

Audition Side 7: ANJALI & LAKSHMI

Anjali enters Lakshmi's office, still on the phone with her husband. Lakshmi shoves a taco bell wrapper into her desk.

ANJALI

"But I already picked the kid up from daycare, Umar. I can't- Our family needs me here tonight, can't you guys just- I am not "using them as an excuse," I am- Hello?"

Anjali hangs up.

ANJALI

Tell Faaz to talk to his son. Umar seems to forget that he's a parent too-

Anjali sniffs the air.

ANJALI

Did you get taco bell? It smells like crunch / wrap supreme in here-

LAKSHMI

So! You-
You two are having...troubles again?

ANJALI

It's fine! I'm happy- We're good now.
Umar just, wants to go play basketball in the park, with his friends- Which is good, it's what I wanted, for him to like,
Have interests.
But they always have to go play, in the evenings- Even though there's a hoop in our yard!
But he, he, he "prefers the fresher air"- The air, "it's fresher", in the park?

(...It's fine! I'm happy-) After all the-
/ He can't break my heart anymore?

LAKSHMI

Anjali, to do what is best for your son, you have to be patient-

ANJALI

No, I know, and it's fine, I'm happy!
This is nothing! And even if it was something-
We promised, at the fuckin interfaith wedding, in all the languages, so- There's no going back-
We said in front of all the gods, and the relatives and the restaurant, that our irrevocable differences, were actually, quite, revocable, so-
So, can't let the Facebook bots / win on this one- I'm good, I'm all good-

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LAKSHMI

I don't know my Facebook password, you lost it-

ANJALI

I'm fine and happy because, because my heart isn't breakable, it is flexible, and it is patient, and thick and rubbery, and swollen enough to bounce back from this continuing / rough patch-

LAKSHMI

Like, a basketball?

ANJALI

Thank you, ma, yeah, like a BASKETBALL-

LAKSHMI

Very baller, no?

ANJALI

No, please make a joke about it, please-

Because you and Faaz and the restaurant get a laugh, huh?

"Look at the kids fighting". Look at the kids, with a kid, who sees the fighting. It's fine, I'm happy, I'm just, filled with stale air.

Places where artery and meat and like, love, should be, COULD be-

LAKSHMI

Do we have to do this now? There is a lot going on.

ANJALI

...There is always a lot going on.

It's fine. I'm not very good at endings anyway. Let me just-

Text the babysitter, who is literally my age, and ask her...to watch...with the kid, you're all so happy, I had...-

She texts on her phone.

LAKSHMI

Sometimes, in life, you only get one love- But maybe you haven't found your one yet.

ANJALI

That's kind of a fucking weird thing to say about your son-in-law, ma.

LAKSHMI

I don't know what you want me to say- Maybe eat something?

Anjali gets an insane text!

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LAKSHMI

...Is that all you came up here for? / I'm busy-

The investor is coming tonight.

LAKSHMI

What? Why-

ANJALI

He wants to see the dinner rush-

LAKSHMI

He wants to intimidate me!