

FADE IN:

EXT- AMRITSAR MARKET PLACE - DAY

HAWKERS sell their wares on the street, calling to the crowds on the roads. A TEMPLE BELL rings in the distance. A few BRITISH SOLDIERS on HORSEBACK move slowly through the crowd. They wearily glance at the swarms of INDIANS.

TWO INDIAN MEN move stealthily past the SHOPS and FOOD CARTS to the middle of the TOWN SQUARE where a BRITISH FLAG flaps half-heartedly atop a flag post.

The Indians quickly bring the flag down and set it on fire. A hushed whisper moves through the witnessing crowd.

British soldiers see the burning flag. They run to the two Indians, beating them with BATONS. The Indians fall to the ground.

CHAOS ENSUES.

Out of the protesting masses comes another bold INDIAN. He finishes what his fallen brothers have begun, hoisting the BURNING FLAG up the post for all to see.

TITLE : 1918 AMRITSAR, BRITISH OCCUPIED INDIA.

We move past the smoke and flames of the flag to...

A cloudless blue sky.

A piano plays.

A RED KITE enters the frame. Hesitant at first, but then with growing confidence it dances to the tune of the music moving here, there and everywhere.

INT. COLONEL FOSTER'S HOME - MUSIC ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Dainty fingers play a melody on a piano, but ALISON FOSTER, 12, blue eyes and golden curls is not concentrating on the music.

She looks toward the large FRENCH WINDOW from where she can see the red kite. It seems to call to Alison, asking her to come and play.

A BONY FINGER pokes the small of her BACK. Alison snaps out of her reverie.

JANE (O.S.)
 You're not concentrating, child.
 Keep your back straight.

Alison tugs at the stiff lace collar of her dress.

JANE (CONT'D)
 And stop fidgeting. Start over.

Alison straightens up and starts playing again.

JANE ANDERSON, (Alison's governess) late 30's, walks back to her seat at the SOFA and fans herself as she watches Alison play.

Jane looks very much a part of the room she sits in - very stiff, very proper, very Victorian.

Alison, on the other hand, looks like she is a million miles away. Although she plays without a flaw this time, her eyes yet again stray to ...

THE RED KITE THAT DANCES IN THE WIND.

EXT. COLONEL FOSTER'S ESTATE - SERVANTS' QUARTERS - LATE AFTERNOON

*** Scenes between Indians will be spoken in Hindi with English subtitles.**

JUSMEEN SINGH, 12, stands in front of the SERVANTS' QUARTERS - a long row of mud huts- flying her kite.

Jusmeen is dark, with brown eyes and long silky black hair. Her skinny legs have faded scars - the kind one gets from running and playing outside. She is barefooted.

Jusmeen looks up to the sky with concentration and tugs at her kite string.

CHARANDEEP (O.S.)
 Jusmeen!

Jusmeen sees her brother CHARANDEEP SINGH, 16, walking towards her carrying a large spade on his shoulder. Charandeep is tall, and like all traditional Sikhs, wears his hair up in a turban. He is in that in-between stage. Not really a boy, but not really a man either.

CHARANDEEP (CONT'D)
(irritated)
You took my kite out without asking
again. Why don't you ever ask?

JUSMEEN
Because I know you won't let me.

CHARANDEEP
Why do you think that is?

JUSMEEN
Look, I know I lost the other one,
but I'm better at flying it now.
See?

Charandeep looks up at the kite.

CHARANDEEP
You're losing control.

JUSMEEN
No, I'm not.

Charandeep tries to take the string from Jusmeen.

CHARANDEEP
Give it to me.

JUSMEEN
I can do it!

SRIRAM (O.S.)
Are you the new gardener's kids?

Jusmeen and Charandeep turn to see SRIRAM PATEL, (60's),
sitting on his haunches outside one of the huts, smoking a
beedi. He is wrinkled and wears a MAROON UNIFORM.

Charandeep nods.

SRIRAM (CONT'D)
My wife told me you moved in last
night. I was hoping to meet your
father today.

CHARANDEEP
He's in the garden right now. But
he should be home soon.

Sriram rises and walks towards Charandeep.

SRIRAM

Tell your father my name is Sriram Patel. I am a servant at the Colonel's house. Tell him I am ready to help him in anyway I can.

Charandeep gives Sriram an assessing look and nods. Jusmeen and Charandeep watch Sriram walk towards the Colonel's house.

JUSMEEN

I don't like him.

Charandeep seems lost in thought. He suddenly walks towards the Colonel's house.

JUSMEEN (CONT'D)

Where're you going?

CHARANDEEP

To talk to Baba (Father).

JUSMEEN

You're going to the big house? I want to see it too!

CHARANDEEP

You know Baba said you can't go there.

JUSMEEN

How come you get to go?

CHARANDEEP

You know the rules. No wandering around, okay? Go help Ma with the food.

Jusmeen scowls resentfully as she watches her brother walk away.

ZAREEN (O.S.)

Jusmeen! Bring the vegetable basket inside.

Jusmeen continues to fly the kite.

ZAREEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Jusmeen!

Jusmeen runs towards a ROW OF BUSHES that divide the Colonel's gardens from the servants quarters.

ZAREEN(Jusmeen's mother), 38, an older version of Jusmeen, comes out of their hut and looks around.

ZAREEN (CONT'D)

Where has that girl gone to now?

Jusmeen hides behind bushes and tries to quickly bring the kite in. The string SNAPS.

JUSMEEN

No!

All thoughts of hiding forgotten, Jusmeen, hurries after the wilful kite. She jumps, trying to catch the string, but it prances around, determined to evade her.

EXT. COLONEL FOSTER'S HOME - SAME

Jusmeen watches the kite drop from the sky and follows it. She finds it caught in a TREE just outside COLONEL FOSTER'S HOUSE. She can see that it is TORN.

JUSMEEN

Bhaiya's (Brother's) going to kill me.

Jusmeen chews her lip, hesitant to get too close to the house. She looks back at the servants' quarters in the distance and then back at the impressive red-tiled roof and tall graceful white pillars of the Foster residence.

Making up her mind, she creeps up to the house and stands at the base of the tree.

INT. COLONEL FOSTER'S HOUSE - ALISON'S BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

A queen-sized canopy bed dominates the room. On one side of the bed is a large dressing table with a musical jewelry box, combs, brushes and hair clips.

Opposite the dressing table is a large WINDOW with a window seat decorated with dolls. This is obviously a girl's bedroom.

Alison enters.

Tired from her piano lesson, she sits down at her dressing table and takes off her shoes. She is about to pull the pins out of her hair when she sees the reflection of the kite in the mirror.

Fascinated, she opens her window and stares at the kite (its orange tail still flapping in the breeze).

ZAREEN
(from a distance)
Jusmeen!

Alison looks down just in time to see Jusmeen - who had been attempting to climb the tree - scamper off in the direction of the servants quarters.

Alison gently prys the kite out of the clutch of the branches.

EXT. COLONEL FOSTER'S ESTATE GROUNDS - LATE AFTERNOON

Out of breath, Jusmeen stops running and turns to look at the Colonel's house again.

ZAREEN (O.S.)
Jusmeen!

Jusmeen spins around and sees her mother standing a few feet away.

ZAREEN (CONT'D)
(annoyed)
What did Baba tell you about
wandering about? Why don't you ever
do what you are told?

Jusmeen looks to her feet. Her chin juts out stubbornly.

JUSMEEN
How come bhaiya gets to go
everywhere?

ZAREEN
Because he works in the garden.

JUSMEEN
I could work in the garden too.

ZAREEN
That's a man's job, Jusmeen.

JUSMEEN
It's not fair!

ZAREEN
Well, life's not fair. Now go
inside.

Jusmeen takes one last look at the Colonel's house and walks back to the servants' quarters.

INT. JUSMEEN'S HOME - NIGHT

A moth flutters crazily against a small lantern. Shadows on a mud wall.

AMARJEETH SINGH, 45, talks with a lowered voice to Charandeep who listens with rapt attention. Amarjeeth is tall, has a full beard, and an authoritative air about him.

Zareen sits in the corner beside the vessels, heaping rice and vegetables onto metal plates. Jusmeen sits beside her and strains to hear what her father and brother are saying.

Zareen hands the plate to Jusmeen who takes it to Amarjeeth and places it at his feet. Amarjeeth does not acknowledge Jusmeen or the 'hurt' look on her face.

Jusmeen takes her place beside her mother, straining her ears. She catches snippets of their conversation.

AMARJEETH
... should arrive at quarter to eleven.

CHARANDEEP
How many?

AMARJEETH
Seven or so. He said he would try and gather more.

Zareen sees Jusmeen eavesdropping. She looks at Amarjeeth.

ZAREEN
Enough, Amar. Not at dinner.

Amarjeeth looks at his wife with annoyance, but Zareen matches his glare.

Amarjeeth gets to his feet and disappears into an inner room, leaving his food untouched. Charandeep takes this opportunity to talk to Jusmeen.

CHARANDEEP
Jusmeen, where is my kite?

JUSMEEN
(lying)
It's in our room.

CHARANDEEP
Where in our room?

Jusmeen doesn't respond.

CHARANDEEP (CONT'D)
You lost it again, didn't you?

Amarjeeth comes out of the inner room, wrapped in a shawl.

JUSMEEN
I know where it is.

CHARANDEEP
(angry)
Well, you better find it.

AMARJEETH
Son, you are too old to be fighting
with your sister. Come now.

Charandeep gives Jusmeen a final glare and puts on his slippers.

ZAREEN
(panicking)
Where are you taking him?

Amarjeeth does not respond.

ZAREEN (CONT'D)
Amar, please, he is too young.

CHARANDEEP
He is almost a man, Zareen.

CHARANDEEP (CONT'D)
I want to go, Ma.

ZAREEN
Son, you don't know what you're
talking about.

AMARJEETH
Enough Zareen. We must leave now.

ZAREEN
(softly to Amarjeeth)
I will never forgive you if
anything happens to him.

Father and son leave home together. Jusmeen jealously watches them go, feeling left out. Zareen goes back to clearing up the remains of their dinner.

Jusmeen sits on her haunches and helps her mother stack the dishes. She pauses when she notices tears in Zareen's eyes.

JUSMEEN
What is it, Ma? What's wrong?

ZAREEN
Go to bed, Jusmeen.

When Jusmeen doesn't move.

ZAREEN (CONT'D)
(roughly)
Go!

Jusmeen scampers to her bedroom, but sits quietly by the door watching her mother cry.

EXT. COLONEL FOSTER'S ESTATE - NOON

The mid-day sun beats down on Jusmeen. She carries a water pot on her hip and walks towards the expansive gardens. Seeing her brother emptying a sack of manure on the grass, Jusmeen goes to him.

JUSMEEN
Ma said to bring you water.

Charandeep takes a mug full of water, drinks some and splashes the rest on his face and neck.

Jusmeen notices Charandeep has a CUT LIP.

JUSMEEN (CONT'D)
What happened to your lip?

Charandeep does not look at Jusmeen.

JUSMEEN (CONT'D)
Where did Baba take you last night?

Charandeep begins to work again without responding.

JUSMEEN (CONT'D)
Are you still mad about the kite?

CHARANDEEP

Will you shut up about the stupid
kite?

Jusmeen looks hurt. She picks up the water pot and walks away.

When she turns the corner Jusmeen stops and makes sure no one's watching before she quietly makes her way to the TREE just outside the Colonel's home.

Placing her water pot by the tree she looks up to the branches trying to locate the kite.

Unable to find it she circles the tree. Seeing a little bit of RED PAPER, Jusmeen climbs up to look for the kite in the branches.

Alison's window is open and her floral curtains flap gently in the breeze.

Jusmeen hears a VOICE coming from within. Curiously, Jusmeen crawls up to the window and peeps in.

INT. COLONEL FOSTER'S HOME - ALISON'S BEDROOM - SAME

Alison stands by her bed with a book in her hand. She dramatically swirls around. A look of HORROR comes over her face.

ALISON

What's here? A cup, closed in my
true loves hand?

Alison picks up an IMAGINARY CUP.

ALISON (CONT'D)

Poison, I see, hath been his
timeless end. O churl! Drunk all,
and left no friendly drop to help
me after? I will kiss thy lips.

Alison passionately kisses her pillow pretending it's someone. At the window, Jusmeen tries not to laugh. Alison looks at her book again.

She picks up an IMAGINARY DAGGER.

ALISON (CONT'D)

This is thy sheath, there rust, and
let me die!

Alison pretends to STAB herself and dramatically falls down on the bed, lying very still.

SHANTIMA (O.S.)
(from outside the door)
Miss Allie madam?

Alison gets up and runs to the door.

ALISON
Coming, Shantima!

Alison leaves her book on her bed and disappears out the bedroom door. Jusmeen waits for a moment. Then, unable to control her curiosity, she climbs inside.

INT. ALISON'S BEDROOM - NOON

Jusmeen places one foot on Alison's window seat and accidentally steps on a TEDDY BEAR.

The bear SQUEAKS LOUDLY and falls to the ground. Jusmeen stumbles, frightened by the squeak. She picks up the bear and looks at it curiously.

She shakes it, wondering how it made that noise. Then she squeezes. SQUEAK! Jusmeen giggles. She places the bear back on the window seat and looks with fascination at the PINK and WHITE WONDERLAND in front of her eyes.

She sees herself in the reflection of the dressing table mirror and goes and stands in front of it.

She sees Alison's CARVED WOODEN JEWELRY BOX and opens it. BEETHOVEN's FUR ELISE begins to play.

Jusmeen hurriedly shuts the box and listens for footsteps. When she hears nothing she opens the box again. Jusmeen smiles as she listens.

Unable to resist, she picks up a RING from the box and tries it on. Then she tries on another and another until all her fingers have rings on them.

When she looks up she sees Alison standing by the door staring at her.

The two girls, both shocked to see the other, simply stare for a moment.

There is a KNOCK on the door.

JANE (O.S.)

Alison?

Alison stops staring and grabs Jusmeen's arm.

JUSMEEN

Wha--

ALISON

(to Jusmeen)

Shhh!

(to Jane)

Just a moment!

Alison pushes Jusmeen under the bed and then sits on it.

ALISON (CONT'D)

Come in.

Jane peeps in.

JANE

Your father wants you downstairs
for tea.

ALISON

Yes, Miss. I'll be a few minutes.
I'd like to change out of this
dress first.

Jane nods and shuts the door. Alison bends over, lifts the
bed spread and looks at Jusmeen.

ALISON (CONT'D)

(in Hindi)

It's alright. She's gone.

Jusmeen's eyes widen in surprise.

JUSMEEN

You speak Hindi? How come?

Jusmeen crawls out from under the bed.

ALISON

(shrugging)

I've been here my whole life.

Jusmeen points to the door.

JUSMEEN

That was your mother?

ALISON

Oh no. Miss Anderson is my
governess. My mother is dead.

Jusmeen doesn't quite know what to say.

Alison looks at HER rings on Jusmeen's fingers. Jusmeen
notices. Jusmeen hastily takes them off and hands them to
Alison.

JUSMEEN

I was just trying them on.

Alison looks down at the rings.

ALISON

There was one with a blue stone...
Papa gave it to me for my birthday.

Jusmeen shows Alison her fingers.

JUSMEEN

I gave back everything I tried on.

Alison checks her music box and can't find it. She looks back
at Jusmeen.

It's obvious Alison thinks Jusmeen took it.

ALISON

(shrugging)

It doesn't matter. Papa can always
buy me another.

Jusmeen looks annoyed.

JUSMEEN

But I didn't steal it.

Alison shrugs.

ALISON

It's alright. You can keep it if
you want.

Jusmeen goes to the window and begins to climb down the tree.

ALISON (CONT'D)

I said it didn't matter!

JUSMEEN

I don't want your 'bheekh'.

Alison doesn't understand the Hindi word for charity.

ALISON

What? What does that mean?

Jusmeen continues climbing down.

ALISON (CONT'D)

Wait!

Alison runs to her closet and pulls out the Jusmeen's kite.

ALISON (CONT'D)

I have your kite.

By the time Alison turns, Jusmeen has disappeared.

INT. COLONEL FOSTER'S HOME - DINING ROOM - SAME

THREE INDIAN SERVANTS, GOPI, 40's, RAJU, 50's and Sriram, dressed in maroon uniforms and white gloves swarm around the dining table serving food and pouring tea.

JANE

She is having problems with mixed fractions. She makes the same mistake over and over again.

COLONEL HENRY FOSTER, 48 yrs, has a VACANT LOOK in his eyes. He is stout, has a walrus-like moustache and is dressed in a military uniform.

He whispers a thank-you to Gopi who pours his tea and then tries to concentrate on what Jane is saying.

JANE (CONT'D)

And when I try explaining it to her she gets that 'far off' look.

COLONEL FOSTER

What was that?

JANE

Day-dreaming, sir. Miss Foster day-dreams through her lessons.

COLONEL FOSTER

I see. Well, what do you suppose she was dreaming about?

JANE

I'm afraid I don't know what you mean.

COLONEL FOSTER

Well, it seems to me that she *is* thinking a great deal about *something*. Just not mixed fractions.

Colonel Foster chuckles, but Jane is not amused.

JANE

Colonel Foster, I am more concerned about the things she is NOT thinking of. Which brings me to the other subject I've been meaning to discuss with you.

(pause)

I think it is in Miss Foster's best interests to be sent home to England.

COLONEL FOSTER

(surprised)

But *this* is the only home Allie's ever known.

JANE

Precisely my point, sir. She has no idea what cultured British society is like. The child spends all her spare time, jabbering to the servants in Hindi. The longer you let her run wild, the harder it will be for her to adapt to society. What husband would want a wife with no manners?

COLONEL FOSTER

Oh come, Miss Anderson, Allie's twelve!

JANE

And before you know it, she'll be twenty.

Alison enters.

ALISON

I'm sorry I'm late, Papa.

Colonel Foster's eyes light up.

COLONEL FOSTER
Allie! Come, come. We were just
talking about you.

Alison gives her father a hug.

ALISON
Papa, what does 'bheekh' mean?

Colonel Foster pretends not to see Jane's meaningful stare.

COLONEL FOSTER
I have no idea. Why do you ask?

ALISON
(shrugging)
I heard someone say it and didn't
know what it meant. How was Bombay?

Colonel Foster's expression saddens.

COLONEL FOSTER
Let's not talk of such things right
now. Miss Anderson here was just
telling me that you were having
problems with mixed fractions.

There is a knock on the door. LIEUTENANT JOHNSON peeps in.

JOHNSON
If I could have a word...

Colonel Foster rises and waves Johnson in. They move to the
side of the room and talk in lowered voices.

JOHNSON (CONT'D)
Two soldiers beaten up just outside
the Amritsar library. They burnt
books this time sir, including a
Bible.

COLONEL FOSTER
They're getting bolder.

Alison stops drinking her tea and cocks her head listening.

JANE
Little girls shouldn't eavesdrop on
things that do not concern them.

Alison stops listening and pours herself another cup of tea.

JANE (CONT'D)
You didn't change.

ALISON
Pardon me?

JANE
Your clothes. You were late because
you wanted to change your clothes.

Alison looks down at her dress.

ALISON
Oh. I guess I forgot.

Jane raises an eyebrow and sips her tea.

Johnson leaves and Colonel Foster signals to SRIRAM.

COLONEL FOSTER
Tell Salim to bring the car around.

ALISON
You're leaving again, Papa?

Colonel Foster smiles sadly at Alison

COLONEL FOSTER
I'm afraid I must, little one. I'm
afraid I must.

INT. COLONEL FOSTER'S CAR - DAY

Colonel Foster gets into his car along with Lieutenant Johnson. He looks out the window at his daughter standing on the porch. She waves at him and he waves back in return, The car pulls out of the driveway.

SALIM 37, the Colonel's driver, watches the Colonel in the rearview mirror.

JOHNSON
General Dyer's message stated that
the Lieutenant Governor will also
be present at the meeting.

COLONEL FOSTER
How are your children doing,
Johnson?

Johnson looks a little surprised at the question.

JOHNSON
Very well, sir. Thank you for asking.

COLONEL FOSTER
They like the old country, do they?

JOHNSON
Well, Jeremy writes to say that he has finally made a few friends at boarding school. Julia's fine but still misses her mother.

COLONEL FOSTER
Was it hard? Letting them go?

JOHNSON
Well, one gets used to it, sir.

Colonel Foster smiles sadly and looks out of the window in silence.

EXT. GENERAL DYER'S OFFICE - DAY

Colonel Foster's car comes to a halt outside the high-walled compound.

As they wait for the enormous gate to open, Colonel Foster and Lieutenant Johnson look out the car window to see the words 'GO HOME, ENGLISH BASTARDS' painted in red on the white-washed compound wall.

A SOLDIER and an INDIAN in plain clothes stand by the wall. A BUCKET OF SOAP WATER stands beside them.

The soldier picks up a sponge from the bucket and hands it to the Indian. The Indian drops the sponge.

The soldier beats the Indian with a baton. Again, he hands him the sponge. Again the Indian drops it. The soldier raises his hand to strike again.

Unable to watch, Colonel Foster turns away as the car pulls into the driveway.

INT. MEETING ROOM - SAME

Eight HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS sit at a LONG TABLE.

At the head of the table sits MICHAEL O' DWYER, 50, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR GENERAL of PUNJAB. He is a tall, thin man with a calm air of authority about him.

Colonel Foster sits to his right.

GENERAL DYER, late 40's, sits to his left. General Dyer is a short man with a thick moustache. He is dressed in military attire. Badges of honor decorate his left breast. He has a 'no nonsense' air about him.

DYER

As we all are well aware, this incident at the library is not an isolated one. Everyday there are new atrocities.

Beat.

DYER (CONT'D)

Last night a train carrying British artillery was stopped at Lahore and robbed. Eight officers were killed. As we speak, the stolen weapons are being distributed amongst these so called freedom fighters.

O'Dwyer rubs his eyes wearily.

O'DWYER

(dryly)

That's all we need. Guns in the hands of these barbarians.

DYER

Gentlemen, I think we can all agree that if we aren't careful, we're looking at a full scale revolt, the likes of which will be compared to the Russian Revolution.

(pause)

We must nip this in the bud.

O'DWYER

Our Legislative counsel is currently discussing the pros of bringing back the Defence of India Act.

COLONEL FOSTER

(surprised)

But that was a law meant to last
only the duration of the war.

O'DWYER

Well, under current circumstances
it may be necessary to declare a
state of continued emergency.

(pause)

This act will give us the authority
to imprison law breakers without
trial.

Colonel Foster shifts uncomfortably in his chair.

COLONEL FOSTER

Do you think we are truly
addressing the problem? 74,000
Indians died fighting for us in the
war. They believe they rightfully
deserve a place in the Parliament.
If we made this small concession--

DYER

That is precisely what they want.
If we concede to their whims and
fancies--

Dyer shakes his head.

DYER (CONT'D)

I fear that if we spare the rod we
will spoil the child. The sooner
this law is passed the better.

Colonel Foster opens his mouth to object, but when all the
other officials murmur their agreement he thinks it better
not to disagree with his superiors and remains silent.

EXT. ALISON'S BEDROOM - NEXT DAY

Alison holds her hands up and waits as SHANTIMA, 65, old and
bent, pulls a PETTICOAT down over her head. Alison turns to
the window as she waits for Shantima to button her up.

Before Shantima can do anything, Alison goes to the window.

Shantima joins Alison at the window, trying to button
Alison's petticoat. But Alison keeps moving from window to
window.

SHANTIMA
Hold still, child. What on earth
are you looking at?

ALISON
Shantima, what does 'bheekh' mean?

SHANTIMA
It means charity.

A look of comprehension comes over Alison's face.

EXT. ESTATE GROUNDS - DAY

Zareen walks quickly, balancing a large bundle on her head and another on her hip. She moves towards a little SIDE GATE at one corner of the estate.

Jusmeen follows, trying to keep up and balance the bundle on her head at the same time. As they pass the Foster residence Jusmeen looks up and sees Alison watching her.

The bundle nearly falls off her head. Jusmeen staggers a little, finds her balance and hurries after her mother.

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

The water sparkles in the sun. Jusmeen and Zareen approach the river, their bundles still on their heads.

Jusmeen drops her bundle on the riverbank and runs to the water. She shrieks and jumps in with a huge SPLASH.

Zareen shakes her head as she opens the bundles of clothes.

ZAREEN
I thought you were going to help me
with the washing.

JUSMEEN
But it's so hot!

Jusmeen begins to swim towards the middle.

ZAREEN
Not there, Jesse. Stay by me. The
current's too strong.

Jusmeen waddles back to her mother. She turns over and floats on her back. The endless blue sky seems but an arm's reach away.

To her left Jusmeen can see the red-tiled roof of the Colonel's house in the distance.

JUSMEEN

Ma? Why doesn't Baba want me to go near that house?

Zareen pauses and then continues with her scrubbing.

ZAREEN

I suppose it's because of the people that live in it.

JUSMEEN

The gora sahibs? (White masters)

ZAREEN

Yes.

JUSMEEN

Are they all bad? Every single one of them?

ZAREEN

Why all these questions?

JUSMEEN

No reason.

ZAREEN

Come help me clean these clothes then.

Jusmeen gets out of the water. Still dripping, she picks up a shirt and immerses it in the river, watching as the tide tries to carry it away.

EXT. SERVANTS QUARTERS - AFTERNOON

Water splashes into a clay pot. Jusmeen stands at the WATER PUMP near the servants' quarters. She wipes a bead of sweat off her face.

She lifts the pot to her hip and turns to her mother who is setting the freshly-washed clothes out to dry on the grass.

JUSMEEN

I'll be back soon, Ma.

EXT. COLONEL FOSTER'S GARDENS - DAY

Charandeep takes manure out of a sack and pats it into the ground around a little sapling. Then he moves on to the next one.

GOPI (O.S.)
You heard about what happened at
the library?

Charandeep turns and sees GOPI and RAJU the two Indian servants, dressed in their uniforms, walking down the garden path.

RAJU
Ridiculous.

GOPI
What do they think they're going to
prove? Bunch of raving lunatics.

Enraged, Charandeep gets to his feet and follows them.

CHARANDEEP
Oye! You!

Gopi looks back.

CHARANDEEP (CONT'D)
You like licking the dust off the
sahib's boots, do you?

Gopi stops and gives Charandeep a hard look.

GOPI
You got a problem, boy?

CHARANDEEP
Tell me, do you use your mother's
clothes to wipe his arse after he
takes a shit?

Gopi looks contemptuously at Charandeep's manure covered hands.

GOPI
Funny, you're the one that smells
like shit.

EXT. COLONEL FOSTER'S GARDEN - DAY

Jusmeen stops when she sees her brother fighting the two house servants. The water pot smashes to bits as it hits the ground. Jusmeen runs to her brother.

EXT. COLONEL FOSTER'S GARDENS - SAME

Charandeep is bleeding from his nose and mouth. Raju raises his hand to strike him again when Jusmeen comes flying out of nowhere.

With all the strength she can muster she pushes Raju away and wedges herself between them.

JUSMEEN

Leave my brother alone!

Servant 2 gets over his surprise and laughs.

RAJU

Look at that, our patriot lets his little sister fight for him.

Chanrandeep lunges forward, but Jusmeen clings to him.

JUSMEEN

No!

JANE (O.S.)

What's going on here?

Everyone turns, surprised to see Jane walking towards them. Jane sees the torn uniforms of the servants and the blood on Charandeep's face.

JANE (CONT'D)

Displays of violence will not be tolerated here. You are discharged. All of you. Go on. I don't want to see you people here again.

Jusmeen sees Alison come up behind Miss Anderson. She sees the worry in Jusmeen's eyes.

JANE (CONT'D)

I want you off the grounds by sunset.

ALISON

Papa wouldn't want you to do that.

Jane turns around.

JANE

Miss Foster, please go back into the house and let me deal with this. Your father left me in charge when he is not around.

ALISON

That doesn't mean you can discharge the servants.

(to the servants- in Hindi)

Don't worry, nobody's discharged. Just don't let it happen again. Go home.

Jusmeen gives Alison a grateful smile before she takes her brother's arm and helps him home.

Jane turns to Alison. She is livid.

JANE

Don't you ever humiliate me in front of the servants again. Do you understand?

ALISON

Miss Anderson, don't talk to me like that. You're my governess, not my mother.

Jane glares at Alison.

JANE

I am taking this up with your father.

Jane walks back to the house. A few moments later Alison follows.

INT. JUSMEEN'S HOME - NIGHT

Zareen soaks a cloth in water and squeezes it. She gently dabs at Charandeep's wounded face. He flinches a little. Jusmeen watches anxiously.

In front of them, Amarjeeth paces up and down the tiny hut.

AMARJEETH

(bellows)

You could have ruined everything.

(MORE)

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)

If the Colonel finds out... all our plans, everything, gone!

(beat)

Do you know how hard it was to get this job? Do you know how many strings we had to pull?

(pause)

We could have been fired because of this!

Charandeep hangs his head in shame. Amarjeeth opens his mouth to yell again.

ZAREEN

(interjecting)

I think we've all had enough for one day. You children should go to bed.

INT. JUSMEEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jusmeen helps her brother take off his shirt and lie on his mattress. Jusmeen looks with concern at the bright bruises on Charandeep's chest and stomach.

CHARANDEEP

I'm alright, Jesse.

Jusmeen and Charandeep can hear muffled sounds of their parents arguing in the next room.

CHARANDEEP (CONT'D)

Seems like they are always fighting these days.

JUSMEEN

They're always fighting about you.

Charandeep cracks a smile.

CHARANDEEP

You want them to fight about you?

JUSMEEN

I guess not.

Charandeep winces as he shifts to a more comfortable position. He closes his eyes.

JUSMEEN (CONT'D)

Bhaiya?

CHARANDEEP

Hmm?

JUSMEEN

What does Baba talk to you about?

CHARANDEEP

Lots of things.

JUSMEEN

(pressing on)

Like what?

CHARANDEEP

I don't know... lots of things.

JUSMEEN

Where did he take you yesterday?

CHARANDEEP

Not now Jesse. Please?

JUSMEEN

Okay.

Charandeep falls asleep. After a few moments Jusmeen goes to the window and looks to the Foster estate.

She makes sure Charandeep is sleeping before she climbs out the window.

INT. ALISON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alison is lying in bed when she hears a gentle tap at her window. She turns and sees Jusmeen.

Alison goes to the window and opens it. Jusmeen climbs in.

JUSMEEN

Thank you. For my brother and my family. Thank you.

Alison smiles shyly.

ALISON

I have something that's yours.

Alison runs to her closet and brings out the KITE.

JUSMEEN

Bhaiya's kite!

Jusmeen runs her fingers over the yellow patches (where the kite had been torn).

JUSMEEN (CONT'D)
You fixed it. Thank you.

ALISON
It's a beautiful kite. I wish I
knew how to fly it.

JUSMEEN
Would you like to learn?

Alison grins at Jusmeen.

EXT. ALISON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jusmeen opens the window and peeks out to make sure that the coast is clear. She climbs onto the branch and gestures to Alison to follow.

Alison looks very nervous, but follows anyway. As she climbs down, her skirt gets caught in a branch. She slips, her skirt tears and she lets out a small SQUEAL.

JUSMEEN
Shh!

Jusmeen helps Alison get her skirt free from the branch.

Jusmeen and Alison freeze as they hear a FIRST FLOOR WINDOW squeak open. A lantern is brought to the window.

In the light of the lantern they see Jane looking around the grounds suspiciously- but she does not look up at the tree.

After a moment she shuts the window and the light goes off.

The girls share a sigh of relief. They slowly and very quietly make their way down the tree.

EXT. JALLIANWALA BAGH (PLAYGROUND)- NIGHT

Moonlight shines down on the vast, deserted, playground. The silence is broken only by the sound of the wind and the chirping of crickets in the trees.

A lonely WELL stands in the middle of the playground. A stray dog scratches itself and walks over to the well. It lazily lifts its leg, but lowers it when it hears noises nearby.

A cloud curtains the moon, blanketing the grounds in darkness.

When the approaching noises get louder, the dog moves away. TWO FIGURES creep out of the bushes. Jusmeen throws her shawl off.

ALISON

Are you sure it's safe to take the shawl off?

JUSMEEN

There's no one here.

Alison exposes her head hesitantly. She looks around at the vast grounds. She sees the dark trees gently swaying in the wind and hears the rustling of leaves against leaves.

Alison shivers.

JUSMEEN (CONT'D)

Scared?

ALISON

No. No... well, maybe a little. How do you know this place?

JUSMEEN

It's called Jallianwala Bagh. Ma used to bring us here to play when we lived in the city.

ALISON

What was it like? Living in the city?

JUSMEEN

I loved it. I wish we didn't have to move.

Jusmeen leans against the OLD WELL.

JUSMEEN (CONT'D)

Baba doesn't let us go anywhere these days.

ALISON

Well, if it makes you feel any better, I hardly go anywhere either. Except to church and that's no fun at all!

Jusmeen bends and picks a pebble off the ground. She throws it in the well and leans over listening for the splash.

They hear a FAINT PLOP.

ALISON (CONT'D)
Sounds so far away.

ECHO
Ar away.

Jusmeen grins at Alison and then bends over the well.

JUSMEEN
Hello!

ECHO
Lo!

JUSMEEN
Who are you?

ECHO
Are you?

ALISON
Shh! Someone will hear us!

ECHO
Us!

JUSMEEN
Oh relax, there's just you, me and the lady in the well.

ALISON
What do you mean?

JUSMEEN
Don't you know about the lady in the well?

Alison shakes her head.

JUSMEEN (CONT'D)
(dramatically)
There once was a beautiful lady with long dark hair. Her name was Sheeba. One day a rich young man brought her here and asked her to be his wife but she refused.

Alison's eyes widen as she listens.

JUSMEEN (CONT'D)

She told him she was in love with someone else. So consumed with jealous rage was he that he pushed her down the well saying 'If I can't have her no one can!' For three days she lay there bleeding and calling for help. But no one came.

ALISON

How wonderfully tragic!

JUSMEEN

It's not a story. It really happened. The lady died but her spirit is still down there. Calling for help. If you get too close, she'll catch you. And you'll bleed to death just like she did.

Alison looks uncertainly at the darkness of the well.

JUSMEEN (CONT'D)

Boo!

ECHO

Ooo!

Alison shrieks. Jusmeen bursts into giggles.

ALISON

Jusmeen!

A dog howls in the distance. Jusmeen shrieks. The girls look at each other and giggle nervously.

Alison points to the sky.

ALISON (CONT'D)

Oh, look!

Jusmeen looks to the sky just as the cloud unveils the moon, and bathes everything in silver light.

The two girls stare in wonder at ...

THE FULL MOON.

Alison stands holding the kite string. Jusmeen stands beside her. The two girls share a smile and continue to fly the kite.

The SILHOUETTE of a KITE is seen against the pale yellow of the moon.

The MOON fades as the SKY BRIGHTENS.

INT. JUSMEEN'S ROOM - DAY

Jusmeen lies fast asleep on her little mattress on the floor. Charandeep tries to shake her awake.

CHARANDEEP
Get up, Jesse.

Jusmeen groans in protest and turns away from her brother.

JUSMEEN
Tired!

CHARANDEEP
Because of the kite?

Jusmeen's eyes crack open.

JUSMEEN
Huh?

CHARANDEEP
Is that what you were doing all night?

Jusmeen sits up in bed and looks at Charandeep.

JUSMEEN
What do you mean?

Charandeep points to the mended kite in the corner of the room.

CHARANDEEP
You were repairing the kite, weren't you?

Charandeep ruffles her hair.

CHARANDEEP (CONT'D)
Thanks, Jesse. Really. I know Baba says I'm too old to be playing with it, but it still means a lot to me.

Charandeep gets up and goes to the door.

CHARANDEEP (CONT'D)

And Jess... you don't have to ask.
From now on you can take the kite
whenever you want.

Jusmeen smiles, basking in Charandeep's affection. Charandeep leaves. Jusmeen grabs the kite and runs out of her room. Before she reaches the door..

ZAREEN

Not so fast, young lady. I'm going
to the temple. I need you to handle
the laundry today.

Jusmeen's face falls as she looks at the three bundles of clothes on the floor.

EXT. COLONEL FOSTER'S ESTATE - DAY

Jusmeen walks gingerly down the path towards the small gate that leads to the river. She has one bundle on her head and one in each arm.

INT. ALISON'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alison sees Jusmeen walking towards the river. She tries to wave at Jusmeen, but Jusmeen does not notice.

Alison turns and runs out the door.

She runs down the staircase and turns the corner coming face to face with Jane. Jane stares coldly at Alison. Alison composes herself and moves around Jane.

As Alison walks away she nods to TWO HOUSEMAIDS who are dusting the furniture. They look from Alison to Jane and whisper among themselves.

Jane, knowing they are gossiping about her, turns red in the face.

JANE

(barking at the maids)
Get back to work!

The maids get back to work, but as soon as Jane's back is turned she hears them whispering and giggling again.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Alison slowly opens the kitchen door and scans the vast kitchen. Shantima and PANNA (29), stand at the KITCHEN SINK with their backs to Alison.

Panna is busy scrubbing dishes and listening to Shantima's gossip.

SHANTIMA

That woman struts around like she owns the place. But really she is no different than us. She was going to fire them all, you know?

Panna clicks her tongue and shakes her head. Alison quietly makes her way across the kitchen.

SHANTIMA (CONT'D)

(proudly)

But then the Choti Memsaab (little mistress) came and you know what she said?

Alison gets to a closet on the side of the kitchen. Keeping her eye on the two servants she opens it. Alison pulls out a BLACK BURKHA from the closet.

SHANTIMA (CONT'D)

She said don't talk to me like that, you are not my mother!

PANNA

She really said that?

Shantima nods excitedly. Alison stealthily makes her way to the kitchen door.

PANNA (CONT'D)

Inshallah! (Praise Allah) She put her in her place!

Alison quietly leaves the house through the kitchen door.

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

Alison walks down the lonely riverbank looking for Jusmeen. She is dressed in the burkha. In the distance she can hear a steady beat, beat, beat and splash.

Alison follows the sound around the river bend and reaches an enormous BANYAN TREE.

Nestled on the riverbank the banyan tree looks as if it is bending over to drink the water thus creating a secluded little area under it's dense foliage.

Alison ducks under and finds Jusmeen sitting on her haunches scrubbing the clothes.

Jusmeen is startled when she sees the burkha-clad figure standing beside her.

ALISON
(with a croaky voice)
I am the lady of the well. You woke
me from my slumber. Now I've come
to claim your soul!

Jusmeen notices a pair of blue eyes twinkling at her.

JUSMEEN
Allie?

Jusmeen heaves a sigh of relief. Alison flops down beside her, still giggling.

ALISON
The look on your face was
priceless.

JUSMEEN
(laughing)
You're crazy. What are you doing
here?

ALISON
I saw you come this way so I
sneaked out the house and followed
you.

Jusmeen resumes washing the clothes. She immerses a black coat in the water, pulls it up and scrubs.

Alison recognizes the coat. It's her father's. She looks to the bundle on the side and sees her own clothes there as well.

ALISON (CONT'D)
(surprised)
You wash our clothes?

Jusmeen nods.

JUSMEEN

Me and my mother. Why do you look surprised?

ALISON

Well... I guess I never thought about it before.

JUSMEEN

You just thought they magically appeared all clean in your closet?

Alison does not respond. Jusmeen resumes scrubbing.

After a moment, Alison picks up one of her own dresses and immerses it in the water. She begins to imitate Jusmeen's scrubbing action.

Jusmeen looks surprised but says nothing. They wash the clothes together.

INT. TEMPLE- AMRITSAR - DAY

Zareen is kneeling, her head covered in prayer and her eyes closed. She bends over and touches her forehead to the ground.

EXT. TEMPLE - AMRITSAR - DAY

Zareen walks down the steps of the temple, uncovering her head. She hears someone call her name and looks to the crowded market place.

MALA 43, plump, waves to her, cutting through the crowd.

The two women hug.

MALA

(talking quickly)

Oh! It's so good to see you! Things haven't been the same since you left. How are the children? And Amarjeeth?

ZAREEN

(laughing)

Fine, fine. Everyone's fine.

MALA

Are you here for the convention?

ZAREEN
What convention?

EXT. CONVENTION - DAY

A huge crowd has gathered under a tent. On a make-shift podium stands a small, thin, bespectacled man with a salt and pepper moustache. His name is GANDHI. All eyes are on him - all except Zareen's.

A WOMEN HELPER of Gandhi's goes around distributing PAMPHLETS. She hands one to Zareen, who takes it, looking annoyed.

ZAREEN
(whispering)
Really Mala, if you'd told me this was another one of those "Freedom for India rallies" I wouldn't have come.

MALA
Shh!

Near the podium, a MAN, late 50's, gets up and addresses Gandhi.

MAN
(half yelling, half crying)
They beat my son... my boy! They beat him to death!

Silence. Gandhi looks down at the broken man.

GANDHI
(gravely)
That is indeed a grievous offense.

MAN
(enraged)
I will not rest till I have killed every last English official!

There is cheering from the crowd. Gandhi waits till they have quietened down.

GANDHI

(gently)

Then you would have made all their wives widows and all their children orphans. And they will seek revenge as surely as you do right now.

MAN

Why should I care about that?

GANDHI

My friend, if we don't care, if we riot, what makes us any different from them?

(pause)

What they did to your son and what they continue to do to the sons and daughters of India is an injustice and we *must* fight it.

(pause)

But know this, non-violence is the *only* way to combat violence. It is the only way to make your enemy see that what he does is wrong.

(pause)

Today the British treat us like barbarians, because they expect us to act like barbarians. Let us prove them wrong.

(pause)

Our goal cannot be to punish the British. That will get us nowhere. Our goal *must* be to fight for the rights of our sons and daughters. But let our weapons be truth and justice. Let us leave all other punishment to God.

Zareen stares at Gandhi, affected by his words.

ZAREEN

(whispering)

Mala, who is that?

Mala laughs at Zareen's ignorance.

MALA

What a question! That is Gandhi!

Zareen looks down at the PAMPHLET in her hand. She carefully folds it, tucks it into her blouse and continues to listen to what Gandhi has to say.

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

Alison face is flushed as she struggles to scrub the clothes. Jusmeen sits beside her going through the motions effortlessly.

JUSMEEN

Shh. Can you hear that?

Alison listens. A faint squealing can be heard.

ALISON

What is that?

Jusmeen gets into the water and wades to the edge of their canopy hide out. She looks to the surging river. Without warning she dives beneath the water.

ALISON (CONT'D)

Jesse?

Jusmeen does not resurface.

ALISON (CONT'D)

Je..Jesse?

Still nothing.

Alison hastily takes off her shoes when Jusmeen resurfaces sputtering and coughing. She wades to the bank.

ALISON (CONT'D)

Jesse!

Alison helps Jusmeen onto the bank noticing Jusmeen is clutching something to her chest. Jusmeen stretches out her hands and Alison sees a tiny PUPPY lying very still in Jusmeen's hands.

ALISON (CONT'D)

Is it dead?

JUSMEEN

I don't know. It was moving a minute ago.

Alison gently massages the puppy's stomach with her finger. After a moment the puppy coughs up a bit of water and begins to squeal. Jusmeen and Alison smile with relief.

INT. COLONEL FOSTER'S HOME - HALLWAY - DAY

Alison opens the front door. In her skirt she carries the little puppy. Seeing that the coast is clear she makes a dash to the stairs.

JANE (O.S.)
Miss Foster!

Alison turns to see Jane standing at the doorway of her father's study, a triumphant smile on her face.

JANE (CONT'D)
Your father would like a word with you.

INT. COLONEL FOSTER'S STUDY - DAY

Colonel Foster sits at his desk. Around him on the walls are maps of India and shelves of books.

As Alison walks into the study Jane sees the puppy asleep in her skirt.

JANE
What on earth is that?

Alison walks right by her.

JANE (CONT'D)
Miss Foster! Kindly leave that germ-infested creature outside!

ALISON
I shan't!

JANE
You see? You see, Mr. Foster, how rebellious she has become?

COLONEL FOSTER
I'd like a word with her alone, Miss. Anderson.

Jane looks a little disappointed.

JANE
Very well. I shall be in the library.

Colonel Foster sighs heavily and gestures for Alison to come closer.

ALISON

I don't think I did anything wrong,
Papa. She was going to discharge
the servants.

COLONEL FOSTER

And why do you care so much about
that? I put her in charge. She had
every right. Now because you
embarrassed her in front of all
them she says she is resigning her
post.

ALISON

Good. She's horrible anyway.

COLONEL FOSTER

(angry)

If Miss Anderson leaves, I will
send you away to England and
believe me Alison, I AM considering
it!

Alison's eyes fill with tears.

COLONEL FOSTER (CONT'D)

(softening)

Don't look at me like that. You
think it's easy for me to say that?

(pause)

When your mother died everyone said
I should send you home for a proper
education. But I just couldn't--

Colonel Foster shakes his head. Alison goes to her father and
climbs onto his lap, still holding the puppy.

COLONEL FOSTER (CONT'D)

Now, about your new friend.

ALISON

It's just a puppy, Papa.

(for effect)

It doesn't have a mother.

Colonel Foster laughs out loud.

COLONEL FOSTER

Well child, you certainly know which strings to pull to get my sympathy. Old fool that I am, I fall for it every time.

ALISON

So I can keep her?

COLONEL FOSTER

Only if you apologize to Miss Anderson first. And Allie, she is your teacher. You have to do what she tells you to. Alright?

Alison nods.

INT. COLONEL FOSTER'S HOUSE - LIBRARY - DAY

Alison, now in fresh clothes, clean face and smooth hair enters and sees Jane sitting at the desk reading a book. She does not look up. Alison walks up to her.

ALISON

Miss Anderson, I am sorry for the way I behaved. I should not have said what I said.

Jane looks at Alison for a long moment. Jane opens a drawer and pulls out a notebook. She hands it to Alison.

JANE

Take a seat, Miss Foster.

Alison sits and opens her notebook.

ALISON

Are we continuing with mixed fractions?

JANE

We are not. You, Miss Foster, are going to write lines today.

Alison looks confused.

JANE (CONT'D)

Take this down. 'I will always treat my teacher with respect.'

(when Alison does nothing)

Go on, Miss Foster. I want you to write that five hundred times.

ALISON
But I just apologized!

JANE
Take this down as well. 'I will
always do as I am told.' Do you
want to keep arguing?

Alison says nothing.

JANE (CONT'D)
Good.

Jane smiles triumphantly and goes to the door.

INT. ALISON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

JUSMEEN
(shocked)
What???

Jusmeen and Alison sit cross-legged on the bed. Alison has
her notebook on her lap. Jusmeen has the puppy on hers.

ALISON
(heated whisper)
Shh!

JUSMEEN
(whisper)
I don't believe it! And you are
just doing what she says?

ALISON
You don't understand, Jesse. Papa
said he'd send me to England if I
don't do what she says.

Alison massages her hand.

ALISON (CONT'D)
My hand feels like it will fall
off.

Jusmeen takes the notebook from Alison's lap. She looks down
at the page.

JUSMEEN
I was learning to read and write
before Baba took me out of school.

JUSMEEN (CONT'D)
I... w..will al..

ALISON
Always.

JUSMEEN
Always tre..at my tea.. cher,
teacher with res... res..

ALISON
Respect. That's not so bad, Jesse.

Jusmeen take Alison's pencil from her hand.

JUSMEEN
Let's take turns writing. It'll get
done quicker that way.

Jusmeen looks down at Alison's notebook and sees that she has written out ONE HUNDRED and THIRTY NINE LINES. Jusmeen, with a shaky hand writes the number 140 in the margin and proceeds to imitate the previous lines.

ALISON
Why did your father take you out of
school?

Jusmeen hesitates before she continues.

JUSMEEN
Because the British nuns made me
pray to the father, son and holy
ghost.

ALISON
What's wrong with that?

JUSMEEN
(a little indignant)
I have my own gods. I don't need to
pray to yours.

ALISON
Well... Miss Anderson says that
Jesus Christ is the only true God.

JUSMEEN
(a little annoyed)
How does she know?

Alison opens her mouth to respond but realizes she doesn't have an answer. She's never thought about it before.

ALISON
So... if I prayed to your Gods,
would you pray to mine?

JUSMEEN
Do you really want to pray to my
Gods?

Alison thinks about it.

ALISON
No. Not really.

JUSMEEN
Good. Because I don't want to pray
to yours either.

Alison smiles. She likes Jusmeen's honesty. Jusmeen continues
to write lines.

MONTAGE

Of Jusmeen and Alison taking turns at writing the lines.

FINALLY

Jusmeen writes the number 500 in the margin and writes the
sentence for the last time. She grins at Alison.

JUSMEEN (CONT'D)
Done!

ALISON
I can't believe you did that for
me.

JUSMEEN
Well, you were punished because you
helped my brother so--

Alison smiles and impulsively hugs Jusmeen. Jusmeen looks
unsure of how to react.

ALISON
I've never had a friend before.

Jusmeen smiles.

JUSMEEN
Well, now you have two. Me and..

Jusmeen points to the sleeping puppy on her lap.

JUSMEEN (CONT'D)
This one here.

ALISON
We still haven't named her.

Jusmeen thinks for a moment.

JUSMEEN
How about Sheeba? Like the lady in
the well.

ALISON
Sheeba. I like that. You, me and
Sheeba, we'll be like the Three
Musketeers.

JUSMEEN
What is that?

Alison shakes her head in disbelief.

ALISON
How could you have lived your life
and not read the Three Musketeers.

JUSMEEN
It's a book?

ALISON
(rolling her eyes)
Yes, it's a book.

Alison picks up Sheeba and goes to her bedroom door.

ALISON (CONT'D)
Come on.

JUSMEEN
Where are we going?

ALISON
To get you the book.

Jusmeen looks at her uncertainly.

ALISON (CONT'D)
Everyone's fast asleep. No one will
know. I promise.

Jusmeen follows Alison out the bedroom door.

INT. COLONEL FOSTER'S HOME - SAME

As she moves along Jusmeen stares at the luxury of the house. Even in the shadows she can see the intricate carpets, the paintings on the walls, rooms leading to more rooms, leading to more rooms.

JUSMEEN
(whisper)
It's so big!

ALISON
Shh!

They creep through the hallway, down the winding stairs and finally to the Colonel's study.

INT. COLONEL FOSTER'S STUDY - NIGHT

The door squeaks as it opens. The girls hurriedly slip in and shut the door behind them. Jusmeen curiously looks around the room.

All the walls are lined with maps of India. A large table sits in the center of the room. On it rests two photographs. One of Alison and the other of a very attractive slender, blonde WOMAN, smiling happily at the camera.

Jusmeen picks up the photograph.

ALISON
That's my mother.

JUSMEEN
What was her name?

Alison says her mother's name like a gentle caress.

ALISON
Sarah. Sarah Foster.

JUSMEEN
She was so pretty, Allie.

ALISON
Wasn't she? Papa says I have her smile.

Alison takes the photo and puts it beside her face. She smiles, trying to imitate Sarah's smile.

ALISON (CONT'D)

See?

Jusmeen smiles. Alison looks down at the photograph.

ALISON (CONT'D)

She died ten minutes after I was born. I had my mother for ten minutes.

Beat

ALISON (CONT'D)

Papa never told me this. But I overheard Shantima one time. She said...

Alison finds it hard to continue.

ALISON (CONT'D)

She said when Mother found out she was going to have me the doctor told her that she shouldn't have babies. But she had me anyway.

(pause)

Sometimes I hate myself, Jesse.

JUSMEEN

Why?

ALISON

Because I killed her.

Jusmeen can tell Alison really believes that and tries to offer comfort.

JUSMEEN

You didn't kill her. It was her choice, wasn't it?

ALISON

Do you think she'd like me if she were alive?

JUSMEEN

No.

Alison looks shocked by Jusmeen's response. She sees Jusmeen grinning and realizes she was joking. She laughs.

JUSMEEN (CONT'D)

Stupid questions deserve stupid answers.

ALISON
Alright, let's get the book.

Alison moves to a large cupboard on one side of the room.
Jusmeen follows.

Peering inside its glass doors Jusmeen sees that one side of it is filled with a collection of GUNS and the other side is filled with books.

A large ornate lock holds the door shut.

JUSMEEN
(whispering)
Where's the key?

ALISON
The lock's broken.

Alison grabs the handle of the lock and pushes it this way and that.

ALISON (CONT'D)
Left, right and left again...

The lock springs open. Alison quietly opens the cupboard.

As Alison looks for the book, Jusmeen's eyes move towards the guns that glint in the moonlight.

JUSMEEN
(re: the guns)
Wow! Can I hold one?

ALISON
(nodding)
Just don't drop it.

Jusmeen picks up one of the guns and admires it.

JUSMEEN
How come your father has so many guns?

Alison is still looking for the book.

ALISON
I don't know. He just collects them. But I've never seen him use any.
(beat)
There! Found it!

Alison stands on her toes and pulls 'The Three Musketeers' off the shelf.

Jusmeen puts the gun back and watches as Alison closes the cupboard and puts the broken lock back on the latch.

Alison gives the book to Jusmeen.

JUSMEEN

It may take me a while to get through the book.

ALISON

Keep it. It's a gift.

JUSMEEN

But don't you want it?

Alison shrugs.

ALISON

I don't need it so much now that I have you to talk to.

EXT. COLONEL FOSTER'S GARDEN - NIGHT

Jusmeen turns and waves to Alison at the window, before making a dash down the garden path.

EXT. SERVANTS' QUARTERS - SAME

Jusmeen is about to climb in through her bedroom window when she notices a single LIGHT in one of the other huts.

Curiously she creeps towards the hut and peeps in through the cracks in the wooden window.

She is surprised to see a group of men (her FATHER and BROTHER included) sitting around and talking in LOWERED VOICES. Jusmeen strains to listen.

Jusmeen turns to see a FIGURE coming towards the servants' quarters. She hurries down the row of huts and climbs in through her bedroom window.

The figure steps out of the shadows. It is GOPI the house servant. He stands where Jusmeen was standing just a few minutes ago and listens to the conversation taking place inside.

INT. SRIRAM'S HOME - SERVANTS' QUARTERS - NIGHT

EIGHT MEN sit in the small room. Apart from Amarjeeth, Charandeep and Sriram, the group includes SALIM, 37, the Colonel's driver, ABBAS, 25, the kitchen hand, DEVDAS, 42, the carpet cleaner, SHANKAR, 33, the sweeper and PIYUSH, 35, the stable hand.

Shankar and Piyush are struggling to pull the nails off a WOODEN CRATE. While they do so, the rest of the men speak in lowered voices.

SRIRAM

They've imprisoned that man Gandhi again. For creating public unrest.

AMARJEETH

That man.
(shaking his head)
He argues like my wife.

The others chuckle.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)

Why doesn't he stop trying to reason with the British and actually do something.

SALIM

But I hear he is getting a lot of support. People are beginning to see him as a leader.

AMARJEETH

Leader leading them where? Nowhere. Hang him and his politics.

The top of the wooden crate finally comes off to reveal ORANGES below. The group grows silent.

DEV DAS

(re: the crate)
It certainly took a while to get here.

SHANKAR

It was hard. My cousin had a great deal of trouble getting it out of Lahore. There are British troops stationed everywhere.

Amarjeeth pushes the oranges aside to reveal GUN PARTS. In a matter of minutes he has assembled a gun. He examines it, peering through the viewfinder, to make sure everything is in order.

AMARJEETH

It shoots accurately from a distance of five hundred feet. All we need is a steady hand.

All eyes turn to Charandeep who looks surprised to suddenly be the center of attention.

SRIRAM

The boy is young. But he is by far the best marksman we have.

SALIM

Will he be ready though? He has never done anything like this before.

Amarjeeth puts his arm on Charandeep's shoulder.

AMARJEETH

What do you think, son?

Charandeep beams with pride.

CHARANDEEP

I think I can do it, Baba. I'm ready.

AMARJEETH

Very well. Now that we know who will do this, we must know where and when. Sriram, what news do you have for us?

Sriram smiles. From under his shawl he produces letters. He places them in the center of the group.

SRIRAM

I have news of General Dyer.

There is a tense silence.

ABBAS

The biggest rakshas (monster) of them all.

AMARJEETH

Go on, Sriram.

SRIRAM

General Dyer has written saying that he will meet with the Colonel for a casual dinner in two weeks.

DEVDAAS

Where?

SRIRAM

Here. At the Colonel's home.

SALIM

Here? We'll never get away with it!

AMARJEETH

I don't see why not. It will take them a while to figure out where the bullet came from. If we organize it right, we can have the gun dismantled and off the grounds before they search us.

SALIM

This one act will affect the lives of every Indian on the estate, whether they choose it or not. Colonel Foster will have every single one of us jailed or killed.

AMARJEETH

Then that is the sacrifice we must make for our freedom.

SALIM

No brother, let us keep this off the estate grounds.

AMARJEETH

How long have we prayed for a chance like this? God has granted us this opportunity. He has practically dropped it on our doorstep. How can you turn your back on it now?

Salim begins to say something when they hear the sound of a FOOTSTEP. A look from Amarjeeth silences Salim. Amarjeeth looks to Charandeep, signalling him with the briefest nod.

As the rest of the group continues their conversation, Charandeep calmly rises and moves to the back room of the little hut.

EXT. SERVANTS QUARTERS - NIGHT

Charandeep lets himself out the back door. With the litheness of a jungle cat, he skirts the servants' quarters, moving to the front.

He peeks around a corner and sees Gopi (the servant who Charandeep had fought with before) trying to peek through the cracks of Sriram's window.

He slowly creeps up to Gopi. He raises his arm about to strike, when Gopi turns around. Charandeep only gets his shoulder. Gopi pushes Charandeep to the ground and tries to run away. Charandeep catches his foot and brings him down.

He tries to tackle Gopi, but Gopi ends up on top of him, with his hands on Charandeep's neck, strangling him.

Amarjeeth walks out of Salim's front door.

He quickly prys Gopi's hands off Charandeep's neck and clamps a hand over his mouth. He struggles to hold Gopi in place.

Still lying on the ground, Charandeep reaches into his waist band and pulls out a knife. But he seems afraid to actually use it.

AMARJEETH
(to Charandeep)
Do it. Now!

Charandeep obeys his father. Reaching out he slices Gopi's throat. Gopi's blood sprays onto Charandeep's face and clothes.

As the life drains out of him, Gopi stares into Charandeep's eyes. He finally slums down dead. Amarjeeth finally lets go of Gopi. Charandeep stares down at the body.

He watches in a daze as Abbas and Salim help Amarjeeth drag the body inside.

Charandeep looks down at his blood stained hands, unaware that his father is whispering his name. Finally...

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)
Son.

Charandeep looks up. Amarjeeth holds his hand out.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)
Come inside.

INT. SRIRAM'S HOME - NIGHT

As men argue in heated whispers, Charandeep slumps in a corner.

DEVIDAS

(re: Gopi's body)

We need to get him off the estate grounds.

SALIM

How? We can't drag a body all the way out of the estate without being noticed. And it will take more than two of us to do it.

SRIRAM

No Salim. We need the Colonel's car.

SALIM

How am I to do that without getting caught?

AMARJEETH

We shall hide him on the grounds until the Colonel is out of town next. At a more opportune time, we shall dispose of him in a better place.

All the others nod their consent.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)

Sriram, check if the coast is clear. The rest of you, get ready to move.

Sriram quietly exits. The others grab the dead man's arms and legs. When they hear the HOOTING of an OWL, they lift the corpse and exit, leaving Amarjeeth alone with his son.

Amarjeeth sees that his son's eyes are still GLAZED.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)

Take off your shirt.

After a moment, Charandeep silently obeys, but his eyes never leave his bloody shirt.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)
He got what was coming to him.
That's all there is to it.

CHARANDEEP
He was one of our own, Baba.

AMARJEETH
(firmly)
He was a traitor. Do not let your
vision be clouded.

Charandeep nods, but the glaze never leaves his eyes.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Alison and Jane are at the table eating breakfast. Only
Sriram and Raju stand in attendance.

JANE
Where is Gopi?

SRIRAM
Perhaps he is unwell, Madame.

JANE
He knows full well he needs to
inform me before he takes a leave
of absence! Kindly tell him that if
he has not come to see me by
tomorrow he needn't come back at
all.

Jane looks to Alison to see her reaction. Alison says
nothing.

JANE (CONT'D)
Miss Foster, how are your lines
coming along?

ALISON
I'm done.

JANE
(surprised)
Five hundred lines? Done?

ALISON
Done.

Jane looks at Alison, not liking the smug look on her face.

INT. JUSMEEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Charandeep sits up on his mattress and stares at a SMALL BUNDLE lying in the corner of the room. Jusmeen touches his leg and he jumps, startled.

CHARANDEEP

What?

JUSMEEN

I called you three times and you didn't look up. What happened to you?

CHARANDEEP

I'm fine. Where's Baba?

JUSMEEN

He's already in the garden.

Jusmeen follows Charandeep's line of vision to the bundle in the corner.

JUSMEEN (CONT'D)

You want me to wash that? I'm taking the Colonel's clothes to the river right now. I can wash them for you.

CHARANDEEP

No. No it's just... just something I need to throw away.

Jusmeen picks the bundle up.

JUSMEEN

Alright, I'll toss it. It's on the way anyway.

Charandeep snatches the bundle out of Jusmeen's hand. Jusmeen looks at Charandeep curiously. She wants to know what's in the bundle.

CHARANDEEP

No, no... don't worry about it. I'll take it out later.

ZAREEN (O.S.)

Jusmeen!

Jusmeen runs out to the main room where Zareen stands with her hands on her hips. She points to the untidy mess of clothes on the floor.

ZAREEN (CONT'D)
What is this? You think the Colonel
pays us to leave his clothes lying
around on the floor like this?

Jusmeen squats on the floor and pulls the clothes together into a bundle. From the corner of her eye she watches Charandeep in the other room, hide his bundle under his mattress.

She pretends to focus on what she is doing when Charandeep rises and comes into the main room. Without a word he moves to the front door.

ZAREEN (CONT'D)
What about breakfast?

CHARANDEEP
I'm not hungry.

He exits the front door. Zareen goes to the door.

ZAREEN
(calling after him)
Drink your tea, at least!

When her mother's back is turned Jusmeen goes back into the bedroom and digs out the bundle her brother just buried under the mattress. She tries to undo the knots.

ZAREEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(annoyed)
Again she disappears! Jusmeen!

Jusmeen puts the bundle under her arm and goes back to the main room.

ZAREEN (CONT'D)
I'm going to fetch Baba's cane the
next time you leave your work half
done.

Jusmeen throws Charandeep's bundle in with the Colonel's clothes and wraps the whole thing up. She picks up the bundle, puts it on her head and hurries out.

EXT. RIVERSIDE - DAY

Jusmeen sits under the banyan tree and forces the knots on her brother's bundle loose.

When she sees her brother shirt covered in red-brown stains, she involuntarily lets out a little CRY. She pushes the shirt off her lap and gets to her feet.

She looks down at her shaking hands, checking to see if there is blood on them.

She stands and stares at the shirt in horror. She then quickly picks up the shirt and flings it with all her might into the water and watches as it floats on the surface for a few moments before it is pulled under by the tide.

ALISON (O.S.)

Jesse?

Jusmeen turns around. Alison sees something's wrong.

ALISON (CONT'D)

What's the matter?

Alison takes her hand.

ALISON (CONT'D)

Come, sit down.

Jusmeen sits beside Alison. Her eyes fill with tears.

JUSMEEN

Allie-- I think my brother did something bad.

ALISON

What do you mean?

Jusmeen shakes her head.

ALISON (CONT'D)

You can't tell me?

Jusmeen shakes her head again.

JUSMEEN

I don't know.

Jusmeen wipes her eyes on the sleeve of her blouse.

ALISON

It can't be as bad as you think.

Jusmeen does not look convinced. She stares at the water without saying a word. Not knowing what else to do Alison just sits in silence beside her friend.

INT. JUSMEEN'S HOME - DAY

A pot of STEW sits on the fire. Zareen stirs it from time to time. Jusmeen sits by her mother CHOPPING CARROTS. She throws the chopped carrots into the pot.

Charandeep enters. Jusmeen does not make eye contact with him.

ZAREEN

Have you washed up?

Charandeep nods absent-mindedly.

ZAREEN (CONT'D)

Come sit down then.

Instead, Charandeep lights a lantern and takes it to the bedroom. A few moments later Zareen and Jusmeen look up, hearing noises coming from the bedroom.

They both look inside and see that Charandeep has thrown his mattress over.

CHARANDEEP

It's gone! It's gone..

Zareen goes to him.

ZAREEN

What is it?

Charandeep sees Jusmeen standing in the corner. He grabs her.

CHARANDEEP

What did you do? What did you do?

Zareen tries to pull Jusmeen away.

ZAREEN

Stop it!

JUSMEEN

I threw it in the river, but I didn't look. I swear, I didn't look.

AMARJEETH (O.S.)

Charandeep. Let her go.

Charandeep comes to his senses and lets Jusmeen go. She is in tears.

ZAREEN

What's going on, Amar?

Amarjeeth ignores the question and takes Charandeep outside. Zareen looks at Jusmeen sitting on the floor trying to control her tears. Zareen sits beside her daughter.

ZAREEN (CONT'D)

Did he hurt you?

Jusmeen moves away from her mother and goes and lies down on her mattress.

ZAREEN (CONT'D)

What did you see?

Jusmeen turns her head away from her mother.

JUSMEEN

Nothing, Ma. I saw nothing.

ZAREEN

Please tell me, Jesse.

Zareen waits but when Jusmeen says nothing, she leaves the room. After a moment Jusmeen gets up and dries her eyes.

She brings the lantern to the side of her mattress and pulls the THREE MUSKETEERS out from under her pillow. She settles down to read, slowly mouthing the words as she goes along, trying to keep her mind off the things that trouble her.

EXT. JUSMEEN'S HOME - NIGHT

Amarjeeth and Charandeep stand by the water pump.

CHARANDEEP

She knows, Baba... She knows.

AMARJEETH
(impatiently)
Keep your voice down. She saw blood
on a shirt. So what? She doesn't
know it's Gopi's.

CHARANDEEP
(desperately)
She knows I did something wrong.

AMARJEETH
And you care what your twelve year
old sister thinks?

Charandeep wipes the sweat off his brow with a shaky hand.
Amarjeeth watches his son.

CHARANDEEP
Gopi... his eyes... his eyes.

AMARJEETH
I chose you for the Dyer mission
because I thought you were ready.
Should I doubt that now? Maybe
Devdas is more worthy.

CHARANDEEP
No, Baba.

AMARJEETH
Then stop whining and be a man.
(pause)
When we take Dyer down you can have
no doubts in your mind. You *must* be
ready. Nothing else matters.

Charandeep nods.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)
Say it.

CHARANDEEP
I shall be ready.

FADE OUT.

DARKNESS

A LOUD BANG.

FADE IN:

EXT. SERVANTS' QUARTERS' - DUSK

A small crowd stands gazing at the sky, watching FIREWORKS. Behind them, the servants' quarters are lit with DIYAS (small lamps). A few more people join the crowd and friends call to them.

PEOPLE
Happy Diwali!

Charandeep sits at the doorway of their home, staring down at his hands. The shaking still hasn't stopped. Charandeep shoves his hands in his pockets when he sees his mother walking up to him.

ZAREEN
I remember a time when wild horses
couldn't stop you from bursting
crackers at Diwali.

Charandeep smiles weakly at his mother. She sighs and sits down beside him.

ZAREEN (CONT'D)
Where's your sister?

CHARANDEEP
I don't know.

Charandeep gestures to the crowd.

CHARANDEEP (CONT'D)
She's probably somewhere there.

Charandeep and Zareen watch as a fire rocket WHOOSHES from the ground to the sky and explodes into a RIOT of COLORS.

CUT TO:

INT. LIBRARY - SAME

Alison sits at the desk reading out loud while Jane walks up and down listening. Sheeba sits at Alison's feet.

A fire cracker goes off and Jane jumps in fright. Sheeba goes to the window, barking madly.

JANE
Saints preserve us! Will this
madness never end!

Another fire cracker goes off, startling Jane again.

JANE (CONT'D)
There they go again! I don't know
what your father is thinking,
allowing them to carry on like this
year after year.

Sheeba continues to bark.

JANE (CONT'D)
Oh for heavens sake! Is there no
way to get that dog to quieten
down!

Alison sees Jusmeen at the window. Jusmeen points upwards to
Alison's bedroom. Alison hides her smile.

ALISON
I think I need to take Sheeba
outside before she soils the
carpet.

Jane looks down at Sheeba in horror.

JANE
Take her out then! I think I shall
retire for the evening. All this
noise is giving me a headache.

Alison runs out the door followed by Sheeba.

INT. ALISON'S BEDROOM -SAME

Alison and Sheeba run in just as Jusmeen is getting in
through the window. She has a sling bag on her shoulder.

ALISON
Happy Diwali, Jesse!

JUSMEEN
Happy Diwali to you too!

Jusmeen produces a roughly wrapped brown paper package.

JUSMEEN (CONT'D)
Go on, take it, it's a Diwali gift.

Alison excitedly opens the package to see a pretty PINK and
WHITE SALWAAR KHAMEEZ, with a matching PINK SHAWL.

JUSMEEN (CONT'D)

(quickly)

I'm sorry it's not new... but I hardly wear it and I thought maybe you'd like it since you like playing 'make believe' so much.

ALISON

Jesse, it's prefect! Can I try it on?

JUSMEEN

Not yet. I have one more gift for you. I think you are going to like this one even better!

Jusmeen fishes out a DIWALI-ROCKET, a BOTTLE and a MATCHBOX. Alison claps her hands gleefully.

ALISON

Oh my God! I've always wanted to do that!

EXT. COLONEL FOSTER'S HOME - NIGHT

Alison, Jusmeen and Sheeba stand in the shadow of the house. Jusmeen sets the bottle on the ground and puts the rocket inside. She hands the matchbox to Alison.

Alison grins as she lights a match and puts it to the wick of the rocket.

JUSMEEN

Be careful. Not too close.

Alison lights the wick. Jusmeen grabs her hand and drags her away. When they are at a safe distance they look at the rocket with anticipation, watching as it the flame moves higher and higher up the wick.

Nothing happens.

Jusmeen puts Sheeba on the ground and inches towards the rocket. Alison follows suit. Without any warning the rocket 'whooshes' out of the bottle.

Sheeba, scared of the sudden noise squeals and runs away towards a small THICKET.

Instead of moving up into the sky the rocket moves SIDEWAYS (to the Colonel's house and through a window) into JANE'S BEDROOM.

The girls hear Jane (inside) shriek loudly before they take off RUNNING in the same direction as Sheeba. When they reach the thicket, they are both laughing helplessly.

JUSMEEN (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. I didn't know that was going to happen.

ALISON
(clutching her sides)
Are you crazy? I'd pay fifty rupees to watch that happen all over again! Oh! If I laugh anymore I'm going to pee!

JUSMEEN
I wonder what Jane looked like when she saw that rocket fly through the window.

Jusmeen starts giggling again.

ALISON
Stop!

Alison starts giggling too. They laugh till they can't laugh any more.

JUSMEEN
Where's Sheeba. Didn't she come this way?

They both look around.

ALISON
(pointing)
Over there.

They see Sheeba by a tree digging at something in the ground. They run over to her.

ALISON (CONT'D)
What's she doing?

JUSMEEN
Probably found a rat or something.

ALISON
Ewww. Sheeba! No! Come here.

Sheeba keeps digging. Alison and Jusmeen reach the spot. Jusmeen looks at the ground. The MUD seems LOOSER than in other areas.

Alison tries to push Sheeba away. She stands back and almost GAGS at the SMELL.

ALISON (CONT'D)
Oh my God! What is that?!?

Another rocket from the servants quarters rises and EXPLODES, briefly lighting up the sky.

In the light of the rocket Jusmeen and ALISON, look down at the little pit that Sheeba created in the mud, and see half of GOPI's FACE staring up at them.

Alison SCREAMS. Jusmeen stares horror-struck at Gopi's dead eyes.

A few moments later Jusmeen manages to tear her eyes away from Gopi and sees Alison has fallen to the ground, sobbing violently.

Jusmeen looks up and sees Shantima walking down the path that connects the servants' quarters to the Colonel's house. Hearing Alison's sobs Shantima stops and looks towards the trees. Jusmeen runs and hides in the shadows as Shantima moves towards Alison.

SHANTIMA
(surprised)
Miss Allie?

ALISON
Shantima!

Alison falls into Shantima's arms and continues to sob.

SHANTIMA
What is it? What's wrong?

Shantima sees Gopi's face in the mud pit.

SHANTIMA (CONT'D)
Hai Ram! (Oh God).

Jusmeen creeps away. When she is sure Shantima can no longer see her she runs back home as fast as her feet can carry her.

EXT. SERVANTS QUARTERS - SAME

Jusmeen pushes past all the celebrating crowd, trying to find Charandeep. Everywhere people are bursting crackers, laughing, chatting.

She finally sees him sitting at the door of their hut.
Jusmeen runs to him.

JUSMEEN

Bhaiya... Gopi... The Choti Memsaab
(little mistress) found Gopi.

The panic that fills Charandeep's eyes confirms Jusmeen's fears that he was some how involved.

INT. ALISON'S BEDROOM - SAME

Alison sits upright on her bed. Her eyes are red and swollen. She refuses to make eye contact with her father, who sits in an armchair close to the bed. He holds her hand in his.

Shantima stands a little distance away with Sheeba in her arms.

COLONEL FOSTER

Slowly, Shantima. I can't
understand when you talk fast. Tell
me again.

SHANTIMA

Colonel Sahib, I was walking back
to my home when I hear the Choti
Memsaab crying and crying. I see
her by the trees and first I think
she has hurt herself. But then I
see this one
(gesturing to Sheeba)
digging in the dirt and then I see
his face, Colonel Sahib. It is
Gopi. He is dead.

Colonel Foster looks back and forth from Alison to Shantima, shocked at what he has just heard.

Panna (the kitchen maid) knocks on the door.

PANNA

Please Sahib, Lieutenant Johnson is
downstairs.

Colonel Foster nods and looks back at Alison, squeezing her hand.

COLONEL FOSTER

I'll be back soon. Don't worry
about anything. We're going to find
out who did this.

Colonel Foster looks worried when Allie begins to cry again.

EXT. SERVANTS' QUARTERS - SAME

Charandeep rubs the sweat off his upper lip with the back of his hand. Jusmeen sees that his hand is trembling. She takes his hand in her own, trying to stop the shaking.

JUSMEEN
Bhaiya, please. What do we do?

After a moment.

CHARANDEEP
Find Baba.

Charandeep gets to his feet and scans the crowd. He looks back at the servants' quarters.

JUSMEEN
Where is he?

CHARANDEEP
Jusmeen, I need you to go from door to door and look for Baba. I'll look outside. Alright?

Jusmeen nods and starts walking down the long row of the servants' quarters, systematically peeping into each house.

Jusmeen finally finds her father in Devdas' house. He is surrounded by friends. Amarjeeth tells a joke and they all roar with laughter. Jusmeen runs in.

INT. DEVDAS' HOME - SAME

AMARJEETH
(jovially)
Ah, come Jusmeeen, sing us a song.

Everyone cheers in agreement.

JUSMEEN
Baba, please, I need to talk to you.

Amarjeeth smiles at everyone.

AMARJEETH
Later, Jusmeen.

JUSMEEN
Baba, it's about Gopi.

Amarjeeth's smile fades.

LUT. JOHNSON (O.S.)
(loudly)
Kindly go to your respective homes
and wait for further instructions!

DEVDAAS
What's going on?

Everyone gets up and goes outside.

EXT. SERVANTS' QUARTERS - SAME

Colonel Foster, Lieutenant Johnson and a FEW SOLDIERS sit on horse back shouting orders to the servants.

LUT. JOHNSON
You will stay in your homes until
this mess is cleared up. No moving
around.

PERSON 1
What has happened?

COLONEL FOSTER
Everything shall be explained in
due course of time. For now, please
move back into your quarters and
await further instructions.

The servants still puzzled start moving into their respective quarters. Jusmeen sees Charandeep and waves to get his attention. He moves towards them.

CHARANDEEP
(to Amarjeeth)
They've found Gopi.

INT. JUSMEEN'S HOME - SAME

Charandeep stands with his back to the wall. Jusmeen sees him hide his shaking hands behind him.

Amarjeeth, Zareen, Charandeep and Jusmeen watch as TWO SOLDIERS, LUCAS and JAMES, roughly search their possessions, piling things to the side as they move along.

The family follows them as they move into the Jusmeen and Charandeep's room. The soldiers continue to throw things aside. They look through their clothes then move to their mattresses.

Jusmeen's eyes widen as one soldier lifts her pillow. He pulls out the copy of 'The Three Musketeers'.

JAMES

Looks like we have a scholar on our hands.

The soldiers share a laugh and fling the book onto the pile on the floor. Jusmeen sees her father look down at the book then bend and pick it up. When he looks up at her, his face is red with rage.

SOLDIER- PETER, pops his head in at the door of Amarjeeth's house.

PETER

Four doors down. We found a gun and knife. The man confessed to killing the victim.

Charandeep confused, looks to Amarjeeth whose face is void of any expression.

The two soldiers run out of the hut. The family follows the soldiers to the door where they watch in silence as SRIRAM is taken away, like a sacrificial lamb.

As he walks by their hut, Sriram's eyes meet with Amarjeeth's.

Amarjeeth looks at Colonel Foster sitting on his horse in silence. He looks down at the English novel he still has clutched in his hand. His eyes flash with anger.

INT. JUSMEEN'S HOME - SAME

Amarjeeth flings the book at Jusmeen's feet.

AMARJEETH

(quietly)

Where did you get this?

Jusmeen is too afraid to respond.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)

(louder)

Where did you get this!

JUSMEEN

Allie.

AMARJEETH

The Colonel's daughter?

Jusmeen nods. Her eyes downcast.

Amarjeeth stands as still as a statue. Then in one quick movement he lunges for a CANE in the corner of the room and goes up to Jusmeen. He strikes her on the shoulder and she crumples to the ground.

Zareen and Charandeep come forward trying hold him back, but they are no match for his strength. He pushes them aside and continues to beat Jusmeen.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)

English

(whip)

Lap dog

(whip)

Reading their filth.

(whip)

Have you

(whip)

No shame?

Jusmeen does not have the strength to resist anymore. Charandeep tries to stop his father again. This time he manages to come between Amarjeeth and Jusmeen, protecting her with his body.

CHARANDEEP

Baba, no! You'll kill her.

AMARJEETH

(roars)

I'd rather she were dead!

Amarjeeth flings the cane on the floor and storms out of the house.

INT. COLONEL FOSTER'S HOME - STUDY - DAY

Colonel Foster stares out the window in silence. Lieutenant Johnson sits, watching him. Finally Colonel Foster turns around and comes back to the desk. He sits down and rubs his eyes wearily.

COLONEL FOSTER

So we went looking for a mole and found a lion instead.

(pause)

No doubt the gun is the same kind as those stolen from the train at Lahore?

LUT. JOHNSON

I believe so, sir. We were lucky we found it when we did. Who knows what he was planning to do.

(pause)

Sir, it seems unlikely that this man, Sriram, operates alone.

COLONEL FOSTER

Yes, but what do you suggest I do? Give all the hired help a death sentence?

Silence.

COLONEL FOSTER (CONT'D)

(almost to himself)

It seems the madness of the outside world has finally reached my backyard.

LUT. JOHNSON

Shall I order a night patrol on the estate grounds?

Colonel Foster sighs and nods. Lieutenant Johnson gets up to leave.

COLONEL FOSTER

Johnson, if you see Miss Anderson on the way out, tell her I'd like to have a word with her.

Lieutenant Johnson bows to the Colonel and leaves the room. A few moments later Jane enters.

JANE

You wanted to see me, sir?

COLONEL FOSTER

Has Allie said anything yet?

JANE

She refuses to talk to anyone. She won't even leave her room.

Colonel Foster thinks to himself.

COLONEL FOSTER

Miss Anderson, I need your opinion on something. I plan to write a letter to the three best schools in England. I would like to know which schools you recommend.

JANE

(smiling)

Certainly, sir. I would be happy to be of service.

COLONEL FOSTER

Miss Anderson, please do not mention a word of this to Alison. Let me break it to her, when I am ready.

FADE OUT.

EXT. HALLWAY - DAY

Colonel Foster walks down the hallway and stops at the doorway of the study, watching his daughter.

INT. STUDY - DAY

Alison sits at the piano but doesn't play. She stares out the window, looking towards the servants quarters. She is quiet and withdrawn.

Colonel Foster walks to the piano.

COLONEL FOSTER

(fake cheerfulness)

You know, Allie, I was thinking... what if we threw a big party? You'd like a party wouldn't you?

Alison doesn't respond.

COLONEL FOSTER (CONT'D)

Allie... please try. I know it's hard to forget what you saw last week, but let me help you. Talk to me.

ALISON
I'll be alright, Papa.

Colonel Foster sighs and turns to walk away.

ALISON (CONT'D)
Papa, there is something I wanted
to ask.

COLONEL FOSTER
Tell me.

EXT. SERVANT'S QUARTER - JUSMEEN'S HOME - DAY

An old bony hand knocks on the door. Zareen opens it and is surprised to see Shantima there.

ZAREEN
The clothes are still drying. I'll
bring them this evening.

SHANTIMA
That's not why I'm here. The Sahib
wants your girl to come to the
house starting tomorrow.

ZAREEN
What for?

SHANTIMA
To help with the Choti Memsaab
(muttering to herself)
Apparently I'm not good enough any
more.
(to Zareen)
He'll pay a full day's wages.

With that Shantima turns and leaves.

SHANTIMA (CONT'D)
Have her ready by eight.

INT. JUSMEEN'S HOME - SAME

Zareen shuts the door and turns to her family. By the look on their faces they have all heard the conversation outside.

Jusmeen quietly chops vegetables in the corner, refusing to look at her father.

Amarjeeth coldly stares at Zareen.

ZAREEN

What would you have had me do? Say
no?

Amarjeeth gives Jusmeen a look of disgust. Jusmeen just tries to concentrate on the vegetables.

EXT. COLONEL FOSTER'S ESTATE - GARDEN PATH - NEXT DAY

Jusmeen walks towards the Colonel's home. Her hair is neatly braided and for the first time she actually has sandals on her feet.

EXT. COLONEL FOSTER'S HOME - DAY

Jusmeen knocks on the front door. The door is opened by Shantima.

SHANTIMA

Well, come along child. There's
work to be done.

Jusmeen follows Shantima inside.

INT. COLONEL FOSTER'S HOME - SAME

Shantima crosses the hallway and moves up the winding staircase. Jusmeen follows.

SHANTIMA

In here we have rules. No raising
your voice. When you are called you
come quickly. Do your work quietly
and no gossiping in the hallway or
you'll get in trouble with the Jane
Ma'am. Understand?

Jusmeen nods. They reach the second floor landing and Shantima makes her way to Alison's bedroom.

SHANTIMA (CONT'D)

Nine thirty the Choti Memsaab
starts her lessons. It is our job
to have her dressed and ready
before that.

Shantima knocks on Alison's door. Shantima and Jusmeen enter. Alison stands by her bed she is dressed in her petticoats.

SHANTIMA (CONT'D)
Allie Ma'am, this is Jusmeen. She
is starting work today.

ALISON
Hello.

Jusmeen nods. Shantima goes and gets Alison's dress from the
bed.

SHANTIMA
Lift.

Alison lifts her arms. While Shantima buttons her down Alison
watches Jusmeen. Jusmeen nervously fidgets with her braid.

Shantima and Alison go to the dressing table where Shantima
begins to brush Alison's hair. There's a knock on the door
and PANNA enters.

PANNA
Shantima, Jane Ma'am wants you.

SHANTIMA
Miss Allie, will you tell the girl
how you like your hair?

Alison nods. Shantima hands Jusmeen the comb and hurries out
the door. Alison and Jusmeen are left alone. Alison turns and
faces Jusmeen.

JUSMEEN
Why did your father ask me to work
here?

ALISON
I asked him to. You weren't coming
to the river anymore. Why?

JUSMEEN
My father knows about us.

Alison notices the welt marks on Jusmeen's arm.

ALISON
(alarmed)
Did he do that?

Alison reaches out to touch them. Jusmeen withdraws her hand.

JUSMEEN
(changing the subject)
How do you want me to do your hair?

Alison is confused by Jusmeen's coldness.

ALISON
Are you angry at me, Jesse?

JUSMEEN
(curtly)
No.

Jusmeen begins to brush Alison's hair.

ALISON
Jesse-- Remember at the river, you
said your brother had done
something wrong-- was he the one
that-- did he have something to do
with Gopi?

JUSMEEN
(roughly)
Why are you asking me this? They
found the weapon with Sriram didn't
they? You want to throw my brother
in jail too? Is that what you want?

ALISON
I didn't say that.

JUSMEEN
No, but you think it. You saw me
try on rings and you thought I was
stealing them.
You see marks on my hand so you
think my father hurt me. Why don't
you ask *your* father with all his
fancy guns, how many Indians he's
shot? Don't *presume* that just
because he treats you like a little
princess that he doesn't treat
others like slaves.

Silence. The two girls stare at each other. All the blood
seems to have drained from Alison's face.

Shantima enters again and sees that Alison's hair is still a
mess.

SHANTIMA
(to Jusmeen)
Didn't I tell you she needs to be
ready by nine thirty? Useless
child!

Shantima vigorously brushes Alison's hair.

SHANTIMA (CONT'D)
Go down to Panna in the kitchen.
Try and be more useful there!

Jusmeen leaves the room.

EXT. TEA STALL - AMRITSAR - DAY

Amarjeeth and Devdas stand by a TEA CART. They sip cups of steaming tea.

Devdas gestures to the far corner of the road where a large group has gathered near a NEWSPAPER STALL.

In the middle of the group is one MAN who is reading to the others. The listeners look angry and resentful.

AMARJEETH
(to the tea stall owner)
What's going on over there?

The Tea stall owner wipes tea glasses vigorously.

TEA CART OWNER
They've just passed the 'Rowlatt Act'.
(pause)
Those British lumps have given themselves the authority to imprison all protesters and law breakers without trial.
(pause)
I've heard they even plan on sentencing people to death if they see fit.

The Tea Cart owner spits on the ground, disgusted. Amarjeeth and Devdas share a look.

DEVDas
(lowered voice)
What do you think they'll do with Sriram?

Amarjeeth has no answer.

INT. AMRITSAR JAILHOUSE - WAITING AREA - DAY

The room is small, poorly lit and dingy. It contains a single rickety table and a few chairs.

Amarjeeth, Zareen and RADHA, 60 (Sriram's wife) sit on a narrow bench, by the tiny barred window. Zareen has her arm around Radha, who every few minutes, silently sobs into her sari.

Radha has a small wrapped PACKAGE in her hands. The three of them get up when they hear the sound of echoing footsteps coming towards them.

A WHITE OFFICER walks briskly to them.

OFFICER

Passes?

Amarjeeth hands the soldier their passes. The soldier looks at the paper work and hands it back. He notices the package in Radha's hands.

OFFICER (CONT'D)

What's that?

AMARJEETH

Food.

OFFICER

Leave it here. It will need to be inspected before being given to the inmate.

Zareen takes the package out of Radha's hands and places it on the table. Radha breaks into tears again.

SOLDIER

Follow me.

The three of them follow the soldier down a long corridor past several inmates, who watch them in silence.

Radha spots Sriram and runs ahead. It is obvious he has been beaten up. He limps to the bars.

Radha tries to get as close to him as she can through the bars. Sriram consoles her. Zareen and Amarjeeth stand at a respectful distance.

Sriram then signals them to come forward. Amarjeeth nods at Sriram through the bars.

SRIRAM

I think Radha needs some fresh air.
Zareen, will you take her outside
for a little while?

Zareen leads the weeping Radha back down the corridor. The two men stand in silence listening to the sound of receding footsteps.

SRIRAM (CONT'D)

(lowered voice)
They wanted names. Wanted to know
how I got the gun.

AMARJEETH

(with difficulty)
When... when...

SRIRAM

Friday.
(smiling weakly)
Seems as good a day to die as any.

Silence.

Amarjeeth leans his head against the bars of Sriram's cell.

AMARJEETH

It should have been me. It should
have been me. You should have told
them the gun belonged to me.

SRIRAM

You are more important to our cause
than I.

AMARJEETH

(defeated)
What cause? We have no cause. We
have lost. God has taken away our
only chance of victory.

SRIRAM

Don't say that. Don't let my dying
be in vain. You are our leader. We
depend on you to guide us to
freedom.

Amarjeeth looks away from Sriram. Then unable to contain himself.

AMARJEETH

What kind of a leader am I if I
can't even keep my daughter in
check?

SRIRAM

What are you talking about?

CUT TO:

EXT. JAILHOUSE - SAME

Zareen and Radha stand beneath a tree.

RADHA

Do you think... will they let me
have his body on Friday?

ZAREEN

We shall have to ask.

Tears stream down Radha's face.

RADHA

Is this to be our lot in life? To
watch them throw their lives away,
to never have a say in anything?

Zareen knows the feeling all too well.

RADHA (CONT'D)

What am I to do? What am I to do?

Zareen hugs Radha, knowing it is little comfort.

CUT TO:

INT. JAILHOUSE - SAME

SRIRAM

She was hiding an English novel
under her pillow?

Amarjeeth nods.

AMARJEETH

Now the Colonel's daughter has made
Jusmeen her personal maid. I cannot
look at her face without feeling
shame.

SRIRAM
(chuckling)
She was hiding an English novel
under her pillow!

Amarjeeth looks at Sriram, confused.

SRIRAM (CONT'D)
Brother, God has not taken away our
chance for victory, he has given us
another!

Amarjeeth still looks confused. Sriram strains to look down
the corridor and then speaks in an excited whisper.

SRIRAM (CONT'D)
Don't you see? She can read the
language! She can take my place in
the house! She can be the eyes and
ears you need!

AMARJEETH
But new guards have been placed
around the estate! Colonel Foster
trusts no one any more. Won't he
suspect...

SRIRAM
A twelve year old girl? No, Amar,
Jusmeen is the one person no one
will suspect! Especially if she is
such a favorite of the Choti
Memsaab.

Amarjeeth considers this.

SRIRAM (CONT'D)
There is just a small crack in the
wall. But Jusmeen is the hammer
that will bring it crumbling down.

INT. JUSMEEN'S HOME - EVENING

When Jusmeen comes home from the Colonel's house she is
surprised to find Amarjeeth waiting for her.

AMARJEETH
Sit down Jusmeen.

Jusmeen sits and eyes her father suspiciously.

Amarjeeth picks up a kettle from the little stove and pours himself a cup of tea. He focuses his eyes on the rising steam.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)

While you work at the Colonel's house, there is something you will do for me.

(pause)

You will listen to what the Colonel says to his men. You will find out where he goes, who he meets, what his plans are. You will tell me everything you find out.

JUSMEEEN

(hesitantly)

Why...What is this for?

Amarjeeth ignores her question.

AMARJEETH

There is one other thing.

Amarjeeth leans forward finally looking at Jusmeen.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)

There is a cabinet in the Colonel's office. The one that holds all the weapons..

Jusmeen knows exactly what he is talking about.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)

Sriram could never get his hands on the key to that cupboard. But you can. Your... your 'friend' will know. She trusts you, doesn't she? Make her tell you where the key is kept.

JUSMEEEN

What do you want to do with the weapons?

AMARJEETH

(roughly)

Never you mind what I want to do with them.

Jusmeen shakes her head.

JUSMEEEN

(softly)

No. I won't do it.

Jusmeen looks at him, defiance in her eyes. In complete frustration Amarjeeth flings his glass of tea on the wall. The glass shatters.

AMARJEETH

When I was a boy I watched as the British took my father's rice fields and turned them to cotton fields. We starved so that the British had clothes. I watched my younger brothers drop dead one after the other, year after year until I had no brothers left.

(pause)

I swore to myself that if I lived to be a man I would make better life for my family or die fighting. And here you are, you ungrateful wretch, refusing to stand up for justice.

(pause)

Open your eyes, Jusmeen. Why does your friend keep your friendship a secret? Did you really think you were her equal?

CHARANDEEP (O.S.)

That's enough.

Amarjeeth and Jusmeen turn to see Charandeep standing at the threshold. Charandeep walks up to his father. There is real anger in his eyes.

CHARANDEEP (CONT'D)

Do not drag her into this!

Amarjeeth is taken aback. Never before has his son spoken to him like this.

AMARJEETH

Don't you *dare* use that tone with me.

CHARANDEEP

Look at what you are asking her to do!

AMARJEETH

She's the only one who can take
Sriram's place. She has a duty to
perform.

CHARANDEEP

She's a child! How can ask this of
your own daughter? You say you want
a better life for your family but
what kind of life is this?

Amarjeeth loses his temper.

AMARJEETH

Sriram died for you!

Pain and guilt shows on Charandeep's face.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)

Did you know that? He did not die
to see you turn your back on
everything we've been struggling to
accomplish.

CHARANDEEP

What is it you want? A gun? I'll
get you a fucking gun. But I will
not stand by and let you bring her
into this!

Charandeep walks out of the house.

AMARJEETH

(yelling after him)

How dare you talk to me like that.
You are not the son I raised!

INT.JUMEEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jusmeen lies awake in the dark. Charandeep comes in and lies
on the mattress opposite her.

CHARANDEEP

Jesse?

JUSMEEN

Yes?

Beat.

CHARANDEEP

What Baba's asking you to do--
stealing those weapons-- it's
dangerous.

Jusmeen begins to cry. Charandeep goes and gives her a hug.

CHARANDEEP (CONT'D)

Don't cry Jesse. Don't cry. I'll
take care of everything. I promise.

JUSMEEN

How?

CHARANDEEP

Don't worry, I'll figure something
out.

But Jusmeen continues to look worried.

INT. COLONEL FOSTER'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Jusmeen stands at the kitchen counter stirring a pot of stew
on the stove. Panna stands beside her .

Jusmeen looks up and sees her brother in the garden. He is
TALKING with TWO MEN and AALIYAH, 20's, the kitchen maid.

The group breaks apart. The men get back to work, but Jusmeen
sees Charandeep drop his spade and walk away, turning the
corner.

Jusmeen leans to the side trying to see where he is going.
Aaliyah comes running back to the kitchen.

AALIYAH

(breathlessly)

They've arrested Satya Pal and
Saifuddin Kitchlew!

PANNA

Well that was bound to happen the
way they carried on with their
protests.

AALIYAH

There's going to be a huge protest
outside the police commissioners
office, to demand their release.

PANNA

God help us all. This is not going
to end well.

Jusmeen leaves the kitchen unnoticed by the two gossiping
maids.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

From the windows in the hallway Jusmeen watches her brother
walk towards the gate. A look of worry comes over her face.

ALISON (O.S.)

Jesse?

Alison walks up from behind her.

ALISON (CONT'D)

I know you are upset about what
happened at Diwali. I am too... but
I want you to know I never once
told anybody about your brother and
I'm not accusing him of anything.
You have to know that.

(pause)

I'd really like us to be friends
again.

Jusmeen looks back at her brother who is now at the gate.

JUSMEEN

Allie, listen, I can't talk right
now.

Jusmeen runs to the front door.

ALISON

Where are you going?

Jusmeen shuts the door in Alison's face. Alison goes back to
the window and watches as Jusmeen runs after her brother.

Alison hears footsteps on the staircase and quickly hides
behind the curtain.

JANE (O.S.)

Shantima, have you seen Miss
Foster?

SHANTIMA (O.S.)

Isn't she in the study?

JANE (O.S.)
No she excused herself ten minutes ago and never came back.

SHANTIMA (O.S.)
I'll ask the other servants.

Alison listens to the receding footsteps and then comes out and quickly runs upstairs to her room.

INT. ALISON'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alison goes straight to her cupboard and pulls out the BLACK BURKHA she had stolen.

EXT. COLONEL FOSTER'S ESTATE - SAME

Jusmeen slows down as she comes to the main gate where two GUARDS are stationed. They watch her curiously as she leaves the estate but make no attempts to stop her. When they look away Jusmeen runs again, trying to catch up to her brother.

JUSMEEN
Bhaiya!

Charandeep turns.

CHARANDEEP
Jesse! What are you doing out here?
Go back!

JUSMEEN
Where are you going? Bhaiya
please... tell me where you're
going.

CHARANDEEP
Jesse... Go home! I know what I'm
doing. Go on.

Jusmeen doesn't move.

CHARANDEEP (CONT'D)
Go!

Jusmeen turns to walk away, but as soon as she is a safe distance from her brother she runs behind the shrubbery on the side of the road and follows him.

EXT. AMRITSAR -DAY

There is a nervous excitement in the air. As Jusmeen looks around she sees people shutting down shops and stores.

Jusmeen tries not to lose sight of her brother. She sees Charandeep turn a corner. As she runs to catch up she hears a CHANT that gets louder as she approaches.

Jusmeen turns the corner and stares at the throng of people outside the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

PEOPLE
(deafening chant)
Satya Pal Zindabad! Kitchlew
Zindabad! (Long live Satya Pal!)

Jusmeen looks around. There is no sign of Charandeep. He is lost in the crowd.

Several British officers open the gates and try to push the crowds back.

BRITISH OFFICER
Get back! Get back!

But the crowd's chant only gets louder.

Unable to find Charandeep, Jusmeen runs to a BUILDING nearby and climbs half-way up the staircase to get a better look.

A single a SHOT is FIRED.

An Indian falls to the ground and the crowd goes ballistic. Instead of scattering the angry crowd surges forward, engulfing the British officers.

More officers run out the gate. Several shots are fired and finally the crowd begins to scatter. A valiant few continue to fight the British, trying to overpower them and pull the guns away from their hands.

Jusmeen finally sees her brother. She tries to call out to him, but her voice is not heard over the crowd.

Jusmeen watches as two Indian men overpower a British officer. His GUN clatters to the ground. Charandeep bends to the ground and picks up the gun, unaware that another British officer has seen him.

Too late Charandeep turns to see the officer aim and fire at him.

Jusmeen screams.

Charandeep looks down at his belly, surprised to see the blood gushing out. He tries to raise his hand and fire the gun but the British soldier knocks it out of his hand.

Charandeep crumbles to the ground. Jusmeen pushes her way through the crowd to get to her brother.

She sits on the ground beside him, putting his head on her lap. Jusmeen looks around at the people.

JUSMEEN
(screaming)
Help me! Help me!

But her cries fall on deaf ears.

Out of nowhere a BURKHA CLAD FIGURE approaches. Alison lifts the veil that covers her face. She looks like she is about to faint when she sees Charandeep.

JUSMEEN (CONT'D)
Allie, please, help me.

Jusmeen gets to her feet and tries to drag her brother away from the crowd. With Alison's help they manage to move him to a sheltered corner.

ALISON
Jesse, we can't do this alone. I'm
going to go get help, alright?

JUSMEEN
Hurry! Please!

Alison gets to her feet and runs like she has never run before.

INT. COLONEL FOSTER'S HOME - STUDY -DAY

COLONEL FOSTER
(raised voice)
Where is she?

Jane jumps a little, unaccustomed to being spoken to like that.

JANE
We've searched everywhere, sir.

COLONEL FOSTER
How could you let this happen? I
placed her in your care!

JANE
With all due respect sir, I did
warn you. That child has grown
wild. Now I cannot be held
responsible for that.

Colonel Foster goes red in the face.

COLONEL FOSTER
You are discharged.

JANE
I beg your pardon?

COLONEL FOSTER
You heard me, now get out.
(bellowing)
Get out before I wring your neck!

Jane runs out.

EXT. COLONEL FOSTER'S HOME - STUDY - SAME

Jane hastily shuts the door behind her. When she turns around
she sees half a dozen servants standing outside the study,
listening to the Colonel yell at her.

Jane turns and walks up the stairs. As soon as her back is
turned she can hear them whispering excitedly to each other.

EXT. HALLWAY - SAME

The front door is thrown open and Alison staggers in.
Shantima rushes to her.

SHANTIMA
(shouting)
Miss Allie! She's here!

Colonel Foster comes rushing out of his study.

COLONEL FOSTER
Allie! Thank God!

He falls to his knees and hugs her. Alison, still panting
from her run, tries to push him away.

ALISON
(panting)
Papa... please... help...

Colonel Foster notices the burkha she's wearing.

COLONEL FOSTER
Where on earth did you get this?

He touches the burkha and Charandeep's blood comes off onto his hand.

COLONEL FOSTER (CONT'D)
(alarmed)
Oh God! Allie, are you hurt?

He strips the burkha off her.

ALISON
No... not me... Charandeep. He's hurt. Papa, we must go to him.

COLONEL FOSTER
What are you talking about?

ALISON
Papa, please! Charandeep is hurt. He was shot in the protest. We must go to him!

Alison tries to move towards the front door.

COLONEL FOSTER
(shocked)
You were at the protest?
Allie, have you lost your mind?

ALISON
Papa, listen to me! They're my friends. They need our help! We must go!

COLONEL FOSTER
You're not going anywhere. Do you have any idea how worried I was?

ALISON
He's going to die!

COLONEL FOSTER
Allie... I didn't know what to think. Don't you dare disappear like that!

ALISON
(louder)
He's going to die!

COLONEL FOSTER
(losing his temper)
Well he had no business being there
in the first place! They have been
warned time and again!

Alison looks at her father, shocked. She can't believe what he just said. She turns and walks to the front door but she is stopped by the Colonel.

ALISON
Let me go!

COLONEL FOSTER
Shantima!

Shantima comes forward nervously.

COLONEL FOSTER (CONT'D)
You will not let Miss Allie out of
your sight, understand? Not for one
moment.

Shantima nods vigorously.

ALISON
(yelling)
No!

COLONEL FOSTER
(yelling)
Stop it, Allie!

ALISON
You can't make me!

COLONEL FOSTER
Yes I can and I will.

ALISON
(with real venom)
I hate you!

Colonel Foster looks like he has just been slapped.

COLONEL FOSTER
You don't mean that.

EXT. POLICE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE - SAME

The crowd has thinned considerably. People shout out names, trying to find their friends. Occasionally there is a wail when someone finds a loved one dead.

Jusmeen still sits with Charandeep's head on her lap. Charandeep writhes in pain.

JUSMEEN
Bhaiya, please hold on. She's
bringing help.

Jusmeen gives her brother her hand to hold. She looks around, willing Alison to show up.

CHARANDEEP
Jesse--

Jusmeen looks down at her brother.

JUSMEEN
I'm here.

CHARANDEEP
Jesse.

Charandeep takes in a deep breath, breathes out, but doesn't breathe in again.

JUSMEEN
(whispers)
No.

EXT. FUNERAL GROUNDS - EVENING

Jusmeen, Amarjeeth and Zareen all dressed in white (the mourning color) stand in front of the rest of the crowd, watching the funeral pyre ablaze.

Zareen is beside herself with grief, but Jusmeen's eyes are dry. All the innocence of childhood has vanished.

In the orange glow of the burning pyre, Jusmeen eyes flash with anger.

INT. COLONEL FOSTER'S STUDY - DAY

CU of Jusmeen. She is still dressed in white. She has the same hard expression on her face.

We pull back to reveal that she is alone in the Colonel's study, with a broom in her hand, staring at the Colonel's WEAPON CABINET.

Jusmeen turns to the study-door and sees that it is closed. She is alone. Quietly she lowers the broom to the floor and walks up to the cabinet. She stares at the guns inside.

Beat.

Jusmeen lifts the heavy lock into her small hand. She pushes the lock handle, left, right and left again. The lock springs open.

Jesse reaches for a gun at the far corner of the cabinet, hidden behind the wood- one that is the least likely to be missed.

As she drags the gun out, her hand touches a red velvet pouch. The pouch falls to its side and its contents: BULLETS, spill onto the shelf.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Jusmeen walks down the hallway with her broom in hand. She walks past the music room where Alison sits at the piano.

Alison sees Jusmeen walking by and runs to the door.

ALISON

Jesse. Jesse, please.

Jusmeen turns to Alison.

ALISON (CONT'D)

I tried to come back.

Jusmeen walks up to Alison and only stops until she is inches away from Alison's face. Alison cowers when she sees the rage on Jusmeen's face.

JUSMEEN

I hate you. I hate your father, I
hate your house, I hate your kind.
Nothing can change that. Not now,
not ever.

Jusmeen walks away, leaving Alison staring in shocked silence.

INT. JUSMEEN'S HOME - SAME

Jusmeen enters her house and sees her father smoking in silence.

Jusmeen pulls the Colonel'S GUN out of her waistband and bullets out of her pocket and places it at her father's feet.

Amarjeeth sees what Jusmeen has done.

AMARJEETH

Today you have made me proud.

INT. COLONEL FOSTER'S HOME - DINING ROOM - EVENING

The Colonel and Alison eat their meal in silence. Colonel Foster looks at Alison from time to time but she is unresponsive. She sits picking at her food.

The Colonel puts his hand on his daughter's.

COLONEL FOSTER

Allie...

Alison withdraws her hand.

COLONEL FOSTER (CONT'D)

You can't stay angry with me for ever.

ALISON

May I be excused?

COLONEL FOSTER

I've increased Amarjeeth's salary, to compensate for the income his son would otherwise have earned.

ALISON

(sarcastically)

Of course. That makes everything alright.

COLONEL FOSTER

(hurt)

Don't do that. Allie... I've let that family stay on the estate. *In spite* of knowing that their son was in the protest. Do you know what that means?

(MORE)

COLONEL FOSTER (CONT'D)
 I could get discharged for that.
 But I did it for you.

Alison gets up to leave. Hurt and angry, Colonel Foster lashes out.

COLONEL FOSTER (CONT'D)
 I'm sending you to England.

Alison turns and looks at her father.

COLONEL FOSTER (CONT'D)
 I wrote to the Sisters of St.
 Mary's. You are to start there this
 September.

He looks hopefully for signs of sorrow, remorse, anything, but Alison's countenance does not change. Alison turns and walks out of the room, leaving the Colonel alone.

INT. JUSMEEN'S HOME - EVENING

Zareen sits clearing up the dinner plates in silence. Jusmeen helps her. Zareen looks like she has aged overnight. Jusmeen watches as her father rises and puts on his shawl.

AMARJEETH
 Come, Jusmeen.

Jusmeen rises. It takes Zareen a few seconds to realize what is going on.

ZAREEN
 (rising)
 No. I won't allow it.

Zareen stands between Amarjeeth and the front door.

AMARJEETH
 Do not test me, Zareen.

ZAREEN
 No. You! You do not test *me*!

AMARJEETH
 Move.

ZAREEN
 What has all your plotting and
 planning come to, Amar? Nothing.
 Nothing! Your son is dead.

AMARJEETH
And I will avenge his death.

ZAREEN
You killed him. It was you. You pushed and pushed him. You sacrificed him for your stupid cause and where has it got you?

AMARJEETH
I said move!

ZAREEN
No. You will not take her.

JUSMEEN
I want to go.

ZAREEN
Jesse, please.

JUSMEEN
(firmly)
I am going with Baba.

Amarjeeth moves past Zareen as she stares down at her daughter.

AMARJEETH
Come, Jesse.

ZAREEN
I have lost one child. Am I to lose you as well?

Jusmeen moves past her mother and out the door. Jusmeen closes the door on her mother's face.

INT. DEVDAS HOME - NIGHT

Amarjeeth, Devdas, Shankar, Salim, Abbas, Piyush and Jusmeen sit in a circle. From time to time the men look at her, uncomfortable to have a FEMALE in their midst.

Amarjeeth places the gun in the middle of the circle. The members of the group look at Amarjeeth in surprise. Amarjeeth smiles and places his hand on Jusmeen's shoulder.

AMARJEETH
This is one of the Colonel's very own. Jusmeen brought it to me.
(MORE)

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)

She has taken Sriram's place at the house.

Everyone looks doubtful.

SHANKAR

I don't know, Amar. To make her take Sriram's place--

JUSMEEN

(firmly)

I want to do it.

All eyes are on Jusmeen.

ABBAS

When do we use it?

JUSMEEN

I have not had a chance to go through the Colonel's correspondence.

AMARJEETH

Remember Jesse, the Colonel is an important man. He has important friends. Bring us names, dates, places.

(pause)

Dinners, parties... any situation where they aren't surrounded by a million guards is a good time to strike.

Amarjeeth pats her head.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)

These are the men that killed your brother, Jesse. Do it for him.

Jusmeen nods.

INT. JUSMEEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jusmeen lies on her mattress trying to sleep but her eyes keep falling on her brother's mattress lying opposite her own.

Jusmeen shuts her eyes tight trying not to look at it.

She heard a shuffling of feet and opens her eyes to see her mother standing in the room with a lantern in her hand.

ZAREEN
(desperately)
Jesse... I want to talk to you.

JUSMEEN
I'm tired, Ma.

ZAREEN
Please, Jesse.

Zareen pulls out the PAMPHLET she had got from Gandhi's convention.

ZAREEN (CONT'D)
Earlier this year, when I went to the temple... I met a man called Gandhi. Have you heard of him?

Jusmeen shuts her eyes and doesn't respond.

ZAREEN (CONT'D)
He was addressing a crowd. What he said ... Jesse... it was as if he was talking to me, telling me, what Baba is doing is wrong.

Zareen pushes the pamphlet towards Jusmeen.

ZAREEN (CONT'D)
They were giving out these pamphlets that day... read it Jesse. It's his words.

JUSMEEN
I need to sleep.

ZAREEN
Then I'll read it to you.

Jusmeen turns and faces the wall.

JUSMEEN
Not now. Please. Not now.

ZAREEN
There's going to be another convention at Jallianwala Bagh tomorrow... Bapu (Gandhi) won't be there but still I'd like you to come with me. Listen to what they have to say.

Jusmeen does not respond.

ZAREEN (CONT'D)

Jesse?

When Jusmeen still does not respond.

Zareen neatly folds the pamphlet and places it by Jusmeen pillow. Zareen gently strokes her daughters hair and leaves the room. Jusmeen opens her eyes. She blinks away her tears.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

TITLE: 13th April 1919

EXT. AMRITSAR - DAY

A procession of people walk down the streets of Amritsar. They are headed to JALLIANWALA BAGH, (the large garden where Jusmeen had taken Alison to fly the kite).

Long lines of people wait patiently to get into the bagh (garden) through its four narrow entrances.

EXT. GENERAL DYER'S OFFICE

General Dyer watches the procession from his window.

INT.DYER'S OFFICE - DAY

UNIFORMED SOLDIER
Thousands of them, sir. Moving
towards Jallianwala Bagh.

DYER
So they openly disobey the law, do
they? Very well. If it's
punishment they are looking for,
it's punishment they will get.

EXT. COLONEL FOSTER'S HOME - DAY

A car comes speeding madly down the driveway, kicking up dirt in its wake. Before it comes to a complete halt Lieutenant Johnson jumps out of the car and runs up the steps.

INT. COLONEL FOSTER'S STUDY - DAY

LUT. JOHNSON

-- He has summoned ninety armed soldiers and two armed cars with machine guns.

(pause)

He means to march to Jallianwala Bagh and take care of the convention himself.

Colonel Foster looks aghast.

COLONEL FOSTER

Are you sure about this?

Lieutenant Johnson nods.

COLONEL FOSTER (CONT'D)

He can't mean to fire at the crowd. Surely he just means to scare them a little- give them a warning--

(pause)

How many people at the garden?

LUT. JOHNSON

A great many, sir. I saw them entering the grounds on my way here. There must be at least a thousand.

Beat.

COLONEL FOSTER

Surely he does not mean to fire.

EXT. COLONEL FOSTER'S STUDY - DAY

Alison stands just outside the open door, listening. She hurries away.

INT. SITTING ROOM -DAY

Shantima is standing on a foot stool, dusting the book shelves. Panna stands beside her, dusting the lower shelves.

ALISON

Shantima, where's Jusmeen?

SHANTIMA

I don't know, Miss Allie. I haven't seen her. Maybe she's in the kitchen.

Alison turns to leave.

PANNA

She isn't there.

Alison turns back

PANNA (CONT'D)

Her mother came in yesterday to say she would not be taking the laundry in today. She asked that she and her daughter be excused for today.

ALISON

Do you know why?

SHANTIMA

It's Baisaki, Allie Ma'am, the Sikhs celebrate New Year today.

Panna pulls out more books and dusts the shelf.

PANNA

Yes, but if you ask me, they're at Jallianwala Bagh, for the convention - everyone's talking about it.

(pause)

They'll be back at work tomorrow, that's what Zareen said.

Shantima turns around to address Alison.

SHANTIMA

What was it you wanted, Allie ma'am?

But Alison has disappeared.

INT.HALLWAY - DAY

Alison runs to the front door and opens it. But Colonel Foster, who comes down the stairs has seen her.

COLONEL FOSTER

No, Allie.

INT. ALISON'S BEDROOM - SAME

The door to Alison's bedroom opens and Colonel Foster pulls her in.

COLONEL FOSTER
Hate me if you want. But I will not
let you go.

With that he shuts the door behind him. Alison hears the key twist in the lock. She silently listens to her father's receding footsteps.

Alison throws her WINDOW open.

She goes to her cupboard and opens it, looking through her clothes. She pulls out the pink and white SALWAAR KHAMEEZ that Jusmeen had given her for Diwali.

Alison hurriedly undresses.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

EXT. JALLIANWALA BAGH - DAY

The old playground is packed. A thousand people strain their necks trying to get a better view of the speaker ahead.

Alison stands in the midst of the crowd.

She is dressed in the pink and white salwaar. Her shawl hides her hair and face. Only her blue eyes are visible as she tries to move around looking for Jusmeen.

Alison spots a GIRL with a long dark braid down her back, a little distance away. She pushes people aside trying to get to her.

EXT. JALLIANWALA BAGH - SAME

Colonel Dyer and his troops surround the garden. Each of them is armed with a gun. Dyer motions for them to move in through the four narrow entrances.

INT. JALLIANWALA BAGH - SAME

Alison moves into the middle of the crowd. She finally gets to the girl. She reaches out and touches her shoulder.

ALISON

Jesse.

The girl turns. It is not Jusmeen.

INT. COLONEL FOSTER'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Jusmeen scrubs the pots in the sink. Panna enters.

PANNA

Oh! You're here.

JUSMEEN

I'm sorry, I came in late.

PANNA

I thought you weren't coming in at all. Your mother said you were both taking the day off.

JUSMEEN

Yes, my mother's gone into town. I decided to stay behind.

PANNA

Allie ma'am was looking for you earlier.

Jusmeen continues to scrub the pot.

JUSMEEN

Well I'm sure she's found whatever she was looking for.

INT. JALLIANWALLA BAGH - SAME

The crowd is stirring. People are turning around and looking behind them but Alison can't see. She is too short.

General Dyer and his troops are lined up against the high wall of the garden. Dyer calls out a command and they fall into formation.

SOLDIER

Shall we issue a warning, sir?

DYER
They've had their warning.

Beat.

DYER (CONT'D)
Fire!

Dyer's ninety soldiers fire at will.

Alison looks around, terrified at the noise. The air is filled with horrific screams. People push past her scrambling for safety. But there is nowhere to run and nowhere to hide.

Alison watches as people throw themselves down the old WELL, to escape the rain of bullets.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

JALLIANWALA BAGH - MUCH LATER

The sound of the wind.

A hysterical wails pierce the silence. Somewhere someone has found a father, mother, husband, wife dead on the ground.

People move around looking for their loved ones in the sea of dead.

Amongst them is Jusmeen. She stands very still staring down at the face of her DEAD MOTHER. She bends down and closes Zareen's eyes.

A few feet away a bit of pink fabric flaps in the wind catching Jusmeen's attention. Jusmeen looks at it. She knows that fabric.

Jusmeen approaches the body of a dead girl in the pink and white salwaar. Her face is covered and her eyes are shut like she is asleep. Jusmeen pulls down the shawl to reveal her face.

When she sees Alison, Jusmeen falls to the ground and finally cries.

INT. ALISON'S BEDROOM - DAY

Shantima sobs silently as she watches a few of the servants scatter rose petals on Alison's bed, her books and her toys.

Jusmeen stands by the bed, remembering her friend.

The Colonel, comes into the room. The servants step back and stand in respectful silence.

He walks to Alison's bed and tenderly touches her pillow. Jusmeen looks up and sees the broken, shell of a man that the Colonel has become.

The Colonel raises his eyes to Jusmeen's. Jusmeen sees his pain and in that moment they are both united in their common bond of sorrow.

INT. JUSMEEN'S HOME - DAY

Jusmeen sits alone. Again, dressed in white. Amarjeeth enters. He is also dressed in white. He seems too full of nervous energy for a man in mourning. He sits.

AMARJEETH

The Colonel is leaving India after his daughter's funeral. Did you know?

Jusmeen shakes her head. Amarjeeth gives a short laugh.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)

Killed one of their own with their own bullets.

(laughing harder)

Just think of it, Jesse.

Jusmeen looks at her father. She sees the madness in him.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)

God is on our side.

Amarjeeth gets up and rummages in the corner. Amarjeeth pulls out an old cardboard box from which he takes out the Colonel's gun.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)

There you are.

JUSMEEN

What are you doing, Baba?

Amarjeeth slowly and lovingly takes the bullets out of their pouch and loads them into the gun.

AMARJEETH

Oh Jesse, Jesse! It's perfect. It's so perfect!

(laughs)

God has shown me the way. All those officers at the funeral!

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)

We're going to get them. We're going to finally get them all!

Amarjeeth frowns angrily.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)

Salim, Abbas and the rest... They say they don't want a hand in it.

Beat.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)

Cowards!

(to Jusmeen)

But we don't need them. You and me, we'll do this together! We'll show the bastards!

(smiling)

Your mother would be so proud.

Jusmeen can't bear to listen to her father any longer. She gets up and goes to her room.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)

Yes, yes. Go rest. We must to be ready. Our moment is almost here!

INT. JUSMEEN'S ROOM - SAME

Jusmeen sits on her mattress and covers her ears trying to block out her father's voice. She looks down and beside her pillow she sees the PAMPHLET her mother had left for her.

EXT. COLONEL FOSTER'S HOME - DAY

A silent procession starts at the house and travels down the winded garden path. Four soldiers carry ALISON'S COFFIN.

Colonel Foster walks along. Several men in British uniform follow him. They walk down the garden path in the general direction of the servants quarters.

Amarjeeth stands watching as they get closer. He hurries towards his hut, tripping and almost falling in his hurry.

INT. JUSMEEN'S HOME - SAME

Amarjeeth flings the door open.

AMARJEETH
Jusmeen! They're almost here! It's
time!

He goes to the corner and pushes aside the pile of clothes and other odds and ends until he finds the cardboard box.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)
Jusmeen! Hurry! It's time!

But Jusmeen is nowhere to be seen.

Amarjeeth looks out the door at the funeral procession, coming closer and closer.

He opens the box, and finds it empty.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)
(disbelief)
No!

He scrambles back to the corner and flings the clothes aside looking for the gun.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)
No, no, no!

The procession is passing. Amarjeeth screams in completely frustration.

AMARJEETH (CONT'D)
Jusmeen!

EXT. RIVERSIDE - SAME

Jusmeen takes the gun out of her pocket and with all her might she flings it into the flowing water.

THE END.