Hollywood still depicts senior nurses as frustrated females, tormenting patients and mercilessly enforcing trivial rules. But what happens in real life?

Far from trying to cause harm, nurses work hard to advocate for their patients, protecting them from life-threatening errors or misguided care plans — some even risking their careers to blow the whistle on harmful care.

Nurses are not “angels,” but they are modern health professionals of all genders who use advanced psychosocial skills and compassion to help patients recover and thrive.

Poor public understanding of nursing, fueled by stereotypes like the battle-axe, contributes to a lack of resources for nursing education, clinical practice, research and residencies.

That can mean worse patient outcomes — including death.

Our future depends on nurses. Nurses depend on us to understand their true value.

A message from nurses everywhere.