

## **RAAHI SIDES (What's To Come)**

The scene begins near the beginning of a radio interview. Raahi is very nervous and stumbles through many of his answers. The right actor will make Raahi his own and not be afraid of using breath and pauses. While Raahi is half-Indian, this role does not require an accent.

**RAAHI MATHEW** – mid-30s, former Marine and author of *What's To Come*, his debut novel and a surprise best-seller.

**CANDACE** – an experienced radio host and interviewer.

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SCENE 1: Radio Recording Booth.

**CANDACE**

If you're just joining us, today my guest is first-time novelist Raahi Mathew, author of the best-selling book "What's To Come." Raahi Mathew, thank you again for being here.

**RAAHI**

Thank you for having me

**CANDACE**

"What's To Come" is a story about a dystopian future where a select group of humans have undergone elective surgeries to implant devices that augment senses or abilities. Am I getting that right?

**RAAHI**

*(nervous)*

That's right. In this world children get these devices implanted at a young age as a, you know, way to get an advantage. So one person might have the ability to hear as high as dogs can, another might be able to see infrared light.

**CANDACE**

These aren't super powers, right?

**RAAHI**

Umm, no. Just, uhh—

*(trails off)*

**CANDACE**

*(steps in)*

Augmenting what our brains can already do.

**RAAHI**

Yes, these devices basically hack our other synapses in our brains do things they couldn't really do before.

**CANDACE**

*(beat)*

Raahi? Do you want to take a quick break?

**RAAHI**

No, I'm good.

**CANDACE**

You sure?

*(beat)*

Ok. Let's get back into it. *(beat)* The story follows Raaj, who is leading this somewhat quiet life in a quiet town in Somerville with his wife and daughter and discovers somewhat late in his life that he has one of these cognitive implants.

**RAAHI**

Uhh yes, he's struggled with migraines for most of his life and he learns he had one of these implants put in him when he was a child. He was adopted when he was a toddler and doesn't remember anything about his parents.

**CANDACE**

And he experiences time slower?

**RAAHI**

Well, he has, that is, his reaction time is twice as fast as the average person's so he can react faster and also see how certain situations will play out before they do.

**CANDACE**

What drew you to this subject matter?

**RAAHI**

I first wrote about this idea when I was a teenager. I had a friend in high school who'd been deaf until he got the Cochlear implant and I remember thinking it wouldn't be long before that type of technology would be expanded.

**CANDACE**

Do you think about yourself as a visionary?

**RAAHI**

*(laughs)*

I don't know about that.

**CANDACE**

The central thrust of the book is about the group of Abnormals, once they come together, coming to grips with what they must do and who they must kill for their own survival.

**RAAHI**

*(clears throat)*

yes.

**CANDACE**

You were in the Marines for twelve years, three tours.

*(long beat)*

You know what, Raahi? Let's take five. You okay?

**RAAHI**

Yeah, yeah. Just a minute.

*(breathes heavily)*

Can I get—

**CANDACE**

You're doing great.

*(off mic)* Can we bring in some more water?

**RAAHI**

Yeah?

*(deep breath)*

Nervous

**CANDACE**

Let me know when you're ready.

**RAAHI**

No, it's ok. I'm ready now.

**CANDACE**

You sure?

**RAAHI**

Yeah.

**CANDACE**

Ok. *(off mic)* We're back.

*(on mic)* Raahi, you were in the Marines for twelve years, three tours, during some of the bloodiest months of the Middle East armed conflict. *(beat)* How did that experience influence your writing?

**RAAHI**

I enlisted in the Marines when I was 19 and my last tour ended the day after my 32<sup>nd</sup> birthday. I entered the military with a certain idea of the man I was and the things I wanted to achieve with my life. I exited the military having achieved more than I could have dreamed of as a 19-year old. But I had also made mistakes. And those mistakes had much greater consequences than they would have if I'd been a civilian.

**CANDACE**

What do you mean by mistakes?

**RAAHI**

Murdering other people.

**CANDACE**

*(beat. A bit stunned)*

Are you saying you murdered others while...

## **RAAHI**

All my kills were by order. I followed the orders handed down to me and most kills were justified. If I had not engaged in fire I or my unit would have been wounded or killed. But some kills were labeled strategic and these, I believe, are murder.