

## Miranda ala Mode

Shy and nerdy **Miranda Duncan (15)** is in high school heaven. After years of living in the shadow of her mother, the flamboyant and famous clothing designer **Sue Duncan (40s)**, Miranda is finally headed in her own direction---on the fast track to MIT. It looks like a perfect sophomore year, until Miranda comes home one day to find her mother in front of the mirror sobbing as she tries to pull out her gray hairs. The great and glamorous Sue Duncan has suddenly discovered that not only is she 'pruning' but so is her reputation, and the teen fashion industry no longer wants to see her work.

Never quite able to face up to her manipulating mom, Miranda is stunned to find out that Sue has already decided to use her daughter as a surrogate. Before she knows what's happening, the introverted teenager finds herself about to be transformed into the young designer of a line of cutting-edge clothes Miranda herself wouldn't be caught dead in.

Prodded and prompted by Sue, Miranda gets a crash course in the one subject she most hates and has spent her entire life avoiding -- fashion. Poor Miranda hardly has time to catch her breath as her unstoppable parent manages a complete makeover --- changing the way the gangling teenager looks, the way she walks and the way she talks. It's a regular fish-out-of-water story as we watch Miranda bumble through sales meetings, fumble through fittings, and stumble down the runway after snobby models.

Meanwhile, wild-woman Sue is busy with her own sort of makeover, struggling to complete her brilliant daughter's school assignments. Not an easy job for a woman who never hung around the classroom long enough to get a diploma.

The plan, of course, is not quite as crazy as it seems. The fact is, if Cyrano had been plagued with wrinkles, instead of that outrageous nose, he'd have recruited Miranda, too. And, like the plot with Christian, it almost works---almost.

In the end, there's a lesson in here for both mother and daughter. Sue finally grows comfortable in her own skin. And Miranda is surprised to discover how well she fits into a whole new wardrobe---one that features her creativity and beauty. And one that will still look great at MIT.