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Your weekday morning guide to breaking news, cultural analysis, and everything in between Most people can relate to the idea of an obnoxious, mean-spirited boss, which is why bad bosses have been a popular subject in movies almost as long as there have been movies. The following 10 figures stand as the worst, most odious employers in movie history. Trimark Pictures Buddy Ackerman (Kevin Spacey) is perhaps the most overtly abusive boss in movie history, as he punnels his meek assistant (Frank Whaley's Rex) with one insult after another. (At one point, for example, Buddy slowly tells Rex, "You. Have. No. Brain.") The antagonistic relationship between the two men seems to get worse and worse until Rex finally snaps and kidnaps Buddy -- with the final half hour detailing Buddy's comeuppance as Rex tortures his mean-spirited employer both physically and emotionally. It's an enjoyable bit of wish-fulfillment for anyone that's ever wanted to turn the tables on their boss. It works so well that Spacey was essentially reused in a similar role in Horrible Bosses and Horrible Bosses 2. Best Line: "You are nothing! If you were in my toilet, I wouldn't bother flushing it. My bathmat means more to me than you!" 20th Century Fox Throughout the original Star Wars trilogy, Darth Vader participates in a number of almost outrageously evil acts -- including the complete and utter destruction of Princess Leia's (Carrie Fisher) home planet Alderaan. And though he remains loyal to Emperor Palpatine almost to the bitter end, Vader is repeatedly shown to be an impatient and downright ruthless boss -- as the black-clad cyborg mercilessly chokes any and all underlings that fail to meet his meticulous standards. Vader doesn't even make any physical contact with his doomed employees, choosing instead to use the Force as a means of cutting off his victims' air supply. Best Line: "I find your lack of faith disturbing." Warner Bros. This one's a no-brainer. Kevin Lomax (Keanu Reeves) is a hotshot attorney who jumps at the chance to join a prestigious New York law firm, where his new boss, John Milton (Al Pacino), at first presents himself as a father figure who showers Kevin with praise, advice, and perks. But as we learn, John is revealed to be no less than Satan himself -- with the character employing his power to memorably drive Kevin's loving wife, Mary Ann (Charlize Theron), completely and utterly insane. The next time you're complaining about your boss, remember that it could be worse: He or she could be the Devil. Best Line: "Free will. It's like butterfly wings: once touched, they never get off the ground. No, I only set the stage. You pull your own strings." Gladden Entertainment Long before he becomes a corpse, Bernie Lomax (Terry Kiser) establishes himself as a truly reprehensible boss who is embezzling from his own company. The film's heroes, Larry Wilson (Andrew McCarthy) and Richard Parker (Jonathan Silverman), discover the discrepancies and present their findings to Bernie, unaware that the man himself is the one behind the fraud. Bernie arranges for a mob hitman to kill both Larry and Richard, although, under orders from his boss, the assassin instead murders Bernie -- which sets the film's comedic storyline into motion as Larry and Richard go to increasingly elaborate lengths to pretend that Bernie is still alive. Best Line: "You have to kill them, Vito." 20th Century Fox Miranda Priestly (Meryl Streep) isn't a bad boss as much as she's a fearsome boss, as the character spends much of The Devil Wears Prada terrorizing and insulting the majority of her employees -- although Miranda reserves the brunt of her scorn for her new assistant, Andy Sachs (Anne Hathaway). More than being just verbally abusive, however, Miranda attempts to test Andy's loyalty by sending her on a variety of near-impossible missions. Miranda and Andy do come to respect one another, and it seems fairly obvious that the pattern of relentless abuse will eventually continue with Miranda's next assistant. Best Line: "Details of your incompetence do not interest me." New Line Cinema Though he really only appears in one scene, Blake (Alec Baldwin) remains the most memorable character to appear in Glengarry Glen Ross. He's been sent to "motivate" real estate salesmen -- Ed Harris' Dave, Alan Arkin's George, and Jack Lemmon's Shelley -- working in a dump office, which he attempts to accomplish by launching a torrent of foul-mouthed insults at the men. Coming a close second in the bad boss category is Kevin Spacey's Williamson, who memorably ruins a deal for Pacino's Ricky. Best Line: "We're adding a little something to this month's sales contest. As you all know, first prize is a Cadillac Eldorado. Anybody want to see second prize? Second prize is a set of steak knives. Third prize is you're fired." Orion Pictures Dick Jones (Ronny Cox) is a ruthless executive at Omni Consumer Products, which owns Detroit's entire police force and is attempting to replace its officers with robots. When we first meet him, Dick is in a competition with a younger executive, Bob Morton (Miguel Ferrer), over the creation of a new robotic officer. The rivalry escalates to the point where Dick hires an assassin to take out his competition, which forces the title character (Peter Weller) to step in -- although, as he learns, Dick has made it impossible for RoboCop to arrest any senior OCP executive. Pretty crafty. Best Line: "What did you think? That you were an ordinary police officer? You're our product, and we can't very well have our products turning against us, can we?" 20th Century Fox Is there a more smug, obnoxious cinematic boss than Bill Lumbergh (Gary Cole) has come to represent a very specific type of supervisor, one that doesn't seem to do any real work himself yet manages to pile on task after task for his long-suffering subordinates. While protagonist Peter Gibbons (Ron Livingston) receives the brunt of Lumbergh's unwanted attention, Bill also manages to make life a living hell for meek employee Milton Waddams (Stephen Root) -- as the character's workspace is moved to the basement instead of firing him. Best Line: "I'm gonna need you to go ahead come in tomorrow. So if you could be here around 9 that would be great, okay? Oh, and I almost forgot, I'm also going to need you to go ahead and come in on Sunday too, okay?" Paramount Pictures While he may not be as bad as The Devil's Advocate's John Milton -- he's not, after all, Satan -- Avery Tolar (Gene Hackman) is certainly an odious figure in his own right. As the top dog at a law firm with deep ties to the Mafia, Avery has gotten used to bending the rules to ensure the continuing freedom of his felonious clients. Mitch McDeere (Tom Cruise) is an up-and-coming attorney who gladly takes a job under the respected Tolar, but it's not long before Cruise's character discovers the truth about his firm. Avery goes to incredible lengths to secure Mitch's

silence, including hiring a woman to sleep with him and then blackmailing him with the evidence. Best Line: "You know, I have a very bad reputation." 20th Century Fox When office workers Judy (Jane Fonda), Violet (Lily Tomlin), and Doralee (Dolly Parton) are continually harassed by a sexist executive named Franklin Hart Jr. (Dabney Coleman), the ladies eventually take matters into their own hands and kidnap the man and hold him hostage in his own home. Hart's absence means that the three women are able to run the office far more efficiently, which is just about the best revenge one could get on an incompetent superior. Best Line: "If you think I am going to be intimidated or stopped by you three dim-witted broads you're mistaken! No woman takes me on and gets away with it! I'm gonna get loose. I'm gonna get loose even if I have to kill one of you to do it! I will not hesitate to kill a woman!" It was not all that long ago that women did not have a place in the business world. Many of us have heard from our mothers and grandmothers about their secretarial positions. But now things have shifted and you could work for a female CEO and even become one. Granted, women only make up about 7% of the number of CEOs right now, but it's certainly more than in our grandmothers' days. While the opportunities are there, the know-how can sometimes be difficult to learn. How do we climb the corporate ladder and reach our business goals? While there isn't necessarily a hand-book, there are plenty of books written by successful women who offer valuable insight as to accomplishing our professional dreams. Recommended Reading for Willful Women For each of these books, we'll dive into what the book is about and what career advice can be learned from reading it. Don't worry, no one expects a book report. The Confidence Code by Katty Kay and Claire Shipman This New York Times Bestseller tackles the biggest issue faced and feared in the workplace: Gender Inequality. Kay and Shipman give inspiration and practical advice needed to confidently bridge the gender gap experienced in the day-to-day lives of women. This is a recommended read because it teaches the thing we all want to be masters of: Confidence. Rather than adopting a "fake it 'til you make it" attitude, The Confidence Code teaches you how to truly believe in yourself and be successful in the workplace. Leave Your Mark: Land Your Dream Job. Kill it in Your Career. Rock Social Media by Aliza Licht Licht has done PR for some of the most notable designers out there, so she knows a thing or two about being a successful female. The best advice comes from experience, and boy, does she have it! Licht uses the things she has experienced first-hand to give advice, inspiration and a little bit of tough love. - Scroll down to continue reading article - - Scroll down to continue reading article - Leave Your Mark is great for someone just starting off in their career and also for those who feel they are doing pretty well for themselves. It also sheds light on successfully marketing on Social Media which, in this modern world, is vital to success in business. Bossypants by Tina Fey Tina Fey is hilarious, talented and by all accounts super down to earth. But she's also a remarkable business-woman. Fey was never handed anything, especially her success in comedy. She had to work hard every day to get to where she is not. Her book details the uphill battle she fought but also empowers the women readers. This #1 National Bestseller is a must-read because it proves, page after page, that no matter how many times people tell you that you can't do something, or they doubt your talent, you can achieve anything. Fey especially highlights how we should laugh all the way to the bank when it comes to people putting us down. Lean In: Women, Work and the Will to Lead by Sheryl Sandberg via Amazon.com If you ask a female entrepreneur what book she would recommend, it would most likely be this one. Lean In has been the entrepreneur's bible since it was released. Sandberg shares advice on getting the salary you deserve and how to believe in yourself. This book covers all of the important basics and is definitely a must for the female employee who wants to do more. Sandberg helps you drop that self-doubt and really lean in to your potential. - Scroll down to continue reading article - - Scroll down to continue reading article - Leading from the Front: No Excuse Leadership Tactics for Women by Angie Morgan and Courtney Lynch via Amazon.com These authors spent years in the U.S. Marine Corps, instantly breaking any stereotype you may have had about women writers and entrepreneurs. The tough duo learned a lot about leadership in their time serving and are sharing it with their readers. This book is a must for women who want to know how to take action and be successful without any fluff. With a foreword by Paula Zahn, a successful woman herself, Leading from the Front is chocked full of helpful info that will have you at the top in no time. Women in Tech: Take your Career to the Next Level with Practical Advice and Inspiring Stories by Tarah Wheeler Van Vlack via GeekWire.com Accomplishing your career goals as a woman is filled with setbacks. Accomplishing those career goals in the tech industry as a woman is even harder. With only 5% of leadership positions in tech being held by women, it can seem discouraging to pursue much of anything. If you're a woman in tech, this book offers advice from female professionals on how to succeed. Yes, this is a male-dominated work field, but there are women out there trying to change that. Wouldn't you like to be one of them? - Scroll down to continue reading article - - Scroll down to continue reading article - Knowing Your Value: Women, Money, and Getting what You're Worth by Mika Brzezinski via MSNBC.com This book, like the other books on this list, really delves into how to ask for the right salary and feel you're valued as an individual and employee. The unique thing about Brzezinski's book is that it discusses how to do it no matter where you are in your career. Many women are afraid to ask for a raise. Whether they've been a great employee for one year or ten, that request is always overshadowed by excuses and self-doubt. Brzezinski asked for more late in her career, and she explains how you can, too. Brag!: The Art of Tooting Your Own Horn without Blowing It by Peggy Klaus via Amazon.com Do you freeze up in a job interview when asked what you're good at? Do you feel bad bragging about your strengths? Or maybe you're great in the interview, but when it comes time to ask for that promotion, you feel cocky listing out all you've accomplished. If any of these sound familiar, you need to read Klaus' book. Klaus discusses self-promotion and how awkward it can be. She teaches you how to brag in a way that doesn't make you uncomfortable. It's highly recommended reading if you often don't feel like you're allowed to boast about the things you're proud of. - Scroll down to continue reading article - - Scroll down to continue reading article - Getting from College to Career Rev Ed: Your Essential Guide to Succeeding in the Real World by Lindsey Pollak via Amazon.com I remember how vague and ominous it always sounded to me when people would talk about "The Real World." Those three words were tossed about frequently while I was in college and seemed to be there to instill fear about getting a job, let alone a career, once I graduated. Now that I'm in "The Real World," I can tell you it's not always as scary as it sounded...but sometimes it is! Pollack's book addresses the harsh transition from school to salary and helps you tackle the changes. With her suggestions, you'll be accepting job offers in no time. How Remarkable Women Lead: The Breakthrough Model for Work and Life by Joanna Barsh and Susie Cranston via Amazon.com If it's true that leading by example is the best way to lead, then the women discussed in this book will make you a phenomenal leader. This book uses real-life examples of some of the most successful women in the world and touches on how they became successful and stay successful every day. This book is ideal for the woman who wants to be inspired by the stories of other women and appreciates finding common ties between herself and those she idolizes. - Scroll down to continue reading article - - Scroll down to continue reading article - Think of me while you're sitting in your corner office! No matter what success looks like to you, know that you can achieve it. Make it easier by grabbing a few of these books. Don't be afraid to jot notes on the pages and put bookmarks in all the chapters that really speak to you. This is your journey to success, no matter how you define that. You've so got this!

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