

WRITING SAMPLE

Written by

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Based on the Netflix Television Series 'Never Have I Ever'  
The First 9 Pages of the Spec Script "...Punched Someone at a  
Carnival"

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INT. SCHOOL DANCE - NIGHT

Devi and Paxton hold each other close. Music plays romantically in the background from the school's DJ. They sway to side to side, looking into each others eyes, in love.

DEVI (V.O.)

This is the best moment of my life.

Eleanor and Fabiola watch, pump their fists excitedly as if they are in the stands at a sporting event. Their words can't be audibly heard, but they silently mouth a mixture of 'WHOOOS' and 'THAT'S MY GIRL!'.

DEVI (V.O.)

Paxton is literally holding me right now and this time he doesn't look disappointed or like he might throw up at the sight of me.

Ben stands awkwardly a few feet away form Devi, alone. He seems defeated by his sluggish posture and the look on his face.

DEVI (V.O.)

Nothing can top this moment right here.

Devi and Paxton kiss, a long romantic, tongue down your throat kiss.

Literal fireworks go off in the back ground.

DEVI (V.O.)

The fireworks make it even more magical.

Devi pauses, pulls away from Paxton with a confused look on her face. She glances back with confusion to the fireworks going off on the dance floor.

DEVI (V.O.)

Wait, fireworks?

Devi frowns, and turns back to face Paxton. She SIGHS, annoyed.

DEVI

I'm dreaming, aren't I?

Paxton opens his mouth to respond. The sound of a clock alarm RINGS out of his mouth instead of words.

CUT TO:

INT. DEVI'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Devi wakes up with a start in her bed. She quickly disables the alarm on her phone.

She takes a moment to collect herself.

DEVI (V.O.)  
Well, that wasn't totally creepy.

Devi falls back onto her bed and covers her head with a pillow, GROANS.

Devi's mom SHOUTS from downstairs.

NALINI (O.S.)  
Devi! Come down for breakfast! You don't want to be late again!

Devi GROANS louder.

CUT TO:

INT. DEVI'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Same area.

Devi is now out of bed and rummaging through her closet to find the perfect outfit to wear.

DEVI (V.O.)  
You know, I've never been bothered by creepy dreams, but it's different when it basically happened. Minus the whole Paxton-being-my-alarm thing and those random fireworks.

Devi picks up a pink shirt, disgusted by how truly awful it looks.

DEVI  
Gross. Why do I even have this?

Devi tosses the shirt behind her carelessly.

DEVI (V.O.)  
Anyways, Paxton and I did dance. And we did kiss. And I'm like ninety-nine percent sure we're boyfriend and girlfriend.

Devi pulls out a ruffly brown skirt. She physically shivers due to how hideous it looks.

DEVI

Seriously? This has to be mom's.

Devi tosses the skirt behind her. She continues to search through her closet.

DEVI (V.O.)

Like I said, it happened! So I have to look super-extra hot when he sees me at school. Everything is falling perfectly into place.

Devi finds an outfit that makes her eyes twinkle with excitement.

CUT TO:

INT. DEVI'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Same area, a minute later.

Devi is dressed. She kneels in front of her household Hindu shrine.

DEVI

Please, please, please let this moment last forever! My life is finally good and I have a hot-ass boyfriend and Fabiola is living her best life with Eve and Eleanor has some arm-candy that isn't as hot as Paxton, but still! Good for her. And-

Devi cuts herself off.

FLASHBACK:

INT. SCHOOL DANCE - NIGHT

Ben looks at Devi, sad, alone.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. DEVI'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Devi clears her mind by shaking her head.

DEVI

Everything is good. Please keep everything good.

NALINI (O.S.)

(shouts loudly)

So help me, Devi, if you aren't down here in one minute I will...look at you judgmentally!

Devi SIGHS, stands up straight, and grabs her backpack off of the ground.

DEVI

Today is going to be a great day.

Devi walks out of her bedroom door.

INT. DEVI'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Devi walks down the stairs into the kitchen. She plops her backpack on the table lightly.

Nalini walks over and sets a plate down in front of her. It is filled with Upma. Devi widens her eyes.

DEVI

Dang, mom, what's the occasion? This looks awesome.

Nalini, a wide smile on her face, sits down next to Devi with her own plate.

NALINI

No reason. I just thought since you are now with a handsome young boy that I should congratulate you with some Upma. When should I set the wedding dates?

Devi widens her eyes.

DEVI

How do you already know?

NALINI

Eleanor called the house line twelve times. I counted. Also, Fabiola and Eve came over with a gift basket.

Nalini nods towards the kitchen counter. A large gift basket sits in it's center with a 'IT's A BOY' sign placed in the middle. The 'BOY' has been crossed out to say the word 'DATE'.

Devi turns back to Nalini anxiously.

DEVI  
(shrugs)  
Oops?

Nalini SIGHS, shakes her head.

NALINI  
I'm not mad, Devi. I'm actually  
very pleased.

DEVI  
You are?

Nalini nods, takes a bite of her meal. She doesn't say anything else.

DEVI (CONT'D)  
Why?

Nalini pauses, looks to Devi's untouched food.

NALINI  
Eat up! It will get cold.

Devi shrugs and starts eating.

Beat.

She looks back up to Nalini.

DEVI  
Mom...

Nalini raises her hands defensively.

NALINI  
Fine! I was just thinking about  
your dad. And how happy he made me.  
How happy he still makes me.

Nalini leans forward and places a hand on Devi's arm.

NALINI (CONT'D)  
Devi, I had the same glowy look  
with your father. A mother can  
tell. I want you to be as happy as  
I am when he's with me.

Devi smiles softly, thankfully. Nalini quickly pulls away and clears her throat.

NALINI (CONT'D)

I am also using this to bribe you  
for his social security  
information.

Devi smirks, continues to eat.

DEVI

Thanks mom.

Just then, Kamala and Mr. Kulkarni enter the kitchen. Mr. Kulkarni has his arm around Kamala's shoulder while Kamala holds her arm around his waist.

They saunter into the kitchen, obviously still drunk from the night's previous activities. They LAUGH, wide smiles.

Nalini stares at the two. Her gaze is as harsh as a sword. Devi SNORTS. Kamala turns up at the snort and frowns, standing up straight.

Mr. Kulkarni frowns at Kamala's reaction.

MR. KULKARNI

What is it?

He follows Kamala's gaze. As soon as Mr. Kulkarni sees Nalini's expression, he clears his throat and stands up extremely straight. He lets his arm go to his side, away from Kamala.

NALINI

Good night, I presume?

KAMALA

Yes. It was very good.

DEVI

We can tell.

Nalini elbows Devi in the shoulder.

DEVI (CONT'D)

Ow?!

Beat.

Mr. Kulkarni steps forward.

MR. KULKARNI

I apologize for getting her home so late. It was not in my best judgement. I assure you, this won't happen again.

Nalini looks from Mr. Kulkarni to Kamala.

Kamala nods earnestly.

KAMALA

We promise.

Kamala wraps her hand around Mr. Kulkarni's tightly. They clasp their fingers together. Nalini takes notice of this.

Devi nearly chokes on her food.

Nalini ignores her, stares intently at the two before her. She relaxes her gaze.

NALINI

There is Upma on the kitchen counter. There should be enough for both of you.

KAMALA

Seriously?

DEVI

Seriously?

Nalini shrugs, continues to eat her food.

NALINI

You both came back home safe and unharmed. You smell like sewage, but still. You're okay.

DEVI

Who are you?

Nalini sets her fork down, confused.

NALINI

Hmm?

DEVI

Who are you and what have you done with my mother? My mom was never-

Nalini cuts her off with another death glare.

Devi gulps.

DEVI (CONT'D)

-never so awesome! I mean, you are awesome, because you're my mom. So...yay mom?

NALINI

Stop talking while you still can.

Devi stands up and takes her empty plate of food.

DEVI

Okay.

Devi walks over to put her dishes away. As she walks by, Kamala leans towards her.

KAMALA

(whispers)

Why is she so happy and kind? Did you put something in her food?

As Devi walks back, she whispers to Kamala.

DEVI

(whispers)

No, she's been like this all morning. Weird, right?

Nalini smiles to herself as she finishes her breakfast.

Kamala nods in response to Devi.

KAMALA

Very weird.

Devi walks back to her backpack and picks it up, swings it over her shoulder.

DEVI

Well, I'm off to school. I'll see you all later. Peace out.

Devi walks off awkwardly out the front door.

NALINI

Be safe, sweetie!

Kamala and Mr. Kulkarni turn to head upstairs. In mid-sneak, Nalini drops her fork on the empty plate. It makes a loud CLANG.

Kamala and Mr. Kulkarni pause and look to Nalini, fear in their eyes.

NALINI (CONT'D)

You. Get out.

Mr. Kulkarni nods and rushes out the front door.

MR. KULKARNI

Thank you for your time.

Nalini nods and glances up to Kamala as Mr. Kulkarni leaves the house. Kamala grins sheepishly.

EXT. DEVI'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - MORNING

Paxton's red car waits just in front of Devi's house. He sits in the front seat and pushes open the passenger door from inside of the car.

He smiles at Devi as she approaches him, cool as ever.

PAXTON

Hey, Vishwakumar.

INT. PAXTON'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Devi plops in the front seat of Paxton's car and sets her backpack on the ground. She closes the car door.

DEVI

I mean, I'd prefer 'Hey  
Girlfriend', but that works too.

(beat)

We're dating now, right?

Paxton CHUCKLES and nods, grabs Devi's cheek.

PAXTON

Yeah. We're dating now.

Paxton pulls Devi in for a soft and romantic kiss. Devi melts into the kiss.

Eventually, they pull away. Paxton puts the car in drive, peels away from Devi's house.

Kamala and Nalini can be seen spying through the front window. Nalini looks disgusted. Kamala smiles widely, ear to ear.

END WRITING SAMPLE.