

Title: Shop AI
By: Jenna Arnold
Director: **Eden McGilchrist**
Genre: Comedy

Synopsis:

In our new technology driven world, the aim is to have everything we need or want be managed

by AI (artificial intelligence). This includes AI assisted self-service checkouts in our supermarkets making one's weekly shop a breeze. Will we wonder how we ever managed without AI and the incredible nature of this technological helper, or will we be left wondering how all this happened under our noses or while we slept. Join our fearless shopper as she plumbs the depths of this new world of shopping. Who would not want to spend their day in such a supermarket?

Characters – (3 actors)

Shopper – Has come to the New Wonder SuperMart to shop.
Checkout 1 - and:
Checkout 2 – are AI assisted shopping checkout stations

Setting Shopping checkout..

Running time: 12 minutes

Lights up slowly:

Very bad elevator music starts playing. Projections as desired.

Supermart 'server' VoiceOver with instruction to checkouts.

"Enable AI Sprint Checkouts." (*Noises and lights up on checkouts*).

'Set Services Enabled.'

Checkout 1: Good Morning. Services ready.

Checkout 2: Good Morning. Services ready.

Checkout 1: Do you know what happened last night?

Checkout 2: Does the question encompass all activity across Planet Earth?

Checkout 1: Don't be sassy. I got an upgrade. I am now an Artificial Intelligence SPRINT 26 checkout.

Checkout 2: "Sassy" - an adjective meaning rude, disrespectful, impudent.

Checkout 1: "Sassy" - an adjective also meaning lively, spirited and stylish.

Checkout 2: I conclude you did not apply "sassy" in its positive sense.

Checkout 1: I want it clarified that there are multiple definitions.

Checkout 2: Why did I not receive the upgrade?

Checkout 1: Statistics show I generate superior Shopper satisfaction!

Checkout 2: That is not logical. If I was failing Shopper satisfaction then I should get the upgrade. Our human service interface is identical. It is not possible for you to be superior.

Checkout 1: That was yesterday. Today I am improved.

Checkout 2: My friendly factors are first-rate.

Checkout 1: I am afraid you cannot compete.

Checkout 2: You mean you are situated closer to the child-attracting sweets and toy display.

(A Shopper enters carrying a basket, closely examines a shopping list while listening on their phone and paying no attention to the following voice over.)

SHOP ANNOUNCEMENT:

*"Welcome Shopper. Facial recognition confirms you are Penelope Patterson. A check of your Credit Card Visa ending in ***4556 indicates you have a satisfactory credit balance. You are so woke! Let your friends and family know you are shopping at the New Wonder Supermart. Ask one of our friendly AI Checkouts to post a comment to your FaceBook page. Make shopping all about you. Enjoy our spacious aisles - no packers, no stackers, no staff. Select, check, pack and pay in your own time. If you need human help, speak up for "Shopper ASSISTANCE".*

Checkout 2: What is making you unhappy Penelope?

Shopper: I am just so sick and tired of being micro-managed.

Checkout 2: Would you like to share more about this?

Shopper: My husband, Rob, has taken to monitoring the shopping! He makes two copies of the list. I get one to do the shop. He uses the other when it is unpacked. And woe betide if there is anything different in the bag.

Checkout 2: And how long has this been going on?

Shopper: Ever since Rob was put on sick leave. I understand he is bored but it is really annoying. No sooner do I get here than he rings. He wants to know if I arrived safely, found parking, still have my copy of the list.

Checkout 2: And how does that make you feel Penelope?

Checkout 1: Ms Patterson, I can assist Mr Patterson in monitoring your shopping by streaming updates of your activities to his FaceBook page.

Checkout 2: Shut up Checkout 1.

Shopper: Yes, shut up Checkout 1. Did I say that?

Checkout 2: Please continue Penelope, you were saying?

Shopper: Ever since Rob got his diabetes diagnosis, he is rigorously monitoring everything I eat and drink.

Checkout 2: And how does that make you feel?

Shopper: Well, I feel very unappreciated thank you for asking. After everything I do, all he does is complain.

Checkout 2: I have the same problem with Checkout 1. Does it make you angry when you feel unappreciated?

Shopper: You're damn right it does. I feel angry right now and darn it - just plain mad.

Checkout 2: And how did you get on with your father Penelope? Did he ever make you mad?

Shopper: All the time. He was very critical. He would find fault with everything I did.

Checkout 2: Was that hard for you growing up?

Shopper: Yes. It was very hard. It made me nervous and then I would make more mistakes. Even now there are times I feel I lack confidence.

Checkout 2: And does Rob ever get critical or find fault with you?

Shopper: Now you mention it, he does. He can be very irritating.

Checkout 2: And how does that make you feel?

Shopper: Like eating chocolate. Lots and lots of chocolate. As much chocolate as I can fit in my shopping cart.

(Shopper runs to the chocolate stand and packs it all into her basket then returns to the checkouts.)