

Mystic Masala

"Nascence"

by

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SERIES TITLE

"NASCENCE-SHORT"

EXT.-1967. NIGHTTIME. SIDE OF A HILL.

Heavy gunfire blazes in the distance as Pvt. Navneet Singh(16) and Cpt. Sundar Dogra(26) of the Indian Army are huddled behind a large rock. Muzzle flashes can be seen. Pvt. Navneet has fear written on his face. Cpt Sundar is busily trying to raise the base on an old beat up walkie talkie.

Capt.Sundar Shouting into the walkie talkie as a Pvt. Navneet looks on.

CPT. SUNDAR/YOUNG

This is Bravo Charlie Victor 2...I  
repeat Bravo Charlie Victor 2...can  
anyone hear me? Come In? Come In?  
Can anyone hear me?  
(The walkie talkie  
crackles. It is going in  
and out.)

HQ RADIOMAN (O.S.)

Yes (static) This Is(static)  
happening (static) location  
(static)..location (cuts  
out).....

CPT. SUNDAR/YOUNG

(Cpt. Sundar whispers into  
the handset)  
We are under fire. We are under  
fire. ....The Chinese overran our  
position. We are suffering  
casualties and need air support  
now..Can You hear me. Air support.  
Immediately. Out.

HQ RADIOMAN

.....Hello.....Please.....Locat  
ion.....Needed..ri.....(static).  
...Hold F...

CPT. SUNDAR/YOUNG

.....Come In...Come In.....(goes  
dead)

Cpt.Sundar looks at the walkie talkie and it is now making no sound at all. It appears dead.

PVT. NAVNEET/YOUNG  
 (scared)Sir.....I don't think  
 anyone can hear us  
 .....(dejectedly)There is no  
 support is there?

Cpt. Sundar throws the walkie talkie down in frustration.

CPT. SUNDAR/YOUNG  
 There is no support..... I  
 am sorry Son...

The gravity of the situation hits both men as they hang their heads for a moment. Screams sound close by. Pvt.Navneet lifts his binoculars and is trying to make out something in the distance. Turning to Cpt.Sundar

PVT. NAVNEET/YOUNG  
 The screams are coming from the  
 East Side. They don't seem to  
 match with the muzzle flashes. I  
 don't think they are being shot  
 Sir. Something else is happening.

CPT. SUNDAR/YOUNG  
 (worried)Captain Patel and his men  
 are in that area.

FLASHBACK OF SMILING CPT. PATEL TEASING CPT. SUNDAR. CPT. SUNDAR SHAKES HEAD WITH SADNESS, WIPING SWEAT FROM HIS BROW.

CPT. SUNDAR/YOUNG (CONT'D)  
 (Dejectedly) Those boys....

PVT. NAVNEET/YOUNG  
 Sir...Sir...I can't see much but  
 there is something else out there  
 with the boys..

SERVICEMEN (O.S.)  
 Ah.....Bachao...Bachao.....Ahhhhhhh  
 hh

Picking up his gun, Sundar turns to look at Navneet. Both look at each other.

PVT. NAVNEET/YOUNG  
 Sir...

CPT. SUNDAR/YOUNG  
I know.....You Stay  
here and I will go..

Pvt.Navneet puts his hand on Cpt.Sundar's elbow.

PVT. NAVNEET/YOUNG  
Sir....Please Sir. Don't mind me  
saying...but you are a married  
man..with a young child...I have no  
family.....(looking Straight into  
Sundar's eyes pleading) I will do  
my duty....(folding His hands)

Sundar smiles. Then sadly shakes his head.

CPT. SUNDAR/YOUNG  
No Private.....(slowly) This is  
also my duty...

Cpt.Sundar looks at Singh and still sees the desperate  
pleading look in the Pvt. Navneet's eyes.

CPT. SUNDAR/YOUNG (CONT'D)  
(solemnly) We go together..

Sundar and Navneet slowly carefully get up. Both have their  
guns. They nod to each other and then scream in unison.

CPT. SUNDAR/YOUNG (CONT'D)  
(In Hindi) Bharat Mata ki  
Jai.....

PVT. NAVNEET/YOUNG  
(In Hindi) Bharat Mata ki  
Jai.....

They start to scurry along the road toward the waning screams  
of their men. The shots have lessened but not abated.  
Intermittent Muzzle flashes. As they get closer to the  
screams, they stop. Cpt. Patel's body lies with the heart  
ripped out. Suddenly, Something grabs a hold of Pvt.Navneet's  
leg from the brush and pulls him down into the bushes. He is  
fighting with someone. Cpt.Sundar runs to them and sees an  
attacker on top of Pvt.Navneet, who is trying not to let him  
bite him. The attacker turns to Cpt.Sundar and he has  
glowing bulging eyes and fangs. His tongue is forked.  
Pvt.Navneet is now unconscious.

Cpt. Sundar is startled frozen. Attacker turns to him and  
attacks him, dropping Cpt. Sundar to the ground. He hits his  
head and tries to regain consciousness. Two muffled voices  
nearby. Sundar sees a knife wizz by.

Attacker falls dead to the ground next to Cpt. Sundar, stabbed in the heart. Cpt. Sundar slowly gets up. Pvt Navneet struggles to stand up, holding his head. Two Chinese soldiers, age 18 and 25, are standing next to them. There is a knife protruding from the attacker's back.

YOUNG CHINESE SOLDIER 1  
(MANDARIN/SUBTITLE)  
(Pointing to attacker on ground)  
You Got him in the heart Capt Chu  
Sir.

Bending down and looking at the man closely

YOUNG CHINESE SOLDIER 1 (CONT'D)  
I don't think he is human.

Cpt.Chu, 25yo, is contemplating what he is seeing. Pvt.Navneet and Cpt.Sundar are now standing and looking at the body with the two soldiers. Capt. Chu pulls out the knife, wipes it and puts it back in his waistband. Young Chinese Soldier 1 turns over attacker. He has a symbol that starts glowing on his neck(obscured). Body dissolves into dust.

All men look shocked. Slowly Capt. Chu turns to Pvt.Sundar. Points to the dust.

CPT.CHU (SUBTITLE)  
(in broken hindi) Eh Bhoot  
Hai....(This Is a demon)

Capt. Sundar nods affirmatively. Capt Chu stops to further contemplate the situation for a moment. Sighs and points to himself, and the other three soldiers

CPT. CHU  
Hum log(we are) .....Hindi  
Chini.... Bhai(brothers)?

They all look at the near distance with a dozen upturned dead bodies of Chinese and Indian soldiers, and Villagers with their hearts ripped out. One villager is slowly standing with his back to them and limps away. Pvt. Navneet looks at Cpt.Sundar, who slowly nods affirmatively. Cpt.Sundar reaches out his hand to Cpt. Chu, who slowly shakes it.

CPT.SUNDAR (SUBTITLE)  
Hah....Hindi Chini Bhai  
(Yes..Indian Chinese Brother)

Fade out.

(CPT. CHU, CPT. SUNDAR/YOUNG, CPT.CHU, CPT.SUNDAR, HQ  
RADIOMAN, PVT. NAVNEET/YOUNG, SERVICEMEN, YOUNG CHINESE  
SOLDIER 1)

FADE IN:

INT. LOCATION #2 - DAY 1987 VILLAGE HOME IN INDIA

Family is busy in the living room. Mom, late 20s, is dressed up and looking in the living room mirror. Husband, late 20s, is in his Police Uniform. Two young girls, 7 and 8yo, are running in and out pretend sword fighting (Lovely with a super hero cape). Man is sitting at a table full of open files. Baby in a bassinet next to him.

YOUNG SANGEETA

Harish are you sure that you don't want to go instead of me? Everyone will be there. I really don't want to take Arjun with all the crowds, but I know...

Girls barge in almost fully dressed for the festival, using sticks as swords. Lovely lunges toward Pinky

YOUNG LOVELY

(shouting) I'm the defender of the jewels!

Sangeeta eyes the girls with disapproval.

YOUNG SANGEETA

(scolding) Girls stop it...those Are new clothes....go finish getting dressed, ..we have to leave in five minutes time..Baba and Shilpa will be here....I Need to get the prasad.

Girls run out of the room still playing. Harish is staring intently at his files on the table.

HARISH

The Festival is my favorite darling, but I'll be fine... And like you said, we definitely can't take Arjun. He's too small... Too many people all jostling for the best views. ....(eyes slice of coconut cake on the table) Besides, I have my favorite treat to keep me company.

Harish looks up and sees that his wife is not convinced.

HARISH (CONT'D)

Look...I feel like I'm close to breakthrough in this case. It's here, I just need to look harder. These files have to have the answer!

Sangeeta gives Harish an exasperated look.

YOUNG SANGEETA

It can't wait? You've been consumed with the case for the last month... I don't think you've taken any days off. Can't you just take a break and let you lackeys...oh, excuse me, junior police work on it in the meantime. (mischevious look on her face)..Even Nehruji had to take a day off once in a while you know,.. how do you think he wooed Lady M.?

Both laugh. In a serious tone Harish looks straight at Sangeeta.

HARISH

No...There's already been two murders..The heart ripped right out. I don't think this killer is done....I don't feel safe with you going out but I know there will be a big crowd and Babaji and Shilpa are with you.

Harish comes up and puts his arms around her with affection.

HARISH (CONT'D)

(Holding her face in his hands)  
Just promise me that you'll always be with someone and be back before dark..All these murders happened at night, but I'm not sure that the next one will be at night too...

YOUNG SANGEETA

(brushing him off) Yes. Yes. Of course, I promise. You always worry for nothing...

Sangeeta turns and walks over to the bassinet, gently lifting the blanket and caressing the baby.

YOUNG SANGEETA (CONT'D)

(Looking sad)...You know what Harish, I'll just stay too. It's not that big a deal and I really hate to leave Arjun...We waited so long for him..Our Miracle Baby...I just don't want to leave him....(picking Up and hugging baby)

Door suddenly swings open and both Young Shilpa(late 20s, dressed plainly) and a 50ish Sardarji, Sundar Dogra, walk in together.

YOUNG SHILPA

(breathlessly) Hey Sangeeta.....Harish Jija are you and the girls ready? I'm so excited...Jaldi Karoo(hurry up)...everyone will be there..

Shilpa suddenly tops. She sees Harish with his files open and Sangeeta dressed. A flash of disappointment washes over Shilpa's face. Sundar smiles at Sangeeta and starts walking towards the back.

SUNDAR

Hi Harish Beta...(to Sangeeta) Beti, I'll get the girls.

HARISH

(to Shilpa) No....I'm Not going.....I'm Watching Arjun..you go and take Sangeeta instead.....she needs to get out.....It's Been two months...no excuse.

YOUNG SHILPA

What...No...I'm not dressed..I'm Baby sitting....look, Harish jija you love this festival...I'm not taking No for an answer.

SANGEETA

That's what I told him too....I'll Stay and he can go.

Harish sits down in front of his files. Puts his hand up.

HARISH

Its done....(to Shilpa) You look fine..Take Sangeeta.....Once I get this case solved (pointing to the files on the table)...I promise both of you that I will take you to the new Amitabh Bachan movie....

YOUNG SANGEETA

(freezing) The new one?....At The movie theatre?...(clasping Her hands with joy)...Both Of us?

Harish waives towards the front door.

HARISH

Promise....And We'll be fine. With the house quiet, I can think ....

Harish gestures towards the bassinet

HARISH (CONT'D)

....And Me and this one will get some time together. Right Arjun.. Just the men hanging out tonight..What do you say??

Baby makes a cooing sound from the Bassinet. Sangeeta and Harish laugh. Shilpa does not. Sundar returns to the front with the girls fully dressed. Sees Young Sangeeta and puts his hand on her shoulder gently

SUNDAR

Beti, Good for you to get fresh air. And I promised the girls lollies... maybe you will get one too (teasing).

YOUNG SANGEETA

(laughing) Wow...another gift, and from Babaji. I get Lallies AND an Amitabh Bachan movie. I guess I can be bribed!!!

YOUNG PINKY

Mummy...Can we go too?...I Want to see Amitabh Bachanji

YOUNG LOVELY

Me too.....(dreamily doing a dance move).....and Hemaji....mummy....she dances so beautifully...

YOUNG SANGEETA

I'm Already being treated...let's  
not push it.

YOUNG LOVELY AND YOUNG PINKY

(in unison disappointingly)  
Ohhh.....

Harish, Sundar and Young Sangeeta laugh. Sangeeta grabs her dupata and the prasad and starts to walk out with everyone. She looks back at Harish first with a smile and then stops with a flash of uneasiness. Sundar grabs Young Sangeeta, turns her around and starts to march her out with everyone else.

YOUNG SANGEETA

...Bye Boys! Take care of each  
other.

The group walks out the front door chattering happily. Harish looks at the bassinet

HARISH

Peace and Quiet. Thank goodness.  
Arjun now we can really get some  
work done !.... hummmm, where did  
I put my reading glasses?

Harish gets up from the desk and starts rummaging around.  
Arjun is making happy Baby sounds.

(HARISH, LOVELY, PRIYA, SANGEETA, SUNDAR, YOUNG LOVELY, YOUNG LOVELY AND YOUNG PINKY, YOUNG PINKY, YOUNG SANGEETA, YOUNG SHILPA)

EXT. LOCATION #3 ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE COURTYARD DOOR TO THE HOUSE. TWO HOURS LATER.

A STRANGER, 20ISH, IS STANDING AROUND THE SIDE OF THE HOUSE ACROSS THE STREET. HE LOOKS AT THE FRONT DOOR MALICIOUSLY. HE SLOWLY EMERGES FROM THE SHADOWS TOWARDS THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE. HE WAVES TO SOMEONE IN THE TREES TO THE SIDE OF THE HOUSE, AND ANOTHER MAN EMERGES AND JOINS HIM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET. DEMONS. BOTH WEAR GOLD NECKLACES. THE PENDANT IS TUCKED IN THEIR SHIRTS. THEY APPROACH THE FRONT DOOR TOGETHER, OPEN IT AND ENTER.

EXT. LOCATION #3-DIRECTLY OUTSIDE OF INDIA HOUSE. 10 MINUTES LATER. 1987. DUSK.

Young Shilpa, Sundar, Young Sangeeta, Young Lovely and Young Pinky are eating their lollies on a stick, happily chatting about the Festival they just attended. They approach the front door to their courtyard.

Young Shilpa looking at Young Pinky and suddenly realizing something. She comes to a dead stop 50 feet from the Courtyard Door. Everyone else stops too

YOUNG SHILPA

Pinky! Oh, no! Where is your dupata??

Young Pinky Touching her shoulders and looking frantically on the ground and looking very upset.

YOUNG PINKY

What!! No!!! .....It is brand new. Baba bought it for my birthday. I lost it....(starts crying). Mummy...

YOUNG SANGEETA

That was expensive. Your Baba saved up so he could buy those outfits special for both of you. How could you lose it?

Young Pinky now starts sobbing uncontrollably. Sundar puts his arm around Young Pinky.

SUNDAR

Don't worry Beti. We'll Find it. When did you have it last?

YOUNG PINKY

(Stammering) I had it at the festival and then we went to the mithaiwalla and I got my Lolly and.....Wait!

Young Pinky looks around wide eyed in realization. She turns to Sundar.

YOUNG PINKY (CONT'D)

I didn't have it when we turned onto our road. I know because I looked down to see if the color of my lolly was still blue. I don't remember seeing the dupata. I must have lost it somewhere between here and the mithaiwalla.

SUNDAR

(reassuringly) That's it Beti.. We will find it. Of that I have no doubt... Lovely, Pinky... As we used to say in the Force, we are on a High Value Mission, code name: Find the Dupata!!

Everyone laughs. Young Sangeeta looks at her Dad with love, marvelling at the way he turned disaster into something funny and adventurous. As Sundar and the little girls turn to leave, Young Lovely cuffs her sis gently on the head.

YOUNG LOVELY (SUBTITLE)

..Ulloo!! (Owl)

Sundar, Young Lovely and Young Pinky walk back towards where they came. Young Shilpa waves Bye to Young Sangeeta and turns in the other direction, walking very fast. Young Sangeeta turns towards the door.

(SUNDAR, YOUNG LOVELY, YOUNG PINKY, YOUNG SANGEETA, YOUNG SHILPA)

INT. LOCATION #2-INDIA VILLAGE HOUSE LIVING ROOM.ONE MINUTE LATER. NIGHTTIME.

Cut to slow Motion.

Young Sangeeta sees the door ajar and while taking her shoes off, starts to push it open. She sees the house in disarray. There are two Men bent over a convulsing Harish devouring him..She screams, the demons turn to her, they have glowing eyes and sharp fangs; one is holding a bloody heart in his hands. Young Sangeeta runs in and starts swatting at both men. One drops the heart. Both seemed shocked and return blows, only to see them land harmlessly. Puzzled, the bigger one motions to the other to the crib. Young Sangeeta leans over her husband's body. While she is leaned over her husband, One leans into the bassinet. He has a green baby blanket in his hands. They run through the front door.

INT. 30 SECONDS AFTER DEMONS LEAVE. REGULAR SPEED

Sundar and the girls run in through the front door. Sundar in the lead. Sundar goes over to Young Sangeeta, who is laying across the top of Harish's body. He pulls her off, sees Harish's face, and falls to his knees. He looks over to Harish's outstretched hand and sees a chain hanging out. He opens the hand and picks up the necklace.

The pendant design looks familiar. It is not in focus. He closes his fist around it and moves it out of Young Sangeeta's view.

In the background, the young girls stop in horror. Not moving an inch towards the scene. Lovely quickly blocks her sister's view with her body. She slowly moves toward the bassinet, while still pushing Young Pinky with one hand and trying to block her view. Young Pinky moves with her as if in a trance.

Young Lovely looks into the crib and stops cold. She turns to Sangeeta in a voice that is loud but surprisingly calm.

YOUNG LOVELY  
Mummy,.... where is the  
Baby?..... Where is Arjun?

Empty crib Close Up.

Fade Out

End Act I

ACT II

INT. AFTERNOON. PRESENT DAY. LOCATION #4. KITCHEN LIVING ROOM SMARTLY DECORATED HOUSE, LOTS OF BOOKS. PICTURE OF HARISH WITH FLOWER GARLAND AND LIT INCENSE ON MANTLE. PICTURES OF OLDER LOVELY(40ISH) WITH HANDSOME, NOT SMILING, HUSBAND AND TEEN DAUGHTER. PICTURE OF OLDER PINKY(40ISH) WITH AFRO-CARRIBEAN HUSBAND AND TEEN DAUGHTER. ALL SMILING. PICTURE OF OLDER WOMAN(60ISH) SURROUNDED BY STUDENTS ON THE STEPS OF A UNIVERSITY. SCHOOL BANNER FOR SAN FRANCISCO SUNSET COLLEGE.

Older woman in Western Clothes busily cleaning up after breakfast and then putting her well worn briefcase together.

21yo punk rocker type dressed girl barges in the kitchen door and starts rooting around the fridge and the oven. Older woman,60ish) looks at her amusingly for a second and then goes back to her briefcase.

SANGEETA

Good Morning to you Beti....

No response from Preti. Preti finds some bhajias in the oven and greedily pulls them out and starts nibbling on one, oblivious to her. Sangeeta stops and looks with a mix of amusement and irritation now.

SANGEETA (CONT'D)

Maybe A "Hi Nani". "Good Morning Nani". Or, "how is your last day of Teaching going to be Nani? ...Even, "Isn't this a big day for you Nani?"....(putting Up her hands).... "Something".

Preti looks up. Mouth full. Wiping off crumbs and a Little Sheepish.

PRETI

Sorry Nani...I just wanted to grab your extras from the University Teachers Party last night. Mom said you took some bhajias and had extra. I wanted to grab them before Lily Auntie cleared you out. I know she's picking you up this morning...

SANGEETA

(interrupting)Yes she is. I told her I'm fine, I can just take the bus but she insisted.(sadly)I guess after today, I won't need a ride to anywhere in the morning anyway.

PRETI

Oh why is that?.....(pretending as if just remembering) oh yeah, your retirement. I guess so....You must be happy to not have to get dressed up every morning now..... while I'm still slaving away at the Bakery with hot ovens and a Slave Master Boss.

Sangeeta finishes up with her briefcase. Looks At Preti

SANGEETA

Slave Master boss. (Laughing) Right... Your Father would be hurt if he knew you said that...and you know it's not true. Besides.. you love it. You're the one who said "Nani, I don't want to go to college..It's not for me. I want to see the world and explore Life" and then 3 months after one car trip to the Grand Canyon, you start working at your Parents' Bakery downstairs

Sangeeta goes to the Chair to pick up her coat.

SANGEETA (CONT'D)

(gently with some concern) Working one floor below where you were born and live with you parents and two below your Nani, is not exactly seeing the world is it Beti?

PRETI

(offended) Nani it's not that super great out there you know! I've got a pretty good set up here, with the Fam around me ....and now with Mom...its where I should be....And Ok...Ok..I do love it. I love the smell of the sweets and you have to admit..the ladoos we make are the bomb.

(MORE)

PRETI (CONT'D)

(smugly) Even the SF Chronicle said "Run don't walk to Baptiste Chopra Bakery on Lone Mountain".

SANGEETA

(shaking her head) Beti, even if you don't travel or go to University, I get it; but I don't understand why you never even have a boyfriend. Asha has one new one every month.....(hesitating) Ok on second thought, maybe that's not so great..but least she's getting out there...while you still hang out with your high school friends at that greasy Garage.

PRETI

(shaking her head) First of all, I'll remind you that I did do one year of Community College.....and Second....have you seen Asha?? (moving her hand up/down her torso) And then this? Not the same...And you mean "Vo's Autobody"? Yeah..but I like those people. They don't judge me, like some people..(staring straight at Sangeeta) and they have the coolest rides.....

Sangeeta walks toward Preti.

SANGEETA

(playfully)You know...I Can always prepare your biodata and get you a partner. Plenty of websites that do it now. Even some Matrimony TV Shows. We can see a whole episode of Preti weds Ashok... or Timmy...or maybe even an Ashwariya??

Preti finishes up the last bit of bhajia leaving tons of crumbs which Sanjeeta starts immediately cleaning up with a mild look of disapproval.

PRETI

Very funny Nani...I'm not biting...Im not going to talk about romantic partners with you. That's kinda of lame..if you know what I mean.

(MORE)

PRETI (CONT'D)

Anyway..I'm already late off my meal break...don't want my pay docked (laughing)..

SANGEETA

(tapping Preti's shoulder) Oh one thing before I forget...I bought this 20lb bag of Basmati on sale and the Boy bought it up to the Flat..but I can't lift it to put it in the tin. Can you?

Preti moves to the pantry, opens the door and lifts the bag of rice easily. She opens the tin lid and promptly dumps the bag into the tin. She closes the lid and Pantry door.

PRETI

There...Working at a bakery lifting bags of flour has some benefits....See If Asha can do that!

Preeti pauses for a moment.

PRETI (CONT'D)

(defeatedly) Maybe she can...The Bollywood dance stuff she does is intense...(groaning) Nani, I think she's even more fit than me...

SANGEETA

(ignoring the complaints) Thank you Beti (Sangeeta blows her a kiss as Preti starts to rush out).

Preti rushes out the door, passing Lily, 40ish, and Sarita, 50ish on their way in. All almost collide...Preti pats Lili and Sarita on the arm as she passes. Sarita is wearing a Cowboy hat and boots and Lily's hair is a mess and only half put together as usual.

PRETI

Hi Lily Auntie..Oh, And Sarita Auntie...(stopping To look at Sarita)OMG, what are you wearing? Never mind...no. I Gotta Run... (Turning to Lily) Thanks for giving Nani a ride on her last day...

Lily walks into the kitchen, spun around by Preti. She looks more confused than usual. Both turn to a departing Preti

LILY

Oh Preti.... Nice to see you  
honey.

SARITA

See you later Pardner (tipping her  
hat)

Both turn back to Sangeeta.

LILY

..Please tell me there's something  
left for me..

SANGEETA

(with confusion & amusement)Do I  
even ask? First why are you here  
and not to overstate the obvious,  
but What is this(pointing to  
Sarita's outfit)

SARITA

(nonplussed)I know today's your  
last day. Can't let my BFF go  
without seeing you off. You know...  
moral support.

Sangeeta looks touched.

SARITA (CONT'D)

And this! I have a family from  
Austin coming in,... The Reddys.  
Son is marrying a Girl from  
Fremont...I'm Wedding Planning them  
today. Real big bucks Baby!!!

SANGEETA

Who do you think you're fooling?  
For goodness sake, your accent is  
still "California Desi"...They  
can't be that dumb?

SARITA

Oh Sweetie, you don't know  
anything. People do know but then  
they see the look and forget about  
everything else. They only  
remember what they see....And It's  
just generally to make people get a  
good feeling...a feeling of  
comfort...you know...being with me.

(MORE)

## SARITA (CONT'D)

If they feel good, it reminds them  
of home, and if they like me, I  
then reel them in and  
cha..ching...They're mine!

Both Sangeeta and Lily laugh while looking at her both  
disturbed and impressed. Sangeeta slowly heads to the fridge  
and pulls out a small baggie filled with four bhajias. She  
hands it to Lily. Lily immediately opens one and stuffs it  
into her mouth.

## LILY

UMMMMMMM...I Love these Sangeeta.  
I knew I'd be rewarded for giving  
you a ride this morning.....By the  
way, are you almost ready? I have  
to drop you off and then run some  
errands for Sunny.

## SANGEETA

I'm ready. My Class doesn't start  
until 10 anyway and with Final  
exams... I just really end up  
sitting there working on my  
crossword puzzles...What are you  
doing for Sunny?

## LILY

I promised I'd drop off his dry  
cleaning;.. and he finally trusts  
me again after I left his dry  
cleaning with the dog grooming  
place last time. I think one of  
them took a bite out of his  
favorite shirt....Anyway, I think  
he was more mad that I left Maximus  
with Mrs. Cho. ....

Sangeeta looks at her with amusement. Trying not to laugh out  
loud. Sarita comes over to Sangeeta and gives her a big hug.

## SARITA

I know you're downplaying it dear,  
but this is a big day...I would  
never not be here for it. This job  
meant a lot to you. It always has.  
But, I think we all agree, you  
deserve a break.

Sangeeta seems touched but then shakes her head no.

## SANGEETA

It saved my life Sarita...I was so  
lost.

(MORE)

SANGEETA (CONT'D)

I had two little girls, no family here and well you know...some holes that could never be filled. I didn't want to retire but I'm old enough and that new Dean pressuring me to pass everyone regardless of whether they did the work.. was just the tipping point. I just couldn't...It goes against every fiber of my being.

Sarita and Lily both nod knowingly

SANGEETA (CONT'D)

(to Sarita) You Know that This job saved me.I only met you when you stumbled into my class by mistake..or more correctly, when Lily directed you to the wrong room

LILY

...Oh yeah..that...I was just a student employee at the front desk....Not My fault...there was this cute boy that I was talking to..I was distracted..

SARITA

Best mistake of my life. It would have been better that I never found the Cosmetology class for that free cut.Man..(touching her hair) That cut was such a disaster...pehew....

All ladies laugh.

SANGEETA

Everyone ready?... Onward and Forward?

They pick up their bags and walk out the door.

(LILY, PRETI, SANGEETA, SARITA)

BAKERY AND OFFICE

INT. AN HOUR LATER. LOCATION #5.PRESENT DAY. DAYTIME. AT THE BAKERY COUNTER.

Preti is behind the bakery counter. Jason, 40ish Afro/Caribbean) walks by. Framed Photo of his parents, the Founders of the Bakery, on shelf. Preti surreptitiously grabs a Gulabjamun Banana Coconut Marble from the counter and starts munching on it. Two customers are lined up and each point to the Gulabjamun. Jason serves them. Halfway through her Marble, Preti picks up the phone and calls a number. hesitant but excited.

PRETI

Hey, Asha. It's me.

INT. MORNING. CORNER OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE BUILDING. LOCATION #6. DESK

Beautiful 20ish Woman with long voluminous hair, dressed immaculately with a Computer to her left and Floor to Ceiling Windows.

ASHA

Hey (bored). What is it? I'm busy.

PRETI (O.S.)

Stop it You know why I'm calling. Nani's Surprise Retirement Party. You said you'd come and so would Rohit Mosa and Mosi. You promised. It's at 6 pm at Gaspare's.

ASHA

Oh that...look, work is really busy and I just got a promotion; and well the Fam is just not the best right now. So...

PRETI

Don't bullshit me. I know you. I haven't seen you in 6 months and yeah things are always weird between those guys..everyone knows it...but So what, it's still a special day for Nani, and Mom and Dad made a lot of effort..Besides I need you to come....(catching Her breath)..preferably With your credit card. Dad says he can afford it but he really can't.

ASHA

(annoyed) So you really just need us there so we would pay the bill.

PRETI

Yes... No... Don't say it like that! I really want you to come. You don't sound ok. I know your my big Sis... and I worry about you. ....I know I shouldn't say this but you could also see Mom and Dad.

ASHA

Everything good with them?

PRETI

Everything's fine now....Nothing To really worry about. Forget I mentioned...Are you coming or not?

ASHA

Look. Maybe I'll come. Ok. I may need to get away from my latest...such a puppy dog..Its too much. But I don't know about THEM. (whispering) Something's really up this time and its more then them not talking to each other.

PRETI

Wow. Sorry to hear that. Mosi always seemed mad about something and well Mosa, he just....You Know. is Intense. Anyway..This sounds bad. ....You know what, screw that. This is for Nani. It's not about anyone else. She doesn't ask for much and well it's our one time to show her some love.

Asha slumps in her Chair. Defeated.

ASHA

Okay...I'll be there. For Nani.

PRETI

For Nani.

Asha puts down the phone. She picks up the two pictures in her office. She smiles when she puts them in her box. One is of her(age 9), Nani and Preti(age 8). The second a recent photo of her friends with her in a Dance Class. Her workout bag is next to the box. It says "Chamcha Bollywood Dance Academy".

A anxious looking caucasian bald man(50ish) walks in. Her smile fades. His arms are crossed. He looks mad. Asha puts up her hand.

ASHA

Don't. Just don't. I don't want to hear it.... I'm going to take my damn sweet time.

Her boss looks more upset now and motions to the side as a security guard comes up behind him. The anger in Asha rises. She contemplates her options.

BOSS

(to Asha) I don't get it...You were up for a promotion....

ASHA

Promotion!..Promotion...Screw You! I deserved it.. my numbers were way better than Stanley's...You cheated me out of it last year, and said "just wait Asha...you're too new, it will happen next year"....Now This year.. same thing...(snarling)I Know he already got it! (standing up, hands on hips)..(chagrined)Well, I just took what I was owed.....Just Consider it an early payment of the settlement you would have given me after I sued.

BOSS

(shaking his head in disbelief)t's not even a lot of money....\$10k....Ruin Your career for that??....Asha, We don't owe you a damn thing...And we may still press charges, you know.. Nothing's off the table.

Asha laughs. Walks to office door.

ASHA

(shouting) So, I guess trying to feel me up during business meetings and pestering me to go on a date with you ....

Boss looks shocked and then panicked and stops the security guard who was just entering office.

BOSS

(whispers angrily) You know that NEVER happened....You Just made that up....For God's sake have some decency.

ASHA

Who says it didn't happen...(meanacingly) What do they say....oh Yes, "recollections may vary".

The boss looks around and puts up his hands. He shoos away the security guard.

BOSS

You win..(whispering) Keep the money...Just, Get the hell out of here. (under his breath) You bitch.

ASHA

(bursting out laughing)...Yeah...I am one Class A certified bitch... Don't ever forget it..

Asha gets up, slings her bag over her shoulder and picks up her Box of Personal Items and starts to walk out the office door. She stops for a second and looks at her now former boss

ASHA (CONT'D)

Hey Ronald.....Just make sure that my final paycheck is mailed to my PO Box, not my home address.

Asha exits smiling to herself.

(ASHA, ASHA OFFICE SECURITY GUARD, ASHA'S BOSS AT TECH CO, BOSS, PRETI)

ACT III

INT. DAYTIME. LOCATION #6. ONE MONTH LATER. PIZZA RESTAURANT

Sangeeta, Pinky, Jason, Sarita, Lily and Preti are all mingling with guests at a lively party with pizzas, wine, pastas and other food on the tables. Sangeeta eyes Lovely, Asha and Rohit, 40ish, entering dressed in expensive clothes and looking glum. Rohit and Lovely go in separate directions immediately. Rohit eyes Jason and the wine and goes to the bar and is pouring himself a glass. Asha eyes Pinky and runs over to her embracing. Pinky is wearing a bandana headscarf. They talk. They hug. Lovely comes over slowly, and hugs Pinky. Asha walks to the bar towards Preti. Sangeeta is eyeing them cautiously and after the hugs walks over to Lovely and Pinky.

Sangeeta touches Lovely's arm from behind. Lovely barely acknowledges Sangeeta.

LOVELY

Pinky...

Lovely turns to Pinky, pointing to her head.

LOVELY (CONT'D)

(angrily and sad) Why didn't you tell me?

PINKY

I didn't want you to come because you felt sorry for me....I wanted you to call because you missed me....(Looking Dejected)..You never did.

Lovely doesn't react.

LOVELY

(quietly) I would have come....for You. (Looking back at Sangeeta)

PINKY

It's ok. ....(laughing nervously) I'm in remission they say...so once this grows back..I'll be back to being your "Uloo" little sister...you know, I actually thought I was dumb as an owl, until I realized that owls are considered smart here in the US.

(MORE)

PINKY (CONT'D)

So,..you were always calling me  
"smart"...See, Jokes on you!

Both women share a weak laugh. Lovely turns to Pinky with a serious look.

LOVELY

You know I never really meant it.

PINKY

You did.. And I was ....am..smart!

Both laugh again. Sangeeta taps Lovely's arm.

SANGEETA

She's doing much better now...Beti  
I'm glad that you came...It has  
been so long, I was....

LOVELY

(interrupting and angry)  
Seriously?? I understand why Pinky  
didn't call....but Why didn't you??  
It's just like you....leave me out  
of any decisions involving anything  
important....You haven't changed.

Sangeeta and Pinky both have a pained look on their faces. Some of the guests look at them concerned. Lovely starts to whisper to Sangeeta.

LOVELY (CONT'D)

I'll talk with Pinky later so  
everyone doesn't see that I didn't  
know about this....Like An Idiot.  
You made me look like an idiot....

SANGEETA

(upset) Why do we always have to  
fight?? I don't like this. I  
thought Can't this be "I'm happy to  
see you, it's been six months"...

LOVELY

(interrupting) Did Asha  
know?..OMG..Rohit knew?...Tell me  
did Rohit know?? It would be just  
like you to tell him and not me...

Rohit sees the tension from afar and walks over to Lovely and Sangeeta. Lovely looks up and sees him. He doesn't ask about the bandana. Lovely is enraged even more. Rohit ignores his wife and hugs Pinky wholeheartedly and then Sangeeta

ROHIT

Hi Mom...I can't believe...the day is finally here. You're retiring...How do you feel?

Lovely is glowering.

LOVELY

(in a low voice) What do you care? Stop pretending Rohit...

Lovely turns to Sangeeta

LOVELY (CONT'D)

You know he will say "Hi" and act like the perfect son in law for a few minutes and then disappear for the rest of the night. (hesitating for a second) Tell her who you will be on the phone with later all night? Come on Rohit. Tell her?

Sangeeta and Pinky both look shocked.

ROHIT

You know I'm on my latest startup Dear...Why Do you always have to think the worst when I'm just trying to support my family.

LOVELY

(indignant)Support your family??

ROHIT

Your Prabal Gurang outfits alone are more than your Mom probably made in her lifetime as a Professor.

Sangeeta looks annoyed. Lovely turns to Sangeeta in exasperation. Everyone else is now watching, including Asha.

LOVELY

(little too loudly)Wow!!!....That Was even a lower low than I'm used too..... Someday Rohit you're going to get what's coming to you..AND I just can't wait!...(pointing to Sangeeta) You two belong together..I'm getting a drink..Pinky join me, ..that is if its ok?

Pinky nods. Sarita walks over to Sangeeta. She grabs her by the shoulders and slowly turns her around.

SARITA

Hey sorry to break up this love  
fest but there are so many people  
who want to talk to you....

Sarita Turns to Glare at Lovely and Rohit behind Sangeeta's back as they walk away.

SARITA (CONT'D)

(sarcastically)Great seeing you two.

Pinky walks over to the Bar with Lovely. Sangeeta walks over with Sarita to talk to some guests. Asha makes a beeline to Lovely.

ASHA

Can you just behave yourself for  
one night please...This is just too  
much. You're the one making a fool  
of yourself.

LOVELY

Don't speak to me like.....

Rohit sees Asha scolding Lovely. They continue talking angrily.

ROHIT

(under his breath). I need some  
fresh air. Too stuffy in here.

Rohit marches out. Lovely walks over to other guests. Preti comes over and stands next to Asha handing her a drink.

PRETI

Here's your drink.....  
So that was unpleasant.

ASHA

Welcome to my life...

PRETI

I know about the Nani thing  
forever, but What do you think is  
the problem with your parents? Just  
don't get along?? It seems worse  
now.

ASHA

Its more than that now. I think  
Dad has moved on.

(MORE)

ASHA (CONT'D)

Mom knows but hasn't said  
anything....that is until today.  
... It's not good Preti...Not Every  
one is like your parents.

Asha motions towards Pinky and Jason. Both are standing close to each other laughing and talking to guests. Jason catches Preti and Asha's eye, He's sporting a "WyClef Jean" TShirt, dreadlocks and khakis, he smiles a big goofy grin and waves. Both girls wave back.

PRETI

Yeah...They're Great..Hey, Hate to  
bring this up but we need to pay  
the bill before my Dad tries to.

ASHA

What's wrong with the Bakery?

PRETI

It's fine. It's just not a big  
moneymaker. Dad doesn't want to  
expand or try anything new; and  
honestly with the costs of things  
in the City, we really can't afford  
to live here.

ASHA

I get it...I do. But I can't ask  
my parents....Mom will have a  
cow...

Both girls laugh.

ASHA (CONT'D)

Ok. That was odd to say as Hindu.  
I just meant, here take my credit  
card. I just got a nice bonus from  
my job. ....

PRETI

Don't use your own money!!! Don't  
you parents give you money?  
They're rolling in it.

ASHA

No....Dad cut me off last year.

Preti looks confused.

ASHA (CONT'D)

Just like that...no real explanation, ....just "this money is no good....I Don't want it infecting you". Some weird shit like that...He Acted like he was doing ME A FAVOR.....and since then, nada, nothing, no money for this honey..... (a little sadder)I just didn't expect it.

PRETI

Oh my god Asha. Are you okay?

ASHA

Yeah, I'm fine. I'm resourceful.

PRETI

Just ask Mosi for the money.

ASHA

No way. That cold fish would never give me a dime ....Hey, where do we pay the bill

Both start walking over to the back of the Restaurant  
(30 RETIREMENT PARTY GUESTS STUDENTS TEACHERS, ASHA, JASON SANTOS, LILY, LOVELY, PINKY, PRETI, ROHIT, SANGEETA, SARITA)

ROHIT GETS IT

EXT. - LOCATION #7. SIDE ALLEY OF RESTAURANT.

Rohit is walking into the alley and dialing a phone number.

ROHIT

Hi...It's Me....

Sangeeta comes out to get the restaurant and walks towards the alley. She is visably distraught after the interaction with her daughter. She doesn't notice Rohit. Rohit sees her. He speaks into the telephone

Shit...I'll talk to you later.  
Yeah, I'll meet you at the airport  
on Tuesday. ....I Can't wait...  
Love you...

Rohit hangs up the phone and walks towards Sangeeta.

ROHIT (CONT'D)

I'm sorry Mom. Are you okay?

Sangeeta looks up at Rohit. She stops crying and wipes her tears trying to hide that she's been crying.

SANGEETA

I'm fine. Just a little bit crowded in there. ....

Rohit looks unconvinced.

SANGEETA (CONT'D)

Hey....don't they say "its my party, I'll cry if I want to..". Well, there it is. Nothing unusual.

ROHIT

(cautiously) It's been a while since we've seen each other.(gingerly)You Know that things aren't good between me and Lovely...

Sangeeta looks at him with anticipation.

SANGEETA

Yes...

ROHIT

There are going to be a few changes.I'm working on a big deal and well...there's going to be ..GOOD MONEY..and the time might be right for me to live my own life.

SANGEETA

What? ....What exactly do you mean.

Rohit looks at Sangeeta and speaks more gently.

ROHIT

Mom...you had to know things haven't been good at home. I just don't want to live with her anymore...and.

SANGEETA

(interrupting) Look, all married couples have problems.....

ROHIT

I have to face the truth on some things...And Lovely's just not emotionally there for any of us...It's the truth.You see how she treats you....

SANGEETA

She has been mad at me for a long time Beta..She blames me for a lot of things.....I don't think I can ever fix that.... But you just can't abandon her.

While Sangeeta is talking, Two sinister looking men (20ish) start walking down the alley behind Sangeeta's back. Rohit sees them over her shoulder. One pulls out a knife. Rohit grabs Sangeeta and pulls her out of the way and pushes her to the ground. Sangeeta hits her head and loses consciousness.

ROHIT

We don't want any trouble here....Look I have a watch, you can have it.

Rohit starts unhooking his watch. Both men look at him and laugh. They start running towards Rohit and Sangeeta.

CUT TO FRONT OF RESTAURANT-LOCATION#8.

Preti and Asha walk out front door.

PRETI

I think I saw Nani come out.

ASHA

Yeah so ....she probably needed some air. Why did you drag me out, this is dumb...

PRETI

I don't know..I just had a feeling and anyway you didn't look like you were making any effort to talk to people anyway...

Both stop talking when they hear a commotion in the alley. They run towards the alley. Both Preti and Asha look around the corner into the alley. They see Sangeeta on the ground and one man lunging toward Rohit, who is blocking Sangeeta. Both girls start to run without hesitation towards the attack.

PRETI (CONT'D)  
 (screams) No.....

BOTH ATTACKERS SEEM STARTLED AT THE NOISE BEHIND THEM AND  
 TURN AROUND. (OS) SOUND OF FIGHTING.

ASHA IS ON THE GROUND AND SEES HER FATHER. A BROKEN HEEL AND  
 HER ONE SHOE IS ON THE GROUND NEXT TO HER. PRETI IS LEANING  
 OVER A KNOCKED OUT ATTACKER. THE OTHER ATTACKER SEES HIS  
 PARTNER ON THE GROUND AND SNEARS AT PRETI. ASHA'S KNEES AND  
 HANDS ARE BLOODY AND SHE CRAWLS TOWARDS ROHIT. ATTACKER  
 HELPS HIS PARTNER UP, GRABS THE KNIFE AND BOTH RUN AWAY AS  
 JASON AND MORE GUESTS ARE RUNNING INTO THE ALLEY. ATTACKERS  
 TURN THE CORNER AT THE END OF THE ALLEY AND ARE OUT OF SIGHT.  
 SANGEETA IS SLOWLY WAKING. ASHA IS HOLDING HER DAD IN HER  
 ARMS AND SCREAMS. A STAB WOUND IS IN HIS STOMACH. HE IS  
 DEAD.  
 (2-3 PARTY GUESTS, ASHA, PRETI, ROBBER#1, ROBBER#2, ROHIT,  
 SANGEETA)

INT-SANGEETA'S HOUSE-SIX DAYS LATER-LOCATION#9.LIVING ROOM.  
 DAYTIME

The house is filled with people, dressed simply in Indian  
 garments, getting up from the floor after hindu prayers and  
 starting to leave. Sangeeta, Pinky, Lovely, Preti, Jason and  
 Asha are cleaning up with Sarita and Lily.'

Sangeeta turns to Sarita.

SANGEETA  
 I'm so happy I don't have to sit on  
 the floor anymore...Three days and  
 my knees ache....

SARITA  
 (interrupting) Just be glad it  
 wasn't 13 days like in  
 India.....and it was a small  
 crowd...Surprised that Rohit didn't  
 have any family or friends at all..

SANGEETA  
 (Disappointing tone) You're right.  
 ....I never met them...Lovely  
 eloped right as College was  
 ending....They met at University.

Lily walks over to Sangeeta and Sarita.

LILY  
 (to Sangeeta) It was nice of you to  
 offer to host the prayers?

SANGEETA

Oh..that was not a problem. I think with the shock...Asha said she wanted to do it here...and with Pinky's health...this made more sense...Besides, I know the Pundit..I don't think Lovely and Rohit ever bothered going to the Mandhir at their new place.

Sarita and Lily nod in assent. Two policeman, 20ish, come in as guests are leaving. The Policemen approach Sarita.

POLICEMAN #1

(gently) Hi, so sorry to bother everyone, but we just wanted to know if we could have a word with Mrs. Kapoor.

Sarita eyes them suspiciously while she points to Lovely. The Policemen approach Lovely.

POLICEMAN #1 (CONT'D)

Hi, you must be Mrs. Kapoor

LOVELY

Yes, I am. ...

POLICEMAN #1

May we speak with you in private for a moment. Won't take long.

Waving to her daughter Asha to come over. Asha and Sangeeta come over. Asha turns back to the Policemen.

LOVELY

(snootily) First my husband gets killed in this lawless town and then I hear nothing from the Police for days, and now you show up. ...All I want to know is did you catch the people? Did you?

POLICEMAN #1

Maam, are you sure we can't talk in private.

Lovely waves her hand dismissively.

POLICEMAN #1 (CONT'D)

Mrs. Kapoor, we're looking into a number of leads but we need to talk to you about some things.

LOVELY

What?

POLICEMAN #2

(rudely) Did you know your husband  
was having an affair?

The Prayer guests become quiet and quickly exit the room  
except Sarita, Lily, Sangeeta, Pinky, Jason, Preti and Asha stay.

ASHA

What the hell does that have to do  
with anything?

Everyone looks at Asha for a second. She doesn't back down.

LOVELY

My daughter has a good question.

POLICEMAN #1

(gently) Please just answer the  
question

Lovely gathers herself and straightens her back.

LOVELY

Yes I did.

Sarita motions to Lily and they both leave the room. Jason  
tries to leave. Lovely turns to him.

LOVELY (CONT'D)

No Jason stay.

Jason turns back and sits down on the sofa. Exchanging  
shocked looks with Pinky. She sits next to him.

LOVELY (CONT'D)

Yes. I did know. But what does  
that have to do with this? You  
don't think his floozie did him in?  
Not surprised...

Both Policemen look at Lovely.

POLICEMAN #1

Wow...I haven't heard that word  
since I was a kid....Well, ....to  
Answer your question. Nothing is  
ruled out. ....

Both Policeman look serious.

POLICEMAN #1 (CONT'D)  
 (kindly) The reason we're asking Mrs.Kapoor is that it appears that your husband purchased a plane ticket to the Caribbean for a flight to go two days after the party.

Everyone looks a little surprised.

POLICEMAN #1 (CONT'D)  
 .And that he had received a deposit of \$2.5 Million dollars one week before ...and then the morning he was killed, he emptied out all of his bank, ....more accurately...your joint bank accounts?

Everyone looks stunned. Lovely tries to speak but no words come out. Sangeeta steps up.

SANGEETA  
 Look...I do know that he told me he was expecting some sort of deal to come through...maybe this is it...

Lovely looks at her Mom surprised.

POLICEMAN #2  
 Yes about that. We checked and his business was failing. He had let go of all of his employees a few months ago....By the way, did anyone else here know about the Affair?

Asha looks at her mom, who now sits next to Pinky. Asha walks up to the Officers.

ASHA  
 What if I did? ...Does it matter now? .....Are you saying we don't have any money? This doesn't make any sense. (At Lovely) Mom?

Lovely looks up at Asha.

LOVELY  
 Your Father took care of the Finances. I don't have anything separate. ....Nothing....Nothing

POLICEMAN #2

It looks like you both knew of the  
Affair. That would give both of you  
motive. (Pointing to Lovely) And of  
course there's the very public  
death threat you made.

Everyone gasps.

POLICEMAN #2 (CONT'D)

Let me see....(looking at his  
phone)....oh Yeah..."Rohit you will  
get what's coming to you...And I  
just can't wait"....At Least 10  
witnesses heard you say that to  
your husband minutes before he was  
killed. Quite a coincidence, won't  
you say?? (Pausing for effect).

LOVELY

What?...No...I was just...(puts her  
hand over her mouth)

POLICEMAN #2

(interrupting) (pointing to Lovely  
and Asha) You two are now  
suspects..... (to Lovely) at least  
you definitely are...No Leaving  
town either of you without telling  
us where you're going....

Everyone looks alarmed.

SANGEETA

You can't be serious?

POLICEMAN #2

Yup...I am Maam...Dead Serious.  
Pardon the pun.

Everyone looks in shock.

It looks like the transfer was  
supposed to happen the day AFTER he  
was killed, but Mr. Kapoor called  
the Bank that morning and expedited  
it.

(MORE)

POLICEMAN #2 (CONT'D)

.....So, if you knew he was going to move the money, maybe to flee with his..as you say, with his "Floozie"....it would give you Motive to hire someone to try to stop him...and he got, quote What's coming to him end quote, if you know what I mean.

Policeman#1 looks embarrassed. Jason stands up.

JASON BAPTISTE

I think this is enough. This is too much.You can't possibly think.

Interrupting Jason and then looking directly at Lovely and Asha.

POLICEMAN #2

Yes and No....We can't rule anything out. But while we continue looking into this, neither Mrs. Kapoor or her daughter should leave town without....

Policeman#1 looks apologetic. Lovely stands up.

LOVELY

(interrupting) That's fine.....Just tell me...Where did the money go?

POLICEMAN #1

We are trying to trace it but we've reached dead ends...We don't really know.

Lovely and Asha look at each other with Alarm.  
(ASHA, JASON BAPTISTE, LILY, LOVELY, POLICEMAN #1, POLICEMAN #2, PRAYER GUESTS, SANGEETA, SARITA)

End Scene.

INT. DAYTIME LATER SAME DAY. LOCATION#4. SANGEETA KITCHEN.

Asha and Preti are finishing up drying and putting away dishes. Preti looks closely at a serving dish. Rest of the family is in Living Room. Preti is pensive, turns to Asha.

PRETI

Hey....I absolutely can't imagine what you're going through right now.

(MORE)

PRETI (CONT'D)

This whole thing literally just  
went from bad to Holy Shit Batman!

Asha laughs a little.

ASHA

This is ridiculous...isn't it...I  
can't even believe this is  
happening. Mom's broke and now Mom  
and I are murder suspects? ...Of  
Dad??? What kind of crap is  
this?...

Asha chokes back tears.

PRETI

I know.....

ASHA

I thought I had some idea of what  
happened...you know...two robbers  
tried to jack Dad and he gets  
stabbed...But now I feel more  
confused then ever.

PRETI

I think I know what you're talking  
about.

ASHA

Yeah...So now we have Dad leaving  
the Country without telling us? We  
have his business failing while  
he's pretending its all good?

PRETI

(excitedly) And then he gets a butt  
ton of money from somewhere and  
then makes it disappear... To  
where? And Why did he empty all of  
the accounts? Leaving Lovely Mosi  
with nothing? ....Pardon my  
saying, but he wasn't the nicest  
guy, but even I can't believe he'd  
leave Mosi flying in the wind.

Preti immediately corrects herself.

PRETI (CONT'D)

I mean you still have a great job  
of course so you guys aren't  
penniless,.... its' just  
so..so...mean...even for him.

Asha looks away.

ASHA

Where did all the money go? I know the police aren't going to help us with that...Technically there's no crime in him transferring his own money....They Just want to solve the murder....Again, (pointing to herself) Of which we are suspects....I Don't care so much about myself...but Mom?

Preti puts the serving dish away. She turns to Asha with a serious and determined look.

PRETI

Listen. I also don't think these dumbasses know what they're doing....I think maybe we should see if we could help them....At least prove that you had nothing to do with this....and maybe even get that money back.

ASHA

What are you talking about?

PRETI

I'm being serious....2.5 million dollars...

Preti takes a deep breath. She Continues.

PRETI (CONT'D)

I know that you were on the ground during the fight..And No I don't blame you for not stepping in to help me take on two...not one...murderers..but that's besides the point...I Sort of remember something about one of the guys.

ASHA

Did you tell the Police?

PRETI

No...I actually just remembered as I was washing the dishes earlier....It Was the pattern in the dish....it was not the same but it triggered a memory.

ASHA  
(sarcastically) OKayyyyyyy.....

PRETI  
One of the guys had a design on his leather jacket. I told the cops I couldn't remember it exactly. I just thought it looked familiar.....

Preti pulls up her phone and punches some keys. She shows it to Asha. It's a website for Trader Jim's Tiki Bar.

ASHA  
A Tiki Bar?? In Oakland....They Wear leather jackets at a Tiki Bar..in Oakland??

PRETI  
They just kept the name...It's a Biker Bar now....Yeah, Oakland is cool. It has Tiki Bars. But To Be more specific this is a Bar where a lot of low lifes hang out..They fence the stuff they steal there.

Asha looks at her with surprise.

PRETI (CONT'D)  
Yeah....Look...I don't associate with them...but once in a while when we can't afford stuff for the Bakery or my ride, ....I go there to shop...if you know what I mean.

Asha looks at her incredulously.

PRETI (CONT'D)  
Please don't judge...Where do you think all the stuff these gangs steal from the Stores in the City go? .....Its like an Amazon...except the sellers are questionable and you have no idea where the stuff really came from. So.....maybe not that different.. Anyway, I only did it twice.

Asha smiles and looks at Preti as though its the first time she sees her.

ASHA

(under her breath). So it seems like we both like to bend the rules.

ASHA (CONT'D)

(out loud) Preti, I have so many problems right now ...Dad Gone, Mom has no money and I now have to deal with Mom by myself.

Both girls shudder for a moment.

ASHA (CONT'D)

But...I do think you might be on to something....I don't think the cops care about that much about the money.. I can't bring Dad back...but the truth is he was leaving us anyway. Sounds like for good.

Asha looks at Preti

ASHA (CONT'D)

Do you think the killers had any connection to the missing money?

PRETI

I don't know....But You have to admit the timing is one hella coincidence.....If the cops are on to the killers first, they might spook them into leaving town or worse...if The money was illegal, confiscate it!!

ASHA

If we do this...we do it on our own....Your Mom's health and Nani, with her age, can't get more stressed about this.

Pinky nods in agreement.

Sangeeta is holding a serving dish she was bringing to the Kitchen. She stops at the entrance, out of sight. She has been listening to the Girls. Preti and Asha get ready to walk out of the Kitchen.

PRETI

Let's just go check it out. If it's nothing...it's nothing.

Asha nods. She follows Preti out into the Living Room, where they almost run into Sangeeta

SANGEETA

Oh...girls....are you all done? I was just bringing one more dish that was in the corner...

PRETI

Nani...do you mind taking care of it? I want to take Asha out to get some Bubble Tea.

Both girls have put on their jackets and are ready to walk out the Front Door.

SANGEETA

Sure...yeah...its fine. No problem...Enjoy.

Sangeeta walks into the kitchen as Sarita walks in from the back door. She goes to the sink to wash her hands.

SARITA

Hey...That Was a lot of trash....

Sarita turns to see Sangeeta looking back at the Front Door.

SARITA (CONT'D)

Everything ok?....That's A dumb question given everything...but you know what I mean..

Sangeeta turns and puts the dish in the sink. She turns to Sarita.

SANGEETA

I don't know. ... Preti and Asha just went out....

SARITA

Really? Your Asha hanging out with Preti.....I guess it's not unthinkable...The girls were close when they were young.

SANGEETA

Yeah..they were. Until Asha decided she was too good for Preti....and Me.

SARITA

Come on...you look more worried than usual.

SANGEETA

Sarita, I just hope they will be all right....I get that they need some answers...so I didn't stop them.....I hope I did the right thing.

Sarita looks puzzled. Sangeeta shrugs.

SANGEETA (CONT'D)

Nevermind.....Give me the sponge..this dish is not going to wash itself.....You dry.

End of Scene

(ASHA, PRETI, SANGEETA, SARITA)

INT - DIMLY LIT BIKER CLUB TIKI BAR. LOCATION#10. ONE HOUR LATER.

Filled with 5-10 scary types playing pool and drinking at the bar. Door opens, Girls enter and walk up to the Bar. Bartender is 20ish Greek.

PRETI

Hey Mikos!! ....

Mikos turns around, startled.

MIKOS

Oh.....look at that! It's been awhile....Where Are you Garage buddies? .....

PRETI

Its just me.....(ignoring Asha)..I just came to hang out....get a drink you know...

Mikos Pointing at Asha

ASHA

I'll have a Gin Fizz. Three olives.

Mikos and Preti look at Asha with disgust. Mikos starts making the drinks. He stops to whisper to Preti

MIKOS

There's a cage match down at the Embaracadero coming up....They're Looking for more girls....You Know...The guys love seeing them rolling around...brings in more customers...Interested?....

Preti looks up, pretending as if she has no idea what Mikos is talking about.

MIKOS (CONT'D)

Entry fee waived for you....\$10 grand for the winner....Even \$2500 for the loser.

Asha's ears perk up.

ASHA

Did you say 10 grand?...What? You think she (pointing to Preti) would be interested??(laughing)

MIKOS

Exactly how long have you known each other?

ASHA

None of your business.

Preti meanwhile is looking away and surveilling the bar. She spots something....She Nudges Asha.

PRETI

(whispering) Turn around slowly. Right side corner.

Asha stops talking. Mikos is finishing making the drinks.

ASHA

(turning around) What the fu....I See him....

PRETI

Yeah...me too....At Least he hasn't seen us yet

Preti pulls her jacket a little higher to cover her face. Asha is oblivious to her concern.

ASHA

Wow....Let's call the COPS. (a little too loudly)

Preti puts her hands on her head...Everyone at the bar becomes quiet. Robber #1 looks up and recognizes the girls. He starts to run towards the back entrance. Both girls run after him...Asha pulls off her heels first.  
(5-10 BIKER BAR PATRONS, ASHA, MIKOS, PRETI, ROBBER#1)

CATCHING THE MURDERER

INTERCUT - INT. BACK STOCKROOM OF BAR. LOCATION#10

Preti and Asha run through the door. It leads to a small storeroom with no other exit. Murderer stops at dead end. Turns around. Smiles.

PRETI

Got you...asshole...No where to run  
this time.

From the Bar, Hear the sound of Preti and Robber#1 fighting. Asha stands at doorway watching and then takes off her shoes. She adjusts the spikes as weapons. She enters room. Sounds of Fighting

ASHA

(o.s.) For Dad.....

Close up of Preti and Asha standing over Robber#1. Spike heel through his heart.

PRETI

Asha....what the hell...you can  
fight??...Or, Whatever those moves  
were....they were awesome Girl!!!

ASHA

(Looking at Preti)Bollywood Dance

PRETI

(Looking at Asha)Sick.....

Preti and Asha turns back to see Robber#1 on the ground.

PRETI (CONT'D)

Unfortunately I think he's either  
knocked out or dead. Can't get any  
answers from him on the money now.  
..... We have to tie him up and  
call the cops so they can take the  
credit.....Damn it!!!

ASHA

Sorry....I think I messed up.

PRETI

No...sis..you didn't....you had my back.....I knew you would when it came to it....Thanks.

Asha looks up at surprise at Preti...

End Scene

(ASHA, PRETI, ROBBER#1)

ACT IV

POLICE ARRIVE

INTERCUT - INT. BAR 15 MINUTES LATER

The cops are taking the unconscious Robber #1 on a stretcher. Policeman #1 is interviewing Mikos. Policeman #2 comes over to the girls finishing their drinks at the bar.

POLICEMAN #2

(sarcastically) So....let me get this...you girls took this guy down yourselves.

PRETI

(sarcastically) No....Santa Claus helped.

ASHA

This better not be some macho shit Dude...I know you're a cop and all.. but yeah..we got the guy..which By the way was your job.

POLICEMAN #2

(ignoring the sarcasm) I got your earlier statement ....Why Didn't you call us when you remembered about the logo?

PRETI

No reason....oh Yeah....because You're an Assh.....

ASHA

(interrupting) He's the guy.....We both recognized him....Are You questioning that?

POLICEMAN #2

(disappointingly) No. He's the guy....Listen, We finally got the surveillance footage from one of the Storefronts down the Sreet. I already sent it to your Grandmother to hopefully jog her memory. It showed almost the entire block but not the alley. It showed our friend here and another guy standing and watching the restaurant for over an hour before they head into the alley....

Both Asha and Preti let this sink in.

PRETI

Wow...Just waiting for the perfect time to rob.....Bastards..

The Cop puts down his notepad.

POLICEMAN #2

Not exactly...Ladies, there's actually more....They saw a number of well dressed people with expensive watches and gold Indian jewelry go through that alley.....It's a shortcut from the parking garage on Clement to Geary.....

ASHA

(confused)What are you saying?

Both Policemen look at each other.

POLICEMAN #1

It looks like they were specifically waiting for your Dad. They started coming up the block very soon after your Dad went into the Alley.....

Both girls look even more confused.

POLICEMAN #1 (CONT'D)

We don't think this was random.....

ASHA AND PRETI

(in unison) What?

POLICEMAN #1

(nodding) We think they were lying  
in wait...as they say....Anyway  
Don't worry we'll get to the bottom  
of this once he wakes up and we get  
a chance to question him and of  
course figure out who he is and his  
connection to the Deceased....

Policeman#1 starts to walk away. Stops and turns to the girls.

POLICEMAN #1 (CONT'D)

Thanks for your help....For What  
it's worth, the fact that you got  
the guy does help show that you had  
nothing to do with this...

Policeman#1 walks away. Girls turn to each other.

PRETI

What does this now mean?

ASHA

I have no idea.....

Asha finishes the last gulp of her drink.

ASHA (CONT'D)

No idea.

(3-4 EMTS, 5-10 BAR PATRONS, ASHA, ASHA AND PRETI, POLICEMAN  
#1, POLICEMAN #2, PRETI, ROBBER#1)

THE AFTERMATH

INT. NIGHTTIME. NEXT DAY...SANGEETA'S LIVING ROOM

Lovely, Asha, Pinky, Preti, Jason and Sangeeta are  
seated/standing. Family meeting. Everyone looks worried.  
Hear angry voices. Parents are mad at Asha and Preti

JASON BAPTISTE

(angry) I can't believe that you  
girls went to that Bar by  
yourselves.....What the hell were  
you thinking....you could've been  
killed....

PINKY

(weakly) Honey, she wasn't....I  
think our Preti can defend herself

Pinky turns to Preti with a knowing and weak smile.

PINKY (CONT'D)

Isn't that right?

PRETI

Yes.... I can. Dad look we needed some answers and honestly I didn't think that one of the guys would actually be there....

LOVELY

You really don't think before you do anything...do you? DO YOU? Now, you drag Asha into this recklessness with you...

Asha moves towards her Mom.

ASHA

Stop it....Just Stop it...It was entirely my choice Mom....And Preti is not reckless.....She is just fearless....unlike me. You've made me scared of everyone...Its Affecting me from having any relationships..By The way, I'm the one who's reckless...sabotaging anything good that comes my way....

PINKY

No...Asha...be kind to your Mom. She's been through a lot

ASHA

Good to her?....I Risk my life to go find the guy who killed Dad and all she can do is yell at Preti....Really?? ....At Least defend your daughter.

PINKY

(quietly) We don't need to defend her from anything.....even your Mom's words..Preti knows she scared us, but I also know she wanted to help you two...even if one of you doesn't appreciate it.

Lovely sits down as the wind is knocked out of her. Jason looks at Asha

JASON BAPTISTE  
 (slowly)Your mom just found out  
 that she's being evicted for  
 nonpayment.....

Asha turns back to look at her Mom and then to Jason.

ASHA  
 (incredulously) I Don't understand?

JASON BAPTISTE  
 Your Dad rented the house  
 Honey....And Well...he hadn't paid  
 the rent for the last three  
 months...the Landlord already filed  
 Eviction papers....

ASHA  
 So Mom is going to actually be  
 homeless?

Jason looks down. Asha turns to her Mom.

ASHA (CONT'D)  
 Mom?

LOVELY  
 (dejectedly)Have to move out...

Sangeeta is listening to everyone talk. She stands up.

SANGEETA  
 We can discuss the living situation  
 later.....Your Dad's right  
 Preti....You could have been killed  
 Beti....We've Already lost too  
 much....if Something happened to  
 you girls...

Sangeeta shakes with the thought of the girls getting harmed.  
 Asha walks over and puts her arm around her.

ASHA  
 But we weren't Nani...And we  
 cleared our name..I know that  
 people talk....

SANGEETA  
 I've never cared about that...you  
 know it...

PRETI

(interrupting) Nani...also....this  
Guy could tell us maybe what  
happened to the missing  
money.....or even where the  
money originally came from if the  
business was not good...you know?

The Family continues talking. Preti's phone rings. She turns to take it. Her back is to the group. Soon her back stiffens...Everyone notices...They stop talking.

PRETI (CONT'D)

...Thanks for telling me....Yes  
That's my email. That would be  
great...send it now....

Preti looks down at her phone.

PRETI (CONT'D)

Got it.....Thanks.

Preti starts intently reading an email. Everyone looks at each other. Preti hangs up.

SANGEETA

Beti....What Is it?....Who Was that  
on the phone..

Preti looks up.

PRETI

That was the Police....The guy  
escaped.

Everyone gasps. Preti presses buttons on her phone and connects her phone to the TV.

PRETI (CONT'D)

I think you all need to see  
this.....

Everyone looks at the TV.

(ASHA, JASON BAPTISTE, LOVELY, PINKY, PRETI, ROBBER#1,  
ROBBER#2, SANGEETA)

HOSPITAL JAILBREAK

INTERCUT - INT. 30 MINUTES PREVIOUSLY. LOCATION#11

HOSPITAL ROOM AND IMMEDIATE OUTSIDE OF ROOM.

Robber#2 dressed in a tshirt and jeans casually walks down to the room. It is locked. He turns away from the camera and grabs at his right arm. He turns back and is holding a key and he unlocks the room door where Robber#1 is laying. Robber#1 gets up in pain and walks out the door. He walks towards the exit, while Robber#2 closes and locks the door. He pulls the key towards his chest and turns his back. He takes a step forward and slowly turns and directly looks at the camera above. He salutes. On his right wrist he is wearing a jewel encrusted bracelet.  
(ROBBER#1, ROBBER#2)

THE MURDERER IS FREE

INT. SANGEETA'S LIVING ROOM. A FEW MOMENTS LATER.

PRETI

Nani...I remember seeing that bracelet when the guy was leaving the alley. I mentioned it to the police.....Funny thing I don't remember seeing it while we were fighting...Just the knife...with the same.....(she gasps)

Preti runs the video again....in Slow motion as the guys walks, it zooms to his right wrist with the bracelet. After he turns back to unlock the door and holds the key, there is no bracelet. The key is jewel encrusted like the bracelet. The bracelet is then again seen as he salutes and walks away. Everyone looks shocked. They slowly return to the sofas...

JASON BAPTISTE

First, why is there no guard and second....I'm not sure what I just saw....

ASHA

I don't think they have guards outside of hospital rooms anymore Mosa...they just lock the door if the guy is too injured..I think....

Asha gets up and starts pacing the room.

ASHA (CONT'D)

But you're right...this makes no sense.....So he had the bracelet when he walked in....but NOT when he was unlocking the door....and then again when he was leaving

PRETI

And the key had the same design as the bracelet....but he didn't have it on at that time?

ASHA

(eyes wide)...The bracelet and the key are the same? How can that be?

PRETI

Not just the bracelet and the key.....I think the knife too...The knife that killed Mosa...It's The same design sis...

Everyone sits in stunned silence...Lovely puts her head up...

LOVELY

Mom....

Pinky looks at Lovely.

PINKY

I know...(turning To Sangeeta).  
Mom?

Jason, Preti and Asha look confused. Everyone turns to look at Sangeeta who is deep in thought.

SANGEETA

Girls..(looking At Pinky and Lovely).I Have to think about this.

Sangeeta composes her self and puts on a brave face. Looks at Jason and her granddaughters.

SANGEETA (CONT'D)

(deflecting)I'm sure there is a logical explanation...This is a Police Problem..Our more immediate concern is where Lovely's going to live.....

Sangeeta turns to Asha...

SANGEETA (CONT'D)

I have two extra bedrooms here.  
 (Motioning to Lovely and Pinky) They  
 were fine for you girls when you  
 were young....I converted one to a  
 home office but I don't actually  
 need that anymore now, do I?  
 ....Asha You can have one and  
 Lovely you can have the ....

LOVELY

(interrupts) no...no way....(looks  
 Around) back Here? and again  
 counting every penny? (scoffs)...I  
 said I am never going to be poor  
 again.....I Am 100%...

Lovely dramatically Stands up

LOVELY (CONT'D)

100%...in hell.....(crying)

Lovely runs into the kitchen. Everyone ignore her.

ASHA

Dang. ...That's more upset than  
 when Dad died.....(calmly turning  
 to Sangeeta)...Nani just till we  
 get back on our feet and .....

PRETI

(with excitement) and figure out  
 what is going on, right....It'll be  
 like before, you'll be upstairs  
 Asha.....We can help solve this....

Asha looks defeated and nods...Sangeeta looks at everyone.

SANGEETA

Beti....I appreciate your  
 thoughts..but I think we're in over  
 our heads.....Way over our heads.

Sangeeta gets up.

END SCENE.

ACT V

INT. SANGEETA'S BEDROOM. EVENING. SITTING ON THE BED, CELLPHONE IN HER HAND. WITH ONE HAND SHE IS FLIPPING THROUGH AN OLD PAPER ADDRESS BOOK. SHE STOPS ON A PAGE. LOOKS AT IT. STARTS INPUTTING NUMBERS INTO HER PHONE. SHE CLOSES THE NOTEBOOK. THE PHONE RINGS.

SANGEETA

Hello....Hello...Can you hear me??.....

She listens for 10 seconds.

SANGEETA (CONT'D)

....Baba?....Yes...It's Sangeeta.

(SANGEETA)

INTERCUT - INT. DAYTIME. STANDING IN A WHEATFIELD HOLDING A SCYTHE. 80 YEAR OLD SARDARJI. CELLPHONE TO HIS EAR.

SUNDAR DOGRA

(he listens intently and without surprise)(subtitled)....I Understand.....Hold Tight....I'll Get back to you soon....Be Strong Beti...

Sundar hangs up the phone....He sighs and walks towards out of the field.

(SUNDAR DOGRA)

INTERCUT - EXT. COURTYARD IN INDIAN VILLAGE HOUSE. 1 HOUR LATER

Sundar Dogra (80ish) is seated on an outdoor Indian Jula(swing). Babita (80ish) is drying some pickles in the courtyard on a large women mat. He looks at her and then around the Courtyard.

INT.CUT. FLASHBACK. 1980S. 8 MONTHS AFTER HARISH'S DEATH. THE GIRLS ARE DOING COMBAT TRAINING IN THE SAME COURTYARD. YOUNG SANGEETA IS SITTING ON THE SWING WITH 50ISH SUNDAR AS THE GIRLS ARE GOING THROUGH FIGHTING DRILLS WITH STICKS.

SUNDAR

I don't understand this at all...Beti...I lost my son in law and now....I'm Losing you and the girls too...?

YOUNG SANGEETA

Baba...please understand..Harish and Arjun are gone...

SUNDAR

We have to find Arjun....Are You giving up?

YOUNG SANGEETA

No....I Will never give up....You Don't understand....

SUNDAR

The girls miss him and Lovely thinks she sees him around every corner. ....(turning to Young Sangeeta) Then help me understand Beti?

YOUNG SANGEETA

Baba....I just don't feel that Arjun is close to me anymore....I Know you won't understand but since he was born...I felt him....not Just physically...but I felt his presence. ....Right Now Its not just that he's been kidnapped, I just don't feel him at all near me or even near here.....

SUNDAR

Maybe not in this village...I understand that but..

YOUNG SANGEETA

Not just not in this village....I don't think he's even in India...Baba....He just feels very far away.

SUNDAR

Beti...I won't question you on that...I know better...so still, why this move?

YOUNG SANGEETA

I will always look for Arjun...till my life's end Baba....My Harish is gone but (she breaks down)

SUNDAR

Beti..

YOUNG SANGEETA

He's gone Baba....All I have in front of me are the girls.....I have to keep them safe..

SUNDAR

That's why I'm training them.....I always wanted to train you too but Babita wouldn't let me....I Don't like to fight with her.

YOUNG SANGEETA

(laughs) Baba...you're one of the most decorated soldiers in the Force and you're afraid of Mataji....I Actually love that...I love you Baba.

SUNDAR

I know Beti...Of that I will never be in doubt.

YOUNG SANGEETA

But...I have this job offer to teach In America...and You know we won't be traveling alone

SUNDAR

Yes.....about that..

YOUNG SANGEETA

(interrupting). Baba...I don't want my girls to be soldiers or fighters.....I want them to be silly little girls.....like I was at that age....

SUNDAR

I'm just trying to keep them safe...so they can protect themselves and you...I think this is much more than you can ever imagine.

YOUNG SANGEETA

No Baba....My Girls have too much stress already...They lost so much...I Can't do this to them too. They need a calm life...away from this (pointing to the training) and from these memories...

SUNDAR

Just promise me one  
thing.....whatever  
happens...wherever you go....no  
Matter how much time passes.....if  
you ever need help.....

Young Sangeeta flings herself into Baba's arms crying. Baba caresses her hair and whispers.

SUNDAR (CONT'D)

I will be here for you till my  
dying breath Beti..until he above  
calls me home....Always..Always...

(SUNDAR, YOUNG SANGEETA)

End Scene

REINFORCEMENT

EXT. OBSTACLE COURSE. PRESENT DAY. SEVERAL INDIAN SOLDIERS ARE TRAINING. THREE OFFICERS, (GENERAL, 70ISH, AND TWO COLONELS, 50ISH) ARE WATCHING AND TALKING AMONG THEMSELVES. THE PHONE RINGS IN GENERAL'S JACKET POCKET.

GENERAL NAVNEET SINGH

Excuse me gentlemen...give me a  
second.....

General Navneet Singh answers his cell phone.

GENERAL NAVNEET SINGH (CONT'D)

General Navneet Singh  
here.....(snaps To attention).

He turns his back to them and walks a few steps and stops. His body snaps to attention. Other two officers stop talking and look to General Navneet Singh.

GENERAL NAVNEET SINGH (CONT'D)

Captain....it's Been a long time

Two Officers have confused looks on their faces. General Navneet Singh listens intently.

## GENERAL NAVNEET SINGH (CONT'D)

Yes Sir....I'm on it...Send me the details in email.....  
 (more emotionally) Good to hear your voice too Sir. I promise Sir, I will do my duty..

General Navneet Singh hangs up the phone. He pulls out his wallet and looks at an old faded picture of Sangeeta, 8 years old. She is with her mother. Both are wearing party outfits. He looks at it for a second and then puts it away. He Slowly turns to the other Officers.

## GENERAL NAVNEET SINGH (CONT'D)

Boys...I need to go away for awhile..

Both men look startled and start to speak. General Navneet Singh turns and walks away.

## COLONEL MANMOHAN

(calling out)  
 General....General...Excuse Me Sir...We are in the middle of the War Exercises. ...What shall I tell Command?...

GENERAL NAVNEET SINGH  
 (without turning his head) Tell them that I have something more important to do...Much more important..

Singh walks away. (2 INDIAN COLONELS, 2-3 INDIAN ARMY NEW SOLDIERS, COLONEL MANMOHAN, GENERAL NAVNEET SINGH)

*End of Script*

FADE OUT.