

The Big Savings Mistakes

Sarina Spender is heading off to the movies with her BFF (or best friend) Lucy Luckless. They're planning to see the latest 3-D movie and can't wait. They want to be sure to get the biggest tub of popcorn and the hugest drinks they have at the theater. Now 3-D movies are expensive and so is movie theater popcorn. So you can imagine this is going to be quite the costly outing.

When Sarina gets to the movie theater, she sees Lucy is already there, along with a whole bunch of other people waiting to buy tickets. She goes inside to find Lucy on the phone with her mom. Lucy is going to use the ATM in the theater to get cash for their big adventure. Sarina hears Lucy saying to her mom, "I know I'm supposed to know my PIN number, but I just can't remember it. Is it my birthday, 1015, for October 15th, or is it our house number, 2372? I can never remember. I know one of them has to be right."

Lucy gets off the phone and says hello to Sarina. She rolls her eyes and says, "I'm not sure why my mom makes such a big deal out of my PIN, it isn't like knowing my PIN is that important, right?" She tries the first number at the machine and it doesn't work. She says to Sarina, "Must not be my birthday. Let's try my house number – 2372."

This time it works. Lucy takes her cash from the machine. She and Sarina get in the long line to buy tickets. Sarina gets her money out of her wallet and says to Lucy, "See, Lucy, I don't have to worry about getting money from the ATM. I have lots of cash." She opens her wallet wide so Lucy can see a big stack of ones, fives, ten, and even twenty dollar bills.

When they get to the counter, Sarina pays first. With all the cash in her wallet, she has exact change for the movie. Lucy, on the other hand, only got \$20 bills from the ATM. She tells the person at the counter to "keep the change." She's got plenty of money now!

With tickets in hand, the girls head inside to load up on popcorn and drinks. They decide they are living large on this outing. Each gets the biggest tub of popcorn possible, with extra butter, and the most gigantic drink.

They are so big the girls can barely carry them back to the theater without spilling. They get situated in the theater just as the previews start. About half way through the movie—and half way through their popcorn and drinks—both girls decide that a



run to the bathroom is needed. Girls being girls, they decide they'll go together but make it quick. They don't want to miss anything at the movie. They leave all their stuff by their seats and head to the bathrooms. They aren't gone long. When they get back, they settle into their seats and don't touch the rest of their popcorn or drinks. They are way too full!

When the movie is over, they get up to leave. They pick up their half-eaten tubs of popcorn and their half-full drinks and head for the doors. Each takes one more sip of their drinks before tossing the rest in the trash on their way out. Neither realizes that their purses, which they left on the floor when they went to the bathroom, are gone.

When they get to the lobby they decide they need one more treat before they leave. This time they'll split a candy bar. They go to get their money and realize they don't have their purses. They head back to the theater but can't find them anywhere. They tell the theater manager, who promises to look around and let them know if the purses are found.

Not only are they missing their wallets now, but also their keys. Luckily, Sarina had her cell phone in her pocket (she'd been texting her boyfriend during the movie). She calls her mom to come and get them.

When Sarina's mom gets there, she tells the girls they are going to the police station to file a report. The girls go to the station. The police officer asks each girl to write a list of everything that was in her purse and wallet. Sarina thinks through what was in it the last time she checked. She knew about the cash, but what else was in there? She had her driver's license, her school I.D. card, and her Social Security card that she'd had since she was a kid. Her mom always told her to keep that in a safe place.

When they were all done, they went home and hoped to get a call that the police had found their purses. They just couldn't imagine what they were going to do without them. After all, they wanted to go see another movie tomorrow.

