



Credit Card Mania

Characters: Rosa, May, Melody, Shopgirl/Waiter/Salesgirl

Synopsis: May gets herself a new credit card. Rosa warns her against the dangers of credit cards but May assures her she will use it sensibly. May and Melody go shopping in Fabulous Walk. They watch a fashion show in the Mall and then go clothes shopping. May is persuaded to buy quite a lot of expensive clothes. As May learns to use her card she starts to loosen up and buy more and more things until her shopping spree turns into a shopping mania!

Scene 1

May: Hey girls... look what I've got!

Melody: Wow... May! A credit card!

Rosa: Dangerous.

May: But great for shopping.

Rosa: When did you get it?

May: Just to-day... it came in the post... all I have to do is sign the back and then I can start using it.

Melody: That's gonna be so handy.

May: Why don' t YOU get one Melody.

Rosa: I haven't got enough money... you need to have over a certain amount in the bank to get one and I've got... Well... pretty much nothing.

May: I know but this is a new deal... it's from Blank Bank.

Rosa: Blank Bank?! Who are they May?

May: It's this new Bank... and to attract new customers they're offering credit card to students on special terms... so you DON'T have to have thousands of dollars in your account to get one.

Rosa: I've never heard of Blank Bank before.

May: Neither have but the other day I was given one of their leaflets and when I saw how easy it was to get a credit card with them I went along to the nearest branch and got one.

Rosa: Just like that?!

May: Yes, it was easy... I just had to sign a few papers, you know the usual thing and look... they've sent me a card.

Melody: Let's see... Mmmm... it's very pretty... it's got a teddy bear on it.

May: And look on the back.

Melody: Ah... what a sweet little pussy cat.

Rosa: Hm... it looks more like a toy than a credit card.

Melody: I think it's cute.

Rosa: May... are you SURE you really need a credit card.

May: It'll be handy Rosa... I won't have to carry cash around with me.

Rosa: But at least with cash you know how much you've spent.

Melody: I wonder if I should get one.

Rosa: Don't Melody.

Melody: Why not? May's got one.

Rosa: Yes but May's more sensible than you... you're a spendthrift.

Melody: No I'm not.

Rosa: I've never had a credit card and I have to say I don't think I've ever really needed one.

May: Okay so what if you see something you want to buy and you haven't got the cash on you... you can just pull out your Blank Bank card and get it on the spot.

Rosa: What's wrong with going to an ETC machine and getting some money out?

May: Takes time.

Rosa: But at least it gives you time to think about if you can really afford what it is you are about to buy.... With a credit card you might buy something on the spot and regret it later.

Melody: Impulse buying.

Rosa: Exactly Melody... impulse buying... buying stuff on the spot that you don't really want or need.

May: I'm not like that Rosa... I only buy stuff I need.

Rosa: Okay but that was before you had a credit.... Things could change once you discover how easy it is to buy things by just flashing that cute little teddy bear card.

May: I won't Rosa.

Melody: It is such a cute card... I love it.

Rosa: Well I think it looks like a toy... are you sure they're not asking you to pay in toy money May?

May: (Laughing) I wish they were.

Melody: What's your credit limit?

May: A hundred thousand.

Rosa: A hundred thousand dollars?!

May: Yes.

Rosa: That's crazy!

May: Is it Rosa? Why?

Rosa: Because you're only a student!

May: But that's why the bank gave me a high credit rating... they said as an undergraduate I would soon be working as a professional and earning a good salary... they said giving me this card was a recognition of my future potential.

Rosa: That's just sales talk May.

Melody: Is it Rosa... it kind of makes sense, I can see what they mean... like May IS going to get a good job one day and then she WILL be earning a big salary.

Rosa: One day Melody.... One day I agree... but at the moment she's only a student.

May: Don't worry about me Rosa.... look, I'll be careful okay?

Rosa: Do you know how much interest they charge on those cards?

May: Um... not sure... the standard bank rate I guess.

Rosa: No May... they charge much more than that. It can be as much as ten percent or more.

May: Anyway... it doesn't matter what they charge because I'll always be on time with my payments.

Rosa: You must May... instruct your bank to pay off your credit account bill every month so the debt doesn't mount up.

Melody: But what's the point of having a credit card if you do that?

Rosa: Melody... Don't encourage May to get into debt!

Melody: I'm not.... I'm only saying that.... well... if you have a credit card than you might as well use it.

Rosa: May... why don't you... give it back.

May: Give back my credit card?! But I've only just got it! I haven't even used it yet.

Melody: And it's so pretty.... How can she give back such a pretty card.

Rosa: Look, I've got some scissors... I can cut it up for you.

Melody: No... don't cut up that pretty card.... That poor teddy bear... you'll cut his head off and the pussy cat... she's sweet... you can't cut her up

Rosa: Oh for heaven's sakes Melody.... I'm trying to help May and all you can do is go on about the cute teddy bears and pussy cats on the damn credit card! Well they won't be so cute if May runs up a big bill she can't pay back.

May: Rosa... thanks for your concern... I appreciate it but... I'm going to be sensible... okay... I'll use my credit card only when I really have to.

Rosa: I hope so May, I really hope so.

Scene 2

(SFX: Sounds of big shopping mall. There is a fashion show going on in the Mall so there is pop music in the background)

Melody: I love Fabulous Walk!

May: So do I.

Melody: There's so many fabulous shops.

May: I know... and new ones opening all the time.

Melody: And free fashion shows!

May: I know... shall we go and have a look?

Melody: You bet... come on.

(SFX: Pop music from the fashion show a bit louder as they get closer to the show)

May: Wa.... Look at that model Melody.

Melody: She looks fantastic!

May: I love that top she's wearing.

Melody: I know... it goes really well with the trousers,.

May: I love the colour.

Melody: You'd look good in top and trousers May.

May: D'you think so?

Melody: Yes, you'd fantastic!

May: But you've got to be slim to wear something like that.

Melody: But you ARE slim May.

(SFX: More music)

May: Wa! Look at this model coming down the cat walk now.

Melody: I love that skirt.

May: Me too.

Melody: And those shoes she's wearing.

May: They really go with the skirt don't they.

Melody: Yes, a perfect match.

May: And that blouse she's wearing with it.

Melody: I really like the cut.

May: Me too... it's simple but nicely cut... it looks kind of classy.

Melody: I love it.

May: Which do you prefer... that top and slacks the first model is wearing or the blouse and skirt the second model is wearing.

Melody: Here come another model and look what SHE'S Wearing! Oh May I love it.

May: I love the colour.

Melody: And the style.

May: Any one would look good in that.

Melody: Not too tight.

May: But well cut... Wow, I wonder who the designer is?

Melody: Chang and Lee.

May: Chang and Lee?

Melody: Yes... they're really hot... a friend of mine bought a Chang and Lee top the other day and as soon as I saw her I said... Wa... you look great... and she just pointed to her top and said... "Chang and Lee"... I don't know what it is but clothes from Chang and Lee just make any girl look fabulous.

May: They must be expensive.

Melody: Well they're not cheap but... they're not as expensive as some labels... I think they're worth it... you get good quality clothes and great style.

May: Wa! Look at her.

Melody: See... if you look at that model she's actually quite ordinary... like you and me... it's the Chang and Lee clothes that make her look so good.

May: (Sighs) I'm sick of my wardrobe.... Every time I open it it's full of the same old clothes.

Melody: Why don't you get some new ones.

May: I wouldn't mind... I do need some new clothes.

Melody: Hey... when this fashion show is over why don't we go up to the Chang and Lee shop and check it out.

May: Shall we?

Melody: Why not?... we could just do a bit of window shopping... check out the prices and see what they've got... we don't have to buy anything.
May: Okay... let's do that....

(SFX: Music from the fashion show. Fade)

Scene 3

Melody: Look... they've got that top in the window... The one that model was wearing.
May: And the trousers.
Melody: And there's the skirt.
May: Gorgeous aren't they.
Melody: Oh yes.
May: But they don't say how much they cost.
Melody: No. Um, shall we go in and ask.
May: (Nervous) Ask?
Melody: Or we could just look on the labels.
May: Do you think we should?
Melody: Why not?

Interval

Scene 4

(SFX: As they enter the boutique we hear the music that is being played inside the shop)

Melody: (Whisper) Nice shop
May: Gorgeous clothes.
Melody: Look, there are the tops hanging up over there... let's go look at the label and see how much they cost.
May: Okay.

(SFX: More music)

Salesgirl: Can I help you?
May: Oh... um... we were just looking.

Salesgirl: What size are you?
May: Um... eight.
Salesgirl: That's a ten you've got there.
May: Is it?
Salesgirl: Here's an eight.
May: Oh, yes, thanks.
Salesgirl: The changing rooms are through there.
May: Changing rooms?
Melody: Go on May... no harm in just trying it on.
May: Um... okay.
Salesgirl: Do you want to try anything else one while you're there?
Melody: Can she try on those trousers?
May: (Shocked) Melody!
Salesgirl: Of course... these ones you mean?
Melody: Yes, those are the ones aren't they May?
May: Um... yes.
Salesgirl: What size waist?
May: Twenty six.
Salesgirl: Twenty six.... In the black or the pink.
Melody: Try the pink ones on May.
May: Pink? Um... no.... I'll try on the black ones please.
Salesgirl: Black twenty eight and an eight top.
May: Thanks.
Salesgirl: Anything else?
May: No thanks.
Melody: (Speaking over May) What about trying on a pair of those shoes... look, those were the ones that model was wearing.
May: But she was wearing them with the skirt.
Salesgirl: This skirt you mean?
Melody: Yes... that was the one! How d'you know?
Salesgirl: They got all the gear for the fashion show from here... it's really nice that skirt... I bought one myself.
Melody: Did you?
Salesgirl: Yeah... I had too... they're so nice.
Melody: They are nice.
May: But...
Melody: Try it on May... just to see what it looks like.
Salesgirl: The changing rooms are through there.

May: Oh okay... thanks.

(SFX: More shop music as May is changing)

May: How do I look?

Melody: Oh May... you look fantastic!

Salesgirl: You do like nice... that style really suits you.

May: Does it?

Melody: You look like one of those models we saw on the cat walk.

May: I don't think so.

Melody: No you do May... doesn't she?

Salesgirl: You look very very nice... very modern and stylish.

Melody: Are the shoes comfortable?

May: Yes, yes they are.

Salesgirl: How about the top and pants?

May: Yes, they fit really well.

Melody: May... you look stunning.

Salesgirl: There's a mirror here.

Melody: Look... see how fantastic you look.

May: Yes, they're nice.

Melody: Now go and try on the skirt.

May: D'you think I should?

Melody: Of course.

Salesgirl: You do look nice.

Melody: The boys will be falling over themselves!

May: Okay.

(SFX: More shop music)

Melody: Wow! That skirt is perfect!

Salesgirl: It's a good fit.

Melody: You HAVE to have that May... you just HAVE to!

Salesgirl: Look in the mirror.

Melody: See May... wow... it is SO perfect.

May: Yes, it is nice.

Salesgirl: Good fit too.

May: Well um....

Salesgirl: Shall I wrap them for you?

May: Um...

Melody: You said your wardrobe needed updating.

May: I know.

Melody: Well.... if you just buy the skirt, pants, top and shoes.... You won't need to buy anything else... and you do look gorgeous in them.

May: (Pause) Um... do you accept credit cards?

Salesgirl: Yes of course we do.

May: Um... okay then.

Melody: (Squeals with excitement) Oh May... How exciting!

Salesgirl: If you'd like to take the skirt off and hand it to me I'll pack everything up for you, okay?

May: Yes of course.

(SFX: More shop music)

Salesgirl: There we are. And you... credit card.

May: It's a Blank Bank credit card... is that okay?

Salesgirl: Oh yes... absolutely.

May: Thanks.

Salesgirl: Oh.

May: What... what is it?

Salesgirl: You haven't signed the back.

May: Oh.

Salesgirl: That's okay... just sign it now and that'll be fine.

May: Okay.

(Pause)

Salesgirl: That's it.... now if you'll just sign here.

May: Um....

Salesgirl: Just at the bottom there.

Melody: It's so exciting!

May: Is that right?

Salesgirl: Yes, that's fine, thank you Madam... and here are your things.

May: Thanks you.

Salesgirl: Goodbye.

May: Good Bye.

Melody: Bye!

(SFX: Shop music fades and shopping Mall ambient sound comes up)

Melody: Oh May... how exciting... you've got a complete new wardrobe and all from Chang and Lee!... you'll be so hot!

May: I know... I went a bit mad.

Melody: It was worth it though.... Um... how much did it all come to?

May: I'm not sure.

Melody: Oh.

May: I didn't look, I was too busy signing here and signing there.

Melody: Well have a look now.

May: Um...

Melody: Just look on your credit card slip it will tell you how much you've paid.

May: Okay...

(SFX: Rustling of her credit card slip)

Melody: So how much did it all come to?

May: (Pause) That can't be right.

Melody: Chang and Lee aren't cheap you know.

May: You can say THAT again.

Melody: How much was it?

May: Six thousand three hundred and twenty two dollars.

Melody: (Pause) Let me see.

May: Oh dear... I've never spent that much on clothes before.

Melody: Well... it's not THAT bad... if you'd bought the same sort of things in Arnolfinis's or Sheek de Sheek you would have paid twice as much.

May: Really?

Melody: Easily.

May: (Pause) But... (Gulps) Six thousand three hundred dollars... for a top and...

Melody: Pants and a skirt and shoes.... That's not bad and it IS Chang and Lee May.

May: Yes, yes I suppose it is.

Melody: Let's go and have a drink and a cake or something.

May: Okay.

(Brief music)

Melody: Mmmm... that cheese cake was delicious.
May: I know... I don't usually come in here but today is special...
Melody: You may pay more but the quality is so much better than other places.
May: Let's get the bill.
Melody: Okay.
May: Excuse me... can we have the bill please.
Waitress: Yes madam.
Melody: You're going to attract so much attention when you get into your new clothes.
May: I hope so.
Melody: You will May... boys will be lining up to talk to you... you'll have so many dates you won't know how to fit them all in.
Waitress: Here's your bill madam.
May: Thanks. Do you accept credit cards?
Waitress: Yes of course.
May: There we are.
Waitress: Thank you.
Melody: Let me give you my half May.
May: No it's okay.
Melody: Are you sure?
May: Sure.
Waitress: Just sign here madam.
May: Thank you. (Slight pause) Right... I feel quite refreshed.
Melody: Yes, that was nice.
May: Time to do some more shopping.
Melody: (Giggles) More shopping May?!
May: Yes, why not, I'm in the mood.
Melody: Well, okay then... I never say no to a spot of shopping.
May: I need a new bag to carry my books in... I'm sick of this one... I've had it for ages and it really needs throwing out.
Melody: Mmm... there's a great bag shop on the second floor... Madrid Leather... they've got bags to die for there.
May: Okay... let's hit Madrid Leather.

(Brief music)

Melody: That's gorgeous May.

Salesgirl: It's top quality leather.
May: Okay... so it's either going to be this one... or this one... what do you think?
Melody: Um, well I like that one myself.
May: Yes, I do too.
Salesgirl: That one is made of superior leather.
May: Do you accept credit cards?
Salesgirl: Oh yes Madam... of course we do.

(Brief music)

Melody: I love your new bag.
May: Me too.
Melody: I'm feeling a bit tired now... shall we call it a day and go home.
May: Go home?! No way! Come on Melody... let's go and have something to eat at Zuni's.
Melody: Zuni's? Wow, I've never eaten there before... they say the food's fabulous but... it's a bit pricey.
May: Right... let's check it out.

(Brief music)

Melody: Mmm... that was delicious.
May: Waiter.... Bill please.
Waiter: Yes madam.
Melody: We've eaten so much.
May: You know what the Irish writer Oscar Wilde said Melody.
Melody: No, what did he say May?
May: I can resist anything... except... temptation.
Melody: (Laughing) He must have written that line for you May.
Waiter: Your bill Madam.
May: Do you accept credit cards?
Waiter: Of course madam.
May: Good.... Well where to next Melody?
Melody: My bed I think... I need to lie down and take a long rest after all that shopping and eating.
May: You know I'm sick of my CD collection... let's just pop into H.V.M. and see if they've got the sound track from Crouching Dragon Hidden

Lion.

Melody: Oh okay then....

(Brief music)

May: And that one I think.

Melody: Wow May... you've got ten CDs in your basket.

May: I haven't bought a CD for ages. Okay. Let's go.

(Brief music)

Salesgirl: Thank you madam.

May: Do you accept credit cards.

Salesgirl: Oh yes, of course Madam.

May: Great. Now then... where shall we go now?

Melody: Home?

May: When's your birthday Melody?

Melody: Not until October.

May: Right, let's go and buy you a birthday present Melody.

Melody: But May... it's only April... May!

May: Come on... I'm going to get you a beautiful art book.... I've seen one in Page Two I think you'll love... come on.

Melody: But... art book?

May: It's full of famous film posters.

Melody: Sounds interesting.

May: I knew you'd like it.... come on Melody.

(Echo) Thank you do you accept credit cards...?

Voice: Of course madam.

May: (Pause) Thank you. Do you accept credit cards?

Voice: Of course madam. Of course. Of course.

The End