

**Fill in the gaps with a suitable phrase in the correct form.**

1. Guilt
2. Dreadful
3. haunted by
4. nag away at one's conscience
5. to get the truth off her chest
6. get some shut-eye
7. desperate attempt
8. frantically
9. in the dead of night
10. temptation
11. Keep a secret



### **The Weight of Guilt**

Emma was known for her kindness, but she was haunted by a ..... guilt that ..... One evening, she discovered a hidden safe at the bank where she worked. Being strapped for cash, the ..... was too great, and she took some money, planning to return it soon. Days turned into weeks, and Emma struggled to .....

Every night, she was ..... visions of being caught. The thought ..... replayed in her mind, especially ....., preventing her from falling asleep. The ..... grew unbearable, and Emma knew she had to get it off her chest.

In a ..... to find relief, she wrote a confession letter and slipped it under her manager's door. The next morning, her manager, Mr. Thompson, read the letter with a grave expression. "Why didn't you come to me sooner?" he asked softly.

Tears streaming down her face, Emma replied, "I was scared. The temptation was too great, and I couldn't bear the guilt any longer."

Mr. Thompson sighed. "We will have to address this, but I'm glad you decided to come clean."

Though she faced consequences, Emma felt a weight lifting from her shoulders. For the first time in months, she managed to ....., finally free after ..... She knew the road to redemption would be long, but she was hopeful she could rebuild her life with honesty.