

Megha Genesis

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COLD OPEN

**EXT. ZILKER PARK, AUSTIN, TEXAS - DAY**

Weaving through the crowd of white folks in athleisure is petite brown figure on a skateboard. This is MEGHA (37, whose short hair and slight frame make strangers routinely confuse her for a 13 year old).

As she confidently boardslides down a railing, she nods hello to some TEENS practicing flips nearby. They nod back.

**EST. MISHRA FAMILY HOME - DAY**

Megha skates up to a modest, well-maintained family home. The windows are ringed with multicolored string lights.

Title card: MEGHA. TODAY.

**INT. MEGHA'S ROOM - DAY**

Piles of clothes everywhere, a drum kit and recording setup in one corner, and a Zoom backdrop and standing desk in another.

Megha stands in the middle of the room. Her mother, DEEPA (60s, slightly taller and rounder than her daughter) barges in with an armful of business clothes that were stylish when she first bought them in the late 1980s.

DEEPA

I found my power suits!

Deepa starts draping pinstripe jackets, ruffled blouses, and pencil skirts onto Megha, who is soon engulfed in a blizzard of synthetic fabrics and shoulder pads.

DEEPA (CONT'D)

Try these on and we'll see what fits you! Oh, I'm so glad I saved these. You always said you'd never wear a suit to work but I knew that someday you would get a real job and make real money!

Hanging off of the bed, Megha's cousin BINA (34, tall and curvy in a funky print dress and bike shorts) looks up from her phone and bursts out laughing.

BINA

Auntie, you're going to drown her!  
Polyester doesn't breathe!

DEEPA

Oh, I forgot my pumps!

Deepa rushes off.

Megha shakes off the clothes like a dog shaking off water. She puts on a fuchsia jacket and looks at herself in the mirror.

MEGHA

I feel like a pomegranate.

Bina does a rimshot on the drum kit.

BINA

But also, yeah, don't wear that.

MEGHA

Maybe I won't wear ... *anything*.

Bina laughs nervously. Megha does a dorky little butt jiggle, inching closer and closer to Bina.

BINA

STOP! You need clothes! You need to make a good first impression.

Megha sighs. Her anxiety rises. Deepa comes back in with several pairs of sensible heels.

DEEPA

Try these. I have pantyhose also.

MEGHA (V.O.)

*Tomorrow is my first day.*

Bina goes to the laptop stand.

BINA

We can go buy something! Let me show you some cute stuff at H&M.

As she opens the laptop, LOUD AUDIO of a WOMAN MOANING EROTICALLY escapes.

A totally new kind of panic takes over Megha's face.

MEGHA (V.O.)

*At two very different jobs.*

END OF COLD OPEN

## ACT ONE

## INT. MEGHA'S ROOM - DAY

Title Card: MEGHA. A WEEK AGO.

POV laptop camera: Megha, wearing a gingham button-down and a North Face vest, stands in front of her Zoom background and nods eagerly as DANIEL (40s, also wearing a gingham button-down and a North Face vest) talks.

INTERCUT Megha/Daniel on their respective screens.

DANIEL (O.S)

I wanted to see your face when I told you. Congrats! You're hired! Welcome to the team!

MEGHA

Really? Thank you, Daniel! Thanks for taking a chance on me.

DANIEL

Well, you are a non-traditional candidate for this kind of work.

REVEAL that from the waist down Megha is wearing Brazilian soccer shorts.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

But through this whole process you've been so passionate that we want to take a chance on you. Plus, you've taught college kids, so how hard will it be for you to teach a bunch of executives?

He laughs. Megha does the half-laugh/half-grimace of someone who's not so sure.

MEGHA

I can do it, Daniel. I want to do it all!

DANIEL

You'll be getting a ton of material this week to learn, and we'll start sending you out to conferences next week. Actually, (he checks) yeah, you'll be working with one of our biggest clients on day one!

Megha's grimace-smile is frozen in place.