

COSTUME

Written by

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FADE IN :

1

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

1

VANDANA (25), dressed in business wear and accessorized with red bangles(Chuda), vermillion (red sindoor) and a black and gold necklace studded with a diamond (mangalsutra), which signifies a newly married Indian woman, stands stiff with her husband, ANMOL (27).

ANMOL

Are you alright?

Vandana takes a deep breath.

VANDANA

I guess.

Vandana starts tapping her left foot in nervousness. Anmol notices and grabs Vandana by her arms and makes her face towards him.

ANMOL

You are getting that job!

VANDANA

(Irritated)

I have been trying for months now.  
Maybe I am not up for it--

ANMOL

Hey! You are the smartest person I know! These things take time. I am sure you will crack this interview!

VANDANA

Whatever!

Vandana smirks. She gets out of Anmol's clutches and starts to walk towards the building. Anmol checks his watch and starts to run the other way.

ANMOL

I will see you tonight to celebrate! I love you!

Vandana turns around and sees Anmol getting late.

VANDANA

(whispers)

I love you too.

Vandana takes a deep breath and enters the building.

2

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY

2

A nervous Vandana enters the room with her file sticking onto her chest, trying to hide her necklace (Mangalsutra). Smiling at everyone she makes eye contact with, Vandana takes a seat.

ANGELA (25), tall, elegant, well-dressed, enters the room, all eyes on her. Vandana looks at her and starts to pull her sleeves down to hide any sight of her bangles. She starts shaking her left leg vigorously and tries to stop it.

Vandana starts feeling hot and tries to fan herself with her hands, gets self-conscious and stops. She starts shaking her leg again, then stops. This pattern continues; her face starts to turn pale.

Vandana gets up and drops her file; papers get scattered all around. She starts collecting the documents in a hurry, but a few GIGGLES can be heard around the room. She gets nervous, picks up her purse and runs towards the washroom.

Vandana's file is left behind and is picked up by PRIYA (28), a newly married woman and similarly dressed like Vandana.

3

INT. WASHROOM - DAY

3

Vandana enters the washroom and tries to catch her breath. She throws her purse on the floor and heads towards the sink. She takes a bunch of paper towels and pats her face, bits of her foundation can be seen on the paper.

She leans on the sink, looks at herself in the mirror and starts retaking deep breaths. She heads back for her purse and starts fiddling through it. She takes out a setting powder and starts dabbing it all over her face.

Vandana looks at the mirror again; her bun is messy with her baby hair noticeably visible. She starts applying some water to fix her bun but then decides to let her hair down and styles it like Angela.

She starts washing her hands vigorously, her bangles start clanging against each other, making a loud noise. Vandana notices this and immediately stops. She gestures a handshake, we can still hear the noise.

Vandana starts taking off her bangles and places them in her purse. She gestures a handshake again and is relieved hearing no sound.

VANDANA  
(canadian accent)  
Hi, I am Vaan-daa-naa!  
(MORE)

VANDANA (CONT'D)  
 (Normal accent)  
 It's nice to meet you.

Vandana stomps her feet.

VANDANA (CONT'D)  
 Dammit! Vandana! We can do this!  
 (beat)  
 (canadian accent)  
 I graduated from IIT Delhi  
 (normal accent)  
 And have worked in Infosys and--  
 DAMMIT!

Vandana starts to pace around the washroom, stops and looks at herself again, her eyes fixed on her vermilion (sindoor). She gets closer to the mirror, takes some make-up wipes and starts wiping it away.

This only leaves a significant stain on the middle of her forehead. She starts using water, wipes, spits and somehow gets rid of it. Next, her eyes land on her necklace (mangalsutra); she holds it and gets guilty.

VANDANA (CONT'D)  
 I am sorry.

Vandana sadly puts her necklace in her purse and starts practicing again.

VANDANA (CONT'D)  
 (Canadian accent)  
 Hi, I am Vaan-daa-naaa  
 (normal accent)  
 It's a pleasure to meet you!

Vandana starts to hear Anmol's words.

ANMOL (V.O.)  
 You are the smartest person I know!

Vandana burries her face in her palms, looks up, smiles and starts practicing again.

VANDANA  
 (canadian accent)  
 Hi, I am Vaan-daa-naa.

Vandana starts to smile

VANDANA (CONT'D)  
 (canadian accent)  
 I graduated from IIT  
 (normal accent)  
 (MORE)

VANDANA (CONT'D)  
And have worked in Infosyes--  
(beat)  
SHIT! SHIT! SHIT!

Vandana lets out a scream, picks up her purse and walks towards the door.

VANDANA (CONT'D)  
I can't do this! I cannot do this!

As she is about to reach the door, Priya enters, and they bash against each other. Vandana's bangles fall out all around the floor, making a noise. Vandana starts picking up the bangles in a hurry, Priya starts helping her. Vandana smiles.

VANDANA (CONT'D)  
Thank you!

PRIYA  
I am Priya, by the way!

VANDANA  
Vandana.

PRIYA  
I know.

Vandana looks at Priya, confused. Priya hands over her file.

PRIYA (CONT'D)  
You left this outside.

VANDANA  
Thanks!

PRIYA  
You are overqualified for this job!

Vandana smiles and shakes her head.

PRIYA (CONT'D)  
Graduated from IIT! Worked in such big companies at such a young age! Hands down this interview is yours.

VANDANA  
Trust me, they don't care if I am an IIT pass out--

PRIYA  
That's bullshit! If I had your credentials I wouldn't be nervous.

Vandana smirks.

VANDANA  
That's sweet of you to say.

PRIYA  
You got this, Vandana.

Priya smiles, hands over the bangles and starts walking away.

VANDANA  
Don't you want to fix yourself up?

Priya looks confused. Vandana's eyes on Priya's bangles, vermillion and mangalsutra.

PRIYA  
Why? Is there something on my shirt?

Vandana smiles.

VANDANA  
No, not at all!

PRIYA  
I will see you outside?

Vandana nods.

VANDANA  
It was lovely to meet you, Priya!

Priya smiles and leaves. Vandana has her bangles in her hand. She looks at them; the shiny red colour looks beautiful. Vandana starts wearing the bangles.

4 INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

4

We see Priya sitting at her desk.

PRIYA  
Welcome, have a seat.

Vandana enters and sits. We can see her bangles, vermillion and necklace, again.

VANDANA  
(normal accent)  
Hi, I am Vandana.

The two smile at each other.

Title Card : Costume

FADE OUT.

Chhavi Sawhney