

Audition Side 1: DIANA & LOKPRAKASH

1962 - *It is Lokprakash's birthday and Diana has made a mountain of food.*

DIANA

It's your BIRTHDAY!

LOKPRAKASH

For who, ten of me?!?!

DIANA

You work all day, picking peaches, squeezing, lifting
You burn too many calories, I've got to fatten you up

LOKPRAKASH

Look at my beautiful wife, with all the skills of a Punjabi woman, in America? Look at these rotis!

DIANA

Those are tortillas

LOKPRAKASH

Close enough!
It smells wonderful
Like home.

DIANA

I had to improvise around some of it
Oil for ghee, different peppers
I could have done more, but my stomach, oh! I haven't been feeling well, but I pushed through-!

LOKPRAKASH

It's perfect, Diana. Thank you.

DIANA

What? These are just sides!

LOKPRAKASH

There's more?!

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DIANA

I know you said you didn't like beef, but

DIANA

My carnitas.

I haven't made them since leaving home. For you.

A taste of where I'm from, in the place we are now.

Lokprakash freezes.

LOKPRAKASH

Oh.

DIANA

I want to watch you try it, I'll eat later

My stomach, you know.

Go on! Once you start, you won't be able to stop!

Come, try it!

LOKPRAKASH

...

DIANA

Lolo, please.

I know you're a picky eater, but

Please.

*Lokprakash stands from the table,
facing away.*

DIANA

I worked all day on it, just

LOKPRAKASH

I'm not hungry anymore

DIANA

What?

What's wrong with you?

LOKPRAKASH

Nothing is wrong with me.

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DIANA

All day, all day I

And my stomach

Do you know how much I

Do you know how much beef costs?

LOKPRAKASH

What about what it costs me?

DIANA

What does it cost you?

To taste the food your wife made

Your wife, who has learned for you

Who has learned to love you

LOKPRAKASH

We have both learned

We have both made choices

DIANA

I married you so you could stay here

LOKPRAKASH

You had plenty reason to marry me back.

We are both compromising in the pursuit of America.

DIANA

Just try it.

LOKPRAKASH

I have to

I have to maintain some of myself.

DIANA

What does that even mean?!?!

LOKPRAKASH

I'm still Indian

DIANA

And I'm Mexican, and you're a man, and I'm a woman, and this fucking cow is dead and marinated and seared and baked and torn and

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LOKPRAKASH
ENOUGH!
It's bad enough as it is, just

DIANA

...

LOKPRAKASH
Hindus don't eat beef.

DIANA
...I've never seen you pray?

LOKPRAKASH
I am not...a religious person.
But my mother is.
She wouldn't
Not even on my birthday.
Not even a bite.
Not even for you.

DIANA
Maybe in India...
But here

LOKPRAKASH
I am Indian everywhere.

DIANA
...My carnitas is famous.
Even my parents
Even they loved it.
Would you ask our child not to try her mother's carnitas?

LOKPRAKASH
...I don't know. I haven't thought about it

DIANA
Well you might want to start.
I'm pregnant.
Happy birthday.