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My Name is Umme



Short story based on “Shumi’s Pantry”

We Speak NYC • Season 2

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Short Stories

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My Name Is Sue

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My Name Is Eddie

New Life Café

My Name Is María

Asthma: The Soap Opera

My Name Is Lucía

The Wedding

My Name Is Yumi

Respond to Domestic Violence

My Name Is Daniel

The Hospital

My Name Is Aku

The Storm

SEASON 2

Short Stories

Corresponding Episodes

My Name Is Umme

Shumi's Pantry

My Name Is Gabriela

The Seed for a Good Life

My Name Is Silvia

Rolando's Rights

My Name Is Irina

Making New Friends

My Name Is Giddel

Sonam's Mom

My Name Is Martin

Crossing the Street

My Name Is Alicia

Rafaela's Test

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

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

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