



LOVE THOSE MOVIES

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One of the most electrifying and heart pounding movies I watched in the 90's was that starring Sandra Bullock entitled *The Net*. The movie poster's taglines said it all: Her driver's license. Her credit cards. Her bank accounts. Her identity. Deleted.

In the movie, Sandra plays Angela Bennett, who performs her computer analyst work from home. She discovers a computer glitch in a disc sent to her by a friend she's never met, but soon forgets about it all when she goes on vacation. She gets into a romantic relationship with someone she meets in Mexico. Pretty soon, she discovers her credit cards, driver's license and bank accounts were closed, and she was given a new but notorious identity, someone with a criminal history. She races against time and the law, using the only weapon she knew how to wield: the computer. In the end, everything went back to the way it was, and her real identity was restored.

I don't remember the exact details of the entire movie, but I do remember loving it for the fast pace and the who's-doing-it plot. Great story coupled with great acting and great direction. What more could you ask for?

Then I saw *Charlie's Angels* in 2000, starring Drew Barrymore, Lucy Liu and my favorite ogre, Cameron Diaz. Loaded with kickass female power and high octane action, the movie showed how voice recognition software could be used for evil ends to mislead even the most talented and sexiest detectives there are. And Charlie's identity remained a mystery to the very end, even beyond the second installment *Charlie's Angels Full Throttle*. I watched the TV series when I was a kid, and I was always excited to finally get to know Charlie's true identity. Was it John Bosley? The way the creators hid a primary character's identity was exasperating. All I knew was that Charlie was a billionaire, for how else could he afford to provide the Angels with high-tech weapons and gadgets? Speedboats and stuff? Don't you wish you had a boss as rich as Charlie?

We hate it when we don't know the identity of the people we encounter regularly. In my line of work, I need to establish a clear profile on my work page, while the clients I work for have the freedom to use whatever name they want. Goodness also knows if the very countries they say they're from are even where they live. All I have to go with in studying a contract is the feedbacks the clients get for work they contract out. And that can even be a shaky premise.

Our identity establishes who we are and what we are. We can only hope, especially in my case, that those we transact with day to day are as honest as they get.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Will you do business with someone you don't really know at all? Why or why not?
2. Why are many people so strict about safeguarding their identity?
3. How will you gain the trust of someone you've only met for the first time? What aspects of your identity will you divulge?
4. How far will you go to protect your identity?
5. What is your opinion of people who do not reveal their identities but expect others to reveal theirs?