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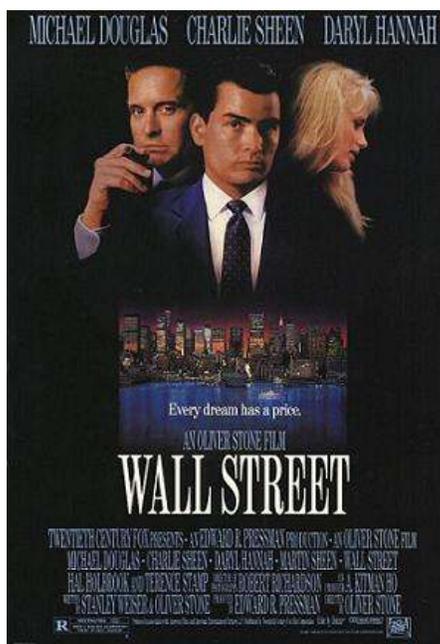
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Workplace lessons from 'Wall Street'



Oliver Stone's movie "Wall Street" is a cautionary tale about what can happen when money and [materialism](#) take over your life. Young stockbroker Bud Fox is enamored with the career that his mentor, corporate raider Gordon Gekko, and does whatever it takes to emulate it. In the process, Bud makes a [Faustian](#) bargain with Gordon that brings him a lot of money—and a lot of trouble. The movie's sequel—"Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps"—opens this weekend and revisits the issues of greed, money, and morality, but the original [movie](#) still has lessons that are applicable in the [workplace](#) today.

1. Some clients look better on paper. For Bud Fox, Gordon Gekko seems like the perfect [client](#). Anyone who has ever targeted a client can understand the feeling—you're falling in love and you want your potential client to reciprocate. But as soon as you get into a [relationship](#) with this client, you find out that they are actually a nightmare to do business with. Bud makes a lot of money working with Gekko, but what he eventually loses in his life makes him see that he crawled into bed with the client from hell.

2. Don't date your clients' friends. While dropping off paperwork at Gordon's house, Bud meets Darien Taylor. He pursues a relationship with her and she soon moves in with him. Although the romance with Darien is blossoming, Bud's business with Gordon begins to disintegrate. Bud finds out that Darien will always side with Gordon because he helped her with her own business—and was her previous lover.

3. The way your boss feels about you turns with the tide. When Bud starts making large profits for his firm, he gains the favor of the sales manager—and gets a corner office and his own secretary as a reward. His boss tells him, "the minute I laid my eyes on you, I knew that you had what it takes." But when Bud gets into trouble with the [U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission \(SEC\)](#), his boss throws him under the bus, telling him "the minute I laid eyes on you, I knew you were no good."

4. Information is king. Gordon tells Bud that "the most valuable commodity I know of is information." Although Gordon was referring to the inside information that allowed him to make big bucks, this concept is true of any workplace. [Gossip](#) at the water cooler is the great work [time](#) pastime, and the person who has the juiciest scoops has the most capital.

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5. Beware of old friends with business propositions. Bud shows up at his college buddy's office to get him involved in his shady business deals. The friend—corporate attorney Roger Barnes—is seduced by the promise

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of money, so he jumps in head first. But he finds out that old friends who show up out of the blue are more trouble than they're worth when he also gets investigated by the SEC.

6. Your colleagues don't care about your kids. When Bud goes to Gordon's home for business, he is confronted with a small scale "take your kids to work" situation. Gordon's wife shows off their son, who can speak French at three-years old, and explains how difficult it is to get children into a good pre-school. Meanwhile, the child is throwing food while his father is trying to conduct business. Although you may think that your kids' antics are adorable, your coworkers do not.

7. Workplace friendships change when people move up the ladder. Bud had a good relationship with his workplace friend, Marvin, when they were on the same level. But as Bud moves up the ladder, he becomes more arrogant and begins to lash out at his friend for annoying him and asking questions.

8. Blood is thicker than money. Bud gets his [father](#) and colleagues involved in a business deal with Gordon in order to save their company, Bluestar Airlines. Little does Bud know, Gordon has other plans for the company—plans that will threaten the finances of his [family](#) and leave many workers unemployed. Bud then uses the tricky tactics that he learned from Gordon to save his father's job and regain his self-respect.

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Posted by Kenya McCullum at [September 24, 2010](#)

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