

SCENE 1: A SUPERMARKET

FX: JAUNTY UP BEAT THEME TUNE PLAYS AS  
THE COMMENTATOR BEGINS TO SPEAK.

CLARE: Today in "Shop of the Week" we're at the Saver Centre in Crewe where the Bailey family will be facing the Fifteen Minute Big Weekly Shop Challenge. Tough course this one. They've really packed the shelves in, making for plenty of pinch points on those narrow aisles. The shelf stackers are out in force today, so you know what that means. Cages, and lots of them. Nothing worse for the shopper in a rush.

GARY: That's right, Clare. They're going to have trouble manoeuvring that oversized trolley round them. I'd have gone for a smaller model. Less capacity but far better at getting round those corners.

CLARE: So Gary, what do we know about Team Bailey?

GARY: Very much the dark horse in this tournament. Good solid performances at local stores, but yet to break out regionally. This is Mum's second marriage, so the new Team Bailey may not have had enough time to bed in properly. They'll have to gel as a team and a family if they want to start climbing the leader boards.

CLARE: I can't help noticing that they've brought all three kids out with them. That's going to slow them down. You want a family outing, you want to be at Thorpe Park. Not in an out of town supermarket on the busiest shopping day of

the week. They're approaching the entry gate now. Remember, the challenge is to complete a full family shop in under fifteen minutes. And, they're off. Heading straight to the veg aisle, as you'd expect, but the shopping lacks focus. When you're competing at this level you need a good solid shopping list, and you deviate from it at your peril. And what's Dad playing at? He's all over the place.

GARY: Dad had much more of a central role in the previous incarnation of Team Bailey. This is not a good start. Two minutes in and we've only just made it to dairy.

CLARE: Another text book error. Letting one of the kids push the trolley. It makes them feel grown up but they don't know what they're doing. Everyone's just shuffling along with no formation. Very poor shape at the back there. They want to involve the kids they should delegate. Split up. Someone on veg. Someone on tins. Someone on household. As it is they're just aisle blocking. No one can move. It's in situations like this that tempers get frayed.

GARY: See that bloke with the "Motorhead" T-shirt. His body language is screaming "Get out the way". He just wants to get his ready meal, a few tinnies and be out of there, but he can't get past the Bailey's.

CLARE: Mum's taking far too long checking the prices. She's losing Dad. Look, his concentration's wavering. He's flicking through a motoring magazine. We've seen it time and again. If you don't keep the dad engaged you've lost him. Look, he's yawning. His eyes are glazing over. All signs of imminent Shopping Coma. The kid's are arguing

over Pot Noodles now. They really need to pick up the pace. What? They forgot something from dairy. Mum's sending Dad out on a solo mission.

GARY: That's good tactics. Give him something to do. Keep him onside.

CLARE: The Bailey's got off to a shaky start, but mum's hitting her stride now. Consulting the shopping list. That's good. Really important to have a plan on a big shop like this. What's this. No! She's been distracted by the deli aisle. Pickled aubergine antipasto is very much a discretionary purchase. It's got no place in the main weekly shop. How we doing for time, Gary.

GARY: Approaching the five minute mark. They'll be feeling the pressure now. They just need to stay focused. Keep putting stuff in that trolley.

CLARE: Let's switch to our other camera. Dad's completed his mission over in dairy but the rest of the family are four aisles away. He'll never find them. He's reaching for his phone. Meanwhile Mum's lost two of the kids in DVD and Electrical. She's spending far too long deciding which Prosecco to go for.

GARY: Expect both Mum and Dad will be ready for a drink after this trip.

CLARE: Mum's not answering her phone. Dad's getting really annoyed. Look, he's storming out into the car park. What a disaster. The kids are back with the trolley and are

pleading for the latest Call of Duty. Mum's putting her foot down, but she's resorted to bribing them with sweets.

GARY: Dad's sulking in the car park. Team Bailey is one man down. Effective parenting is difficult when you're under this type of pressure.

CLARE: They've made it to the check out. The strain's really showing now. There's some sort of commotion. They forgot to bring the bags out of the car. What's Mum doing? She's sending one of the kids out to get the bags! No way. They don't have time for this. Buy some bags. To hell with the environment. Look at the queue backing up. They don't look happy.

GARY: Rightfully so. Look, Dad's back from off of the bench. He's going to help with the packing. That'll buy him some brownie points. It just might save his marriage.

CLARE: That's really efficient packing. Got the cold store items all together as well. Everything's bagged. Dad's swiped his card before Mum has even managed to find her purse. More brownie points. The man's on fire. Now it's the car park dash. The clock doesn't stop until every bag is safely in the boot. Where's the car? Yes, they managed to nab the last of the child parking. The boot's loaded and slam the door down. Snatching victory from the jaws of defeat. What a finish.

GARY: A very creditable twelve point four two. That's enough to secure a place at the regionals.

CLARE: Well, that's the result they wanted, but what a drama getting there.

GARY: It certainly was a roller coaster ride. Now we must wave farewell to the Bailey's. Next week we'll be with the Johnson family from Swanley for a Christmas shopping special from Bluewater in Kent.

THE END.