EXTRACT

Twenty Dollars

A short play

By

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Characters

SOPHIE - The accused

MANDY – Accuser

KYRA – Friend of Mandy, fellow accuser

CAROLINE – Sophie's friend

TRACEY – Class clown

The Setting

School playground

Time

Afternoon.

Corner of Playground. Afternoon. SOPHIE, MANDY and KYRA.

MANDY: You did it so why don't you just own up. Only makes it worse to lie.

SOPHIE: I'm not lying – I didn't do it.

KYRA: Yes you did. There was no one else around. Mrs Morgan said so.

SOPHIE: It doesn't matter. It wasn't me.

MANDY: Then who was it – the Refos?

SOPHIE: I don't know. Maybe she miscounted.

KYRA: So now you're calling Mrs Morgan a liar.

SOPHIE: I'm not calling anybody a liar. I just didn't take the money.

KYRA: Then who did?

SOPHIE: I just told you. I don't know. Now just leave me alone.

MANDY: What's wrong? Isn't Miss Perfect so perfect anymore.

SOPHIE: Shut up.

MANDY: Just because you're class Captain you're not so special.

SOPHIE: I didn't say that.

MANDY: You think you're above everybody else.

SOPHIE: I do not. Anyway, what's this got to do with you? Why does it matter whether I stole the money or not.

KYRA: We just don't like things getting stolen on school property. Makes everybody edgy.

SOPHIE: Or maybe you took the twenty dollars and you just want to make sure someone else gets the blame.

MANDY: (PUSHING SOPHIE) Don't you accuse us you little bitch. Not unless you're ready to back it up.

CAROLINE: (ENTERING) Leave her alone.

KYRA: Oh, it's the other ugly twin. Should've known you'd be hanging around.

MANDY: Where you find one the other won't be far away.

CAROLINE: Sorry. Are you talking about yourself?

SOPHIE: Don't Caroline. It's not worth it.

MANDY: You can say that again.

CAROLINE: (TO SOPHIE) Sophie, what's going on? Miss Hampden sent me to get you.

SOPHIE: Why?

CAROLINE: You have to go to the Principal's office.

MANDY & KYRA: Ooohh! Busted.

CAROLINE: What's wrong?

SOPHIE: Don't worry. It's all a mistake.

MANDY: You just can't stop lying can you?

KYRA: She should be the School Captain of Lying.

CAROLINE: What kind of mistake?

KYRA: Tell her what you did Sophie. Tell her.

MANDY: Or we will.

CAROLINE: It's okay Soph. We'll work it out. Just tell me.

SOPHIE: (AFTER A PAUSE) I was over at the Tuckshop getting some chips and Mrs Morgan said there was some money on the counter.

MANDY: Stop pretending you didn't see it.

SOPHIE: I didn't.

CAROLINE: Forget them. Then what happened?

SOPHIE: I got my chips and I'm just walking away and Mrs Morgan just yells at me: "Hey, give me that back." And I turned around, everybody was looking, it was really embarrassing.

KYRA: Only what you deserved.

SOPHIE: So I held up the chips and I said: "But I paid for these." And she said: "Not those. You know what I mean." And so I walked back to the tuckshop and I said really quietly, so she would stop yelling, "Mrs Morgan, what are you talking about?" And she just yells – even louder

SOPHIE: (CONT) – "The twenty dollars that was sitting right here on the counter. What did you do with it?" And I told her I never saw any twenty dollars and she just says" "Give it back now Randle. Before you make it worse for yourself."

KYRA: Absolutely right.

SOPHIE: And I said – "I didn't take it." I was almost crying.

MANDY: Oh Boo-hoo.

SOPHIE: And Mrs Morgan just says: "We'll see what the Principal has to say."

CAROLINE: Hate that old hag.

KYRA: I'll be reporting that as well.

CAROLINE: What is it with you two Kyra?

KYRA: Weren't you listening in assembly? "When people steal things –

MANDY: "It effects the whole school."

CAROLINE: Weren't you listening. Sophie didn't steal anything.

MANDY: Who says she didn't?

CAROLINE: She did.

MANDY: Oh yeah, and we're meant to believe her.

CAROLINE: Why shouldn't we?

MANDY: Because I'm sick of you two getting away with everything. Just because you're really smart and you're like the teacher's pet you two get away with all sorts of stuff. Then when Kyra and I do like the tiniest little thing wrong we get totally crapped on.

SOPHIE: That's not true.

MANDY: Says you? Like you two walk in fifteen minutes late and it's like "Take your seat Sophie" and when me and Kyra are just five minutes late it's "Three more detention points."

SOPHIE: That's only because she knows you've been smoking down the back.

KYRA: Says you.

CAROLINE: Look I'm sorry you get a hard time but how is getting Sophie busted going to help.