

A Remarkable Young Woman

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By Kevin Tibbles, NBC News correspondent

When I got home last night I sat my kids down to talk about the litany of suburban travails that soooo take over daily life.

"Who's gonna pick up whom?" "Why won't you eat fruit?" My clothes are wrinkled. Why didn't you empty the dryer?"

It was a little different however as, thanks to this job of mine, I met someone yesterday who is special. So, we talked about that instead.



If I was in reporter mode here, I would type... "Farah Ahmedi is a 20 year old Afghan refugee who lost one of her legs when she stepped on a land mine. She eventually left her homeland to make her way to the United States and a new life."

All of that is true, of course. But, none of it really describes this remarkable young woman. With an ill-fitting prosthetic leg and her ailing mother in tow, Farah walked over the mountains into Pakistan. She survived the dangerous and fetid refugee camps, came to America, educated herself in a new culture, has written a book about her experiences and has inspired almost everyone she's met. Many now volunteer to help other refugees in America.

Her intense, dark eyes destroy any notion that Farah Ahmedi will ever allow circumstance or disability get in the way of her goal. She lobbies against landmines and works to save the children of Afghanistan. Today this remarkable woman, who makes a difference every single day, becomes a U.S. citizen. She says she is so grateful to have the freedom of choice in the country that has made such a difference to her.