

My Name is Umme



Short story based on "Shumi's Pantry"

We Speak NYC • Season 2

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My Name is Umme



My name is Umme.

I grew up in Bangladesh.

Now, I live in Jackson Heights, Queens.

I have two daughters.



This is my oldest daughter.

Her name is Shumi.

Shumi is a teenager.

She is in high school.

She is a good student.



This is my youngest daughter.

Her name is Rumi.

She is twelve.

She is a good student too.



I am a home health aide.

My salary is not high.

I was a nurse in Bangladesh, but I don't have the license to be a nurse here.



Shumi wants a part-time job in a supermarket.

She wants to help me pay the bills.

The cost of living is high in New York.



I am grateful that Shumi wants to help, but I am concerned about her grades. Shumi says, "Don't worry, Mom. I'll get good grades."



Rumi helps Shumi practice for her job interview.

Shumi does not have experience, but she is a quick learner.

She is a hard worker.



On the day of the interview, Shumi meets the supermarket manager.

The manager's name is Ms. Wu.

Shumi tells Ms. Wu, "I am a quick learner and a hard worker."

She gets the job!



Shumi is excited.

She is very interested in food.

She wants to study nutrition in college.

She learns about healthy living from me.



Shumi likes her job.

She learns new things.

She stocks fruits and vegetables.

She prices food.

She works at the cash register too.



One day, Shumi brings home a brochure.

It's for a program called SNAP.

We can apply online for help to pay for food.



Shumi thinks SNAP is a good idea, but I am not sure.

"Let me think about it," I say.



One night, Shumi comes home late.

She volunteered at a food pantry.

She helped her manager deliver some food there.



I ask, "What's a food pantry?"

Shumi says, "It's a place where they give food to people who need it.

For free."



I am concerned.

Shumi needs to focus on school.

"How was work?" I ask.



Shumi looks worried about something.

She says, "I gave advice to customers.
I told the customers what to buy and not to buy."

The manager didn't like it.



Shumi made suggestions to customers about healthy food – less fat and less sugar.

But, the customers didn't ask for advice.



It is not Shumi's responsibility to tell the customers what to buy.

"You can't do that," I tell her.

Shumi promises not to do it again.



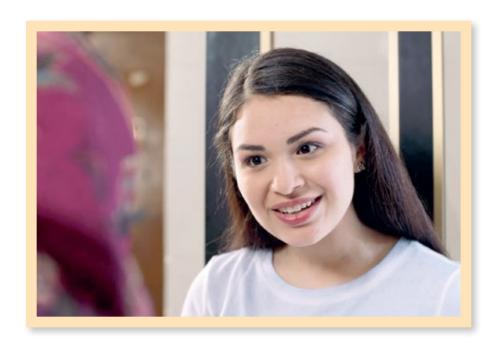
One day I meet Gabriela.

She cleans our building.

The stairs are very dusty, and Gabriela is pregnant.

I give her a mask to wear.

Wearing a mask will be safer for her.



Gabriela helps me too.

She invites me to her class.

She is studying English at the library.

For free.

She wants to help me find a free nursing program.

That's good news for me.



That afternoon, Shumi has bad news.

She came home early.

Ms. Wu fired her.

"I think I lost my job," she says.



Shumi changed a customer's order.

"You have to apologize to the manager,"
I tell Shumi.

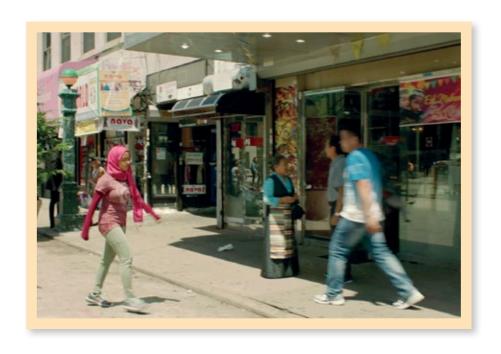
Shumi doesn't want to apologize.



She says we can go to a food pantry or apply for SNAP if we need help with food.

I am not sure.

I don't know if it is safe for immigrants.



Shumi gets angry.

She leaves the apartment.

She goes for a walk.

On the walk, she sees Gabriela.



Shumi helps Gabriela carry her bags.

Shumi asks Gabriela,
"Is it safe for immigrants to go to a food pantry?"

Gabriela says yes.

She says, "A food pantry is for anyone in an emergency situation."



Shumi comes back home.

She decides to apologize to her manager.

And I apologize to Shumi for getting upset.



The next day, Shumi gets her job back.

I am proud of her.

She helps her neighbors.

She helps me.

I am proud of both my daughters!

Words used in this story

	advice	customers		has (have)
	am, is, are, was	□ daughters		health
((be)	□ decides (decide)		healthy,
	angry	□ deliver		healthy food
	apologize	□ does, doesn't, didn't		helped (help)
	apply, apply	(do, don't)		high school
	online	□ dusty		home
	ask	□ early		home health
	bags	emergency situation		aide
	Bangladesh	excited		idea, good
	bills	□ experience	_	idea
	brings (bring)	□ find		immigrants
	brochure	□ fired (fire)		interview, job interview
	building	□ focus, focus on		invites (invite)
	buy	school		job
	called (call)	□ food	П	late
	came (come)	□ food pantry	_	
	can, can't	□ free		learns (learn)
	cash register	□ fruits		leaves (leave)
	changed (change)	□ gave (give)		less, less sugar, less fat
	class	gets (get)	П	let
	class cleans (clean)	grades, good grades		library
		□ grateful		license
	college	_		
	concerned	grew up (grow up)		likes (like)
	cost of living	hard worker		live

	lost (lose)	□ place	studying (study)
	made (make),	practice	suggestions
	made	pregnant	supermarket
	suggestions	□ prices (price)	sure, not sure
	manager	□ program	□ teenager
	mask	□ promises (promise)	□ things
	meets (meet)	□ proud	□ thinks (think)
	needs (need)	□ quick learner	□ twelve
	neighbors	responsibility	vegetables
	news, good news, bad news	□ safer (safe)	volunteered
	next, next day	□ salary	(volunteer)
П	nurse	□ says (say)	□ walk (She goes
П	nursing program	□ sees (see)	for a walk.)
	nutrition	□ SNAP (Supplemental	□ wants (want)
	oldest (old)	Nutrition Assistance	wearing (wear)
	online	Program)	□ where
	order	□ stairs	□ works (work)
		stock, stocks fruits	□ worried
	part-time job	and vegetables	□ youngest
Ш	pay	student	(young)

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