andrea to renew her twin daughters' passports, because they are already expired. Andrea thinks it is impossible to do it in less than three hours. At that moment Andrea begins to realize that she has ruined her life for her job and she has sacrificed too much for her boss. Finally, Andrea quits the job.

Biography of Hwee Hwee Tan

Hwee Hwee Tan is a Singaporean writer who was born in Singapore in 1974. During her youth she spent three years in the Netherlands. At first she studied English Literature at the University of East Anglia, from which she graduated with honours. Tan also holds a Master's degree in English Studies 1500-1660 from the University of Oxford. After winning the New York Times Fellowship in 1997 she studied creative writing at New York University. Her

short stories have appeared in PEN International, New Writing, and won numerous awards with the BBC. She published her first novel, Foreign Bodies (Penguin), at the age of 22, while she was still a graduate student at the University of Oxford.

Foreign Bodies was featured on the front page of the Wall Street Journal for being "the first novel by a Singaporean author to receive critical acclaim in the UK and the US". In 1997, she moved to New York to study creative writing at New York University. In 2001, she published her second novel, Mammon Inc. (Penguin), which received widespread critical acclaim in Asia and spent over two months on the WH Smith Top 20 bestseller list in Asia.

Mammon Inc. was also adapted for the stage during the 2002 Singapore Arts Festival, where it sold out all its performances. She has appeared in Harper's Bazaar Asian "New Power Generation" issue for being one of the most influential writers in the region, and was featured in Elle's "Hot List" for 2002.

After she returned to Singapore in 2001, she worked as a reporter for the Business Times and later on became the senior writer at Twenty4Seven, a lifestyle and entertainment magazine. She has also freelanced as a journalist and her credits include TIME, Harper's Bazaar, ELLE and the BBC. Tan has received numerous awards from the National Arts Council, the National University of Singapore, the New York Times Foundation and the British Broadcasting Corporation. She received the Young Artist Award from the National Arts Council in 2003, the highest arts award given to an artist under 35. Mammon Inc. won the 2004 Singapore Literature Prize. Her current residence in New York further expands her status as a writer to watch among the young jet set of international literature.

Biography of Lauren Weisberger

Lauren Weisberger was born on March 28, 1977 in Scranton, Pennsylvania. She is an American novelist and author of the 2003 bestseller The Devil Wears Prada, a speculated roman à clef of her time as a put-upon assistant to Vogue editor-in-chief Anna Wintour. Weisberger's mother was a school teacher and her father a department store president turned mortgage broker. She spent her early youth in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, a small town outside Scranton. At age 11, her parents divorced and she and her younger sister, Dana, moved to Allentown, Pennsylvania, in the Lehigh Valley region of the state, with their mother.

In 1995, she graduated from Allentown's Parkland High School. During her time at Parkland, Weisberger was involved in various activities, including intramural sports, some competitive sports, extra projects, and organizations. Following her graduation from high school, she attended Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where she was an English major and a sorority member of Alpha Epsilon Phi. She graduated from Cornell in 1999, with a Bachelor's Degree in English. After college, she traveled as a backpacker through Europe, Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Thailand, India, Nepal, and Hong Kong. Returning home, she moved to Manhattan and was hired as Wintour's assistant at Vogue. She was there for ten months before leaving along with features editor Richard Storey. While she herself said she felt out of place there, the magazine's managing editor, Laurie Jones, said "she seemed to be a perfectly happy, lovely woman".

After leaving the fashion magazine, she wrote 100-word reviews for Departures Magazine, an American Express publication, before writing her first novel. She also published an article in Playboy magazine in 2004.

Her success came really from her stint at Departures Magazine working as an assistant editor. After mentioning her interest in writing classes to her boss, Richard Story, he referred her to his long esteemed friend, Charles Salzberg. She started writing a story about her time at Vogue, trying to get done fifteen pages every couple of weeks. After continuous nudging for her to show her completed writing to agents, she finally did and within two weeks, it was sold. Weisberger resides currently in New York City.