

PLEA FOR FREEDOM

A Ten-Minute Comedy Duet

by
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CAST: TINA and MOM

TINA: Please Mom! Please! My social life is at stake.

MOM: Your real life may be at stake in a moment.

TINA: You can't do this! This one event could affect my entire life.

MOM: Tina, you heard exactly what I said.

TINA: Pretty please.

MOM: No! Get out of my face.

TINA: I'll do whatever it takes, Mom...absolutely anything! We're talking major bribery here. I'm your human slave.

MOM: Is your hearing bad?

TINA: I know I messed up by making those two F's on my report card, but is it really going to help by keeping me shut up in the house on a Saturday night?

MOM: It might give you a little focus on your priorities.

TINA: What's that supposed to mean?

MOM: When you don't have a job and I ask very little of you around the house, there is no excuse for not getting your homework turned in on time. You used to be a straight "A" student.

TINA: I used to have no social life.

MOM: Congratulations! History actually does repeat itself.

TINA: And to think, you were the person who encouraged me to be outgoing and get to know more people.

MOM: True enough. But I didn't encourage you to tie up our phone 24-7.

TINA: I don't talk on the phone all the time.

MOM: No. Now that you're grounded from the phone, you don't get to use it at all.

TINA: Unfair...gross exaggeration number one.

MOM: You're just lucky Grandma is still with us. If she had died, you could have been held for murder.

TINA: Exaggeration number two.

MOM: Don't think so. Grandma couldn't get out of the bathtub. She's too weak to pull the drain, but that cordless phone might have come in handy.

TINA: She only knows our number and the number for Gamblers Anonymous.

MOM: She couldn't get through to us for 36 hours. And for your information, Grandma knows the number to a few casinos in Vegas. During those 36 hours, she cleaned out what was left of my inheritance.

TINA: I couldn't have been on the phone for that long.

MOM: You obviously were.

TINA: At least she's alive.

MOM: Your grandmother practically marinated in that water.

TINA: Gram was wrinkled before the bathtub incident.

MOM: But now she has webbed feet. The poor woman can hardly walk.

TINA: Yes, but she makes up for it in the swimming pool.

MOM: Tina!

TINA: Okay, I'm not perfect. I just need to prioritize my life. For instance, tomorrow I plan to occupy myself with math and science the entire day. In order to balance that out, tonight would be more productive if I got a little exercise.

MOM: You're welcome to use my treadmill.

TINA: The dance at Jenny's house was what I had in mind.

MOM: I know what you have in mind. You might as well know that I won't waver on this. I didn't make the low grades. You did.

TINA: This is Saturday night, though. No one is expected to study on a Saturday night.

MOM: I didn't say you had to study tonight, though it wouldn't do you any harm.

TINA: Then what's the purpose of keeping me shut up from the rest of the world?

MOM: To give you sufficient motivation to keep your grades high. Going to college is more important than going to a dance. When your grades go up, you can rejoin the ranks of the living.

TINA: But it's three solid weeks until the teachers put out new progress reports.

MOM: For now, I'd learn to love the great indoors.

TINA: **(Pause)** Mom, did you do something to your hair? You look very pretty this evening.

MOM: Thanks, Tina. It's nice to know I look so good without any make-up on.

TINA: You look heavenly just as you are. No need to waste make-up on your beauty. Yes sir, you look good without anything. I think you're the only mom I know who could show up to a party nude and without make-up and still look terrific.

MOM: I'll certainly keep that in mind the next time you throw a party. Let me write that down in my planner. "Birthday suit, no make-up." Got it! See, I can be cooperative.

TINA: You're hysterical, Mom. You can be so funny, sometimes. That's what I love about you.

MOM: Stop kissing up to me. I'm not like Jenny's mother. She grounds that silly friend of yours practically every week, but manages to get sweet-talked out of it each time. I don't punish you very often, but when I do, the punishment stands.

TINA: No exceptions at all?

MOM: Maybe some.

TINA: Really?

MOM: Yes. If a tidal wave floods us or a volcano erupts, we'll certainly evacuate.

TINA: Mom, don't make fun of my plight.

MOM: I'm not.

TINA: Yes you are! We don't have any rivers or oceans to flood the town, and the closest volcano would be...well, I don't know where.

MOM: Then maybe you should crack open your geography book. It contains all that information, I'm sure.

TINA: I wasn't kidding about how nice you look tonight. You and Dad should get out more often. There are so many things in this town for older people to do.

MOM: Yes, I heard about that big checkers game down at the nursing home. If I grab my teeth and swig down some Geritol, your elderly father and I would just have time to make the big tournament.

TINA: Don't be like that. You know exactly what I mean.

MOM: Since when did you become interested in mine or your father's social lives?

TINA: Since I lost mine, I figure someone in this house should be happy.

MOM: Sweetheart, you know we're perfectly happy staying here with you. It's great to spend a Saturday night all together at home. That hasn't happened in a while.

TINA: Great! What a thrill!

MOM: If we happen to leave the house for any reason, the telephones are going with us.

TINA: Mother, you are being completely unreasonable.

MOM: Get off my back, Tina.

TINA: Come on, Mom. Just let me go to Jenny's dance. I'll come home super early and get to bed so I can be rested and alert when I study tomorrow. On second thought, I'll stay up late and study tonight when I get in from Jenny's. Mom, they expect me to be there. You just have to let me go!

MOM: If you don't knock it off, I'll let you go, all right.

TINA: Really!?!

MOM: Yes. I'll let you go to bed early.

TINA: **(Yelling)** You hate me!

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