

# Shoplifting

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

It seemed so unfair! There were so many nice things to buy, and so little money. Why did stores get all of the good stuff? Sharon pouted. She perused the accessories and small goods. There was so much cute stuff!

After awhile, she wandered off to the clothes. Man, there were quite a few nice outfits, too. There were shoes she wanted, a couple hats, some nice pants, a cute skirt... the list went on. It was depressing.

Even in the shoe department there were some nice things. She tried on a pair of sneakers she'd been tempted to buy for a long time. They were on sale, but she still didn't have enough. They fit perfectly, and matched her outfit, too. It was like she was meant to have them.

She paced up and down the aisles, trying them out. How could she not have them? Sharon walked back to the box, and a thought occurred to her. Why not stick her old shoes in the box and just walk out with these on? There were no tags, and they matched her outfit. It looked like they were meant to be on her feet.

She agonized over it, but then decided to do it. The only thing was how to leave with the shoes on. She decided to use the bathroom first to think about it. The bathroom gave her time to think. Was this really the right thing to do? Would it even really hurt a store this size? They must make millions of dollars a day anyway, right?

Sharon frowned at the shoes. They were just too nice to give up. She purposely scuffed the back of one shoe just a little, to make them look not so new. It didn't hurt them much, but it was good enough to help answer any questions that people might have, right?

Smiling, she washed her hands and left the bathroom, only to walk into a group of three people wearing dark vests that said "Loss Prevention" on them. Her heart hammered in her chest and her mouth went dry. She opened her mouth to say something, but just hung her head instead.

"Come with us, miss." The biggest guy of the three said.

Tears started to run down her face, and she couldn't even bother to protest. They'd caught her. The sign on the wall next to the bathroom said, "No unpaid merchandise in the restroom areas." They knew what she was going to do.

"Let's go call your parents." Another of the tree said.

This was not going to be good, Sharon though. Why had she been so foolish?



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Where is Sharon?
  - A. at a supermarket
  - B. at a store
  - C. at a mall
  - D. at a library
  
2. Why is Sharon upset at the store?
  - A. There are so many things to buy that she can't decide.
  - B. There are too many ugly clothes.
  - C. She can't afford to get everything she wants.
  - D. The workers are rude.
  
3. What does Sharon decide to do?
  - A. Ask mom for more money
  - B. Come back next week with her allowance
  - C. Put things on her Christmas list
  - D. Steal something
  
4. What does Sharon decide to shoplift?
  - A. a necklace
  - B. a watch
  - C. shoes
  - D. a shirt
  
5. What happens when Sharon comes out of the bathroom?
  - A. Her mom tells her to hurry up.
  - B. Her phone rings.
  - C. She leaves the store
  - D. Loss prevention workers catch her.

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