

Online Shopping

Alicia hurriedly switched off the computer when she heard the door slam. Slipping the shiny black credit card under a stack of papers, she took out her Mathematics textbook and a piece of paper and pretended to be hard at work. By the time her parents looked into her room, Alicia was absorbed in a few problem sums.

"Do you want supper?" her mother asked, pleased to see her daughter hard at work.

"No, thanks," she replied quickly, smiling at her mother. "I'm going to bed soon." She hoped that her answer would satisfy her mother and she would not return to check on her. She was right. Her mother bid her goodnight and left. Alicia turned on her computer again and immediately a website that sold paraphernalia from her favourite film idols came on. Clicking on the shopping cart, she made sure that all the items she wanted to purchase were there. Then taking out the credit card, she typed in the serial number as well as the expiry date of the card. Clicking the 'Send' tab, she leant back and smiled with satisfaction. The online store promised to deliver her purchases in a fortnight.

Alicia was about to turn off her computer when she remembered the song that she had heard on the radio that afternoon. Typing in the address for another website, Alicia searched for the song that she wanted. In the process of finding it, she also found five other songs that she liked. Clicking a tab to download the songs, Alicia again typed in the credit card number and the other necessary details. Then without even a tinge of guilt at having taken her mother's credit card, she downloaded the songs.

Alicia was unfazed by the amount she was spending. She would come up with an explanation when her mother received the bill. Unknown to Alicia, her parents were in their room, staring in shock at a credit card bill that they had just received in the mail. There was a five-hundred-dollar purchase of a pair of branded plimsolls from an online store. It suddenly dawned on them why Alicia was always in her room and why she was always going to bed so early. They stormed off to her room, the bill in their hands, unaware that Alicia had just purchased a three-hundred-dollar dress from an online boutique.