

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the *Out of the Blocks* website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios



Bulbul Ahmed:

My name is Ahmed. My last name Ahmed, first name Bulbul. My store name Ahmed Body Oil and Variety, 217 West Saratoga Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. Over 800 different kind of fragrance like, you see, Gucci to Ralph Lauren Polo, Black Polo, Blue. This is 32 ounce or two-pound bottle. We have this bottle, we selling for \$5. We have this bottle, it's called a diamond card bottle. It is a diamond shape. This is a fancy bottle. Same bottle but this is plain and this is fancy. Oh, I am from Bangladesh and I am here for about 20 years.

Faisal Ahmed:

My name's PL. Faisal Ahmed PL. PL's my nickname. I'm 15 and this is my mom and dad's shop. Whenever I don't have school, I come here and work.

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Bulbul Ahmed:

My son is just so far, he's very, very gentle and he's very serious person.

Speaker 3:

Tell me what it's like to work for your dad.

Faisal Ahmed:

He's strict. He'll tell me to fill up an oil. If I mess up, he'll tell me "Do better" every 0.1 second. Well, I want to be a soccer player when I'm older, but my backup is between animator, forensic, or lawyer. I was raised a conservative Muslim, so that means no dating, pray five times a day. If I miss it, make up for it, read the Quran. High school is very hard. I mean, I get called names. I just, I mean, I don't care, really. Everybody gets called names so it's not really a big deal to me.

Speaker 3:

What kind of names? I mean, what did kids say?

Faisal Ahmed:

I mean, they say terrorist and stuff. I'm not really worried about it because, I mean, I know I'm not, so it doesn't really affect me.

Bulbul Ahmed:

To those who call a Muslim terrorist, we cannot stop them to calling because they have a, God give them mouth, and they can say anything they want. It's not hard. But they need to justify. They need to learn about Islam. All kind of faith people, they have a bad people. If you said only Muslim terrorist, this is wrong, wrong, wrong. We greet each other Asalaama'alaikum, peace on you. Peace upon on you. Salaam mean peace. Salaam mean nothing but peace.