Jason was angry. He works in grocery. Anger was a daily event. Subduing anger was necessary. Today was no different.

The random lady screamed. They always yelled. They yell when wrong. The more wrong the louder. She must be very wrong.

The anger came from misunderstanding. Why get so upset? About price no less. Buy it or do not. Why harass the help?

First glance she has money. Her clothes tell us that. She desires that anyway. Yet here she is. She is making a scene.

People in the line stare. Some show sympathy. Some show impatience. Some show anger. All stare at Jason.

Jason listens and smiles. All wait for the price. He glances at another checker. She smiles in sympathy. He nods in appreciation.

Grocery is a tight crew. Always defend each other. No matter against whom. We know the truth. Customers are never right.

Young man returns. The price was right. Imagine that. Computer that was accurate. Woman says forget it.

Removes milk from the bill. Total is given. Money is thrown down. Transaction is completed. Have a good day lady.

Next customer is genial. Expresses regret. Has nothing to complain about. Interaction is short and sweet. Have a good day Jason.

Jason takes a deep breath. Found long ago this helps. Soon he will have break. Then he can unwind. For fifteen minutes.
He prepares a bag. He is often in express. He is fast and efficient. They reward him with customers. Less time have to interact.

Good thing. Sometimes people are impatient. Usually they are just silent. They like him. Be quick and be silent.

Not everyone knows. She does not. She is young and attractive. Slow down the interaction. Take time to flirt.

Still sometimes shy. Still manages not to be. Sometimes charming when allowed. No good at closing. See you later Jason.

Jason says you too. Mentally kicks himself. Good at self-recrimination. He is too good. His relief arrives.

Sigh of relief follows. Eat salty or sweet? Better yet greasy. Off to the deli. Chicken fingers and potato wedges.

Don’t forget ranch. He grabs a drink. He gets something with caffeine. Six hours of work. The sun is still out.

The moon will be full. Crazy people will be out. Always happens on full moons. Think it is a myth. People still act that way.

Solo in break room. He prefers that way. Talking gets old. He is forced to talk. No one listens to Jason.

Jason closes his eyes. His mind wanders. He sees another place. He sees that girl. That he will never see.

The door opens. He nods at Tony. Look of content. Tony is done. Tony seems relaxed.


He walks towards front. He says hello. Gives fake smiles. He helps old lady. She couldn’t reach.

He gets to check stand. He relieves his relief. Thanks are offered. He types in code. Have a good night Jason.