Never Have I Ever

Siddharth Shroff

“Don’t waste your prayers on stupid things like World Peace- ask God for a Princeton Scholarship.”.

Being Indian teens, most of us have heard something or the other similar to what you just read. You’ve all searched for a show that an average angsty, rebellious, hormonal brown teenager can relate to, and the wait for it is finally OVER. Here we have a Netflix Original- Never Have I Ever. Albeit set in the backdrop of a public high school in the States, the life of Devi Vishwakumar was as Indian as it got- from putting all school books in front of your house’s shrine to “attract” better grades, to having a curfew and bedtime as early as 10 pm- you name it. With an up-and-coming love life, Devi is stuck is this love arrowhead, with the conventional good-looking fit jock with a surefire heated attitude on one end, and a nerd with straight As and a penchant for Model UN (not to mention a trying and testy competitive spirit which almost always got the better of him) on the other.

With her best friends Fabiola, a fairly tall girl with a quirky fashion sense and a sexuality she was struggling to come to terms with, and Eleanor, a thespian with an even more questionable choice in clothes, who had major issues wither parents growing up- Devi was ready to take on the challenges her Sophomore year threw at her, and was determined to look cool while doing it too. As a single mother with her unmarried niece Kamala and her teenage daughter Devi at home, dermatologist Nalini Vishwakumar is one of the most stressed out and overprotective Indian mother you’ll ever find in a sitcom.

Most of the trials Devi faces is due to parental and peer pressure, which again is put forward in the most candid way possible. Be it inter-school events, college applications, going to “no adult” parties with alcohol, exploring one’s own body along with someone else’s too, sexuality, and soon becoming independent- the show covers it all. If you didn’t expect this to come along- the show does bring along the infamous Indian concept of an arranged marriage, which does take a surprising turn. P.S., we won’t be mentioning it, because we do want you to find out. And hey- who doesn’t love putting their books aside for a nice binge session. (The added bonus of the clichéd Netflix and Chill boomerang on your Instagram story does boost the chances of our readers watching it doesn’t it?)

All in all, Never Have I Ever has lived up to the expectations the teasers and sneak-peeks lead us to have, and us here at the Entertainment department at Verity Today would like to rate this show 7.5 out of 10 Coyotes.