

FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD

By

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INT. PAVITR'S DORM ROOM - EARLY MORNING

The camera is closed in on the blank phone screen sitting on the bedside table.

Comic book styled text pops up saying "EARTH-1218B"

The alarm goes off. Pavitr grabs the phone off screen.

PAVITR (Narrating)
My name is Pavitr Prabhakar. I'm
19 years old and a not-so-sure
biology major at NYU Abu Dhabi. I
was bitten by a radioactive spider
from an Earth that's not my own.

Pavitr scrambles to get up and out of bed and do his morning routine. He grabs his stuff in a hurry but he grabs the card holder without his NYU id.

CUT TO:

INT. DORMITORY HALLWAY - EARLY MORNING

The camera is still, aimed down the hallway as Pavitr runs towards the camera and runs down the staircase.

PAVITR (Narrating)
And for the past two years, I've
had powers from straight out a
comic book.

INT. FLASH BACK IN PERFORMANCE GYM - EARLY MORNING

Pavitr is walking through the gym by himself. A basketball comes flying in his direction but he dodges it smoothly.

PAVITR (Narrating)
What I thought was just a nasty
spider bite gave me the ability to
magically sense danger.

CUT TO:

INT. "Volleyball" PERFORMANCE GYM - AFTERNOON

Two teams are playing volleyball. Pavitr is playing setter, standing in the front next to the net.

PAVITR (Narrating)
I haven't always been very good at
using my powers.

Pavitr gets in position and is ready to set the ball for the wing spiker. However, he ends up sticking the ball and everybody is confused and upset.

INT. "Flash Thompson" PERFORMANCE GYM - AFTERNOON

Pavitr tries to show off against a tall basketball player like Andrew Garfield does but ends up having the ball taken away from him.

PAVITR (Narrating)
Things always workout better in my
head than they do in practice.

INT. "Keyboard Scene" PAVITR'S ROOM - MORNING

Pavitr is typing on his laptop in his room. A close-up shot of his fingers on the keyboard follows.

PAVITR (Narrating)
I haven't always been in control
of my powers either.

Pavitr enthusiastically hits the period key a little too hard at the end of his essay and ends up breaking his keyboard.

CUT TO:

INT. OUTSIDE CLASSROOM - MORNING

Pavitr rushes down the hallway.

PAVITR (Narrating)
Even with these powers. I still
end up being late for class.

INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

The lights are off inside so Pavitr quietly and subtly
opens the classroom door late. The professor points a phone
flashlight at Pavitr.

PROFESSOR
You're late again, Mr. Prahbarkar.

PAVITR
Einstein said time was relative,
right? Maybe I'm not late. Maybe
you guys are early.

PROFESSOR
Very clever- now sit down, Mr.
Prabhakar.

INT. OUTSIDE CLASSROOM - NOON

The class ends and Pavitr tries to subtly escape the
classroom. The professor calls him back.

PROFESSOR
When will I see your finalized
portfolio, Pavitr?

PAVITR
I'm sorry professor, I'll get it
done soon I just need another
three days-

PROFESSOR
Another THREE days? Pavitr I've
already given you an extra week!
I'm really not asking much of you
with this class.

PAVITR

I know I know. There's just a lot going on right now.

PROFESSOR

You have another day. I need to submit the grades for the semester soon. You won't be passing without this portfolio. Best of luck.

The professor walks away. Pavitr looks down at his feet and checks his phone.

INT. DINING HALL 2 - NOON

Pavitr is sitting alone in the far corner of D2 poking at his food. His friend is walking towards him with a tray. He's holding a lot of stuff and drops his milk cartons. Pavitr uses his spidey sense and catches the milk carton.

FRIEND

Woah, nice catch.

Pavitr continues to poke at his food.

FRIEND

What's wrong dude? What's with the long face?

PAVITR

(sighs) It feels like ever since I got bit by that spider. My life has been on extra hard mode.

FRIEND

I think you're too fixated on rejecting your powers. You can't live properly because you've become more and more stressed about people finding out about your superpowers.

Pavitr takes a look at his hands. The camera is right of him, looking slightly downwards.

EXT. OUTSIDE DORM - NOON

The scene begins with the same shot of Pavitr's hands but now outside at the dorms. Pavitr stops looking at his hands and looks up.

Pavitr is at the dormitory building, in a small alley hidden from view. He looks around to make sure no one is nearby.

Pavitr begins to take a step onto the wall. [The camera only shows his feet moving from the ground to the wall meanwhile the actor is sitting in the chair]

Pavitr climbs into the dorm room from his dorm window.

INT. PAVITR'S DORM ROOM - AFTERNOON

Pavitr climbs in through the window, landing softly on the floor. He looks exhausted but relieved to be in the privacy of his own space.

Pavitr picks up his NYU id and puts it in his ID holder.

PAVITR (Narrating)
Sometimes, the only place I feel I
can breathe is here, in my room.
My very own fortress of solitude.

Pavitr sits at his desk, staring at his broken keyboard. He
looks at the comic book on his desk.

PAVITR (Narrating)
In comics, heroes always seem to
have their lives together... or at
least, they figure things out
eventually.

He picks up a comic, flipping through it absentmindedly.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - EVENING

Pavitr walks across campus, lost in thought. He sees
students laughing, playing, and studying together. He feels
isolated among them.

PAVITR (Narrating)
But I'm not a hero from the
comics. I'm just a guy who got bit
by a spider. And now, I'm
struggling with this... gift. I'm
even falling behind on my work.

Suddenly, his spider-sense tingles and he looks to his
side. Someone had left their skateboard near a staircase
and a group of students is about to slip on it.

Pavitr rushes over and takes the skateboard away without
them noticing.

PAVITR (Narrating)
In moments like these, I realize
maybe I can make a difference,
even in small ways.

EXT. PERFORMANCE GYM - NOON

Pavitr is walking with a friend along the inside of the gym. Pavitr is on the outside.

PAVITR (Narrating)
Maybe it's not about having
control over everything. Maybe
it's about doing the best with
what I have.

Pavitr catches the ball before it hits their friend.

INT. PAVITR'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Pavitr is at his desk, working diligently on his portfolio. He looks more focused and at peace than before.

PAVITR (Narrating)
I can't ignore who I am or what I
can do. I don't have to be a
superhero to protect my friendly
neighborhood.

He finishes his work, looks at it satisfied, and then looks at his Spider-Man comic.

Pavitr smiles and submits his work, this time gently pressing the enter.

PAVITR (Narrating)
Maybe I'm not that different after
all.

CUT TO CREDITS.

