

## Audition Side 2: VAL & LAKSHMI

2022 - After the investor visits the Peach Pit, Lakshmi and Val debrief the meeting and discuss whether or not they want to sell the restaurant.

LAKSHMI

An "eye sore".

That's what he called it.

The tree.

Arre, what an idiot.

VAL

I mean it does block the kitchen, fucks the air conditioning, there's that electrical wire that / is basically a lawsuit in the making

LAKSHMI

Why doesn't it "make fruit?" He said.

Like it needed some kind of purpose, / some

VAL

Customers / don't even want to sit under it

LAKSHMI

Something can still be beautiful even if it lacks function.

You like it

VAL

It's certainly...memorable.

LAKSHMI

There is so much to remember.

VAL

Mom

You took Anjali-?

LAKSHMI

Please, don't

VAL

My opinion matters here. I'm the one on the floor with you everyday. I think, we should sell.

LAKSHMI

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What a surprise

VAL

You could retire, you could

LAKSHMI

Sit at home all day, for the rest of my days, alone.

VAL

That's not

LAKSHMI

And you could be alone, too.

We could all collect a check and go our separate ways, and live well, and **be** lonely, and never work, never do, again.

VAL

We could be comfortable, we could delegate

LAKSHMI

I don't want to be alone.

VAL

No one stops you from coming in here if someone else invests

LAKSHMI

It stops being ours.

It is the last thing that is ours.

Kash and I.

He would never forgive me.

VAL

He's never even seen it, mom.

LAKSHMI

Don't be ridiculous, he's always watching. He's seen all of it.

VAL

...Your lungs

Your heart...

LAKSHMI

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Is here

VAL

Is under stress, ma

LAKSHMI

Arre, you are stressing me, nothing else

VAL

The doctor said

LAKSHMI

Anjali thinks we should get a second opinion

VAL

On the restaurant or on you

LAKSHMI

We are the same thing.

Anjali wants me to be happy

VAL

She doesn't work

LAKSHMI

She understands

She doesn't hate it like you do.

You hate it here.

You want it to be someone else's problem

You want me to be somewhere else

But this is mine, not yours.

VAL

I mean, it is technically ours

LAKSHMI

My name is on the deed

VAL

And so is mine. It's in both our names.

Your Second Husband left it to us, ma. Both / of us

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LAKSHMI

He was an asshole and he made a bad decision.

You cannot put dreams in a child's name

You should have stayed at your pizza place, or followed your music and taken / that spot with those-

VAL

I have helped grow this restaurant tremendously

LAKSHMI

Yes, with your digi-grams and insta-toks

VAL

Social media kept us alive in the pandemic

LAKSHMI

So what do you want?

A raise?

VAL

I want to sell it.

LAKSHMI

No.

VAL

Then buy my share from me.

LAKSHMI

...I can't.

VAL

Can you see how this is difficult for me?

LAKSHMI

What about me?

LAKSHMI

This is my whole life, Valentina. I will not end my own life.