Table 1

The Expectations of Good Working Mother (GWM) Identities as evidenced in One Fine Day (OFD) and I Don't Know How She Does It (IDK)

GWM Identity and Behavioral Expectations	Events in Melanie's Life (OFD)	Events in Kate's Life (IDK)
Intensive Mother  Mothers are primary caregivers of children and allocate time and physical presence to childrearing (Hays, 1996; Johnston & Swanson, 2006)  Problems with children are blamed on mothering shortcomings (Garey & Arendell, 2001; Schulte, 2014)	<ul> <li>Melanie struggles to make it to her son's soccer game on time to show him he is "most important"</li> <li>Melanie's immense guilt for not finding proper care for Sam (son) and putting him in the 9th Street Daycare</li> <li>Melanie demonstrates a need to be prepared as a mother and so her bag is filled with food, vitamins, and enough supplies to turn Sam and Maggie (his friend) into superheroes</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Kate gets tied up at work and forgets to come home to watch the children; Richard (husband) hires a sitter who falls asleep while the kids are still awake</li> <li>Emily (daughter) complains that Kate is on airplanes and misses important school and family moments</li> <li>When son Ben finally speaks at age two, his first words are "Goodbye Mamma"</li> <li>Kate creates rituals with her children, such as singing on the phone, to compensate for leaving</li> <li>Marla (mother-in-law) lectures Kate about simpler times when mothers did not work outside the home and "everybody knew their place"</li> <li>"Momster" Wendy judges "when I decided to have kids, I wanted to be the one to raise them"</li> <li>Kate's coworker Bunce congratulates her children on "having more time with the nanny"</li> </ul>
True Domestic Woman  Femininity and women's duties in home are glorified (Ashcraft & Mumby, 2004; Medved, 2007)  Professionalization of private sphere using language like "Family CEO" (Medved & Kirby, 2005)	<ul> <li>Melanie's sister Liza defends her stay-at-home mother role: "I workI'm the CEO of this household"</li> <li>Liza (sister) is sexualized; her hair is carefully curled with perfectly applied makeup as she talks on the phone to Melanie in her silk bathrobe, while Melanie is shown spilling juice on herself and wearing Sam's dinosaur t-shirt under her blazer</li> <li>In many ways Melanie shows competence in the home as she multitasks for her and Sam, yet she lays down to sleep on a toy car in her bed</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Kate distresses store bought pies for the bake sale to make them look homemade in contrast to the perfect homemade items dropped off by the "Momsters"</li> <li>"Momster" Wendy is narrated as "in charge of terrifying working mothers with her domestic prowess"</li> <li>The "Momsters" are physically fit and attractive, while Kate is shown with tousled hair and pancake batter on her lapel; the Momsters criticize Kate under their breath "brush your hair" and "Did you see what she was wearing?"</li> </ul>
Ideal Worker	Melanie is expected to entertain clients for drinks	Bunce entertained clients and "schmoozes" with them

Take on unsustainable amounts of work, and can never do enough work (Montoya & Trethewey, 2009; Lucas, Liu & Buzzanell, 2006; Wieland, 2011)

Readily available: face time (Hochschild, 1997)

Hide motherhood identity (Drago, 2007)

rather than attend her son's soccer game

- Melanie pretends that Sam is NOT her son to her boss Mr. Leland when she has to bring him to work, trying to avoid being inscribed as a "mother"
- Melanie begs Jack T. to pick up the kids because "I would definitely jeopardize my career and by extension, my entire life if I picked them up right now"
- Melanie's speech to her boss at the architecture firm (Mr. Leland) that "your real grounds for firing me should be if I were to stay here with you"
- Clients noted they "liked her" when she stands up for her family, challenging these normative behaviors

- at places like strip clubs when Kate cannot
- Kate frequently privileges work over family as she travels, works late, leaves early on Thanksgiving vacation, and refers to her "unused" vacation time
- Kate's personal assistant (Momo) is in constant disbelief that Kate worries about her children and checks in with her husband when "she should be working"
- Bunce (coworker) snickers when Kate refuses to leave town and Clark said "then you can just go"
- Kate's speech to her boss at the financial firm (Clark) that "If what I have to give is not enough for you, then fire me. ...but I won't quit"