**Consequence**

By Deborah Karczewski

***(MAUREEN and TINA are sitting in two chairs facing front, which represents a car. MAUREEN pantomimes subtle driving motions throughout. TINA speaks to break the tense silence.)***

TINA: I owe you one, Sis....Sure am lucky that you showed up....I’ll pay you back... honestly, Maureen... every last dime... orwe could consider it an early birthday present.

MAUREEN: Birthday *and* Christmas for a couple of *years*.

TINA: Sure. We could do that. I’m really, really sorry. I... I don’t know what else to say.

MAUREEN: Good. Then shut up.

TINA: Maureen, Mr. Reynolds *said* that he knew you weren’t involved. He *said* that he’d give me a break this time. So, it’s all over, OK? Let’s just forget about it, all right?

MAUREEN: I’ve never been so embarrassed in my entire life.

TINA: I’m SORRY - Geez!

MAUREEN: *You’re* giving *me* attitude? *You*?

TINA: Well, how often do I have to apologize? I’m sorry! It’ll never happen again! Can we drop it already?

MAUREEN: Tina, I could have been fired!

TINA: But you weren’t!

MAUREEN: And that makes everything OK?

TINA: Well, doesn’t it?

MAUREEN: NO!If you needed those clothes so badly, why didn’t you just *ask* me? Employees get a big discount! We could have put them on layaway! You could have asked me to *lend* you the money! You could have asked Mom or Dad! But *shoplifting*?

TINA: Because I *didn’t* need them so badly.

MAUREEN: Then why?

TINA: Because I *wanted* them so badly. That’s why!

MAUREEN: I am not hearing this!

TINA: Oh, now don’t start sounding so high and mighty —

MAUREEN: — Tina, maybe - just maybe - I could understand you for stealing if we were poor - if we were starving! Maybe I could understand if you were a little kid and didn’t know any better! But you don’t need to steal and you’re in high school!

TINA: Would you lay off? I was just having a little fun. Nobody got hurt. What’s the big deal?

MAUREEN: You know, it’s a good thing I have to keep my hands on the steering wheel ‘cause I feel like ripping out your hair! I - WORK - THERE!

TINA: That’s why Mr. Reynolds let me off the hook! He said that since you were such a hotshot employee, he’d let me off with paying the bill and staying out of his store! See? Being the sister of Miss Perfect really paid off!  
MAUREEN: Tina, I am busting my butt trying to help pay for college next year. Do you have any idea how hard it’s been trying to keep up my grades *and* working all these hours? Now Mr. Reynolds will be watching me like a hawk. How can I make you see what you’ve done to me? Nobody got hurt? *I* got hurt!

TINA: Sorry. I know it was stupid - I do. It’s just that I was bored and —

MAUREEN: — Bored? Bored? Try TV! Try video games! How ‘bout reading a book? Hey, that’s a unique thought!

TINA: I know. You’re right.

MAUREEN: And let’s forget for a minute about how you could have gotten *me* fired. Let’s forget about how stealing is sneaky and cowardly and immoral, OK? Let’s concentrate on *you*. Stealing is against the law, you twit! Mr. Reynolds would have had every right to call the police!

TINA: You think I don’t know that? When I was alone in that office while Mr. Reynolds was out phoning you, I didn’t know if I was going to be arrested or what! All I could think of was - would I have to go to reform school? Would this mess be in the newspapers? Would I have to pick up garbage on the highway for community service? Don’t look at me like I’m an idiot, Maureen. I was scared out of my skin!

MAUREEN: Well, sorry if I don’t feel too much pity....Actually... to be honest... I’m sorta *glad* to see you so upset.

TINA: What a pal.

MAUREEN: No - seriously. What got me the angriest was that you were acting so... cool... like none of this had any effect on you.