

PIYA SIDES (Can't Help Falling)

This is a radio play. It begins with Miranda taking care of her sick daughter while her husband Vivek is at a local conference. Piya shows up at her doorstep and explains Vivek must have forgotten to tell Miranda she was coming over. Miranda and Piya have never met before. It is revealed later in the play that Piya and Vivek are having an emotional affair.

PIYA – an Indian woman born and raised in the US in her mid-20s. She is a former engineer who has left the field to pursue a meditation and chakra healing business. She is peppy and tends to ramble when she is nervous, which she is in this scene. Piya could have an Indian accent, although one is not necessary.

MIRANDA – a woman in her mid- to late-30s. She is married to Vivek and a stay-at-home mother of two children, Neelu and Hunter.

SCENE 1: It's established that Miranda has been up all night taking care of her sick daughter. Piya has arrived on her doorstep and Miranda begrudgingly welcomed her in. Miranda has just slipped away to text Vivek who is at a local conference.

MIRANDA

(in the bathroom. Turns on faucet. Voice texts Vivek)

Your friend Piya is here. Did you forget you made plans? Now I have to entertain some stranger and take care of your sick child? If you are not home by 12:30 I will consider it grounds for divorce. Send.

(beat, turns off faucet, sighs)

I love you. send.

(returns to living room)

Can I get you...

PIYA

(from another room)

Over here! Just checking out this beautiful side board you have here. I'm just so interested in what other people keep in their home and what they chose to keep away versus display and what that says about their perceptions of beauty, you know?

MIRANDA

You're inside my furniture.

PIYA

(continues)

It's just such an intimate thing, you know. Being invited in someone's home. It's like, we all have these energies. The energy we display when we're out in the world, right? Like the energy we use to protect ourselves but also engage with those around us, but in our homes, we're just our true selves. And our energy is reflected in our furniture and art, and where we chose to put it all. I'm just so honored to be welcomed into your space.

MIRANDA

Like Jeanie's bottle.

PIYA

What?

MIRANDA

I Dream of Jeanie? She'd go into her bottle and it was her space that only she could access.

PIYA

I don't really watch television.

MIRANDA

I guess the commander came in a couple of times, actually. *(beat)*

Do you want something to drink?

PIYA

I'm ok, thank you.

MIRANDA

I need some water.

PIYA

I'll help! *(beat)* Actually, I will take a glass of water. I'm always trying to drink more water. I get so drained by the evening when I don't make healthy choices. Isn't the connection between bodily health and emotional health interesting? I've been reading about how some paraplegics experience less fear once they lose connection with their limbs. It's like our muscles hold our shame, you know? *(beat)*
I just starting using these chakra stones-

MIRANDA

uh huh.

PIYA

(continues)

-do you meditate? It's changed my life. I want to start a guided meditation podcast that focuses on the ulabunda chakra-

MIRANDA

Vivek won't be back for a couple hours. Just FYI. Totally happy for you to hang out until he gets here. But if you'd rather get a coffee

PIYA

Oh I don't do caffeine. I'm not into drugs of any kind. People rely on them to get through the day but they actually zap your energy.

MIRANDA

There's also a mall up the road
(beat) of course, I'd love the company.

PIYA

You must get so lonely? Vivek told me you're a stay-at-home mom.

MIRANDA

How do you know Vivek? Sorry, he's never mentioned you.