



A CHRISTMAS CAROL  
*a ghost story of christmas*

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### Company Aids The Dishonest

December 13, 2006

Thinking about faking illness to take the day off from work? How about pretending to have a family emergency to break a date? With the Illinois company Alibi Network, you can tell such lies until your nose stretches halfway across the country - and the company claims you can get away with it.

The Alibi Network's website advertises everything an incorrigible liar could want. People who wish to get out of a boring date can order a "rescue" phone call complete with "suitable background noises to give it greater authenticity." People involved in extramarital affairs can go on romantic trips but tell their spouses that they are attending work seminars. The Alibi Network will supply their cheating clients with digital photographs supposedly taken of them and other participants at the seminar. The company has all the details covered. And with prices between \$35 and \$175 for individual services, the Alibi Network has made blatant lying affordable.

In fact, the company even implies that deception can be commendable. A radio commercial promises clients who use the company to hide extramarital affairs that "your partner will be spared the hurt" of discovering the infidelity.

The Alibi Network's services are so outrageous that they may seem amusing. The message implied by the company, however, is serious: Deception is a part of life; it is acceptable. Perhaps deception is widespread in our society, but it is unacceptable and a leap too far to commercialize it.

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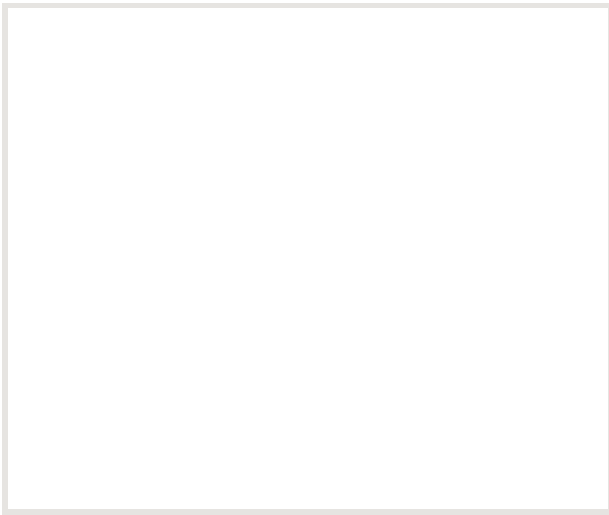
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It is amazing that consumers would trust a company whose business is dishonesty. It is also amazing - and disconcerting - that there is a market for such well-planned deception. Whatever happened to "Honesty is the best policy"?



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