



IN LINE

By Katherine Luna Gate

A SMITH SCRIPT

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# In Line

A short screenplay by

Katherine Luna Gate

(inspired by a true story)

CHARACTERS: MARK – young lad in his early 20s. Well kempt, tall and well built, assertive and firm, yet kind and respectful.

TOM – aged 27, can be any nationality. He is smaller than Mark.

GRACE – aged 23, can be any nationality. She’s smaller than Mark.

MANAGER – early to mid 40s. Tall but overweight.

DEPUTY MANAGER – mid to late 30s. Mid height and skinny.

THE BOSS – middle aged man, displaying more or less the same characteristics of Mark, just with something like 30 years more experience.

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#### **CAR PARK OF A SUPERMARKET - DAY**

An old Skôda drives in and stops in a parking space. A young man gets out of the car, locks it and walks towards the entrance of the supermarket. He’s wearing a top with the supermarket logo. There is a queue of five people already waiting for the shop to open to the public. It’s 8:45am. Mark nods and smiles as he is allowed in by a guard opening the door from the inside.

MARK

Good morning, everybody. It won’t be too long.

Some people respond with a greeting or with a nod, some possibly with a smile under their mask.

#### **INT. SUPERMARKET MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY**

Upon entering, Mark notices that he guard looks pale.

MARK

Bloody hell, Tom... are you ok?

TOM

Nah, I feel dreadful...

MARK

Too much Corona last night, uh?

Mark blinks. Tom shakes his head.

MARK

Or is it *the* Corona?!

Mark takes a long step backwards.

TOM

Sod off, Mark!

MARK

Oh, c'mon mate, you know I'm joking!

Mark elbows Tom on one arm, then leaves the porch area and walks into the shop.

### **INT. CORRIDOR LEADING TO VARIOUS OFFICES - DAY**

From Mark's POV, we see the staff room door. Close up on Mark: he is about to open the door when he hears a conversation between the manager and the deputy manager.

Therefore, he moves closer to the door.

MANAGER

He's going home. He looks awful, I don't want him around in case he's caught the virus. Remove him quickly before the doors open.

DEPUTY

Who are we going to replace him with? There's barely people on the floor today!

The manager comes up with an instant solution.

MANAGER

I'd rather be on the floor than on the door... We'll put Mark to guard today, he's one of the new recruits, I know no one working today that would want to do it! Make sure you instruct him on what to do.

DEPUTY

Sure!

Mark rolls his eyes, purses his lips, and knocks on the door seconds before the Manager exits the room.

MANAGER

Well, well... just the man!

MARK

Hi... You guys ok?

MANAGER

Yeah, we were just talking about you!

MARK

Oh... what about?

The manager grins at the Deputy.

MANAGER

He's all yours!

He exits. Mark looks puzzled at the Deputy, pretending not to know the topic of the conversation.

DEPUTY

Tom's going home. We suspect he's got the virus. He'll have to self-isolate for the next two weeks.

MARK

O-k! What's this got to do with me?

DEPUTY

You're replacing him today. It's an emergency!

Mark nods his head very slowly, again pursing his lips.

MARK

I've never been on the door before.

DEPUTY

It's quite simple. You must not allow more than 50 people at any one time. Can you count?