

STYLE a guide to online shopping

by Alyssa Martin

For sexy and smart shoppers only

Selfish students stick to the same old stores

Hot girls and guys dare to be different

my grand realization. If you are a caring, smart and sexy individual, then it is time for us to visit a whole new shopping mall together. There are all these amazing stores out there that are 10 times better than GAP. Overall, being responsible and not mismanaging credit is the key to success in this card game. JCrew, Bebe, Nordstrom and all my past favorites. There are better stores out there, with really stylish hot looks, but they are only for caring and smart shoppers.

After seeing Jean Killbourne and Julia Butterfly Hill speak in the last few weeks I have changed my way of thinking about the clothes I wear. I used to walk around in my cute "Rock Star" shirt, thinking that it was the coolest message GAP has ever printed

on millions of shirts. Now I've realized there are better messages I can wear on my chest. Cosmo proves every month, with the success of its magazine, that everyone wants to be sexier. Men and women think that intelligence and uniqueness and generosity all make a person sexier.

Now that I am smarter by listening to these speakers, it is about time my sexy wardrobe had an image change. I thought I've looked hot now for years, buying clothes from the same old

Wildlife-works.com

- * Money goes towards saving the cheetah you have on your shirt
- * More money goes towards Rutunga Sanctuary in Kenya - a natural habitat that protects animals from extinction
- * You can see pictures of the workers and the factories and you know that they are getting a fair wage
- * It is made of organic cotton and hemp
- * IT IS CUTE and the picture has an actual message!

Oldnavy.com

- * We don't know where the factory is and what the workers are paid that work there
- * You don't know about the chemicals used to make the shirt that might be killing a plant or person or animal out there
- * You are more likely to show up at a party where eight other girls are wearing the same thing.
- * IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING!



brands and huge companies. I considered myself a strong advocator of style and fashion,

but really I wasn't representing anything with substance and meaning. I didn't even know there was a choice before. I knew that sweatshops might exist somewhere out there, like maybe Mars, but I wasn't going to give up my love for shopping because of it. Now, I can shop to my heart's content at stores on the Internet that offer an amazing, guilt-free shopping experience.

This graphic T is \$12.50 at Old Navy.com. I know this is a sale-

shopper's dream but it isn't the greatest thing you can do for that cheetah in the picture. Every day you wear this shirt you know that you haven't done anything good by purchasing it. We have the power to do something good with every single thing we buy, but we usually do something bad instead. In this case we are supporting a huge corporation. Old Navy, GAP and Banana Republic, all are under the same company. Just the money I have spent in my lifetime at these stores show how much cash they must have stashed away. Yet, the messages on their clothes don't mean anything. They don't advertise where their clothes come from or who makes them.

Companies that are doing the right thing usually let us know, they aren't always defending themselves and hiding information. I haven't been to Singapore to see where my GAP hooded sweatshirt was made but I sure can't read about the factory and the workers on the GAP Web site. At wildlife-works.com I can read about the communities where this graphic T-shirt was made and I know I am really making a difference by purchasing it.

I always have and I always will love to shop. I could probably go the rest of my life without buying another T-shirt and I would be fine. I can already do laundry every two months with my

closet staying full, which is quite shameful. Yet, telling me to quit shopping is like killing a part of the horrible consumer culture, which is, sadly, T, even though I don't need one, I am still going to buy one. If I really want to be a good person though, I have to looker deeper into the power I have as a teenage shopper. I have the power to support a worker in Africa, and help support the economic situation in their community, by buying a T-shirt with a tiger on it that looks almost identical to a T-shirt I could get at Old Navy. When I buy it on sale at Old Navy though, I have no clue where it came from and I sure do know that not one penny of that sale price goes towards saving a species that is close to extinction. The choice is so easy to make.

I know it is hard to know where to shop online for clothes but I am trying to make it easier. Each week look forward to seeing another site with great clothes that have a message and will make you feel good, rather than guilty, after you buy them. Whoever thinks laziness is sexy? You can go to the same old sites as everyone else and buy the same old clothes, but that is just so easy. Putting in the extra effort to find out where your clothes are made, gives you a smart and classy image. Unique clothing gives you individuality. How many times have you heard guys and girls complain on this campus saying, "Everyone is just the same, it is hard to find someone special." Well, if you want that "Look at me, I am sexy, smart and different from the rest of 'em" attitude, then let your clothes and shopping habits show it.

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deadly. So it's up to Mike and Sully to get Boo back to her own world before they cause a global catastrophe.

I'm not sure how they keep doing it, but the geniuses at Pixar have topped themselves again in the visual department. The computer animation here, pioneered in Toy Story and thought to be perfected in A Bug's Life and Toy Story 2, is simply astounding. Sully's fur, for example, looks so real that the audience gets the feeling they're looking at a living, breathing creature as opposed to a simple drawing. All kinds

of strange, wondrous creatures populate every corner of the frame. Mike's girlfriend, for example, is a one-eyed monster with hair made of living, breathing snakes. It's apparent that these guys haven't lost any of their visual imagination, and they've raised the bar once again.

But if there's anything Pixar has taught us, it's that they've never let visuals take the place of razor-sharp wit and a solid story, and Monsters, Inc. doesn't disappoint on those levels. Pixar's trademark humor is in full force,

with abundant pop culture references and in-jokes, many of which will fly right over the heads of young children.

However, it's in the story department that the film comes up somewhat lacking. It's not that the premise is particularly poor, and it's executed with the usual Pixar verve. But watching it, I couldn't help feeling that there was just something missing. The Toy Story films were funny, yes, and had a manic, gleeful energy to them. But they had something more than that: a deeply resonant emo-

tional subtext. The first film dealt with the deep-rooted childhood fear of rejection, while the second film (a cinematic classic, in my opinion) contained a beautiful message about mortality and belonging. There's no such message here. While Monsters, Inc. does have a few tender moments towards the conclusion dealing with the power of friendship, they just don't cut as deep.

But don't, in any way, let that keep you from seeing this film. If anything, Monsters, Inc. is a polished, very funny

movie that works on multiple levels and should entertain both children and adults (sometimes adults moreso). It doesn't match the sheer cinematic joy of Pixar's earlier work, but very few films can. Get out there and see it.

Next week, I'll throw my hat into the ring on one of the biggest box office stories of the fall movie season: Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone vs. Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring. If prerelease hype is anything to go by, this is going to be a battle for the ages.