

## **RAAHI YOUNG SIDES (While I Have You)**

The scene begins with Etta and Raahi performing Raahi's screenplay. *(In character)* lines should be a bit exaggerated. The right actor will embrace Raahi's energetic voice and play with the text. While Raahi is half-Indian, he does not have an accent.

**RAAHI** – A fifteen-year-old, mix-raced boy living in Somerville, MA with his mother. Raahi has written a sci-fi screenplay he is trying to record into a podcast. He is passionate and detail-oriented. He has a close, honest and joking relationship with his mother.

**ETTA** – Raahi's mother, a widow raising Raahi on her own.

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SCENE 1: In Etta and Raahi's home.

**ETTA**

*(in character)*

We've been watching you. You may not know this, but you are one of the Abnormals.

**RAAHI**

*(in character)*

That's impossible.

**ETTA**

*(in character)*

I will explain, but we have no time. Elite Force is coming. We must escape.

**RAAHI**

*(in character)*

I can't just leave. The Homecoming Dance is tonight.

**ETTA**

*(in character)*

You, Ray, are the key to defending our kind against Elite Force. Without you, there may never be another Homecoming Dance ever again.

*(breaks character)*

Ok, can I make a quick suggestion?

**RAAHI**

*(annoyed)*

Mom...

**ETTA**

It's just a suggestion.

**RAAHI**

It's fine the way it is. Can we just, like—

**ETTA**

One quick question. And then no more.

**RAAHI**

*(annoyed)*

What.

**ETTA**

The Abnormals. They're like, superheroes

**RAAHI**

No.

**ETTA**

But they made themselves superheroes? *(beat)* Ok, not superheroes.

**RAAHI**

Not superheroes. That's so... No. They're augmented humans. So, like, they've had surgery to put devices in their brains that let them see infrared, or to hear high pitch like dogs can.

**ETTA**

Yeah, ok got it. Got it... So they have surgery to put these devices in their brains and everyone's fine with it, but then they're not fine with it anymore.

**RAAHI**

An evil political regime takes over the government and wants to destroy all the Augmented humans. Mom, can we—

**ETTA**

Excuse me for giving you a compliment. Ok, stop with the face. Let's start, ok?

**RAAHI**

*(in character)*

I can't just leave. The Homecoming Dance is tonight.

**ETTA**

*(in character)*

You, Ray, are the key-

*(out of character)* What made you chose the name Ray?

**RAAHI**

Mom!

**ETTA**

Look—

**RAAHI**

I have track at three.

**ETTA**

My birthday is coming up.

**RAAHI**

In like two months.

**ETTA**

You remembered... Well, you don't need to get me anything. I just want to pick your brain.

**RAAHI**

*(annoyed, relenting)*

**ETTA**

Why did you choose the name Ray? It's so...

**RAAHI**

White? I am white.

**ETTA**

Half... Just wondering why you didn't chose an Indian name.

**RAAHI**

It's fiction, Mom. I can do whatever I want. And I didn't base Ray on myself.

**ETTA**

*(incredulous)*

You mean the 15-year old boy named Ray, who's dad died when he was four and lives in the town of Winterville?

**RAAHI**

Dad died when I was five

**ETTA**

uh-huh...

**RAAHI**

Can we just please get through this script? I have track...

**ETTA**

Ok! Ok.

**RAAHI**

*(in character)*

I can't just leave.

**ETTA**

Do you see yourself as Indian?

**RAAHI**

Oh my god.

**ETTA**

It's just...

**RAAHI**

I need more friends.

**ETTA**

Hey—

**RAAHI**

Maybe I can join a gang or something.