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The Kindness of Strangers sample
NOT FOR SALE

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The Kindness of Strangers
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1. The woman in the supermarket

Jenny was in the supermarket. She was with her son, Daniel. He was four years old. The supermarket was very busy. It was 6:00pm. Jenny finished work at 5:00pm. She picked up Daniel from the kindergarten. Then, she went to the supermarket.

"I want candy!" said Daniel. "I want candy! I want candy!"

"Be quiet," said Jenny. "I will get you some candy, but first, I have to buy food for dinner tonight."

"I want candy! I want candy now!" shouted Daniel.

"Wait! And please be quiet!" said Jenny.

Jenny went to the vegetable section and picked up some potatoes, carrots, onions and broccoli. She planned to make stew. It was winter, and she wanted to eat something warm. Then, she went to the milk section and picked up some milk. She bought some yoghurts for breakfast.

I have chicken for the stew at home. But I need bread, she thought.

She went to the bakery section. Daniel saw the cakes.

"I want cake! I want cake!" he shouted. People looked at him.

"Be quiet Daniel! I'll buy you some candy, but you can't have cake too!" said Jenny.

"But I want chocolate cake!" shouted Daniel.

I want to get out of here quickly, thought Jenny. She picked up some bread and put it in her shopping basket.

"I want that chocolate cake!" shouted Daniel. He started to cry.

Jenny walked to the juice section and got some orange juice.

"Now, we can go to the candy section," said Jenny.

"Yes!" said Daniel. He stopped crying and smiled.

They walked to the candy section.

"OK, you can choose one item," said Jenny. "Be quick."

Daniel looked at all the candy. Then, he chose a bag of chocolate.

"Do you want this?" asked Jenny. "OK, put it in the basket."

Daniel put it in the basket.

"OK, we are finished. Let's go to the checkout," said Jenny.

They walked through the supermarket to the checkout. There were long lines at all the checkout desks.

Oh no! thought Jenny. *There are so many people!*

Jenny and Daniel got in line. After ten minutes, Daniel was tired.

"I don't want to stand here!" he said. "I want to go!"

"We can't go. We have to pay for our shopping. We have to wait," said Jenny.

"I want my candy now!" said Daniel.

"You have to wait! We have to pay first!" said Jenny.

The line moved slowly. The people in front of Jenny had a lot of items.

After twenty minutes, Jenny and Daniel reached the checkout desk. Jenny put her shopping on the desk.

"Hello!" said the cashier.

"Hello," said Jenny.

The cashier scanned all of Jenny's items. Jenny put the items into a large bag.

"I want my candy!" shouted Daniel.

Jenny gave Daniel the candy. He opened it and started to eat it.

"That's thirty pounds and fifty-two pence please," said the cashier.

Jenny took out her credit card and put it into the credit card machine. Then she waited. Something was wrong. The machine didn't accept the card.

-----END OF SAMPLE-----