

# LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS AUDITION MONOLOGUES

## Side 6

*Plant Discovery – Seymour, Customer, Mushnik, Audrey*

MUSHNIK. Look at that! Six o'clock and we didn't sell so much as a fern. I guess this is it. (He crosses to door and reverses the sign in it from Open to Closed.) Don't bother coming in tomorrow.

AUDREY. You don't mean.

SEYMOUR. You can't mean.

MUSHNIK What? What what don't I mean? I mean I'm closed, forget it, kaput.

AUDREY. You can't.

MUSHNIK Kaput! Extinct! I'm closing this God and customer forsaken place. (AUDREY nudges SEYMOUR forward.)

SEYMOUR. Mr. Mushnik, forgive me for saying so, but has it ever occurred to you that maybe what the firm needs is to move in a new direction?

AUDREY. What Seymour's trying to say, Mr. Mushnik, is ... Well, we've talked about it and we both agree . . . (confidentially, to SEYMOUR) Seymour, why don't you run in back and bring out that strange and interesting new plant you've been working on? (SEYMOUR exits up R.) You see, Mr. Mushnik, some of those exotic plants Seymour has been tinkering around with are really unusual and we were both thinking that maybe some of his strange and interesting plants- prominently displayed and advertised- would attract business.

SEYMOUR. (Re-enters R., carrying Pod #1-a large but sickly looking plant- unlike any you have ever seen.) I'm afraid it isn't feeling very well today.

AUDREY. (crossing c. to SEYMOUR) There. Now isn't that bizarre?

MUSHNIK (joining her) At least. What kind of a weirdo plant is that, Seymour?

SEYMOUR. I don't know. It looks like some kind of flytrap, but I haven't been able to identify it in any of my books. So I gave it my own name.... I call it an Audrey Two.

AUDREY. (deeply moved) After me?

SEYMOUR. (shy and gazing at her) I hope you don't mind. (to MUSHNIK, then crossing to window seat) You see sir, if you put a strange and interesting plant like this, here in the window, maybe-

MUSHNIK (returning to R. work table and sitting) Maybe what? Do you have any idea how ridiculous you sound? [Customer passes by window, notices plant and moves to enter shop] Just because you put a strange and interesting plant in a window, people don't suddenly . . . [Customer Enters... chimes on door ring]

CUSTOMER. Excuse me. I couldn't help noticing that strange and interesting plant. What is it?

AUDREY. It's an Audrey Two.

CUSTOMER. I've never seen anything like it before.

SEYMOUR. No one has.

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CUSTOMER. Where did you get it?

SEYMOUR. Well, I was walking in the wholesale flower district one day. And I passed by this place where this old Chinese man sometimes sells me weird and exotic cuttings- 'Cause he knows, you see, strange plants are my hobby! Well, He didn't have anything unusual there that day. And I was about to, you know, walk on by when suddenly and without warning, there was this ...total eclipse of the sun!....It got very dark....And then I heard a strange humming sound, like something from another world. And when the light came back, this weird plant was just sitting there, just stuck in, you know, among the zinnias? I coulda sworn it hadn't been there before. But the old Chinese man sold it to me anyway....for a dollar ninety five.

CUSTOMER. Well, that's an unusual story and a fascinating plant. (starts out L., then turns.) Oh...I may as well take fifty dollars-worth of roses while I'm here

MUSHNIK Fifty dollars!

AUDREY. Fifty dollars!

SEYMOUR. Fifty dollars!

MUSHNIK (crossing toward CUSTOMER at L. work table) Yes sir, right away, sir!

CUSTOMER. Can you break a hundred?

MUSHNIK A hundred. Er . . . no . . . I'm afraid we . . .er ... (fingering a huge cobweb on the register- comes up with excuse for no cash for change)....we closed the register for the day.

CUSTOMER. Well then.... I'll just have to take twice as many, won't I?

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## **Side 7**

*No Customers – Life on Skid Row” Mushnik, Audrey, Seymour, Ronnette, Crystal, Chiffon MUSHNIK in Shop. Seymour in back of shop – off stage – Urchins on stoop outside shop. Audrey off stage. We hear a crash offstage, caused by SEYMOUR*

MUSHNIK. (to SEYMOUR) What did you break now, Krelborn?

SEYMOUR. (offstage) Nothing, Mr. Mushnik.

AUDREY enters; she is late for work – she has a black eye.

MUSHNIK. (to AUDREY) So, she finally decides to come to work.

AUDREY. Good morning, Mr. Musknik.

MUSHNIK. What morning? It’s two o’clock in the afternoon. Not that we had a customer. Who has customers when you run a flower shop in Skid Row?

AUDREY. I’m sorry. (We hear another crash from SEYMOUR.)

MUSHNIK. Seymour, what is going on back there?

SEYMOUR. (offstage) Very little, Mr. Mushnik.

MUSHNIK. Audrey, you’d better go back there and see what he’s ... Audrey. Where’d you get that shiner?

AUDREY. Shiner?

MUSHNIK. Audrey, that greasy boyfriend of yours – he’s been beating up on you again? Look, I know it’s none of my business, but I’m beginning to think maybe he’s not such a nice boy.

AUDREY. You don’t meet nice boys when you live on Skid Row, Mr. Mushnik. (SEYMOUR enters.)

SEYMOUR. I got these plants repotted for you, Mr. ... (He trips over his feet and falls, sending trays and pots flying across the room.)

MUSHNIK. Seymour! Look what you done to the inventory!

AUDREY. Don’t yell at Seymour, Mr. Mushnik.

SEYMOUR. (Looking up from the floor) Hi, Audrey – you look radiant today. Is that new eye makeup?

AUDREY. (Picks up some pots; taking them into the workroom) I’ll clean it up before any of the customers get here. (AUDREY and SEYMOUR exit)

MUSHNIK. Well that ought to give you plenty of time. (strolls outside) Look, God, what an existence I got! Misfit employees, bums on the sidewalk, business is lousy. My life is a living hell. (Crosses toward the girls.) You! Urchins! Off the stoop! It ain’t bad enough I got the winos permanently decorating the storefront? I need three worthless ragamuffins to complete the picture?

RONNETTE. Aw, we ain’t bothering nobody. Are we, Crystal?

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CRYSTAL. No we're not, Ronnette.

MUSHNIK. You ought to be in school.

CHIFFON. We're on the split shift.

RONNETTE. Right. We went to school 'til the fifth grade, then we split. (High fives all around)

MUSHNIK. So how do you intend to better yourselves?

CRYSTAL. Better ourselves? Mister, when you from Skid Row, ain't no such thing.

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## **Side 8**

*Chiffon, Crystal, Ronnette and Seymour & Audrey A Street meeting after Seymour's radio Broadcast*

Seymour (Enters) – Well, how'd I do?

Chiffon – (Running to him) – You was great, Seymour!

Crystal – (joining her) – You sounded sexier than the Wolf-man!

Ronnette – You're an overnight sensation Seymour.....Who'da believed it? *(Seymour Exits. Audrey Enters)*

Crystal – Well look who's here.

Audrey – Hi Crystal, Hi Ronnette, Hi Chiffon. Am I late? Did I miss it?

Ronnette – Sure Are.

Chiffon – And sure did.

Audrey – Seymour's first radio broadcast, I wanted to cheer him on. I tried to be on time but.....

Crystal- Don't Tell Me

Three Girls – You got tied up.

Audrey – No. Just...handcuffed.....a little.

Ronnette – Girl, I don't know who this mess is you hangin out with, but he is sure hazardous to your health.

Audrey – That's for sure, but I can't leave him.

Chiffon – Why not?

Audrey – He'd be angry. And if he does this to me when he likes me, imagine what he'd do if he every got mad.

Crystal – So dump the chump, get another guy, and let him protect you.

Chiffon – And we got one all picked out

Ronnette – A little botanical genius.

Crystal – And she ain't talking about George Washington Carver.

Audrey – Seymour?

All Three – Bingo

Audrey – Oh, we're just friends. I could never be Seymour's girl....I've got a past.

Chiffon – And who amongst us has not?

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Audrey – I don't deserve a Sweet, considerate, suddenly successful guy like Seymour.

## Side 9

*Orin, Seymour, Audrey*

SEYMOUR is in the shop, putting things in order. (ORIN enters)

ORIN. Hey, how ya doin'?

SEYMOUR. Fine, thank you. But the shop's closed.

ORIN. (enters shop) I'm not here to shop, I'm here to... (sees THE PLANT and crosses to it) Hey. This must be that plant they're talkin' about on the news. Whatdya call it?

SEYMOUR. An Audrey Two.

ORIN. Cute name. Catchy. Nice plant. Big.

SEYMOUR. Thank you, I raised it myself. Now, if you don't mind I'm not really supposed to let anyone...

ORIN. I hear it's some kind of new species or something.

SEYMOUR. That's what they tell me. But you'll have to leave now, we...

AUDREY. (enters from back room) It's okay, Seymour. This is my boyfriend. Seymour, Orin Scrivello. (ORIN snaps a finger at her) D.D.S.

ORIN. (putting an arm around SEYMOUR) I'll tell you something, guy. You say you raised this thing, right?

SEYMOUR. Right.

ORIN. (punctuating his remarks with friendly but painful little side-jabs, arm-punches and neck-grabs) Well if I were you I sure as hell wouldn't keep it under a barrel down in a Skid Row dump like this. This avocado here could be your ticket to the stars. You could take it to any florist shop in town and name your price. Hell, somebody'd make you a goddamn partner to get their hands on this.

AUDREY. Seymour's very loyal.

ORIN. (drops SEYMOUR and turns to her sharply) Somebody talking to you?

AUDREY. Oh ... no ... (beat) Excuse me.

ORIN. Excuse me what?

AUDREY. Excuse me, doctor.

ORIN. (pleased) That's better. (to SEYMOUR, aggressively friendly once again) I'm telling you, kid, this thing's a big green goldmine. Get your ass outta this dump and take the plant with you. Mushnik's Skid Row Florists? Feh, it's like a joke. You hear me talkin'?

SEYMOUR. I hear you.

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AUDREY. Shouldn't we be leaving now? (ORIN turns quickly toward her with a threatening attitude) I'm sorry.

ORIN. Sorry, what?

AUDREY. (desperate to placate him) I'm sorry, Doctor... Doctor...Sorry, Doctor.

ORIN. (satisfied, he turns to SEYMOUR) You gotta train 'em, eh stud? (He gives SEYMOUR a macho punch on the arm.

SEYMOUR timidly tries to return it in kind. A dismal failure.) Well, my bike's outside and double-parked. But you think about what I said, scout...I mean it. You think about it. (Crosses away toward door) Okay, Aud-rey! (She obediently joins him) You got the handcuffs?

AUDREY. (embarrassed and miserable) They're right in my bag.

ORIN. Let's go then.

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## **Side 10**

### *Audrey and Seymour Connect*

AUDREY. You know, sometimes I think Mr. Mushnik's too hard on you.

SEYMOUR. (crosses down R. to check the PLANT's leaves and soil, speaking shyly as he does) Oh, I don't mind. After all, I owe him everything. He took me out of the Skid Row Home for Boys when I was just a little tyke. Gave me a warm place to sleep, under the counter. Nice things to eat like meatloaf and water. Floors to sweep and toilets to clean and every other Sunday off ...

AUDREY. You know, I think you oughta raise your expectations, Seymour. Now that we're getting successful, I mean. Why don't you start with some new clothes? (SEYMOUR, selfconscious, crosses up L. to get a plant-mister from the windowseat.) No offense, but what with all the interviews and photo sessions, a big, important experimental botanist has to look the part.

SEYMOUR. (crosses down R. of PLANT, to mist it) I'm a very bad shopper, Audrey. I don't have good taste, like you.

AUDREY. Well, I could help you pick things out.

SEYMOUR. YOU could?

AUDREY. Sure.

SEYMOUR. (He takes a step toward her.) You'd go shopping with me?

AUDREY. Sure.

SEYMOUR. (and another) You'd be seen with me in a public place? Like a department store?

AUDREY. Sure. SEYMOUR. (and another) Tonight?

AUDREY. I can't tonight. I've got a date. But I'd like to go with you another time.

SEYMOUR. Sure, I'll pencil you in. (Disappointed, he crosses us. to put his plant-mister away.)

AUDREY. I'll bet you've got alotta dates now, huh?

SEYMOUR. Not dates exactly. But alotta garden clubs have been calling- asking me to give lectures.

AUDREY. Gee.

SEYMOUR. Imagine me, giving lectures. I never even finished grade school.

AUDREY. That doesn't matter. You have life experience.

SEYMOUR. Some experience. I don't even know what it's like to fly in an airplane.



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AUDREY. Me neither.

SEYMOUR. Or eat a fancy dinner at Howard Johnson's.

AUDREY. Me neither. (Thinking of Orin) Extremely dangerous. (beat) Gee, I'd better go fix my face. My date'll be here any minute.

## **Side 11**

AUDREY. I don't believe it.

PLANT. Beleive it, baby. It talks.

AUDREY. Am I dreaming this?

PLANT. No. And you ain't in Kansas, neither

AUDREY. Something's very wrong here

PLANT. (*smooth*) Relax and go with it, doll. Do me a favor, will ya sweetheart?

AUDREY. A favor?

PLANT. I need some water in the worst way. Look at my branch. I'm a goner, honey.

AUDREY. I don't know if I should.

PLANT. HEY LITTLE LADY BE NICE.

AUDREY. You just want water, right?

PLANT. SURE DO, I'LL DRINK IT STRAIGHT.

AUDREY. Your branches *are* dry, poor thing.

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## **Side 12**

SEYMOUR. Just give me a few more days to heal, okay? Then we'll start again on the left hand and...

PLANT. Feed me!

SEYMOUR. I beg your pardon?

PLANT. Feed me!

SEYMOUR. Twoey, you talked. You opened up you...trap your thing, and you said--

PLANT. Feed me Krelborn! Feed me now!

SEYMOUR. I can't!

PLANT. I'm starving!

SEYMOUR. Oh boy, look, maybe I can squeeze a little out of this one, but--

PLANT. I need some food!

SEYMOUR. I know, I know, but you can't get blood from a...

PLANT. More! More!

SEYMOUR. I haven't got any more. What do you want me to do? Slit my wrists? Look...How 'bout I run down the corner and pick you up some nice chopped sirloin?

PLANT. Must be blood!

SEYMOUR. Twoey, that's disgusting.

PLANT. Must be fresh!

SEYMOUR. I don't want to hear this.