

...WONDERED WHAT IF

Written by

Joretta Morris

Based on, Never Have I Ever

jorettawrites@gmail.com

After being struck by Paxton's car, Devi temporarily blacks out and awakens in an alternate reality to discover what her life would be like if her dad were still alive.

PREVIOUSLY ON NEVER HAVE I EVER:

Devi asks Paxton to the winter dance and he says no. Later, Devi tells Paxton she wants a boyfriend that she can be out in public with.

That night at the big winter dance, Devi stands around and looks at the various couples. She begins to feel alone and decides to leave.

As Devi walks across the road, she is struck by Paxton's car. Paxton quickly emerges from the vehicle, comes to stand in front of her, and calls out to her.

PAXTON

Devi? Devi? Devi?

Devi hears a muffled version of Paxton's voice. It's distant.

This episode will take place during 210. The episode number is 210.5.

COLD OPEN

EXT. SHERMAN OAKS HIGH - NIGHT

Devi is on the ground in a daze.

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)

Don't worry, Devi isn't dead.
Though she's probably gonna have
one hell of an ache. I mean, did
you see that hit? It was pretty
bad. And I think I know hits
considering I'm a legendary tennis
star. I've mentioned that before
right? Oh, back to Devi.

INT. DEVI'S HOME, BEDROOM - DAY

Devi wakes in her bed. Her father, Mohan, comes through her
bedroom door with a smile on his face. Devi sits up quickly.

DEVI

Oh God. I'm dead. Aren't I?

MOHAN

Only if you're late for school.
I've held your mother off, but
hurry, get dressed my perfect girl.

DEVI

What do you mean you've held her
off? She can see you? Dad, you're -

Mohan cuts Devi off before she can finish her sentence.

MOHAN

Hurry up and get downstairs.
Breakfast awaits.

Mohan exits the bedroom. Devi falls back onto her pillow.

DEVI

What the fuck?

INT. DEVI'S HOME, KITCHEN - DAY

Devi sees her mom and dad share an affectionate moment.

DEVI

Ew, get a room.

NALINI

We would have several if you'd been to school on time.

DEVI

Chill, mom. I'm not even late.

MOHAN

Devi, do not speak to your mother that way.

DEVI

Sorry mom.

Devi stares at her dad. He looks at her and smiles.

DEVI (CONT'D)

Dad, are you really here?

MOHAN

Yes, where else would I be?

DEVI

Well, you're dead so...

Nalini slams her hand on the table as she quickly rises.

NALINI

Devi, do not say such things. Telling your father he's dead to you? My goodness, we never should've moved to America. Their Western ways are destroying this family.

DEVI

Okay, take it down a notch, Mom.

Nalini incoherently yells as she walks out. Mohan follows.

DEVI (CONT'D)

It's official. I've lost my mind.

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)

But Devi hadn't lost her mind. Okay, maybe she did. It happens to the best of us, am I right? But she didn't lose it in the way you'd think. Devi my friends, is more or less dream-walking. How cool is that?

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. SHERMAN OAKS HIGH - DAY

Devi walks down the hallway. Kids on both sides of her talk and laugh with their friends. Her best friends, Fabiola and Eleanor, approach her from the opposite end.

ELEANOR
Are you okay? You look weird.

DEVI
Yeah. I've just been missing my dad
a lot lately.

Eleanor and Fabiola give Devi a silly look. They join Devi's walk down the hall.

FABIOLA
Was he not at the house this
morning?

ELEANOR
Oh my God, did he and your mom get
into a fight?

Devi stops mid-step.

DEVI
What are you talking about? My dad
died.

Fabiola and Eleanor turn to Devi with panic in their eyes.

ELEANOR
When?

FABIOLA
I'm so sorry, are you okay?

Devi looks confused.

DEVI
Almost a year ago. Why are you guys
acting like this? This isn't funny.

Fabiola and Eleanor's faces go from sadness to worry.

FABIOLA
What are you talking about? We saw
your dad yesterday.

ELEANOR

I don't know what happened but pretending your dad died? So wrong.

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)

Devi is freaking out right now. And who the hell wouldn't be? The dad she lost is suddenly alive again? And everyone's pretending like nothing's wrong? I bet she's wondering what the hell is happening.

DEVI

What the hell is happening?

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)

See? Told you.

FABIOLA

Are you sure you're okay? Mr. Shapiro would probably be fine if you needed to be a few minutes late to get yourself together.

ELEANOR

Either that, or he'll want to turn it into a lesson about how history doesn't favor emotional women but he's a feminist and blah blah blah.

DEVI

No. I'm fine.

INT. MR. SHAPIRO'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Devi goes to sit at the desk between Paxton and Ben. They don't acknowledge her. Mr. Shapiro sits on top of his desk and begins to speak.

The chalkboard behind him, always written with a daily message, reads: Only cons hate consent.

MR. SHAPIRO

I caved to the hierarchy when I was forced to give you final exams. However, the semester's almost up so I'm free to be me. Today, we'll be sharing what our best memories of the semester were. Who wants to go first?

Ben rushes to raise his hand. Mr. Shapiro nods at him and Ben stands up.

BEN

I guess my best memory of this semester - other than having the best grades, per usual - is making out with my girlfriend -

Ben takes a breath. Devi blushes and hides a smile.

BEN (CONT'D)

- Shira.

Devi's smile is quickly replaced by confusion.

DEVI

Wait, no. You broke up with her.

BEN

Why would I break up with my girlfriend? She's the best thing to happen to me.

Ben gives her a strange look before he returns to his seat.

MR. SHAPIRO

What about you, Devi? What was your best memory?

Devi looks lost.

DEVI

I don't know anymore.

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)

Devi is clearly confused. Just in case you are too, let me explain. In this reality, Devi's father never died. This means that the angsty Ben/Devi/Paxton triangle never happened. Without Devi's dad dying, she never mustered up the insane courage to offer her virginity to Paxton like it was a stick of gum. Or realized the cool guy Ben could be. I know, it sucks. But at least her dad is alive.

INT. SHERMAN OAKS HIGH - DAY

Devi walks up to Ben at his locker. He closes it and steps back when he sees her there.

BEN
Something I can help you with
David?

DEVI
Yes. We're friends, right?

BEN
Is this a trick? Oh I know, you're
trying to psych me out so that I'll
let my guard down next semester. So
not going to happen. Nice try.

DEVI
Ben, listen to me. Look at me. I
mean really look at me, deep into
my eyes. Do you remember me meaning
anything super important to you?

Ben stares into Devi's eyes with a serious expression. His
face begins to soften. Devi is hopeful. It's short-lived.

BEN
Nope.

Ben walks off. Fabiola comes to stand by Devi.

FABIOLA
Seriously, what is going on with
you today? First, you joke about
your dad being dead and now you're
conversing with your sworn nemesis?
What gives?

Devi guides Fabiola to a quiet part of the hallway.

DEVI
I don't know what's going on.

FABIOLA
Calm down. Tell me what happened.

DEVI
Where's Eleanor?

FABIOLA
She went to rehearsal. Are you
going to talk or what? I have a
robotics meet in a few.

DEVI
Okay. I don't know how to say this
so I'll just say it. Paxton hit me
with his car and now I'm messed up.

Fabiola begins to frantically pat Devi down.

FABIOLA

Oh my God, are you okay? When did this happen? Did you report him?

DEVI

What? No. Listen to me, okay? I'm not supposed to be here.

FABIOLA

I know. You're lucky to be alive. You got hit by a freakin' car.

DEVI

No. What I mean is, this isn't real. None of this is real.

Fabiola is clearly confused.

FABIOLA

Explain.

DEVI

I got hit by the car and suddenly I I'm in my room and my dad is alive.

FABIOLA

That's a good thing, right?

DEVI

Yes. I mean no. I mean, I don't know. First, he's alive then Ben doesn't remember our time together even though he was technically my boyfriend.

FABIOLA

Oh my God, you and Ben?

DEVI

Yeah, don't you remember? I secretly dated Paxton at the same time.

FABIOLA

Now you're just talking crazy.

DEVI

Fab, you literally helped me. This is exactly what I'm talking about. You don't remember anything either.

FABIOLA

Maybe that's because it didn't happen? Maybe you were dreaming.

DEVI

If I was, then that was a very long dream. By the way, where's Eve?

Fabiola looks taken aback. She feigns innocence.

FABIOLA

Who's Eve?

DEVI

Your girlfriend.

Fabiola quickly looks around and shushes Devi.

FABIOLA

What are you talking about, uh, I'm not gay.

DEVI

Yes. You are. We've already had this discussion. You're gay. You've come out to the entire school and your mom AND you have a cute girlfriend named Eve.

Fabiola stares at Devi for a few moments before she grabs her hand and starts to walk.

DEVI (CONT'D)

Where are we going?

FABIOLA

To get your sanity back.

INT. DEVI'S HOME, BEDROOM - DAY

Devi and Fabiola enter the bedroom and toss their backpacks to the floor. Fabiola sends a text on her phone before she sits on the bed and pats a space beside her.

FABIOLA

Okay, Eleanor is meeting us here as soon as rehearsal is over. I told her everything you said - minus some stuff not worth mentioning because again, I'm not gay - and we're both really worried.

DEVI

One, you are gay and we love you for it. Two, I promise there's no need to worry. I'm totally cool and under control.

FABIOLA

Is that right? Okay then, tell me who are the most important people in your life?

DEVI

You, Eleanor, my mom, Paxton, Ben, and I guess my annoyingly gorgeous cousin Kamala.

FABIOLA

Again, Paxton doesn't know you and Ben pretty much hates you. Who is Kamala?

DEVI

What do you mean? She's my cousin. You've seen her here a thousand times. Hang on.

Devi goes to the bedroom door and calls her cousin's name.

DEVI (CONT'D)

Kamala, Kamala come here.

FABIOLA

Your mom and dad are the only ones who live with you the last time I checked.

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)

Shoot. That's right, Mohan never died so Kamala never came to live with the family.

Devi closes the door and looks nauseous.

FABIOLA

See? Something isn't right with you. It's like you've completely warped reality.

DEVI

I think I should lie down.

Nalini calls Devi's name from downstairs.

NALINI
Devi, come here.

DEVI
(to Fabiola)
Right after this.

INT. DEVI'S HOME, KITCHEN

Devi's mom prepares a meal. She hands Devi a pile of dishes.

NALINI
Set the table, please. Will your
friends be staying for dinner?

DEVI
Yes. But can we eat in my room?
We're discussing important stuff.

NALINI
No boys, right?

DEVI
No mom. We're talking about
homework and studying.

NALINI
Then yes.

Devi counts the number of plates and cutlery. Three each.

DEVI
Wait, who is the extra stuff for?

NALINI
What are you talking about? This is
the same amount we always put out
for me, you, and your father.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. DEVI'S HOME, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Eleanor bursts into the bedroom and rushes to Devi's side.

ELEANOR

Dearest Devi, are you faint? Are you delirious? Speak to me!

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)

Well, at least one thing hadn't changed. Eleanor was still as dramatic as ever.

DEVI

Chill. I'm okay.

FABIOLA

I've been trying to get her to come to terms with the fact that this world she's concocted in her head, isn't real.

DEVI

So I'm supposed to just forget about Ben and Paxton and Eve and everything that's happened? Everything they meant to us? And about how yesterday my dad was gone and today he's here living and breathing like nothing is wrong?

FABIOLA

Because nothing IS wrong. You likely just had a very vivid dream last night and still haven't recovered. None of it was real.

ELEANOR

What if it was?

Devi quickly sits up in bed and looks at Eleanor.

DEVI

So you believe me?

ELEANOR

I believe that you believe it. And if you believe it, then it's worth looking into.

FABIOLA

Great, I'm gonna have two friends
in straitjackets.

ELEANOR

All I'm saying is that she's so
sure, right? So what if she really
is leading another life somewhere
else? The question would be, why is
she here now? Usually, when this
sorta stuff happens in the movies -
movies that I'll be starring in one
day by the way - it's because the
person has to learn something.

DEVI

What do I have to learn?

ELEANOR

No idea. Pretty much making this up
as I go along.

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)

Stick with it Eleanor, you may be
onto something.

Eleanor begins to pace the floor, deep in thought. She stops.

ELEANOR

What if you just roll with it? And
see what happens?

FABIOLA

Roll with what? Delusion? That's
the advice you're going to give?

ELEANOR

Do you have a better idea? If she's
not supposed to be here, eventually
she'll figure out why she is and
then she'll be able to leave.

DEVI

I'm not sure I want to. My dad is
here. I didn't get paralyzed here
or out an anorexic girl to the
entire school.

ELEANOR

What?

DEVI

Never mind. Hey, where's Anessa?

FABIOLA

I know you're probably tired of me asking this, but who?

DEVI

(sighs)

Oh yeah. She didn't come until after I'd lost my dad too.

ELEANOR

Wait, so all of these events that you mentioned didn't occur until after your dad passed away?

DEVI

Pretty much. Yeah.

ELEANOR

Interesting. Maybe that's the key.

DEVI

What do you mean?

Eleanor sits by the window. Devi rushes to join.

ELEANOR

Think about it. You've always been headstrong, but I've never seen you so much as sneeze in Paxton's direction. Yet in this other life, you were his girlfriend.

FABIOLA

Which is weird since you guys don't run in the same circles at school. I mean no offense, but does he even know your name?

ELEANOR

No. That's my point exactly. As of now, she may as well be poop stuck on the bottom of his shoe, but apparently that changed later. Devi, I think your dad's death made you brave.

DEVI

No. It made me reckless. It made me "crazy Devi." I did so many stupid things after.

ELEANOR

Really? Or did you stop holding yourself back and went after the things you really wanted besides grades and getting into Princeton?

Devi seems to ponder this. Fabiola looks at both of them like they've lost their minds.

FABIOLA

Eleanor, stop enabling. Devi, you're not crazy, but you're also not from some other plane of existence and even if you were, you're here now. So just enjoy it. Take everything you had good there, and bring it here. Only this time your dad is alive to see it all.

ELEANOR

Yep. Like I said, roll with it.

BEGIN MONTAGE

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)

And Devi did 'roll with it.' She went on enjoying time with her dad.

Devi and Mohan watch John McEnroe's tennis matches together.

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)

She bonded closer to her friends who slowly stopped thinking she was going crazy.

Devi and the girls are at a sleepover at Devi's house. They laugh and toss snacks at each other.

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)

And she completely put that other life outside of her head.

Devi is at school. She walks past Ben and Paxton. Neither guy notices her. She watches them as they walk to their lockers.

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)

Or at least she tried to.

END MONTAGE

INT. SHERMAN OAKS HIGH - DAY

Devi stares at Paxton across the hall. He laughs at a joke that Trent has made. Trent walks off. Devi takes a deep breath and walks over to Paxton nervously.

DEVI
Hey Paxton. Do you know me?

PAXTON
Yeah. Yeah, I do.

Paxton smiles at her. Devi brightens up.

PAXTON (CONT'D)
You're in Mr. Shapiro's class.

Devi deflates like a balloon.

DEVI
Yes, but that's not all I am. I'm -
uh - I'm -

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)
Say it, Devi. Say it. Tell him who
you are.

Devi tries to find the right words. She fails.

DEVI
I'm wondering, would you like to
have sex with me?

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)
No, she didn't. Tell me she did not
do this again. You cannot be
serious.

Paxton's eyes widen at Devi's proposition.

PAXTON
No?

Paxton gives her a weird look and walks off.

DEVI
Wait! That's not what I meant to
say!

Paxton doesn't turn back around.

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)
Seems that Devi with the dead dad
got the dudes but Devi with the
alive dad gets the snooze. Dammit.

Devi turns around and runs into Ben who smirks.

BEN
Damn, David. You got turned down by
Paxton? No shocker there.

DEVI
Whatever. I'm glad you're here, I
wanted to talk to you.

BEN
If it's the same offer you made
Paxton, I'd probably accept if it
wasn't for my amazing girlfriend
Shira.

DEVI
Very funny, but no. As much as I
love our banter I'm wondering,
would you like to try being
friends? And no, I'm not trying to
psych you out.

Ben looks surprised.

BEN
You and me, friends?

DEVI
Yes. It would be nice to have you
not hate me for a change.

BEN
David, I don't hate you. I just
want to be better than you.

DEVI
Charming. So, what do you say?

Ben begins to soften.

BEN
I guess we -

The softness quickly goes away.

BEN (CONT'D)
Oh wow, you are good. You really
almost got me that time.

Ben walks off and laughs to himself.

DEVI

Ben I am not trying to trick you!

Ben waves her off over his shoulder.

Devi sees Fabiola in the distance. She's alone and looks sad. She eyes Eve as she walks by and then quickly looks away. She sees Devi and waves with a forced smile. Devi waves back sympathetically.

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)

Seems like nothing is going how
Devi wants it to go. Clearly the
'roll with it' approach didn't
work. Now what?

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. DEVI'S HOME, KITCHEN - DAY

Devi enters the house and sees her mother close the fridge.

NALINI

What is wrong with you? Why have you been acting so strange lately?

DEVI

Don't worry, mom. I'm fine.

NALINI

You don't seem fine.

Devi's father comes into the kitchen.

MOHAN

Hello, my perfect girl. How was school?

DEVI

School is school. Dad, can you get Mom off my back please? Tell her I'm fine.

MOHAN

My love, she's fine.

NALINI

She better be. This weird behavior better not be over some boy.

Devi walks out of the kitchen. She turns to see her dad hug her mom.

MOHAN

You worry too much.

INT. DEVI'S HOME, LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Devi sits sad on the couch. Mohan comes in and joins her.

MOHAN

What's the matter, my perfect girl?

DEVI

Dad, If something really bad happened, and you had the chance to change it or to live with it, what would you choose?

Mohan ponders the questions as he sits next to Devi.

MOHAN

I'd choose to live with it.

DEVI

But why? If you could stop something bad from happening, why wouldn't you?

MOHAN

Devi, you cannot stop bad things from happening. It is a part of life. The only thing you can do is experience it and have faith that something good is waiting on the other side.

DEVI

But what if the bad thing is permanent?

MOHAN

Nothing bad ever is. Bad is never made to last and good always returns. Think about it. Think about the worst thing that's ever happened to you, and then all of the good that came out of it.

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)

Devi did just that.

QUICK FLASHES

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)

She remembered watching her dad die at her concert.

Mohan clutches his heart as Devi looks on in fear.

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)

Then she thought about how she grew closer to Ben.

Ben and Devi kiss in Ben's car.

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)
 And how happy Fabiola was after she
 came out.

Fabiola and Eve receive their Queen and Queen crowns at the
 Winter Dance.

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)
 Lastly, she thought about Paxton.

Paxton climbs through Devi's window and they kiss.

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)
 And how she took such a leap
 approaching the most popular guy at
 school, something old Devi had
 never had the courage to do.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. DEVI'S HOME, LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Devi looks over at Mohan with a smile and teary eyes.

DEVI
 Thanks, Dad. I know what I have to
 do now.

MOHAN
 Ah, yes. Knowing is half the
 battle. Accepting? That's the hard
 part.

DEVI
 How do you accept bad stuff?

MOHAN
 By realizing there wasn't anything
 you could have done to change it.

DEVI
 How do we know though? How do we
 know that one moment couldn't
 change everything? That one
 decision can't change everything?

MOHAN
 There's only so much we control. If
 we worried constantly about what we
 can't, well, that wouldn't be a
 very happy life. Now would it?

DEVI
No. It wouldn't be.

MOHAN
Exactly. Feel better now?

DEVI
Yes. You give really good advice. I
love you, Dad.

MOHAN
I love you too.

Devi and Mohan embrace. Devi squeezes him tightly.

DEVI
I miss you.

MOHAN
Don't be silly, my perfect girl.
I'm right here.

DEVI
I know. And you always will be.

EXT. SHERMAN OAKS HIGH - NIGHT

The story picks up where it left off in the PREVIOUSLY ON.

Devi lays on the ground after being struck by Paxton's car. She groans as Paxton comes fully into view. He stands over her. His voice is no longer muffled or distant.

PAXTON
Devi, are you okay?

Devi looks up at Paxton for a brief moment.

PAXTON (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry, I didn't see you.

Paxton helps her up and Devi stares at him in shock.

DEVI
You came to the dance.

THE END