

LAGAAN

Once upon a time in India

A film by

Ashtosh Gowariker

Aamir Khan Productions Pvt Ltd



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| 1 | D-N | I-E | Village set/Cantonment/Fort | Overture & Titles - PBS1 | 3:00 | 1 |
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| 3 | D | I-E | Village: Bhura-Goli's house | Bhura-Goli intro & British Troops | 1:15 | 3 |
| 4 | D | E | Village Square | Guran-Gauri-Lakha intro | 2:00 | 5 |
| 5 | D | E | Jungle | Bhuvan & Russell intro-Deer hunter | 3:45 | 8 |
| 6 | D | E | Lover's hill | Gauri & Bhuvan - about future | 2:00 | 10 |
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| 22 | D | E | Practice field | The First Lesson-Bhura joins | 6:30 | 49 |
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| 24 | D | I-E | British HQ-Central Provinces | Russell blasted | 2:30 | 58 |
| 25 | D | E | Cantonment: Stable | Russell beats Arjan | 1:45 | 60 |
| 26 | D | E | Practice field | Arjan joins-Gauri jealous | 4:00 | 62 |
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| 66 | D | E | Cantonment-Village Street | Wind Up | 2:00 | 139 |
| THE END | | | | | | |

Scene 1 : Playback Song One

Overture & Titles

Village Set / Cantonment / Rajah's Fort / Countryside / Table Top
Int - Ext / Day - Night

A song is heard on the audio track which slowly becomes the background as a voice over begins.

सन १८९३.

चंपानेर... देश के बीचों बीच बसा, एक छोटासा गाँव.

चंपानेर के लोग, देश के हजारों गावों की तरह अपना गुजर-बसर, खेती-बाड़ी से करते थे.

गाँव की सीमा से लगकर, अंग्रेज हुकुमत की छावनी थी.

और दक्षिण की ओर, छावनी से दो कोस दूर, इस प्रान्त के राजा का किला था.

अंग्रेज, राजा के प्रान्त की, पड़ोसी राजाओं के आक्रमण से हिफाजत करते थे. और उन राजाओं को भी, वो इस राजा के आक्रमण से बचाने का वादा करते. इस दुगने खेल की बदौलत, अंग्रेज, उन राजाओं के साथ साथ, चंपानेर के राजा से भी लगान वसूल करते थे.

और यही लगान, राजा, अपने प्रान्त के गाँवों से वसूल करता था.

देश के हजारों गावों की तरह, चंपानेर के किसान भी, दिन-रात मेहनत करके, अपना पेट काटके, सालों-साल, राजा को लगान पहुँचाते रहे हैं.

पिछले साल बारिश हुई थी, लेकिन कम. और इस साल, अब तक, बरसात नहीं हुई है...

Throughout we see symbols - pagdi, mukut, British headgear, map of India and parched land, interspersed with the opening credits.

CUT TO... (3:00)

Scene 2

Yashodamai Intro - No rain!

*Village: Bhuvan's House
Ext / Day*

A deep blue sky – cloudless. A harsh afternoon sun.

A village woman, about 55, stands on a parched landscape looking skywards, her hand shading her eyes. Nearby, a small house under the scant shade of a withering neem tree. Sweat trickles down her forehead as she scans the horizon.

A villager, about 45, approaches the house with a bale of hay. He chucks it in a shed near the house and turns to her. He follows her gaze.

MAN

आज फिर टकटकी बांधे का देख रही है, माई?

Yashodamai completes her horizon-scan, sighs and turns to him.

YASHODAMAI

यहीं कि कब पड़ेंगे अकास पे बादलों के धब्बे. आंखें तरस गई! बरखा एक मास निकल गई... एक बूँद न पड़ीं धरती पे!

Yashodamai's attention is diverted by the sounds of restless cattle from the shed. She moves towards the shed talking to them. She gives them some hay, pours water in the gutter.

YASHODAMAI

वो तो किरपा है सिद्धेश्वर की... गाँव में पीने का पानी है - नई तो कलेजा सूख जाता. सब उसकी माया!

HARI

हाँ माई... पर खेत तो प्यासे हैं. दाना कैसे फूटेगा?

YASHODAMAI

धीरज रखो हरीभाई, अकास से ना मिला तो धरती का मन टटोलेंगे. माटी फाडके पानी निकालेंगे. यहीं मैंने भुवन से कहीं!

HARI

कहाँ है वो?

YASHODAMAI

सुबे से कहीं गया है. खाने का बखत हो गया है, दिखाई देवे तो भेज देना.

Suddenly a scream is heard. Both look in the direction of a neighbouring house.

VOICE

हरामियों... एक बार हत्थे लग जाओ... तुमरी भी चोंचें तोड दूँ. मरे मुचट्टे मुर्गियों का नकदम कर रे हैं.

Yashodamai nods her head as Hari smiles.

YASHODAMAI

ले भई! मुर्गी महाभारत फिर सुरु!

CUT TO... (1:15)

Scene 3

Bhura - Goli Intro and British Troops

Village: Bhura-Goli's House
Int-Ext / Day

Bhura about 45 years old, chases a hen, catches it and places it under a basket. He sits down heaving, panting, tired; still murmuring curses. Just then, a stone hits the roof of the barn with a thud scaring the hens. But this time instead of collecting the hens he rushes out of the barn towards his fence.

In the distance, three children hide behind a man, about 30, who swings a gofan over his head with great speed to release yet another stone. Bhura ducks as it hits the roof of the barn. Bhura is infuriated.

BHURA

ऐ, गोली के बच्चे... तूँस न दिया तोप की नली में तो भूरा नाम नई. तू है किस खेत का बछुआ कनचुड़े?

Goli rushes towards him, tentatively followed by the children. He reaches his side of the fence.

GOLI

तूने मेरे बालकन को काहे मारा?

BHURA

मारा? अरे पेड से उलटा लटाए के नीचे धुंआ सुलगा दूँगा. मेरी मुर्गियों को हैरान करें हैं मरे! तूने जादा टपर टपर करी तो तेरा ये गोफन भी फूंक दूँगा - भक से!

GOLI

अच्छा?

Goli starts to swing his gofan again, when Hari intervenes.

HARI

अब बस भी करो. हर बखत की खिचखिच. कुत्ते के पिल्ले को भी मात कर दिए.

BHURA

और हरीकाका, इसके छोरे मेरी मुर्गियाँ छेडते हैं सो?

GOLI

मेरे बालकन पे हाथ उठाता है! अबे मुर्गियाँ हैं कि लौंडियाँ? छेड दिया तो इज्जत लुट गई का? ब्याह नहीं होगा तेरी मुर्गियों का!

HARI

अब बस भी करो. बच्चे ही तो हैं भूरा... और गोली! अपने बच्चों को समझा दे... ठीक है? अब बताओ... भुवन कहीं पे दिखा?

Bhura and Goli look at Hari quizzically.

GOLI

नहीं! तूने देखा भूरा?

BHURA

नहीं. काहे?

Just then, they are distracted by the roaring sounds of marching footsteps and horses. The children rush off excitedly towards the gate.

Hari, Bhura and Goli turn to see a platoon of native soldiers marching under command of a British NCO on horseback. The Union Jack flutters from the horseback.

The children shout commands in broken English at the troops.

CHILDREN

पलटून... फावड माच! लिपिट रैट... लिपिट रैट...

One of the British officers glares at the children as the soldiers' boots make powerful thumping sounds, rending the air with clouds of dust all along the main street of the village...

A legend appears on the screen - चंपानेर १८९३

CUT TO... (1:15)

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Scene 4**Guran - Gauri - Lakha Intro**

Village Square
Ext / Day

Champaner is a small farming village in central India. As troops pass through the village it is evident that the presence of the British is not new. Arjan - the blacksmith stops for a moment to look at the troops, but continues to strike the hammer on his anvil adding his own rhythm to the march. Ismail - the potter also continues to shape his clay after a momentary pause. And so do the rest of the villagers. Ishwar - the vaid and baniya, the Mukhiya, Shambhukaka - the oldest man in the village and Kazi, all return to their routines. A bearded man, about 40, with long unkempt hair, looks intently at the last rank of the troops, spits and mutters to himself.

BEARDED MAN

हरामी कहीं के! धूप में जुगनू ढूँढ रहे हैं. गीदड की औलादों, एक दिन उसी गोरे टापू पर लौट जाओगे, जहाँ से आए हो... भाग का सनिचर कोढ कोढ फलेगा... देक लेना!

He is brought out of his reverie by a girl's voice.

VOICE

ए गुरन, उनकी सनिचर कुंडली काहे बाँच रहा है? बहरे कानों पर झांझ बजाने से फैदा? मेरा नसीब बांच न!

Guran, the bearded man, turns to look at a pair of palms spread open before him. Then he looks at the girl. She is 19, beautiful with expressive eyes. Her eyes gleam as she faces Guran. Another girl, about the same age sits next to her listening intently.

GIRL

बोल ना! मुझे मेरे मन का राजकुमार मिलेगा?

GURAN

काहे नहीं! मत में इत्ता तप है तो तू उसी के कंगना पहनेगी... उसी की बिछिया!

GIRL

हाय सच्ची? सुना जिगनी?

Both the girls are thrilled.

JIGNI

हाँ!

GIRL

जिगनी... आज मैं उसे बता के रहूँगी... उससे जबाब लेकर रहूँगी!

JIGNI

का कह रही है? तोको सरम-वरम है की नहीं.

The girl sheepishly nods. Guran stares intensely at her palms.

GURAN

(stares intensely at her palms) मगर..!

GIRL

मगर... का?

GURAN

मुझे एक अडचन नजर आ रही है...

GIRL

कैसी अडचन गुरन? जल्दी बता...

Just then, Hari reaches the village square and calls the girl.

HARI

गौरी..!

Gauri is embarrassed as she quickly withdraws her hands whispering 'बाद में' to Guran and runs up to Hari. Jigni replaces Gauri and says 'ए गुरन मेरा नसीब बता'.

GAURI

का हरीकाका !

Hari leads her away from Guran.

HARI

गुरन तेरा भविस बांच रहा था?

GAURI

नहीं... हाँ...

HARI

पगला है. हाथ भर आगे की जिन्नगी कि समज है नहीं उसे. अनाप सनाप बकराता फिरे है.

GAURI

सो तो मती कहो हरीकाका, पगला नहीं है वो. दुर्गाभाभी की मालूम है? ब्याह के नौ साल तक उनकी कोख से कोंपल न फूटी. फिर गुरन बोला की लला होगा. टिपू हुआ कि नहीं? और वो केसरिया का किस्सा ले लो...

HARI

ठीक है... ठीक है... वो पगला नहीं, बडा गुनी है... बस? अब बता, भुवन दिखा कहीं?

GAURI

दिखा तो नहीं, पर जानू हूँ कहाँ पे होगा.

A passer-by, about 25, overhears this and drops a bundle of firewood, his eyes on Gauri.

PASSER-BY

गजब है, पूरी खबर रखती है जन्नो!

GAURI

ए लाखा... तोसे मतलब?

LAKHA

ले भई, सारा मतलब हमीं से और हमीं मूं न खोलें? पहन ले अब चूडी हमरे नाम की!

HARI

बेटा, का बक रहा है तू?

LAKHA

इमान की कह रहा हूँ बापू. तुम तो बुढ़ा गए. यह जन्नो मेरी कोई खबर नहीं रखती... जे देखो... मरा जखम हुआ पडा है.

Lakha shows his cut palm to Hari and Gauri. She looks at it with concern and realises it is not major. She tries to break Lakha's sympathetic approach.

GAURI

जखम? तुझे मेरी नहीं, बापू की जरूरत है (*turns and calls out*) बापू...

A man under the shade of his roof looks in her direction while checking the pulse of another man who is seated. It is evident that they are in a dispensary.

GAURI

...लाखा के हाथ में फांस लग गई है...

MAN

ये लाखा का... का करूँ? ये लकड़ी कम और हाथ जादा कटबावे है.

LAKHA

का करूँ इसरचाचा... (*looks at Gauri*) कट ही जावे है! कच से...

Lakha stares at her. She realises his implication and decides to ignore him.

GAURI

काका... मैं भुवन को लाती हूँ.

Gauri runs off. Lakha watches her leave and wipes the sweat off his face. Hari shouts after Gauri.

HARI

सुन तो... कहियो माई घर पे बाट जोह रही है.

CUT TO... (2:00)

Scene 5

Bhuvan and Russell Intro - Deer Hunter

*Jungle
Ext / Day*

A man intently watches through the dry shrub. In the distance, a deer pecks at some yellowing grass. The man, about 25, earrings in both ears, tanned body, watches the deer while he gropes for a stone and takes aim. Then he appears to listen for something. There is a distant click. He silently counts one-two-three and throws the stone at the deer which makes the deer duck in reflex.

Bang! A sound of gunfire is heard. The deer sprints off. A bullet mark appears on the bark of the tree before which the deer grazed a moment ago. After the echoes of the gunfire die down, an English voice roars in disappointment.

VOICE

Bloody hell, missed it again!

The young man looks in the direction of the voice. It is a British officer about 35 years old. He rushes forward with his hunting party.

BRITISH OFFICER

We must get it before it disappears! Ramsingh.

RAMSINGH

जी हुजूर!

BRITISH OFFICER

उधर से. Edward, you go around. Lets corner the blasted animal!

The young man in the shrub has a smile on his face as he watches the hunting party move. He turns and picks up a couple of bunches of tube-roots and swings them onto his shoulder. He too moves in the direction of the deer constantly using the foliage to camouflage him.

Cut to...

5A

The chase is on between the hunting party and the young man, one trying to hunt the deer and the other trying to thwart the hunt.

Cut to...

5B

The deer comes to a halt, unaware of the proximity of its hunters. The Officer takes aim once again, the young man also positions himself, places the tube-roots behind him and picks up a stone. The gun clicks again. The silent count is repeated. But as he is about to throw the stone, he freezes, as he feels the nozzle of a gun on his neck. He realises that it is a British soldier.

The British officer fires again. The deer flies off the ground in a fountain of blood, lands with a thud and dies screaming.

The young man is stunned as the stone falls from his hand. He is brought out of his hiding place.

SOLDIER

Sir, this darkie was hiding in the bushes. He had this in his hand.

The soldier holds the stone in his hand. The British Officer's eyes meet the young man's, who is now being held by two soldiers.

SOLDIER

He had been distracting the deer all this time.

BRITISH OFFICER

• समझा! पाँच बार में इस हिरन को क्यों नहीं मार सका! तुम... जानवरों के रक्षक हो?

RAMSINGH

किसान है हुजूर... अपने गाँव का!

BRITISH OFFICER

(smiles) You must be a very good runner...

The Officer aims his rifle at the young man. The two soldiers leave him and walk out of range. The young man is a little tense but does not flinch. Suddenly, the Officer aims the gun away behind the young man.

BRITISH OFFICER

Try saving this one!

He fires. A rabbit lies dead. The young man is furious, but helpless, his eyes moist.

BRITISH OFFICER

Next time I will shoot you. अगली बार निशाना तुम्हें बनाऊँगा.

Just then, three riders arrive. One of them dismounts and salutes the Officer:

RIDER

कैप्टन रसल, हुजूर, राजा पुरण सिंगजी झाला कंटोनमेंट में आपका इंतजार कर रहे हैं.

RUSSELL

Puran Singh... what could he want now..?

Russell's eyes do not leave the young man's as he mounts his horse and rides off with the other two riders. The young man watches him leave, heart pounding. The rest of the hunting party move towards the kill. The young man walks towards his hiding spot and picks up the tube-roots. Ramsingh is exasperated with the young man.

RAMSINGH

गोरे साहब से उलझने की तुम्हे क्या जरूरत थी, भुवन? वो तो अच्छा हुआ कि उनको जरूरी काम से जाना पडा, वरना वो क्या कब कर बैठें, कोई भरोसा नहीं...

Bhuvan glances at Ramsingh. Just then, a female voice is heard in the distance

VOICE

भू...वन! भू...वन!

Bhuvan, curious, walks out of the jungle into the clearing.

CUT TO... (3:45)

Scene 6

Gauri & Bhuvan - about future

Lovers' Hill

Ext / Day

Bhuvan reaches a picturesque hillock, on top of which stands Gauri calling out his name.

BHUVAN

गला फाड-फाडके काहे चिल्ला रही है?

GAURI

मैं तोको ढूँढ रही थी... नहीं दिखे तो...

BHUVAN

मैं कहाँ मर गया था?

GAURI

मैं का जानू कहाँ मर... हाय राम - का असगुन बोल रही थी मैं... इत्ते नाराज काहे हो रहा है?

Bhuvan is about to explain, but realises the futility and sighs.

BHUVAN

खैर! मतबल पे आ. का बात है?

GAURI

एक खास बात कहनी थी!

BHUVAN

का ?

GAURI

बैठ तो सही.

She makes him sit alongside.

BHUVAN

बोल!..

GAURI

गुरन ने मोको मेरा नसीब बताया है.

BHUVAN

अच्छा! कब फूट रहा है?

GAURI

धत! मैं नाही बताती!

BHUVAN

अच्छा... ठीक है... बता... अरे! बता ना...

GAURI

गुरनने कही की इसी साल... मेरी हल्दी हो जाएगी!.. मने ब्या!

Gauri looks meaningfully at Bhuvan. Though shocked at first, he decides to have fun.

BHUVAN

सच? सच?! ये तो बडी खुसी की बात है. इनसे तेरी पायल इनकेगी. छोरा कौन है?

Gauri is speechless, but regains her composure.

GAURI

मुझे का पता... गुरनने ये नहीं बताया.

Gauri is depressed. Bhuvan slyly watches her. Gauri suddenly gets an idea.

GAURI

पर गुरनने इत्ती जरूर कही कि जिस घर में जाऊँगी, उस के आँगन में एक नीम का पेड होगा...

*Bhuvan pretends to be trying to figure out which house in the village has a neem tree in the yard.
Gauri eyes him and goes a step further.*

GAURI

घर के बगल में एक बडा खेत होगा...

Bhuvan pretends to go in a trance trying to figure it out.

GAURI

दो भैंसें हांगी... एक जोडी बैल... तीन बकरीयाँ...

Bhuvan likes her innocence as she goes in a trance.

GAURI

गुरन ने कही कि मेरा घर एक छोटासा सुरग होगा...

She dreamily sighs and looks at him. Bhuvan maintains an amazed expression.

BHUVAN

वाह ! का बात है ? और का चाहिए तुझे ? तू है नसीबवाली...

GAURI

नसीबवाली? कैसी नसीबवाली?

BHUVAN

भई घर सुरग. और का चाहती है?

GAURI

राम जाने का होगा मेरा! अच्छा भुवन... एक बात बोल, तोको कैसी लडकी पसंद है?

He looks at her thoughtfully.

BHUVAN

मुझे..? मुझे तो कोई छोरी पसंद आवेगी जो मेरी माँ को पसंद आवेगी.

GAURI

(forces a smile) माँ को पसंद आवेगी!

Suddenly, Gauri remembers Hari's message.

GAURI

हे भगवान!

BHUVAN

का हुआ?

Gauri looks at him from the corner of her eyes trying to gauge his mood.

GAURI

दरअसल... मैं तोको ये बताने आई थी कि माँ ने तोको बुलाया है.

BHUVAN

और बता अब रही है? इत्ते बखत के बाद? अब तू बैठी रह. मैं चला!

GAURI

ए भु... वन ! मुझे माफ कर दे... सुन तो!

BHUVAN

चुप!

Down the hillock, Bhuvan hears a faint bugle. He turns and sees a Union Jack fluttering proudly in the distance atop a palace dome. The sounds of bugles increase. Bhuvan's face hardens.

CUT TO... (2:00)

Scene 7

Puran Singh & Elizabeth Intro - Eat the Meat!

Cantonment: Garden
Ext / Day

Three horsemen enter a Summer Palace premises which has now been transformed into a British cantonment. Captain Russell is received by a soldier who helps him dismount and takes away the horse. The cantonment is a shocking green amidst the aridity of the barren landscape. A 'bhishti' i.e. a water-bearer waters the plants.

Russell looks in the direction of a man, about 50 years old, bejewelled and ornately dressed. Russell does a quick bow. This is Puran Singh.

RUSSELL

Rajahji !

As he walks, a couple of soldiers give him a change of attire - riding boots are replaced and the hunting hat is taken away.

PURAN SINGH

आपका शिकार कैसा रहा ?

RUSSELL

Your Highness! अंग्रेज शिकार के खेल में दुनिया में सबसे आगे हैं. The British Empire is the best in the world. नहीं?

PURAN SINGH

बिल्कुल, लेकिन हमें फिक्र है...

RUSSELL

क्या ?

PURAN SINGH

जब जंगल में शिकार ही नहीं बचेगा... तब कौनसा खेल खेलेगी बंदूक? हा... हा... हा...

Russell joins in Puran's laughter.

RUSSELL

हमारी खुशकिस्मती आप यहाँ पधारे हैं, लेकिन हम वजह नहीं जानते.

PURAN SINGH

हम आपके पास, अपनी प्रजा की तरफ से एक दरखास्त लेकर आये हैं.

RUSSELL

दरखास्त ?

A beautiful English girl, about 22, joins them.

RUSSELL

Good morning Eliza... Your Highness! पेश करता हूँ, मेरी प्यारी बहन, Elizabeth. कल रात को ही आई है लंदन से. Elizabeth, His Highness Rajah Puran Singh Jhala of Champaner.

Elizabeth gives a little bow. Puran Singh takes her hand and kisses it formally.

PURAN SINGH

अलभ्य लाभ!.. हम खुश हुए...

RUSSELL

राजाजी इसे हिन्दी नहीं आती...

PURAN SINGH

Oh... of course! Charmed to meet you, Miss Russell.

ELIZABETH

Pleased to meet you, Your Highness!

PURAN SINGH

It is a privilege to have you in India, Miss Russell. कैप्टन साब, इन्हें हम वाबत देना चाहते है...

RUSSELL

जरूर... यहाँ छुट्टी पर आई है... और मुझे उम्मीद है कि उसे यहाँ ब्रिटिश हिंदुस्थान में, एक अच्छा सा... क्या कहते है...
जीवन साथी मिल जाएगा.

PURAN

ओहो... शुभ शुभ... ये गुलाबी हाथ हिंदुस्थान में पीले होंगे? देवी कृपा! There are plenty good officers here.

Elizabeth realises what Russell has mentioned to Puran Singh.

ELIZABETH

No, no ! Rubbish, Andrew! That's the last thing on my mind.

The three move towards an ornately laid out tea-table in the well-manicured lawn, surrounded by flowering plants. A British Officer, about 25, hits his heels in attention and salutes Russell.

RUSSELL

At ease, Smith.

Smith bows to Puran Singh saying 'Rajahji'.

RUSSELL

Elizabeth, meet my deputy, Captain Patrick Smith...

Russell whispers to Elizabeth.

RUSSELL

Eligible bachelor !

Elizabeth ignores the remark and gracefully offers her hand to greet a nervous Smith.

ELIZABETH

How do you do, Captain Smith!

SMITH

Fine! Pleased to meet your grace.

It is evident that Smith is smitten by Elizabeth's beauty. They sit. Russell and Puran Singh face each other. So do Elizabeth and Smith.

RUSSELL

तो राजाजी... हुकुम?

Two uniformed bearers come and place snacks on the table— assorted sandwiches. Elizabeth serves.

PURAN SINGH

कॅप्टन साहब, तीन साल हो गए, हमारी प्रजा ने सिद्धेश्वर के मंदिर में पूजा नहीं की है. उनको विश्वास है कि पिछले साल से उनपर जो तकलीफें आई, वो सब उस मंदिर में पूजा करने से खत्म हो जाएँगी. लेकिन...

RUSSELL

लेकिन जिस प्रांत में मंदिर है, उस प्रांत का राजा है राजा दिलेर सिंग, आपका चचेरा भाई और दुश्मन...

PURAN SINGH

और आपका अजीज दोस्त, कॅप्टन रसल. अगर आप दिलेर सिंग से बात करें, तो वो आपकी बात नहीं टालेगा.

Elizabeth offers Puran Singh a plate of sandwiches.

PURAN SINGH

जी नहीं, शुक्रिया मिस रसल, हम शाकाहारी हैं. I'm a vegetarian.

Puran notices Russell lost in thought.

PURAN SINGH

तो क्या सोच रहे हैं रसल साहब ? क्या ये मुमकिन है ?

RUSSELL

Well, he could be persuaded... आपका काम हो सकता है... But, on one condition. एक शर्त है...

PURAN SINGH

शर्त ? जी हाँ... बताइए !

RUSSELL

Eat the meat, Your Highness! आप यह गोश्त खाइए और मैं दिलेर सिंग से बात करूँगा.

Puran Singh is taken aback. Elizabeth looks at Russell in disbelief while Smith observes quietly. Puran Singh tries to make light of the situation.

PURAN SINGH

Ha ha. I just told you. We're vegetarians! हम शाकाहारी हैं !

RUSSELL

जानता हूँ. सिर्फ एक गोश्त का टुकड़ा है. You eat it and consider your job done.

Elizabeth is embarrassed by Russell's behaviour and tries to intervene.

ELIZABETH

Andrew...

Russel gestures her to stay out of it.

RUSSELL

Eat the meat !

Meanwhile in the background, Ramsingh sets up things for a hunt-photograph. Puran Singh tentatively smiles.

PURAN SINGH

लेकिन... हमारे गोश्त खाने का मंदिर से क्या ताल्लुक?

RUSSELL

कोई ताल्लुक नहीं है... सिर्फ मैं आपको गाश्त खाते हुए देखना चाहता हूँ.

Puran Singh arrives at a decision.

PURAN SINGH

कॅप्टन रसल साहब, एक अँगुली का दर्द कम करने के लिए हम दूसरी अँगुली नहीं काट सकते! कर्म का धागा बाँधने को धर्म का धागा नहीं तोड़ सकते... I am sorry.

Russell holds his gaze on Puran Singh for a moment.

RUSSELL

Well, ठीक है ! तो फिर आप मुझे Double Tax दीजिए... क्या कहते हैं उसे... दुगना लगान.

PURAN SINGH

दुगना लगान ?! कॅप्टन साहब, हम यहाँ किसानों की मदद माँगने के लिए थे... उनकी मुसीबतों को कम कराने आए थे... उन्हें बढ़ाने के लिए नहीं!

RUSSELL

तो ठीक है... आप दुगना लगान अपने खजाने से दे दीजिए.

Puran Singh forces a smile.

PURAN SINGH

देने के लिए हमारे पास शाही खिताब के अलावा कुछ नहीं है... सिर्फ खुशबुओं पर जी रहें हैं हम... ये महल भी तो हमने पहले ही आपको तोहफे में दे दिया है!

Silence. Elizabeth avoids looking at Puran Singh as Smith conceals a smile.

RUSSELL

देखिए राजाजी, पिछले साल आधा लगान भी मैंने आपके कहने पर कुबूल किया था... वो भी देरी से... इस साल उस लगान की भरपाई करनी पड़ेगी. So dugnaa lagaan.

Ramsingh politely comes next to Russell and says 'Sir'. Russell gets up.

PURAN SINGH

लेकिन... अब तक बारिश नहीं हुई है.

Russell starts walking towards the photograph set-up.

RUSSELL

British Raj हिंदुस्थान की बारिश से नहीं नहाता राजाजी. बारिश या NO बारिश...मुझे तो ये छावनी बरकरार रखनी है...
फौज का खर्चा उठाना है. उनका खाना-पीना... कपडे, सबकुछ - आपकी सुरक्षा के लिए!

PURAN

(mutters) लेकिन किसान देंगे कैसे?

Russell stands in pose with the hunting party. Ramsingh next to him. Russell throws his voice.

RUSSELL

Come on Rajahji, सिर्फ दुगना लगान ही तो है, और फिर, आप... गोश्त भी तो नहीं खाते!

A flash-bulb is fired.

CUT TO... (6:00)

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Scene 8**Bagha spots clouds***Temple / Village Street
Ext / Day*

Radhe-Krishna idol. The pujari puts some 'prasad' in a plate and gives it to a young man.

PUJARI

बाघा... ये ले परसाद.

BAGHA

हं..!

Bagha walks out of the inner room into the foyer and sits in a corner. His personal belongings are lying around. It is evident that this is his corner. A dhol lies a little away.

As Bagha is about to proceed he notices something in the distance. he gets up in disbelief, picks up his dhol and starts beating it furiously. He tries to attract the attention of the villagers who react to this drumming and turn towards the temple.

Cut to...

SA*Village Street.*

Arjan, the blacksmith comes out of his shop and moves toward Goli.

GOLI

ए अर्जन... यह बाघा काहे को फुलफुलाए जा रहा है?

ARJAN

मेरी भी समझ नहीं पडा!

BHUVAN

है जरूर कोई खास बात...

ISMAIL

ए बाघा... का हुआ. ढोल काहे पीटे जा रहा है?

Bagha stops drumming.

BAGHA

अ... अग... गहु... आ !

Dramatically, Bagha points to the northern sky. The villagers walk towards an opening and look in the direction. They watch in silence. The horizon is laced with thick dense clouds approaching at a great speed. Intro. Music begins. Their expressions change from curiosity to disbelief to happiness.

One villager, realising the magnitude of the event, sprints towards the village yelling...

VILLAGER

बादल... बादल... बरखा रानी आवे को है!.. मेघा.. मेघा!

Bagha starts drumming furiously as he comes down the temple steps. A festive mood hits the villagers as they start to jump in joy. Children rush to the village square, followed by the womenfolk who join their men in the celebrations...

CUT TO... (1:00)

Scene 9 : Playback Song Two
Here come the rain clouds

Village Square
Ext / Day

A joyous song to welcome the rains.

The end of sorrows. The beginning of prosperity. Enough water to yield golden harvests.

Lakha tries to act sweet with Gauri. She brushes him aside smoothly. Her eyes follow Bhuvan who's persuading Mai to join the dance and sing. Lakha does not like her affinity to Bhuvan.

Goli and Bhura have forgotten their differences and dance together with Goli's children.

Bagha provides an energetic rhythm for the song, his eyes constantly on Jigni, which Gauri notices.

A rhythm so infectious that even Shambhukaka, – the oldest man of the village – cannot resist and joins the dance.

Guran dances but constantly looking skywards, suspiciously.

At the end of the first verse, the clouds are overhead.

At the end of the second verse, Bagha suddenly stops drumming and looks upwards.

The villagers stop their dance and look up.

The clouds uncover the scorching sun and travel southwards.

The villagers watch dismayed as the clouds move away from them towards the horizon.

CUT TO... (4:00)

Scene 10

Lagaan, Despair & Conflict

*Village Square
Ext / Day*

Yashodamai breaks the mournful silence.

YASHODAMAI

हे राम... गाय खरीदी नहीं, घी की सुगंध आने लगी. बखत से पहले ही खुसियां. भगवान जाने किन करमन का फल दे रहा है?

GURAN

इस साल भी बूँद गिरने से रही.

Everyone is irritated with Guran's prediction.

ISMAIL

साला मनहूस!

HARI

कुछ भी बोलता रहता है!

ARJAN

काली जबान!

Just then, a voice is heard.

VOICE

वो ठीक कह रहा है. ना जाने कब आवेगी!

Everyone stops and looks at Shambhukaka, about 90, the oldest man in the village. Tipu is sitting next to Shambhukaka.

SHAMBHUKAKA

धुआं है यह, लपट नहीं. ये वो बादल है जो गरजते हैं... लेकिन बरसते नहीं... बरबादी का संदेश लेके घूमते रहते हैं.

BHURA

बरबादी मतलब?

SHAMBHUKAKA

अंधे का सपना समझ ले, बेटा. आंख खुली, फिर अंधेरा. मुझे अब भी याद है. पिछली दफें, ४० साल पहले, यह बादल, बस अकास में आए, चले गए. और तब तीन साल बारिश नहीं हुई... धरती बस दरार... दरार - गाँव छोड़ना पड़ा था.

GOLI

तो का अब की भी, काका?

SHAMBHUKAKA

नहीं. इस बरस तो जो अनाज है उसी में गुजर बसर हो जाएगा... मगर अगले साल अगर बूँदोने तरसाया तो हमें गाँव छोड़ना होगा उन्हींके तलाश में. राम रखवाला है. हम तो हाथ ही जोड़ सके हैं, बच्चे.

Everyone is silent as tears well up in their eyes. Gloom sets in as the villagers look at each other. Sounds of an approaching horseman. The villagers turn to see Puran Singh's emissary along with two soldiers who make a trumpet sound. The emissary unrolls a scroll and reads it aloud.

EMISSARY

सुनो... सुनो! गांववालों ऐलान सुनो. हुकुम महाराज पूरनसिंग का... बंदगी तुम्हारी. इस साल जितना गेहूँ-बाजरा चावल लगान पडता है, उसका दोगुना लगान वसूला जाएगा. ये हुकुम सारे प्रांत पर भी लागू होगा.

A mumble of protests are heard as a few farmers try to keep up with the horses 'ऐसा कैसे हो सकता है... ये तो ज्यादाती है...' The villagers are devastated with this declaration The emissary rides on without encouraging dialogue. The villagers speechlessly watch the riders leave a trail of dust. The villagers are dejected, depressed, angered and emotional. Some women start crying. And so do their children. The men make feeble attempts to control them. Arjan's wife Durga suddenly rushes in the direction of the distant horses and screams.

DURGA

दोगुना लगान!.. राच्छस... गरम चिमटे से खाल खींच लेयो हमारी! हमारी हालत छुपी है का महाराज से? फिर भी दुगना लगान?

Yashodamai and a couple of women pacify her. The headman of the village, Mukhiya, about 55, watches helplessly. Ishwar raises his protest.

ISHWAR

मगर कसूर का किया है जो दुगना लगान भरें?

KAZI

पिछले साल हम बखत से लगान नहीं दे पाए. दिए भी तो आधा.

ISMAIL

पर अब्बा, छूट तो राजाजी ही दिए थे न! बरखा की कमी से.

GOLI

दादा रे...

LAKHA

एक साल गुड अगले साल गाली. तब की सजा अब भुगतें?... वाह रे महाराज!..

MUKHIYA

चुप कर लाखा! महाराज के खिलाफ कोई भी ऊंची नीची नहीं सुनूँगा! महाराज और उनके पुरखों ने ही हमारे सिर पर साया रखा है बरसों...

ARJAN

साया रखा है तो? ऐहसान किया? छांव देना पेड का धर्म है. हम सिर्फ इत्ता जानना चाहें हैं कि भूखे पेट कब तक उनकी मल्हारें गाए? उनके गोदाम भरें?

MUKHIYA

बात समझा करो. यह दोगुना लगान महाराज की नहीं, गोरे सांडों की माँग है.

BHUVAN

मुखियाजी, चाहे दहिने हाथ पर धरो या बाएँ पर... लगान तो देना ही पडेगा! और वह तब देंगे जब हमऊ बारिश से लगान मिल जाए. अब पिछले साल का जो भी अनाज हमरे पास है, अगले साल तक वाके पेट पूज लेंगे... लेकिन यही अनाज अगर हमने लगान में भोग दिया तो हम जीएँगे कैसे? इसलिए मैं कहता हूँ हमें राजमहल जाना होगा! और महाराज से बात करनी होगी. यह बादल उनसे छुपे नहीं है. उन्हें बताना पडेगा कि हम लगान नहीं दे पाएँगे!... एक दाना नहीं.

MUKHIYA

और ये... ये बताने के बाद महाराज ने मना कर दिया तो?

BHUVAN

तो... तो फिर सारी अलग अलग अँगुलियों की मुट्ठी बँध जाएगी, मुखियाजी!

MUKHIYA

तुम लडोगे?!

BHUVAN

अगर जरूरत पडी तो वो भी...

MUKHIYA

तुम्हारी खोपडी घूम गई है, भुवन! खुद तो बरबाद होगे, हमें भी ले डूबोगे!

BHUVAN

अभी कौनसी जिन्दगी सुख भोग रही है? डूबे नाही हैं का?

MUKHIYA

वोई सही. मगर मैं पूरे गाँव पर धूल नहीं उडने दूँगा!.. समझे?

BHUVAN

का चाहते का हैं आप? घर बार बेंच दे?! गाय, भैंस और तन बेच दे दुगना लगान भरने को? कोई इन्साफ है?
There is silence. The meeting is suddenly punctuated with a shout from Guran.

GURAN

लगान एकम लगान... दूनी दुगना लगान... तियां... तीन गुना लगान! हा.. हा...
The villagers start murmuring amongst each other. Ismail arrives at a decision.

ISMAIL

भुवन सही कहता है!.. ईमान लगती!

HARI

राजा की छांव में जाना ही पडेगा!

ARJAN

और रस्ता ही का है?

MUKHIYA

पर एक बात सफा सुन लो! पुरखों से लेके आज तक किसी ने ऐसी जबान नहीं खोली है! राजा के सिक्के को खोटा नहीं कहा है! हुकुम खिलाफी नहीं की है.

MAI

ये हुकुम खिलाफी नहीं है, मुखियाजी. हमरी मजबूरी है. राजा हमारा रच्छक है. हम जाए कहाँ?

MUKHIYA

खटास की एक जरा सी बूँद पूरा दूध फाड के धर देगी! यशोदामाई! गांव पर ना जाने कौन सी बिपदा आन पडे!..

SHAMBHUKAKA

इस से बडी भी कोइ बिपदा होगी का, संकर? अरे पैर टेढे हो तो रस्ता भी टेढा ढूँढना पडता है. बखत पडने पर नदिया भी बहाव बदल देवे है. कोई हल तो निकालना ही है.

CUT TO... (4:30)

Scene 11

Bet is Set

Polo Cricket Ground

Ext / Day

The farmers arrive at the polo cricket ground. A cricket match between teams of British officers is in progress. Bhura spots the Rajah in the pavilion, who is being served some drinks. He offers a glass to Elizabeth who is seated next to him.

The villagers move towards the pavilion. They are stopped by a soldier before they can cross the boundary-line.

INDIAN SOLDIER

कहाँ जा रहे हो?

MUKHIYA

अरे एक मुस्किल आन पडी है. महाराजजी से मिलना बहुत जरूरी है.

INDIAN SOLDIER

ठीक है. लेकिन आप मैदान में नहीं जा सकते, क्योंकि इनका खेल चालू है. आप यहीं बैठो. खेल खत्म होने तक रुकना पड़ेगा.

MUKHIYA

ठीक है... अरे बैठ जाओ सब!

They sit down. The farmers watch the game in amazement.

GOLI

का जाने ससुरे का खेल रहे है?

BHUVAN

हमरा गिली-डंडा है ना - वैसे ही कुछ दिखे है.

BHURA

ये गोरे बालकन का खेल काहे खेल रहें हैं ?

The umpire declares a player out, by showing his finger. Immediately, the villagers start looking upwards at the sky and wonder what the umpire was talking about.

BHURA

बादल आ गए का?

The game resumes and the batsman, Russell, hits a shot. The fielder is unable to stop the ball as it hurtles towards the boundary line where the farmers are seated.

Puran Singh's eyes follow the ball and he spots the farmers. Polite applause in the pavilion greets the shot. Elizabeth, seated next to Puran Singh is excited.

ELIZABETH

Wasn't that a wonderful shot?

PURAN SINGH

Yes, the Captain strikes the ball as well as he shoots. He's a great sportsman.

The ball reaches the farmers. Bhura picks it up and starts to examine it. Suddenly he is struck on his shoulder. Bhura yells and falls, his hand releasing the ball.

BRITISH PLAYER

You're not supposed to touch the ball !

Bhuvan defiantly moves towards the ball and picks it up. He sees the British players's hand coming down on him. He holds it. There is a scuffle.

Puran Singh suddenly stands up on seeing that. The British player has fallen, Bhuvan stands next to him. Some players, Russell among them, rush there. Puran Singh moves swiftly towards the group.

The British player gets up. Smith is the first to reach.

SMITH

Bloody darkie! Arrest him!

Two soldiers clasp Bhuvan's hands behind his back. The farmers are too terrified to protest.

Puran Singh reaches them. The farmers lie down in obeisance saying, 'महाराज की... जय!'.

PURAN SINGH

यहाँ क्या कर रहे हैं आप?

Russell watches Bhuvan.

BHUVAN

दोस छमा महाराज. हम यहाँ आपसे मिलने आए हैं, इनका ये टुकटुक का सडियल भद्दासा खेल देखने नाही. दर्द जानना तो दूर की रही - इस गोरे ने भूरा पे हाथ छोड दिया?

Before Puran Singh can react, Russell intervenes.

PURAN SINGH

कैप्टन रसल...

RUSSELL

तुमने जो कहा... हमें पसंद नहीं आया!

PURAN SINGH

उसे माफ कीजिए रसल साहब, ये लोग अपनी समस्या लेकर आए है... बहुत दुखी है. ये लडका तो नादान है.

RUSSELL

इतना भी नादान नहीं है. जंगल में तुम्ही थे ना ?

Bhuvan says nothing.

RUSSELL

ठीक है... छोड़ दो उसे! इसका फैसला खेल के बाद करेंगे.

The players disperse and Puran Singh turns to the farmers.

PURAN SINGH

हम खेल के बाद मिलते हैं!

MUKHIYA

जो अज्ञा महाराज.

Puran Singh moves towards the pavilion and the farmers sit down. All are silent. They quietly watch the game. The game progresses with a series of shots by Russell and applause from the pavilion.

Russell gets set to face another ball. He gives a look towards the farmers. He sees Bhuvan pacing. The ball is delivered. Russell strikes the ball for a sixer.

The fielders congratulate the batsmen. The game has ended. The batsmen are cheered into the pavilion.

The farmers get up, but don't move.

Puran Singh gestures to the Sentry. The Sentry waves his hand to the farmers.

Mukhiya leads them across the field.

Cut to...

IIA

The farmers lie down in obeisance in front of Puran Singh.

FARMERS

महाराज की जय हो !

PURAN SINGH

अब बताओ मुखिया. क्या बात है ?

MUKHIYA

महाराज, आप जानते हैं माई बाप, अब तलक बरखा नहीं हुई है... जो है उसमें इस साल का बसर हो जाए, वही बहुत है. अन्नदाता, हम आपसे पैलगी करने आए हैं कि आप इस साल का... इस साल का पूरा लगान माफ कर दें, माईबाप.

PURAN SINGH

पूरा लगान माफ कर दें... देखो मुखिया, हम समझ सकते हैं आप लोगों पर क्या बीत रही है... लेकिन हमारे हाथ भी बँधे हुए हैं. ये गोरे चमडीवाले अपने बाप के सगे नहीं हैं... हम क्या है? आपको दुगना लगान देना ही पडेगा.

The farmers start murmuring. Russell comes out of the changing room wearing a sport sweater. He moves towards Puran Singh, his eyes on Bhuvan.

RUSSELL

कोई problem Your Highness?

PURAN SINGH

ये किसान एक खास अर्जी लेकर आए है और...

RUSSELL

वो क्या?

PURAN SINGH

वो चाहते है कि हम इस साल का लगान माफ कर दें.

Elizabeth along with a few other women is in the "European Women" tent, looks at Russell who is still focused on Bhuvan.

PURAN SINGH

देखिए, हमने उनसे ये कह दिया है कि ये नामुमकिन है.

RUSSELL

लेकिन, ये मुमकिन है.

PURAN SINGH

अच्छा!? कैसे ?

RUSSELL

हम बताता है.

Russell faces the farmers. Smith and some other players also join in.

RUSSELL

ठीक है. हम लगान माफ करेगा. सारे सूबे का माफ करेगा.

The farmers cannot believe what they have just heard. Bhuvan is suspicious.

RUSSELL

लेकिन एक शर्त है.

MUKHIYA

वो का है लाटसाहिब ?

Russell points at Bhuvan.

RUSSELL

तुम ! इधर आओ !

Bhuvan moves forward. Elizabeth watches Bhuvan.

RUSSELL

क्या कहा था तुमने हमारे खेल के बारे में ? What did he say... हाँ, सडियल... भद्दासा खेल है ! तुम इस खेल के बारे में क्या जानते हो ?

BHUVAN

बचपन से खेलते आ रहे हैं. हम इसे गिली-डंडा कहते हैं, और आप... ना जाने का!

RUSSELL

Cricket!! तो तुम्हारा ये कहना है कि ये cricket तुम खेल सकते हो.

BHUVAN

हाँ. असान है.

RUSSELL

ठीक है... तो मैं लगान माफ कर देता हूँ. लेकिन तुम्हें इस खेल में हमें हराना होगा. शर्त यह है कि तुम हमको इस खेल में हराओ और हम तुम्हारा लगान माफ कर देगा. You beat us in this game, and I'll cancel your tax.

Elizabeth is shocked. Smith tries to control his smile. Puran Singh is taken aback. The farmers are thrown in confusion. Russell continues to watch Bhuvan. A few officers join the meeting amused. Russell looks around and notices Elizabeth glaring at him, giving him a "you-can't-do-this" look. Russell gives her a "watch-me" look and glances at Bhuvan.

RUSSELL

लेकिन कहीं तुम हार गया तो तुम हमको triple tax, यानि तीन गुना लगान देगा. ठीक है? बोलो शर्त मंजूर है?

Bhuvan does not answer. The farmers look at each other, yet not sure.

SMITH

Sir... I think the cat's got his tongue.

A few other players snigger and crack in subdued laughter.

RUSSELL

Quiet! ठीक है... हम शर्त बढ़ाता है... तुम हमको इस खेल में हराओगे, तो तुम्हारा इस साल का तो क्या, हम अगले साल का भी लगान माफ कर देगा... है मंजूर?

Bhuvan's mind starts racing.

MUKHIYA

भुवन, कुछ मती कहना.

ISHWAR

चुप रहना.

RUSSELL

हम शर्त और बढ़ाता है... सिर्फ एक नहीं... अगले दो साल का लगान माफ कर देगा. सिर्फ तुम्हारा ही नहीं, सारे प्रांत का! अब मंजूर है?

The British officers and players who have gathered behind Russell, have smiles on their faces. Puran Singh is impassive as the farmers murmur in hushed whispers.

ISMAIL

हमें फँसाने को गड्ढा खोदा जा रहा है, भुवन, मुखियाजी... आप बात करें.

MUKHIYA

लाट साहिब...

RUSSELL

शट अप ! तुम ! बोलो, दुगना लगान दोगे ? कि शर्त मंजूर है ?

Everyone looks at Bhuvan. The farmers, the British, Elizabeth, Puran Singh and Russell. All eyes are on Bhuvan.

BHUVAN

शर्त मंजूर है.

The farmers are dismayed. Elizabeth looks at the woman next to her in disbelief.

ELIZABETH

Did he agree!?

WOMAN

Yes, he did.

Elizabeth is shocked. Russell is at first surprised, but likes his guts.

RUSSELL

ठीक है. तो फिर ये तय रहा. खेल, ठीक तीन महिने बाद खेला जाएगा.

As Russell leaves we hear मायबाप, ऐसा मत कीजिए, ये तो ज्यादाती है. Russell ignores their pleas and leaves the ground followed by the other officers. He crosses Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

It is unfair.

RUSSELL

So is life!

Elizabeth gives a pitiful look to Bhuvan as she leaves. Puran Singh leaves in a daze. The farmers plead to him and go alongside his carriage.

MUKHIYA

महाराज... महाराज... हमें बचा लीजिए... हम मर जाएँगे... महाराज...

Puran Singh ignores their cries. The farmers watch in shock as everyone leaves in buggies and on horses.

Mukhiya's fury knows no bounds. Neither's does Lakha's Arjan's and Ismail's. They turn menacingly towards Bhuvan. Bhuvan stands alone facing the farmers. Angry faces.

CUT TO... (7:00)

Scene 12
Bhuvan blasted

Village square
Ext / Day

In the village square, the farmers sit dejected. Lakha paces around giving the details of the meeting.

LAKHA

...जीत गए तो कौनो लगान नहीं होगा, लेकिन हार गए तो? तिगुना लगान भरना होगा! और ये नामुमकिन बात भुवन ने मंजूर कर दी.

SHAMBHUKAKA

ये तूने का किया भुवन?

ISMAIL

हम सबको कुए में धकेल दिया.

Mukhiya exchanges glances with the other farmers. Bhuvan stands alone in a corner.

ISHWAR

का जरूरत थी तो को सरत मंजूर करने की?

MUKHIYA

अब दुगने से तिगुना... उफ!

KAZI

अल्लाह... ये बोझ कैसे उठेगा?..

HARI

हो गया सत्यानास...

MUKHIYA

मैंने तो पहले ही कहा था. कोई बड़ी बिपदा आ सकती है. नई कहा था, भुवन?

BHUVAN

कोई चारा था? मैं पूछूँ था कोई चारा? का कर सकते थे हम? बताइए? दुगना लगान जबरदस्ती नहीं थी? भर सकते थे हम? भर सकते थे? ये बिपदा नहीं है मुखियाजी... मौका है मौका... मैंने जोस में हॉ नहीं की.(मुखियाजी)चूल्हे से रोटी निकालने को चिमटे को अपना मुँह जलाना पडता है. मानता हूँ हमारा पलडा हल्का है... लेकिन इसमें कुछ उम्मीद तो है, संभावना है और इसी संभावना को मैं सच्चाई में पलटना चाहता हूँ. ये खेल हैं हमारे खेत खलियांन के लिए. भूल गए? अगर जीते तो आनेवाले दो साल भी सुखी होंगे... दो साल... जरा सोचो... दो साल कोई लगान नहीं... जानो हो इसका मतबल. मतबल... हमारा अनाज सिरफ हमारा होगा. किसीको दाना नहीं देना पडेगा! इससे हमारे बच्चों की, हमरी, सारे गाँव की खुसहाली होगी! हमारा परसीना हमारे तन में खून बनेगा.

ARJAN

साबास! छोटी छोटी आँखें, बडे बडे सुपने!

BHUVAN

हाँ, मैं सुपना देख रहा हूँ... क्योंकि सुपने वही सफल कर पावे हैं जो उन्हें देखत हैं.(सुपना ही सही, आँख खुलने तो दो!)तीन महीने कम नहीं होते अर्जन! हम खेल सीख भी सके है... हरा भी सके है.

Bhura does not respond. Bhuvan moves towards Goli.

LAKHA

तीन महीने? साल भर भी डंडी पीटो भुवन, तो यह फिरंगी खेल नहीं सीख पाओगे. डाल दिया ना साँप के बिल में हाथ - अब भुगतो.

BHUVAN

मैं जानता हूँ ये असान नहीं है, लाखा, लेकिन मुखियाजी, ये नामुमकिन भी नहीं है. मुझे आप सबका साथ चाहिए.

ISMAIL

गाँव का कोई भी आदमी तुमरे इस पागलपन में साथ नहीं देगा.

BHUVAN

लेकिन इस्माइल...

MUKHIYA

बस! बहुत भया! कान खोलके सुनले भुवन - हमें एक ही आस है. पौधे को उखाडते बखत ऊपरसे पकडना पडता है - हम महाराज के पास फिर से जाएँगे और गुहार करेंगे.

The crowd expresses support in unison. Mukhiya gets up and walks towards his house.

All start moving towards their respective houses and shops.

Bhuvan looks at Goli, Bhura, Arjan and Ismail helplessly as they walk away.

Bhuvan & Mai stand in the square with the villagers yet moving to their respective houses.

CUT TO... (2:15)

Scene 13

Bhuvan and Yashodamai - The making of a bat

*Village: Bhuvan's House
Ext / Night*

Yashodamai sits at the entrance of the house. Bhuvan watches her while feeding the cattle.

BHUVAN

का सोच रही है, माँ?

YASHODAMAI

आज जो भया, वाई के बारे में, बेटा.

BHUVAN

माँ, तेरी कसम, मैंने जो किया... ठीक किया! मन कटता है मेरा जब हम राजा को लगान भरते हैं... और वह फिरंगियों की गंदी हथेली पर धर देता है! तू बोल माँ, धरती की छाती काटके बीज कौन बोएं हैं?.. हम बोएं! फिर सींचें कौन है? हम ही! तो फिर लगान उनकी गाठ काहे बाँध दे? गोरा साहब की बातों में अगले दो साल भी लगान माफ करने की बात थी!.. मैं का गूँगा हो जाता, माँ? तू बोल, गूँगा हो जाता?..

She keeps staring at him, tears in her eyes. Bhuvan sits before her.

BHUVAN

का सोच रही है?

Yashodamai walks up to him and runs her hand through his hair.

YASHODAMAI

यही रे कि बिल्कुल अपने बापू जैसा बोलता है. वे भी ऐसे ही जुझारू थे. खरी बोलते थे.

She wipes her tears

YASHODAMAI

अच्छा अब जा... सो जा. बोझ मती रख माथे पे. हे राम!

CUT TO... 1:00

Scene 14
Gauri supports

Village: Bhuvan's House
Ext / Night

It is a clear night. Bhuvan is watching the stars while lying on the 'khaat' in his courtyard. Just then, he hears the sound of a payal outside his gate. He gets up, curious, and walks out. He is surprised to find Gauri.

BHUVAN

गौरी? तू यहाँ का कर रही है?

GAURI

तो से ही मिलने आई थी - तोको ये बताने आई थी... कि मैं तेरे साथ हूँ. भरोसा है मोको... तेरी हिम्मत पर...

There is a pregnant pause, as she is awkward.

GAURI

बस... इत्ता ही कहने आई थी.

BHUVAN

हमम..!

She smiles at him, hesistantly retracks her steps, feels shy and runs away. Bhuvan smiles.

CUT TO... (1:15)

Scene 15
Bhuvan carves

Village: Bhuvan's House
Ext / Day

Wood being scraped. It is Bhuvan. His carpentry tools are lying around. He is making something. Tipu an 8-year-old kid runs into Bhuvan's courtyard.

TIPU

भुवन भैया... भुवन भैया, मेरी गिल्ली टूट गई... दूसरी छील दो...

Tipu notices what Bhuvan has in his hand.

TIPU

ई का है?

BHUVAN

बताता हूँ.

CUT TO... (0:20)

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Scene 16

Bagha - Guran join & Neighbouring Mukhiyas

Village Square

Ext / Day

Another day dawns in Champaner. But things are subdued. Mukhiya is in a huddle with a group of farmers, whispering among themselves.

Non-activity. Everyone is yet reeling and dazed from the earlier day. Suddenly, there is a new sound. Patting and whistling to a slow rhythm. The villagers see that it is Bhuvan. He is striking something on his thigh as he walks. Tipu, an 8 year old kid, walks with him. Bhuvan stops in the square and looks at everyone.

Bhuvan brings his hand up to reveal a crudely made bat. His other hand carries an object which resembles a ball. He starts to bounce the ball in his hand, whistling to himself. Gauri stands outside her courtyard. Jigni is with her. Ishwar sits on a 'khaat' outside the door. Bhuvan throws his voice more than required.

BHUVAN

कोई मुस्किल नहीं है टीपू... गोरे पतलून पहनकर इस खेल को किरकट कहते हैं... और हम लंगोटी बाँधके गिली-डंडा. हमारे बाप-दादा खेलते आ रहे हैं गिली-डंडा. अब जरा पीछे जा!

Tipu does as he is told.

BHUVAN

और पीछे... और... और... बस ! कुँआ में घुस जाएगा का? अब गोला पकड़!

Bhuvan throws the ball at Tipu. Tipu falters and misses the catch.

BHUVAN

अरे टीपू, ठीक से पकड़. ला इधर. मैं दिखाऊँ कैसे.

The villagers watch from the corner of their eyes, while pretending to be disinterested. Bagha also watches from the temple. Tipu throws the ball towards Bhuvan, who catches it, synchronising it with a whistle. He triumphantly looks at everyone. No one meets his eyes.

BHUVAN

देखा... बहुत असान है. तू भी सीख सके है. ये खेल बिल्कुल गिली-डंडे की तरह ही है. ये ले... गोला !

Bhuvan throws the ball at Tipu. All look at Tipu, who somehow manages to catch it.

BHUVAN

साबास ! देखा ! मैंने कहा ना असान है. अब दुसरा काम... फेंक गोला.

Bhuvan brings his bat in position. The villagers, watch as Tipu throws the ball. Bhuvan swings and misses. The villagers shake their heads, exchange looks and have contempt on their faces. Bhuvan sheepishly tries to save the situation.

BHUVAN

अरे वाह वाह वाह! तू तो गोला भी बहुत अच्छा फेंकता है, टीपू.

Bhuvan looks for the ball. It has landed near Gauri.

BHUVAN

गौरी... गोला फेंक!

She looks at Jigni and her other friends. She moves towards the ball. Ishwar is alarmed. He stops her.

ISHWAR

ई का कर रही है गौरी? चल पानी गरम कर!

She looks at Ishwar glances at Bhuvan and enters the house. Bhuvan picks up the ball and goes back.

BHUVAN

हाँ! टीपू... फेंक... अब मारना कैसे हैं सो दिखाता हूँ.

Tipu takes the ball and prepares to throw. The villagers get ready for yet another humiliation. Bhuvan takes his position, shuffling his feet, fingers opening and closing on the handle, jaw hardening. Tipu throws. Everyone watches the ball travel towards Bhuvan. His bat moves far back, swings forward and strikes the ball.

The ball takes off high in the sky, the villagers watching open-mouthed, Bhura falling out of his shop to look at the flying ball. The ball flies into the temple, hits the temple bell with a resounding clang and lands next to Bagha who picks up the ball.

Bhuvan and Tipu run to the base of the temple and signal Bagha to throw the ball. He lets it go. It bounces down the steps and reaches Bhuvan. He picks it up, smiles at Bagha and turns away.

Suddenly there is a drum stroke. Bhuvan is surprised to see Bagha walk down the steps, striking his drum in single strokes. All villagers wonder. Bagha stands before him. He removes the 'dhol', takes the bat from Bhuvan's hand and gestures him to back up. The villagers are astounded.

Gauri takes this as an opportunity and looks at Ishwar.

GAURI

बापू एक बात कहूँ?

ISHWAR

का?

GAURI

मुझे लगे है... भुवन सई कर रहा है.

Ishwar thinks about it, wants to agree, but does not accept it.

ISHWAR

ठीक है, ठीक है. पानी गरम हो गया?

Bhuvan throws the ball at Bagha who manages to connect the bat with it. The ball travels along the ground and lands near Guran. Guran picks it up and walks up to Bhuvan.

GURAN

बाघा की तरह, मैं भी तुम्हारे साथ हूँ.

Bhuvan smiles at them, ruffles Tipu's hair and glances proudly at the villagers who look on.

Cut to...

16A

Suddenly behind them in the village street, a crowd of about 100, on bullock-carts, furiously enters the square. There are about 20 turbaned men. Bhuvan looks at them questioningly, expecting trouble. They get off from the bullock carts and spread out asking questions. One person points out and says 'ये है भुवन!'

On hearing that the whole lathi-wielding mob rushes in a frenzy towards Bhuvan. Arjan, Bagha, Ishwar and Ismail anticipate trouble and move towards him. Mukhiya rushes in at the last moment and shields Bhuvan.

MUKHIYA

लाठी उठाने से पहले, गाँव की मरजादा का ध्यान रखो रामपरसाद.

RAMPRASAD

हमें गाँव से नहीं, इस हरामजादे भुवन से बैर है. हम उसे सबक सिखाने आए हैं.

NAMDEO

इसकी गलती का बोझ हम काहे उठाए, संकर?

Yashodamai and Gauri watch in horror.

RAMPRASAD

अबे छौने, तू होता कौन है हमारे लिए फैसला करनेवाला?

BHUVAN

मैंने जो किया है, उसीमें सबकी भलाई है.

NAMDEO

भलाई गई भाड चूले में. अब तू गोरे साब से माफी माँगेगा और ये खेल-वेल गया पोखर में... समझा?

RAMPRASAD

नई तो जानो तुमरी खैर नहीं.

MUKHIYA

धीरज से काम लो रामपरसाद... तुम जो कह रहे हो वोई होगा.

BHUVAN

लेकिन मुखियाजी...

MUKHIYA

बस भुवन, अब कोई नई... हमें महाराज के पास जाना होगा.

CUT TO... (4:45)

Scene 17

Puran Singh refuses to help

Rajah's Fort
Int / Day

A canvas. An artist is giving detail touches to Rajah Puran Singh's painting. The detail he is working on is the crown. The painting is beautifully identical with the actual setting. The farmers stand in respect on the side.

PURAN SINGH

अब बात मंदिर, खेल या दुगना लगान की नहीं रही. बात अब अंग्रेज की, सनकी कॅप्टन रसल के अहंकार की है!

Alongwith the Mukhiya are Ramprasad, Namdeo, Bhuvan and other elders of the village.

MUKHIYA

महाराज, अब आप ही दया करें!

NAMDEO

उस गोरे साब से दुबारा बात कर लें सरकार.

RAMPRASAD

क्षमा करें, महाराज. भुवन छौना है अभी. जोस में था. खौलते पानी में तो चेहरा भी दिखाई न देवे है, महाराज.

Puran Singh looks at them from the corner of his eyes.

PURAN SINGH

ये जोश होश की बात नहीं है! इसने तुम सबकी तरफ से अँग्रेजों को ललकारा है.

NAMDEO

यह गोरे साहब से माफी माँगने को तैयार है... और हम सब भी.

BHUVAN

बीस कोड़े मार ले महाराज... मैं कोई माफी नहीं माँगूंगा!

PURAN SINGH

अब तो माफी का सवाल ही नहीं! जो कर दिया उसे भुगतना पडेगा.

MUKHIYA

तो अब का करें हजूर?

PURAN SINGH

एक ही काम कर सकते हो... उनका खेल सीखो!

The Mukhiyas on hearing this finality are dejected.

CUT TO... (00:45)

Scene 18

Elizabeth offers help

Polo Cricket Ground
Ext / Day

Englishmen playing cricket. This view is through a lot of foliage and from a little height. A batsman plays the ball. A fielder runs, collects the ball and throws it back to the wicket keeper.

The P.O.V. is of Bhuvan, Tipu, precariously perched atop a tree, behind the boundary line and intently watching the game along with Bagha and Guran. Tipu is confused.

TIPU

भुवन भैया, ये बाकी के सब काहे खडे है मैदान में?

BHUVAN

ठीक गिली-डंडे की तरह... गिली पकडने... मतलब गोला पकडने के लिए.

The batsman tries to cut a delivery and is caught behind. The umpire raises his finger signalling 'out'.

TIPU

वो अकास की तरफ अँगुली काहे उदा रहा है?

Guran cranes his neck to look up at the sky. So do the others. It is a clear sky. Guran makes guttural sounds.

BHUVAN

यहीं में समझने की कोसिस कर रहा हूँ.

GURAN

(looks up) बरखा माँग रहा है का? (angry) अपनी अम्मा को याद कर रहा हैगा! ऊपर बैठी है न!

Tipu controls his laughter as he exchanges a look with Bagha.

Elizabeth is seated in the pavilion. A shot is played. Elizabeth follows the ball through her binoculars as it reaches a fielder near the boundary line. The fielder throws the ball back to the bowler. She does a double-take on noticing some movement up on a tree behind the boundary. She gets curious and on a concentrated look discovers Bhuvan.

She excuses herself and walks out of the pavilion. She casually starts to stroll along the boundary line. She walks towards the tree where Bhuvan and his gang are hiding.

Bhuvan notices her

BHUVAN

ए... वो गोरी इधर ही कोआ रई है.

Bhuvan gestures everyone to be quiet. Guran's branch makes a sound when he takes his feet up..

Elizabeth reaches the tree. The branch breaks and Guran falls down.

Elizabeth is startled. She shrieks. A player in the distance looks at her. Tipu, Bagha and Bhuvan jump down. Elizabeth composes herself on seeing Bhuvan. The player calls out from the distance.

PLAYER

Miss! What happened? The darkies bothering you?

ELIZABETH

It's alright! They're farmers... I know them. Thank you. Carry on with your game.

PLAYER

You sure, Miss?

ELIZABETH

Yes, of course!

The player rejoins the game.

Elizabeth tries to make conversation.

ELIZABETH

I know what you were doing up on that tree. You were trying to know the game.

BHUVAN

नहीं... नहीं... मेमसाब, हम तो ये खेल समझने पे लगे हैं.

ELIZABETH

Oh ! I thought you were trying to know the game...

Bhuvan looks at Bagha, Guran and Tipu who look back equally baffled.

TIPU

भुवन भैया, का कह रही है?

BHUVAN

मुझे लगे है वो हमें जाने के लिए कह रही है... ठीक है मेमसाब, हम जाते है.

They start to move. Elizabeth gestures to them.

ELIZABETH

Wait ! Wait !!

She looks at the pavilion, spots Ramsingh and calls out.

ELIZABETH

Ramsingh !

She smiles at Bhuvan.

ELIZABETH

I'm going to need help to understand what you are saying and to make you understand what I have to say.

Bhuvan forces an awkward smile as if he has understood everything. Ramsingh reaches them.

RAMSINGH

Yes Memsahib ? What can I do ?

ELIZABETH

I want you to tell them that I would like to help them know the game.

RAMSINGH

Yes Memsahib! मेमसाब कह रही है कि इस खेल को समझने में मदद...

He halts. He calls Elizabeth away from them.

RAMSINGH

मेमसाब... लेकिन आपके भाईसाहब को अगर पता चला तो... I mean Russell Sahib will be angry...

ELIZABETH

Can I trust you, Ramsingh?

RAMSINGH

Of course, Memsahib!

ELIZABETH

No one should know about this.

RAMSINGH

Alright, Memsahib (mutters in disbelief) किसीको पता नहीं चलेगा. (walks towards Bhuvan) मेमसाब, कह रही है, कि इस खेल को समझने में वो तुम्हारी मदद करना चाहेंगी.

Bhuvan is surprised and happy. But is immediately suspicious.

BHUVAN

लेकिन काहे? यह भी तो गोरी है.

RAMSINGH

Memsahib, the man wants to know why you would want to do this as you too are British.

ELIZABETH

Tell him, because I know what happened with them was unfair and I want to give them a fair chance.

RAMSINGH

मेमसाब कह रही हैं कि वो जानती है, तुम्हारे साथ ज्यादाती हुई है और इसलिए वो तुम लोगों को बराबर का मौका देना चाहती हैं...

Bhuvan's face brightens up upon hearing this. He looks at Elizabeth ignoring Ramsingh.

BHUVAN

हमें खुसी होगी... सुक्रिया !

Guran smiles and rolls his eyes.

GURAN

का बात है!

RAMSINGH

He'll be glad to receive your help and thanks you in return.

ELIZABETH

Tell him I'll meet him tomorrow, same time. But not here. And certainly not in the village. Some other, quiet place, maybe?

RAMSINGH

मेमसाब कल मिलेंगी.. इसी समय... लेकिन यहाँ नहीं और गाँव में भी नहीं... कोई दूसरी जगह है? अलग?

Bhuvan observes Elizabeth as Ramsingh translates.

BHUVAN

समझ गया... हमम... गाँव के नजदीक जो टीला है... वा के पास?

RAMSINGH

हाँ, ठीक है. He says you can meet him behind the hill, close to the village. I know the place.

ELIZABETH

Okay... What's his name ?

RAMSINGH

मेमसाब तुम लोगों का नाम जानना चाहती है.

BHUVAN

ये है बाघा... वो गुरन, ये टीपू और मैं हूँ भुवन!

ELIZABETH

Bhau... vaan.

BHUVAN

नहीं, नहीं... भुवन!

ELIZABETH

Bhoovaan!

Everyone laughs, especially Guran.

BHUVAN

भुवन... वन... वन!

ELIZABETH

Bhuvon?

BHUVAN

हाँ... अब सही फूटी!

Everyone agrees.

ELIZABETH

My name is Elizabeth.

RAMSINGH

मेमसाब का नाम है एलिजाबेथ.

BHUVAN

• ऐ... ली... और क्या? बेथ... बाप रे! नाम लो तो ससुरी जीभ टेढी हो जाए.

GURAN

(nods and smiles furiously) अच्छा नाम है... अच्छा नाम है... जो भी है!

Elizabeth laughs. Bhuvan joins his hands as they leave.

BHUVAN

नमस्ते!

Elizabeth watches them go and softly repeats his name.

ELIZABETH

Bhuvan!

CUT TO... (4:00)

Scene 19

Goli joins

Village street / Goli's house

Ext / Night

It is night. Goli is playing with his kids in his courtyard. They have just finished dinner. His wife is cleaning up.

Bhuvan alongwith Bagha, Guran, Tipu and Gauri watch from a distance.

GAURI

भुवन... वो कब्बी नई मानेगा...

BHUVAN

मानेगा... एक तरकीब है...

Bhuvan walks towards Goli's house and enters the compound.

19A

Goli's house.

Goli is surprised to see him and avoids eye-contact. Bhuvan greets Goli's wife and taps the head of his kids.

BHUVAN

पैलागी भाभी... का कर रहा है सैतान, तो गोली, दाना-पानी जीमा?

GOLI

हाँ...

Goli eyes him intermittently as Bhuvan sits comfortably on the 'khatiya'.

GOLI'S WIFE

सारा दिन दिखाई न दिए, भुवन भैया?

BHUVAN

का करू भाभी... तैयारी में जुटा पडा था.

GOLI

कैसी चल रही है तेरी खेल की तैयारी ?

BHUVAN

सुरुवात है... धागा पकड रहे हैं.

GOLI

जानत है, गाँववाले खिल्ली उडात रहेन! बोले, का साथी मिले है भुवन को. बाघा और गुरन. एक को ढोल पीटने के अलावा कुछ आवे नहीं... और दूसरा पागलों की तरह आँखे फाड़ें घूरत रहेन.

Goli feels someone sitting next to him and gets a shock to see Guran and Bagha staring him in the eye.

GOLI

नई नई... ऐसा गाँववाले कहिन... राम राम... हम नहीं.

BHUVAN

इनके अलावा एक गोरी मेम भी हमरे साथ है. खेल सिखाएगी.

GOLI

गोरी मेम? का हाँक रहा है?

Gauri walks up to Goli's wife and takes the child from her and cradles her.

BHUVAN

सच्ची! पूछ ले इन से.

GOLI

गौरी, का ई सच है?

Gauri gives a jealous look at Bhuvan and then fakes excitement.

GAURI

हाँ... है कोई गोरी मेम!

GOLI

मतबल यह कि तू सचमुच खेलोगे?

BHUVAN

और चारा का है? हमरे पास तेरे जित्ता खेत भी तो नाही है कि एक टुकडा फाड दें.

GOLI

का माने? मैं काहे बेचूँ अपना खेत?

BHUVAN

दुगना लगान का नानी के घर से देगा?.. खैर... चलता हूँ.

As Bhuvan proceeds to get up, Goli stops him.

GOLI

ए भुवन... मैं काम आ सकूँ हूँ?

BHUVAN

और का तेरी भैंस काम आवेगी? मरे तू ही तो सबसे जादा काम का है!

GOLI

सो कैसे?

BHUVAN

अब जैसे गोफन मुरियाता है वैसे ही गोला. का निसाना है तेरा!.. धाँय से!

GOLI

तो... तो का सचमुच हमरा लगान माफ होगा? हम भरपेट जीमेंगे?.. सुपने सच होंगे? नई नई... तू गीली चुटकिया में नमक पकड रहा है.

BHUVAN

भरोसा कर... मैं सच कह रहा हूँ!

Goli is flushed with emotion.

Guran starts playing the 'ektara', his string instrument. A very upbeat rhythm is added by Bagha.

CUT TO... (2:00)

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Scene 20 : Playback Song Three
Success!

Goli's house / Village Square / Cantonment
Int-Ext / Night

Guran proclaims 'हर संत कहे, साधु कहे - सच और साहस है जिसके मन में, अंत में जीत उसीकी रहे.'

The song is full of hopes and dreams.

Bhuvan joins the song. Gauri also sings expressing her insecurity about Gori Mem.

The song shifts from inside the house to the yard where Yashodamai watches.

The rest of the village also watches from closed doors and windows.

Jigni would love to be a part of it, but she dare not, as she exchanges a look with Arjan, her brother.

As a cut away we also see Elizabeth learning to speak the language from Ramsingh.

Ishwar finally accepts the idea of supporting Bhuvan.

As the song ends, Lakha simmering with anger, watches Bhuvan and Gauri together.

CUT TO... (5:00)

Scene 21

Lakha proposes - Gauri refuses

*Lakha's courtyard / Gauri's House
Int - Ext / Afternoon*

Lakha stands in his courtyard looking impatiently in the direction of Gauri's house. Ishwar walks out of the house, meets another man coming in.

ISHWAR

ए गौरी, भीमा को पीठदरद का लेप दे देना!

Ishwar leaves and Bheema enters the house. Lakha gets an idea. He slashes his palm with an axe and starts towards her house. Bheema walks out as Lakha enters.

Cut to...

21A

*Gauri's house.
Gauri sees him.*

GAURI

अब, तुझे का दरद है?

Lakha looks at her tentatively.

GAURI

जल्दी बोल. मुझे अबेर हो रई है.

Lakha shows her the wound.

GAURI

हाय राम... फिर से हाथ कटवा लिया?

She leads him to a medicine cabinet and starts nursing the wound. Lakha watches her and finds the right moment.

LAKHA

गौरी, कल रात मैंने बहुत सोची और उडे दिन घुमड आए... याद हैं, बचपन में भी कैसे अल्लड रहा करता था... भुवन से लडना, तुझे चिढाना, खेलत पे गिली छुपा देना... (laughs) ऐसा लगे है जुग बीत गया, साथ खेले... है ना?

Gauri takes notice.

LAKHA

देख. मुझे भी लगे है कि भुवन जो कर रया है, सई कर रया है. मैंने अब बाँध ली है... खेलूँगा!... वा का साथ दूँगा!...

GAURI

सच्ची? तो चल मेरे साथ!..

She places a couple of boxes in the cabinet.

LAKHA

एक बात और कैनी है!

She turns to face him.

GAURI

हाँ... बोल..!

LAKHA

गौरी, तेरी कसम, तुझे छुटपनेसे देखा है... छुटपनेसे बहुत चाहा है! सारा सारा दिन तेरे बारे में ही सोचा करूँ हूँ. रात में पलक न झपके है. मैं का करूँ? मैं तुझे चाहूँ हूँ गौरी. फेरे घूम ले मेरे साथ. सेन्दूर डाल ले मेरी चुटकी का. मन की रानी बना के रखूँगा, कसम से! बस... इत्ती ही...

She keeps staring at him point blank as he expresses his hearts desire.

GAURI

कह ली बात? अब मेरी सुन ले. ये कब्बी नहीं होगा.

She walks off towards the kitchen sink and picks up a food bundle. Lakha walks behind her.

LAKHA

काहे?(क्यों?)क्योंकि तू भुवन से प्यार करे है?

GAURI

जब जाने है तो फिर उलझ काहे रहा है?

She walks out of the house. Lakha follows her.

LAKHA

देख, समज ले... भुवन जो कर रया है वा में मुँह की खाएगा.

Gauri locks the door and looks at him sharply.

GAURI

अच्छा?! अब्बी तो कुछ और फेंक रहा था?... साथ दूँगा!

LAKHA

देख गौरी... मैं लकडहारा हूँ. एक कुल्हाडी में पेड धॉय से जमीन पे!... समझी?

GAURI

तो तू भी सुन ले... जिसे पेड समझ रहा है न वो चट्टान है चट्टान! कुल्हाडी से पत्थर काटेगा? धत्त!..

She sarcastically smiles and walks out of her courtyard. Just then, marching troops pass by in the village street. Lakha frustrated watches her go, as the troops cover and uncover his face.

CUT TO... (2:15)

Scene 22

The first lesson - Ishwar & Bhura join

Practise Field
Ext / Day

A small hill. Next to it is an open ground. In the distance, the village can be seen. Ishwar has the bat in hand while Goli throws the ball. Ishwar connects and Bagha fields. Tipu sits crouched in the field. Bhuvan guides them.

BHUVAN

वा ईसरकाका! वा!! गई अंग्रेज की भैस पानी में!

Tipu is restless.

TIPU

वो गोरी आई नहीं अभी तक.

Gauri reaches them.

GAURI

ले... मैं आ गई!

BHUVAN

अहं! वह तेरी नहीं... गोरी मेम की बाट जोह रहा है!.. गोरी नहीं... गोरी!

Gauri does not like the remark.

TIPU

वो आ गई...

A carriage driven by 2 horses appears. Everyone prepares to receive the 'Gori Mem'. Their eagerness gets to Gauri.

GAURI

अच्छा भुवन ये बता, वा भुतनिया तुमरे सात देवे को तैय्यार कैसे हो गई?

Bhuvan glances at Gauri understanding the implication of the question. Tipu pipes up as the carriage comes closer.

TIPU

सीधी सी बात... भा गया भुवन!

GAURI

ऐसा?

The carriage halts.

BHUVAN

चुप टीपू... तू बहुत फुदकता है!..

A young 14 year old buggy rider controls the horses. Ramsingh who was sitting next to him, gets off and opens the door. Gauri prepares herself with nose in the air to receive the Memsahib. Elizabeth gets off in all her Victorian splendour. Gauri too is mesmerised by her beauty. Elizabeth walks towards them and smiles at Gauri who is surprised and finds herself smiling back at her. Elizabeth joins her palms and speaks with an accent.

ELIZABETH

नमस्ते!

Everyone is taken aback but they quickly reciprocate.

EVERYONE

नमस्ते... नमस्ते.

Elizabeth points at Gauri.

ELIZABETH

ये कौन है?

BHUVAN

अरे! आप तो जल्दी ही सीख गई हमारी भासा.

ELIZABETH

हाँ! रामसिंग सिखाया. ये कौन है ?

BHUVAN

ये इसरभाई... और ये गोली... और ये गौरी है. सब हमारे साथ है.

ELIZABETH

फिर मिलेंगे...

They are shocked.

RAMSINGH

मेमसाब आप गलत बोल गई. Wrong line. बोलिए - मिलकर खुशी हुई.

ELIZABETH

Oh God, sorry. मिलकर खुशी हुई.

All laugh.

ISHWAR

हमें भी...

ELIZABETH

All right, Bhuvan. Tell me, what do you know about the game ?

RAMSINGH

मेमसाब पूँछ रही है - तुम खेल के बारे में क्या जानते हो?

BHUVAN

कुछ खास नहीं... ६ डंडियाँ हों हैं... तीन इस तरफ तीन उस तरफ... दो लोग हाथों में फलियाँ लेकर उन डंडियों के आगे खड़े रहें हैं... एक मानूस दौड़ के डंडियों के पास से गोला फेंकता है. फलीवाला फली से गोले को मारता है और फिर सब भागने लगते हैं. उनमें से एक गोला उठाता है और जिस मानूस ने पहले गोला फेंका था उसके पास वापस फेंकता है... जो फिर से दौड़कर...

Ramsingh is baffled with this speedy onslaught of information and turns to Elizabeth.

RAMSINGH

Sorry Memsahib, I can't translate all that.

ELIZABETH

No need. I understood most of that. He knows nothing. Tell him - cricket is played by two teams...

RAMSINGH

क्रिकेट दो दलों के बीच खेला जाता है - जैसे तुम्हारा और अंग्रेजों का...

ELIZABETH

Each team has...

RAMSINGH

हर दल में...

ELIZABETH

11 players...

RAMSINGH

११ खिलाड़ी होते हैं.

ELIZABETH

There are three aspects to it. Batting, bowling and fielding

RAMSINGH

इस खेल के तीन खास हिस्से होते हैं - पहला बल्लेबाजी...

BHUVAN

बल्लेबाजी? माने?

RAMSINGH

बल्लेबाजी मतलब बल्ले से मारना... बल्ला यानि थापी...

BHUVAN

अ... च्छा... थापी!

All exchange knowing looks.

RAMSINGH

फिर - गेंदबाजी, यानि गेंद को फेंकना... गेंद यानि गोला... और तीसरा - क्षेत्ररक्षण, यानि लपकना - गेंद को boundary-पार जाने से रोकना...

BHUVAN
बांड़ी... बांड़ी (सतलब) मतबल ?

ISHWAR
इतनी गाढी भासा मेरा ताऊ न समझ सके! जाने का बडी बडी फेंक रहा है.

RAMSINGH
boundary-पार यानि... Memsahib, what's a boundary line ?

ELIZABETH
Let me show you.

Elizabeth draws a circle on the ground and proceeds to explain.

Throughout all this, Gauri has been watching Bhuvan listening to Elizabeth attentively. She observes Elizabeth's hair, her skin, the way she has dressed up. For a horrible moment the thought of losing Bhuvan to the Memsahib crosses her mind – She is brought out of her reverie by Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH
Gauri... Gauri.

GAURI
हाँ जी..

ELIZABETH
What happened?

BHUVAN
का हुआ?

GAURI
कुछौ नहीं!

ELIZABETH
बस... आज के लिए बहुत है.

BHUVAN
अरे हाँ! मेमसाब, कौनसा दल जीता है, सो कैसे पता चलेगा... आखिर में पगडी किसके सर पर बँधती है?

RAMSINGH
He wants to know... which team wins?

ELIZABETH
(in chorus with Ramsingh) Which team wins? The team that makes the maximum runs wins.

RAMSINGH
जो दल सबसे ज्यादा दौड बनाएगा... वो जीतेगा...

Bhuvan realises the target of the game and so do the others.

GURAN

रपा रप है! हम दौडते रहेंगे.

Ramsingh is restless.

RAMSINGH

Memsahib, I think we should leave now... it is getting late.

Elizabeth gets up, followed by others.

ELIZABETH

मुझे जाना है...

BHUVAN

हाँजी... अल्लीजा... और बेथ बेथ... धत्त, जीभ पलट गई... मेमसाब हम आपको अल्लीजा मेमसाब कहें तो?

ELIZABETH

ठीक है!

TIPU

आप कल आवेंगी न?

ELIZABETH

हाँ... now is the time to say 'फिर मिलेंगे'correct?

All laugh. She gets into the carriage and leaves.

Cut to...

22A

Bhuvan calls out to everyone.

BHUVAN

चलो, सुरू करते हैं, लेकर परभू का नाम...

Bhuvan throws the ball. Guran, Bagha, Goli and Ishwar stand in the field at a distance. The ball lands in Bagha's hands, quickly bounces out and falls next to him.

BHUVAN

गेंद को लपकने की जुगत करो. उसे गिरने मती दो. पहले से तैयार रहो.

ISHWAR

भुवन, मेमसाब बोली थी कि दल मे ११ लोग होने चाहिए - और हम तो सिर्फ ५ हैं.

Gauri opens the food packet. Starts making a roll.

GAURI

५ काहे? मैं भी तो हूँ... जो कुछ वो गोरी मेम कर सके है वो मैं भी तो कर सकूँ हूँ!

She gives the roll to Bhuvan. Bhuvan breaks it in two and gives her one half.

BHUVAN

ठीक है गोरी.... ५ नहीं छः... इसरकाका जिस तरह आपने गाँव के बारे में सोचा है, उसी तरह और भी लोग सोचेंगे और आ जाएँगे - या फिर हम उन्हें खींच लाएँगे.

GURAN

ए गोली, ले पकड

Guran yells out to Goli as he throws the ball towards him. Goli waits with palms wide open before his face.

Gauri, Bhuvan and Ishwar watch as the ball passes through his palms and hits him on the forehead. He collapses, dazed. Gauri, Bhuvan and Ishwar smile while, Guran, Bagha and Tipu have a hearty laugh. Goli feels further embarrassed, gets up enraged, spots the ball and throws it towards Guran angrily. The ball is thrown with so much force that it travels beyond Guran and Baghadisappears behind a small mound. Everyone starts to laugh.

BHUVAN

तुम सब हँस काहे रहे हो. गोली, कोई बात नहीं. तुमरे सरीर में हम सबसे जादा ताकत है, लेकिन उतनी ही लगाओ जितनी जरूरत हो.

Cut to...

22B

Suddenly they hear curses from behind the mound. Hens and chickens fly upwards. Bhura emerges on top holding the ball in his hand. He is in a rage.

BHURA

ई गोला किसने फेंका ?

TIPU

गोलीचाचा ने.

Bhura throws the ball in anger and rushes towards Goli.

BHURA

आज तो मैं गोली नहीं छोड़ूँगा.

Bhuvan smiles as Ishwar moves towards them.

ISHWAR

ओफ ओ... इनके झगडे कब खत्म होंगे मरे ? अरे भूरा...

BHURA

ईसरभाई... आज आप बिल्कुल बीच में मती पडना...निपट लेने दो!

While watching Bhura, Bhuvan has an idea. He takes the ball from Tipu and looks at Gauri.

BHUVAN

ये है... अपना सातवाँ खिलाडी !

Gauri looks at him surprisingly as he screams Bhura's name and throws the ball at him. Bhura reacts to the call instinctively and catches the ball.

BHUVAN

ईसरकाका, आपने देखा ? ऐसे पकडते हैं गेंद को. का बात है, भूरा !... जीता रह बिना पानी के!

Ishwar guesses Bhuvan's plan. He also takes part in this scheme.

ISHWAR

अच्छा, तो ऐसे गुपचते है.

BHUVAN

तो फिर... ए भूरा, वापस गुपच कर दिखा इन लोगों को... और खासकर इस गोली को, इसे तो बिल्कुल पकडना न आवे...
ए, सब लोग... थोडा बगली काटो !

Everyone moves aside leaving Bhura alone.

Gauri smiles as she watches Bhuvan's tactic.

Bhura stands alone wondering what was the great thing he did. Bhuvan throws the ball with greater speed this time. Bhura once again catches it perfectly. Everyone starts applauding. Bhura is confused about how he should react to this new-found importance.

ISHWAR

अरे भूरा... ये तूने कहाँ से सीखा ?

BHUVAN

मैं बताता हूँ. गेंद तो ससुरी सीधी-सीधी आवे है. लेकिन मुर्गियाँ पकडने के लिए बदन में मरी फुरती होनी चाहिए, जो इसमें है... और अब भूरा ही हम सब को सिखाएगा... क्यों रे भूरा ?

Bhura unknowingly becomes a part of the team. He looks at them, perplexed.

BHURA

सो तो चौकस है... लेकिन...

BHUVAN

लेकिन का ?

BHURA

मेरी मुर्गियाँ ?

Cut to a wide shot of the field and hillock to see everyone rushing in zig-zag fashion to gather his hens.

CUT TO... (6.30)

Scene 23

Bhuvan teases Gauri

*Village: Bhuvan's House
Int-Ext / Dusk*

Gauri massages oil on Yashodamai's feet. Mai is relieved.

YASHODAMAI

बस गौरी बेटा बस!

GAURI

होई गया न, अब आपका पैर का दर्द कम हो जाएगा.

YASHODAMAI

हो गया पगली... तेरे हाथ बहुत गुनी हैं.

Gauri feels elated. Yashodamai gets up, walks to the kitchen shelf, empties a portion of the food in another container, wraps it and gives it to Gauri.

YASHODAMAI

ये ले. ईसरभाई के लिए.

GAURI

बापू के लिए?

YASHODAMAI

देख बेटी, तेरी माँ तो सुहागन सुरग चढ गई! और तू सारा दिन भुवन के साथ खेल की तैय्यारी में लगी रहती है. अब ईसर भाई दुकान संभालें कि चूल्हा फूँकें?... कि खेलें? ये ले और अब देर मती कर... जा!

Gauri is touched. She smiles and walks out of the house.

Cut to...

23B

Courtyard.

In the courtyard she comes across Bhuvan who has just returned.

GAURI

ए भुवन... बात सुन!

Bhuvan decides to tease her.

BHUVAN

अब गुरन ने का कह दिया ? ...ब्याह नहीं होगा?

GAURI

धत्! गुरन नहीं... मरे लाखा ने...

BHUVAN

लाखा ने ? ...वह भी भविस बांचने लगा?

GAURI

ओफ ओ... पकर पकर मती कर! वह बोला है की मुझे टूट के परेम करे है! हल्दी रचावेगा मेरे साथ!

BHUVAN

का बोली? वाह वाह! गुरन की कही सच निकली!

Gauri is shocked. Bhuvan speaks as if in a trance.

BHUVAN

तो गुरन ने तुझे लाखा के साथ फेरे बोले थे! पर वाके घर नीम का पेड है? नहीं है! खैर, पेड कही से उखाडके जमा देंगे!
भैंसें...? ...हैं! बकरिया नहीं! हाँक लावेंगी किसी की! उहं.... तू सुखी रहेगी! जीती रह जन्नो!

Gauri cannot take it any more.

GAURI

माई... माई !

Yashodamai answers from inside.

YASHODAMAI

तू अभी तक गई नहीं ? का हुआ ?

GAURI

ये मेरी खिल्ली उडा रहा है.

YASHODAMAI

भुवन, तू उसे छेड मती!

BHUVAN

छेडे कौन है, माई! खुसी मना रहा हूँ. पींsss (शहनाई action)

GAURI

तू मोको काहे छेडता है?

BHUVAN

चुप! बात सुन! माला देखी है न? हार गूथने को फूल सुई से छेदा जावें हैं की नहीं? बोल!

GAURI

तो मैं माला हूँ?

BHUVAN

नहीं... सूई, जो चुबती रहवें है.

Gauri gets frustrated.

GAURI

आज के बाद मैं तोसे बात नहीं करूँगी. और मैदान पर तेरे कदम भी नहीं रखूँगी.

Bhuvan smiles as he watches her go.

YASHODAMAI

भुवन... खाना परोस दिया है... आज!

He loses his smile as he remembers what she has told him.

BHUVAN

लाखा!

FADE OUT... (2.30)

Scene 24
Russell Blasted

British HQ - Central Provinces
Int - Ext / Day

Fade In...

*Another palace in the heart of a busy town, with the Union Jack fluttering on the dome.
A legend flashes on the screen - British HQ Central Provinces*

Three uniformed British officers, brass shining, welcome Russell. Col. Boyer, about 55, sits behind the table. Major Cotton, about 53 years old, leans on the table and Major Warren, 50, stands at the window.

BOYER

Come in, Captain Russell!

Russell enters, salutes and stands at attention.

BOYER

At ease, Captain. You know Major Cotton, and that's Major Warren. Please take a seat.

Russell takes a seat without a word. The three Officers exchange a look.

BOYER

What is this we hear, that you are going to cancel the tax of the farmers in Champaner if they beat you in a game of Cricket... is it true ?

RUSSELL

Yes Col. Boyer... sir. It is !

BOYER

What do you think you're here for? To play games?

Major Warren, who was looking out of the window, turns.

WARREN

Let me remind you that you are working here for Her Majesty the Queen. Your job is to ensure the smooth running of your province.

RUSSELL

Pardon me, sir. But that's exactly what I am doing.

COTTON

Bloody hell you're doing that ! We have also heard that if you lose this... this 'match', you will cancel their taxes for the next three years !

WARREN

Not just Champaner, but the entire province!

RUSSELL

But they won't win.

WARREN

You're missing the bloody point. Do you realise Captain Russell, that we could have on our hands a bloody situation, where there will be Cricket matches all over the damned subcontinent in order to cancel the bloody tax !

RUSSELL

But there is one thing you don't know. If they lose, which they will, they will have to pay the Queen, three times the tax.

COTTON

This is preposterous! The fool wants the Government to become some kind of a bookie with whom he can place his wagers! What will you have us do next? Race horses?

BOYER

This is the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard of. Captain Russell, the British Empire cannot function according to the whims and fancies of officers like you. You jolly well understand that if you win, you will have made a narrow escape. But if you lose, you... will pay the 3 years' taxes for Champaner and the entire province from your bloody pocket. And you will also be packed off to Central Africa.

Is that clear?

Russell pauses for a moment but does not bat an eyelid.

RUSSELL

Yes Sir!

BOYER

That'll be all! You may leave.

Russell gets up, clicks his heels and exits. Major Cotton lights a cigar.

COTTON

He is bloody stupid...

WARREN

...and bloody eccentric too.

BOYER

Got to watch out! Power has gone to his head!

COTTON

Good thing his father's got plenty of money. We're safe.

Warren smirks.

WARREN

Heh... heh... I say, old chaps! I would love to see Russell play his cricket in Central Africa.

COTTON

Ha... ha... It'll be a jolly good laugh!

All laugh.

CUT TO... (2:30)

Scene 25

Russell beats Arjan

*Cantonment: Stable
Ext / Day*

A group of horses enter the cantonment led by Russell.

RUSSELL

Whoa... whoa...

As the horses pass we pan to see, Arjan fixing a horse-shoe. Smith walks out from the office to receive Russell who dismounts from the horse, quite furious.

RUSSELL

Is that the way a soldier behaves... You're supposed to click your heels when an officer passes.

SOLDIER

I just did that sir.

RUSSELL

I didn't hear it.

The soldier clicks his heels louder this time.

RUSSELL

That's better.

Russell walks up to Smith.

SMITH

I imagine the meeting did not go the way you expected, sir.

RUSSELL

Damned well right it didn't... The senile old hats want to teach me how to run the show. They have lost the spirit of adventure with age. So what's wrong with a little fun and games along with the lagaan.

Arjan reacts to the word lagaan and looks at Russell. He strikes his hammer in the wrong place. The horse neighs in pain.

Russell turns to look at Arjan who is trying to control the neighing horse.

RUSSELL

Hey... how dare you hurt my horse?

He charges at Arjan and starts to beat him up.

RUSSELL

मेरे घोड़े को तकलीफ दिया. अब तुम लोग नहीं बचेगा... तुम लोगों से इतना लगान वसूल करेगा की पहनने को कपडा नहीं रहेगा. तुम साला गुलाम लोग हमारी जूती के नीचे ही रहेगा.

Arjan is hurt but gets up to face Russell.

ARJAN

तल्ली कित्ती भी मोटी होए सरकार... घिसत जरूर है! फिर कीलें चुभै लगती हैं!

RUSSELL

Ramsingh, ask him to leave before I kill him.

RAMSINGH

मौत को काहे बुला रहे हो अर्जन? फौरन निकल जाओ.... जल्दी!

Arjan leaves in a daze, frustrated, helpless, angry and shocked, all at the same time.

CUT TO... (1.45)

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Scene 26**Arjan joins - Gauri jealous***Practise field
Day / Ext*

Bhuvan puts three sticks vertically in the ground, sits down to check the distances between them.

Through the sticks, behind in the distance, he sees Arjan followed by a group of 15 villagers walking towards him. Jigni is also excitedly keeping pace with him. Bagha, Guran, Goli, Bhura, Ishwar and Tipu also notice. They are all working towards creating a smooth pitch.

Bhuvan gets up and faces a bruised Arjan

BHUVAN

अर्जन... का हुआ?

The others get up and walk towards them.

ARJAN

हमें लागत है भैया, हम अंधे रहे! बेमगज! अब हम तुमरे साथ हैं!... कौनो काम आ सकत होए तो बोलो... और ये लोग भी!

FAT VILLAGER

हम हऊ खेलेंगे! हां!

BHUVAN

ये तो खुसालीवाली बात है... मुड़ी बन रही है!

Bagha plays the dhol and everyone cheers. Familiar faces. 'वा दीनाचाचा', 'आओ अनवर...', 'अच्छा है'

Bhuvan is at first happy but now unsure as he sees the crowd. One of them with a big tummy, one is stick thin, another is drunk and some are fairly old.

Bhuvan moves towards an old villager.

BHUVAN

दीनाचाचा... हम पर आपका असीस बहुत है! अब इस उमर में...

DINA

हम बूढ़े लागत हैं का! अभी जोरे बटोरे तीन बीसी के हैं! और ये ईसर जवान हैं का? अब तुम आजमा के देख लियो कि गाढी दाल हम खाएं हैं की ईसर!

Everyone protests to Bhuvan and there is chaos as Ishwar and Dina also have an argument.

Bhuvan stops them.

BHUVAN

ठीक है... ठीक है... जानने का एक ही तरीका है...

ALL

का?

BHUVAN

सब लोगन मैदान का एक चक्कर दौड़ के आओ! गाड़ी दाल बच जाएगी!

Everybody looks at the size of the ground. All agree.

DINA

ईसर भी दौड़िहैं! हां!

The whole group starts the run at the edge of the field. A buggy arrives and halts. Elizabeth gets off followed by Ramsingh. She notices the strange voice.

BHUVAN

नमस्ते मेमसाब! आईये!

ELIZABETH

नमस्ते. वो लोग क्या कर रहे हैं?

BHUVAN

परीच्छा चल रही है की कौन कौन खेल दल में रहने लाइक हैं!

ELIZABETH

अरे वाह! मगर भुवन ये लोग तुमारे काम के नई हो सकते!

BHUVAN

जानता हूँ मेमसाहब. मगर उनके मन में हौसला तो है! उन्हें ये तसल्ली रहेगी की मौका तो मिला! फिर अलग!

Elizabeth is impressed by Bhuvan's compassion. Ramsingh too cannot resist.

RAMSINGH

मेरा भी मन हो रहा है. लेकिन...

Bhuvan gives him an understanding look. All eyes are on the runners.

The drunkard goes off the field in an uncontrolled manner. The fat man is having great difficulty in running. The thin man reaches halfway panting and sits down. Two men cruise behind the group in a leisurely manner. Ishwar though tired and panting runs much ahead of Dina, but behind Arjan who leads the group.

The team cheers everyone by calling out their names. Jigni cheers Arjan who reaches first. Ishwar follows.

ISHWAR

(panting) थोडा... हपॉए जरूर गईन है... पर आदत पड जई है! दौड़िहों भुवन!

Bhuvan nods at him. The others reach him.

FAT VILLAGER

हमका तो ई ससुरी तोंद नहीं दौड़ने देती! आगे आगे दौड़ती है! लपर लपर!

BHUVAN

देखीए... आप सब ने कोसिस की! हम सबकी हिम्मत बढी! पर अर्जन और ईसर काका के अलावा और कोई जोग नहीं है!

DINA

ठीक है! तन भले साथ न दे बेटा... मन तेरे साथ है! जीतेंगे हमहई... आह... पानी!

Everyone spots Gauri carrying a pot of water and walking towards them. All rush to her and take charge of the pot. Bhuvan is surprised and happy to see her. She avoids his look and gets away from the crowd. Bhuvan eyes her as he walks towards her and circles her.

BHUVAN

ए गौरी... तू तो हाँक रई थी मैदान में कदम भी न रखूँ? ...हाय दैय्या! आ गई?

GAURI

मैं तो बापू के लिए आई हूँ... गाँव के लिए आई हूँ... तोहरे लिए नाही!

Bhuvan goes completely wide eyed.

BHUVAN

ठीक है ठीक है... हमऊँ गाँव के है. मुझे भूख लगी है... का तला भूजा लाई है? पुटरिया खोल!

GAURI

कौनो खीर पुडी नाही है! ले! ज्वार के परेंठा!

Gauri shoves a bundle in his hand. Elizabeth joins them. She smiles at Gauri, who smiles back. Bhuvan opens the bundle, takes the sabzi, puts it on a roti and makes it into a roll. He breaks the roll in half. Gauri anticipates that he is going to offer one half to her. But instead, he offers it to Elizabeth. Gauri is shocked.

BHUVAN

लीजिए मेमसाब. आपको भूख लगी होगी.

ELIZABETH

No... thanks!

BHUVAN

लीजिए भी! ज्वार का सूखा परेंठा है! खाईये! ए गौरी, बोल ना मेमसाब को!

Gauri conceals her anger and requests Elizabeth.

GAURI

लीजिए न!

Elizabeth takes the roll and eats it. She likes the taste, but suddenly starts shaking her hand.

ELIZABETH

Oh! hot... पानी...

BHUVAN

तीखा है? ए गौरी देख का रही है? जल्दी... पानी दे.

Gauri glares at Bhuvan and pours out a glass of water for Elizabeth. She drinks the water and sighs in relief. Bagha, Guran, Goli and Bhura finish the pitch. Arjan tries bowling. Elizabeth watches him, keeps the glass away and rushes towards him.

ELIZABETH

No No! वैसा माफक नई अर्जन.

Elizabeth shows Arjan the bowling arm action.

Cut to...

26A

Ismail, Lakha and four youths watch Elizabeth and the proceedings on the practise field from behind a tree.

ISMAIL

लाखा... गोली सच्चे कह रहा था!

LAKHA

का?

ISMAIL

गोरी मेम!

LAKHA

तो?

ISMAIL

लाखे, हमसे भूल हो गई! पर बात अब भी हत्थे हैं! हमें भुवन का साथ देना होगा!

LAKHA

का बोला? तू पगला गया है?

Ismail tries talking to the other youths also.

ISMAIL

बात समझा कर! एक अंग्रेज छोरी हमरा तन पेट बचाने खातिर गांव की मदद कर रही है! और हम गाल फुलाए बैठे हैं? लानत है! हमें भुवन का साथ देना ही होगा! अल्लाह निगेबान! चल मेरे साथ!

LAKHA

सठिया गए हो तो बाँस की काटी पकड़ो कफन डालके! भुवन कभी घाट न लग पावेगा!

Ismail, without arguing any further, starts walking towards the field.

LAKHA

वो तुझे दल में कभी नहीं लेगा.

Ismail ignores him.

Cut to...

26B

Arjan spots Ismail.

ARJAN

भुवन!...

Bhuvan looks at Ismail who gropes for words. Everyone, including Elizabeth, gathers around.

ISMAIL

देख भुवन, टांग से कपडा हटे तो पूरे तन की लाज जावे है! मैंने उस दिन बुरी भली कही, सो मैं सर्मिन्दा हूँ! इस कोसिस में, मौला कसम, मैं तेरे साथ हूँ! नमाज का ईमान नहीं गवाया है!

Bhuvan is happy.

GAURI

किन्ती बढिया बात है... इस्मैलभय्या ने किन्ती हिम्मत बढा दी! है न? अब कौन है रोकनेवाला!

Bhuvan and Ismail embrace. Lakha is frustrated. He leaves with the four youths.

Suddenly, Tipu reaches Bhuvan screaming.

TIPU

भुवन भय्या, माईने संदेसा भेजा है की कनैय्या अस्टमी की तैयारी करनी है... चलिए!

Bagha drums. Everyone is joyous...

ELIZABETH

What has happened? क्या हुआ?

BHUVAN

कल कनैय्या अस्टमी है, मेमसाब... भगवान किसन इसी दिन जन्में थे... आपको आना होगा... राधेकिसनजी के मंदिर में... जस्न होगा...

ELIZABETH

Alright!

Gauri is upset with Bhuvan for including Elizabeth and she expresses it to Jigni.

GAURI

वाके न्योता देने की का जरूरत थी?

All leave. Ramsingh stops Elizabeth.

RAMSINGH

मगर मेमसाब... कल रात तो दावत है... आपके नाम.

ELIZABETH

मैं पहले यहाँ आऊँगी!

RAMSINGH

लेकिन!...

ELIZABETH

It's alright Ramsingh.

CUT TO... (4:00)

Scene 27
Radha, Krishna & Rukmini

Village Temple
Int / Night

It is Gokulashtami. Yashodamai, Bhuvan, Gauri and Elizabeth stand before the idols of Radha & Krishna. Behind them, the whole team stands in devotion.

YASHODAMAI

ओ पालन हारे, निर्गुन और न्यारे... हमरे नाथ! आपने एक अंगुली पर पर्वत उठाया! हम से तो अब जिन्दगी का बोझ भी न उठाया जावे! हे किसन मुरारी, गोबर्धन गिरधारी, तेरी सरण आए हैं... जो रस्ता हमने चुना है वाको संख से गुंजा दे परमु!

Clangs of temple bells. Crowds of villagers rush out of the temple for festivities. Elizabeth is in a trance.

ELIZABETH

भुवन.... ये statue... मूरत किसकी है ?

BHUVAN

यह राधाकिसन मंदिर है मेमसाब! भगवान किसन और राधाजी की मूर्तियाँ हैं!

ELIZABETH

Fantastic! बहोत सुंदर हैं - क्या दोनों पती-पत्नी थे ?

BHUVAN

नहीं - नहीं एलायजा मेमसाब ! किसनजी की सादी रुक्मिणी से भई थी. और राधा की अनय से. लेकिन दोनों में बहुत गहरा परेम था जो एक मिसाल बनके रह गया! आप समझ लो.... कमल के पत्ते पर पानी की बूंद जैसा! एक भी नहीं भए, अलग भी नहीं! जुगों जुगों से दोनों की पूजा बरब्बर से होती चली आवे है!

Elizabeth is mesmerised by this revelation.

Gauri eyes her and Bhuvan.

Bhuvan moves forward for the Tilak and so does Gauri followed by Elizabeth.

Gauri tries to do everything immediately after Bhuvan.

Bhuvan strikes the bell.

Before Elizabeth can do the same, Gauri strikes it.

Music begins...

CUT TO... (1:00)

Scene 28 : Playback Song Four
Gokulashtami

Village Square
Int - Ext / Night

Yashodamai performs the pooja for Lord Krishna's birth. She swings the cradle in which is Lord Krishna's idol as a child.

After the pooja, there is celebration.

It is evident that Elizabeth is slowly but surely falling in love with Bhuvan. It is also evident that Gauri is trying to make it loud and clear that it is only her. She is the Radha and the Rukmini.

Jigni discovers that Bagha likes her.

During the song, Lakha goes through a turmoil and arrives at a decision.

Mukhiya, Shambhukaka and the other elders embrace Bhuvan in acceptance.

Ramsingh arrives at the end of the song.

CUT TO... (5:00)

Scene 29 : Playback Song Four
Ramsingh hurries

Village Square
Int - Ext / Night

Elizabeth is mesmerised by Gauri's performance

ELIZABETH

गौरी, तुम बहुत अच्छा गाती हो और नाचती भी हो!

Gauri feels proud.

RAMSINGH

मेमसाब, it is serious... आपको तुरंत निकलना चाहिये!

ELIZABETH

हां रामसिंग... भुवन मुझे जाना होगा!

YASHODAMAI

अरे बेटी.... जसन खत्म थोड़ी भया है... ये तो देर रात तक चलेगा! गिरधारी का जनम होने तक.

ELIZABETH

हाँ... लेकिन नहीं... मेरा इंतजार हो रहा है... फिर मिलेंगे!

Ramsingh hurriedly leads her away to the buggy.

CUT TO... (0:30)

Scene 30
The Balldance

Cantonment: Ballroom
Int / Night

A magnificent chandelier. A party is in progress. The British in all their refinery are eagerly waiting for the ball to begin. Russell is surrounded by a few couples.

SENIOR CIVILIAN
So where is Elizabeth?

RUSSELL
She is getting ready. Excuse me!

Russell makes his way through the crowd and reaches the exit. Elizabeth's ayah is present.

RUSSELL
मेमसाब किधर है?

The ayah stutters and stammers.

AYAH
त... त.. त... तैयार हो रही है.

Cut to...

30A

The buggy reaches the cantonment from the backside. Elizabeth gets off and rushes across the garden lawn through a side entrance. Ramsingh enters the ballroom, behaves as if everything is normal and approaches Russell who is in conversation with a lady.

LADY
I'm so looking forward to meeting her.

RUSSELL
Of course, Mrs. Kensington... excuse me.

Russell excuses himself.

RUSSELL
Ramsingh, What's taking her so long?

Russell walks out of the ballroom, a nervous Ramsingh trying to keep pace with him. At the entrance he receives a newly arrived guest.

Cut to...

30B

Elizabeth rushes up the spiral staircase. An ayah waits for her, who swiftly escorts her into the room.

Cut to...

30C

Russell finishes pleasantries with the earlier couple and leaves with Ramsingh in tow. They go up the stairs, through the corridor and reach Elizabeth's room.

He knocks. The ayah opens the door. Elizabeth stands behind her in a dazzling outfit.

RUSSELL

What took you so long? Everyone's waiting... hmmm, you look beautiful!

ELIZABETH

Thank you!

Ramsingh and the ayah sigh in relief.

Cut to...

30D

Russell and Elizabeth walk into the ballroom.

RUSSELL

Ladies and gentlemen... Miss Elizabeth Russell!

They start a dance as they cross the floor, announcing the beginning of the ball.. Other couples join in. Smith watches Elizabeth, mesmerised.

Cut to...

30E

Lakha is outside the palace, indecisive, avoids the look of the Indian sentry and moves towards British Guard.

Cut to...

30F

Elizabeth and Russell are surrounded by other officers, suitable bachelors.

RUSSELL

Elizabeth, this is Capt. Edward Edinburgh... and, this is Capt. Richard Cummins...

A sentry whispers something to Smith who walks up to Russell.

SMITH

Sir, a villager is here to see you.

RUSSELL

Not now!... tomorrow in the office.

SMITH

Excuse me sir, he says he has important information about the match.

RUSSELL

Hmm... excuse me!

Russell leaves the ballroom with Smith.

CUT TO... (1:30)

Scene 31
Lakha betrays

Cantonment: Russell's Office
Int / Night

Lakha is led into Russell's office by Smith. He removes the blanket from his face after he looks around and feels safe and bows before Russell.

LAKHA

हुजूर माईबाप की जय!

RUSSELL

क्या खबर देना चाहते हो?

LAKHA

सरकार... वो भुवन अपना दल बनाए रहा है लेकिन...

RUSSELL

लेकिन क्या?

LAKHA

जान बक्सों सरकार, छावनी से कोई गोरी मेम वाकी खिल सीखने में मदद कर रही हैं.

RUSSELL

गोरी मेम?

LAKHA

हाँ सरकार... मैंने आज अपनी आखिन से निहारा है.

RUSSELL

हमम... क्या पहना था... इस गोरी मेम ने ?

LAKHA

आप जैसी सफेद फतूई और बडा सा झब्बेदार घागरा!

Russell's minds races. He leads Lakha to the door and moves the curtain aside. The ballroom can be seen.

RUSSELL

क्या वो गोरी मेम इनमें से है?

Lakha eyes everyone and spots Elizabeth dancing.

LAKHA

वो रही सरकार!

Russell is shocked.

RUSSELL

कोई गलती तो नहीं कर रहा है?

LAKHA

गलती की तो सूली पे चढा दे सरकार....

Russell walks back to the table.

RUSSELL

Alright!... तो तुम भी हो दल में.

LAKHA

नाही सरकार!... हम भुवन की तरह सनकिये थोडी ही हैं जो सरकारी पहाड से दुस्मनी मोल लूँ... अपनी जान प्यारी है!

RUSSELL

Hmm... तुम हमको ये सब क्यों बता रहा है ?

LAKHA

कटती हुई मुर्गी का दरद मुर्गी ही जाने है अन्नदाता.... मैं भी अंदर कट रहा हूँ... बात ही कुछ ऐसी है... भुवन की हार में हमरी जीत है!

Russell is thoughtful.

RUSSELL

Hmm... लँखा तुम एक काम करो... तुम भुवन के दल मे शामिल हो जाओ.

LAKHA

ई का कह रहे है सरकार? हम समझो नाही...

RUSSELL

तुम भुवन के दल में रहोगे... लेकिन काम हमारा करोगे.

LAKHA

समझ गए सरकार... समझ गए.

Lakha covers himself with the blanket and leaves. Smith stops him and shows him another exit.

CUT TO... (1:30)

Scene 32

Russell blasts Elizabeth

*Cantonment: Ballroom
Ext / Night*

Russell leaves of his office and enters the ballroom. He reaches Elizabeth who is having a pleasant conversation with a couple of officers.

RUSSELL

Excuse her... excuse us!

She politely excuses herself.

Cut to...

32A

Russell leads her to a secluded section away from the ballroom. She gets a little nervous.

ELIZABETH

Yes Andrew... what is it?

RUSSELL

So Eliza dear, you've been sight-seeing. How is the countryside ?

Elizabeth tries to be casual.

ELIZABETH

It's beautiful. The mountains... the woods... the cattle...

RUSSELL

And the villagers?

ELIZABETH

I didn't see any...

Russell cannot control his anger any more.

RUSSELL

My foot you didn't see any. You were with the villagers and whats-his-name... teaching them cricket. You thought I wouldn't come to know? You have the audacity to go against your brother? Now you listen to me carefully. You are not to leave the cantonment without my permission. Is that understood?

Elizabeth is quiet, doesn't say anything and rushes inside.

RUSSELL

Bloody farmers!

CUT TO... (1:00)

INTERMISSION

Scene 33

Lakha joins

Village Square
Ext / Night

Bhuvan and his team are seated in Ismail's courtyard. Salma is doing some household work. Kazi smokes a 'hooka' on his khatiya Lakha watches them from a distance. He gathers courage and walks up to them.

LAKHA

पता नहीं! कैसे कहें. बड़ा पछतावा होय रहा है. का हम तुमरे साथ खेल सकत हैं?

Lakha looks at Gauri who glares at him. Bhuvan winks at the gang.

BHUVAN

बिल्कुल नहीं... तू नहीं खेल सकत!

LAKHA

काहे?

BHUVAN

खेल देखकर समझ. यह लकड़ी काटना नहीं है. कुछ गुन गरमा होनी चाहिए... क्यों?

He asks everyone.

ISMAIL

गोली को देख... गोफन की तरह गेंद फरटि से फेंकता हैं.

GOLI

और ये भूरा, मुर्गियों की तरह गप्प से गेंद गुपच लेता है.

BHURA

अर्जन नाल ठोंकते ठोंकते निसाना साध चुका है.

ISHWAR

हाँ सही है.

ARJAN

ईसर काका के हाथ से गेंद तो का, धन भी नहीं फिसल सके है.

All laugh. Arjan continues.

ARJAN

और ये वैद भी है, इनकी जरूरत पडेगी चोट चपेट में.

ISHWAR

बाघा की ताकत कौन न जाने है!

Bagha looks at Guran and expresses in gestures.

ISHWAR

गुरन में जूझने का जुनून है, जो रोग की तरह फैलता है.

GURAN

अच्छा है!

BHUVAN

और इस्माईल जहाँ तक मोको याद है... हमरी गिल्ली-डंडे में हमेसा टक्कर रही है.

TIPU

और मैं ?

BHUVAN

अरे हाँ... टीपू - जो बहुत होसियार है. सो लाखा तोहरा का गुन है?

LAKHA

मैं?... मैं तेजी से दौड सकता हूँ!

BHUVAN

अच्छा, ठीक है. तो एक काम कर! मंदिर की सीढियाँ तीन बार तेजी से चढनी और उतरनी पडेंगी... तेजी से. हो सके हैं?

Lakha gulps as he looks at the temple. Bhuvan steals a look at Gauri who controls her smile. Lakha starts off as everyone watches. Gauri walks up to Bhuvan.

GAURI

भुवन... इसे... इसे हरगिज मती लेना!... मन का काला है.

BHUVAN

नहीं गौरी. हमें इसकी जरूरत है. लकडी कोट-काट कर इसके हाथों में वो ताकत है जो गेंद मार सके है. रही बात तुमरी - सो इसे काफी दंड दे दिया!

Gauri smiles. Lakha, terribly tired, comes down the steps and reaches Bhuvan, panting.

LAKHA

का... सोचा,... भुवन?

BHUVAN

तू यार धीमे भागत है... थोडा तेज...

Lakha now gets really desperate.

LAKHA

मैं सुधार लूँगा... रोज भागूँगा... मगर मुझे रख लो!... गाँव की कालिख नहीं झेल सकता.

BHUVAN

आप सब का कहते है ?

ISMAIL

ए लाखा, खेल में बदमासी की तेरी आदत हम छुटपने से जाने है... अब की भी ऐसा कुछ...

LAKHA

अरे नहीं इस्माईल, का बोल रहा है?!

BHUVAN

ठीक है लाखा... तू दल में है! मगर याद रख, लाज बचानी है. गोरों के लिए तो ये सिरफ खेल है... लेकिन हमारे लिए तो सारी जिंदगी है ये, लाखा! और कुछ नई... हमें जिंदगी बचानी है लाखा!

Lakha nods.

CUT TO... (2:00)

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Scene 34

Elizabeth sneaks out

Church / Storeroom / Cantonment Estate

Ext / Day

In the cantonment, a makeshift church. It consists of about 4 benches - Elizabeth is kneeling inside praying. She is alone.

Cut to...

34A

Storeroom

A drawer is opened and a small box is removed. It is Ramsingh. He looks around to see if anyone has seen him and leaves.

Cut to...

34B

Cantonment Estate

Elizabeth walks towards a side exit of the cantonment palace which is secluded. The stable boy, Mahto, waits with a horse, conspicuously. Ramsingh also reaches and helps her up on the side saddle. He gives her the box.

RAMSINGH

ये लीजिए मेमसाब... सँभालकर... Take care Memsahib!

Elizabeth rides off. Ramsingh looks at Mahto.

RAMSINGH

तूने कुछ नहीं देखा महतो!

Mahto nods furiously.

CUT TO... (1:00)

Scene 35

Elizabeth gives the box - Confession

Practise Field

Ext / Day

Elizabeth emerges from the woods on horseback. Bhuvan is happy to see her. Lakha, who was holding the ball, drops it, shocked to see her.

BHUVAN

नमस्ते मेमसाब. आपके साथ ने सब में जोस फूँक दिया है. सब आपकी किरपा से है.

Everyone cheers Elizabeth. She smiles. She gives the box to Bhuvan.

ELIZABETH

Really! कुछ लाई हूँ तुम्हारे लिए.

She removes the ball from the box.

ELIZABETH

अब तुम लोग इस गेंद से खेलोगे.

Bhuvan takes the ball. The team crowds to get a glimpse of the real thing.

BHUVAN

वाह! इस गेंद से सुरु गोली करेगा.

Gauri alongwith Jigni arrives with food for Bhuvan. Durga, Salma & Kesariya also accompany her.

GAURI

अभी कुछ नाही... पैले पेट पूजा करो.

BHUVAN

पेट के लिए ही गेंद पूजा कर रहे हैं, गौरी! थोड़ी देर ठहर जा!.. पहले खेलें.

The players spread out. Goli moves for the run up. Bhuvan holds the bat and waits for Goli to bowl. But he stands in a gilli-danda stance, with the bat between his legs, ready to hit the ball on either sides of the pitch. Elizabeth shows Bhuvan the two-handed grip and the proper stance. Her hands touch Bhuvan's. Gauri notices that telescopically. Guran observes Gauri as well as Bhuvan.

GURAN

अडचन!

Gauri freezes as she realises what Guran had meant. Bhuvan is uncomfortable and so goes back to his original stance.

BHUVAN

मेमसाब, माफ करना, लेकिन यही ठीक है.

Elizabeth smiles and shrugs her shoulders. Goli delivers the ball. Bhuvan connects. The ball goes past Guran in a straight drive and crosses the boundary line.

It rests next to a pair of feet. A hand picks up the ball. It is a tall and well built Sikh. Guran stares at him.

GURAN

ए, गेंद दे !

The Sikh stares at Guran.

SIKH

देता हूँ.

Guran spreads his hands to receive the ball. The Sikh looks at the wicket, starts walking slowly and then breaks into a run leaving Guran gaping. Bhuvan realises that the Sikh is going to bowl and takes up the stance. The others watch, perplexed. The Sikh reaches the crease and delivers the ball in a near correct bowling action. The stumps are uprooted leaving Bhuvan aghast. The Sikh regains his posture, breathing heavily and looks at everyone.

SIKH

भुवन कौन है ?

Bhuvan takes a couple of steps towards him.

BHUVAN

मैं हूँ भुवन - तुमरा नाम?

SIKH

मैं देवा... देवासिंग सोढी. बुरहापूर से आया हूँ. सुना है अँग्रेजों दे खिलाफ लडन वास्ते कमर कस्सी है?

BHUVAN

हाँ, मगर लाठी-भाले से नहीं, गेंद-बल्ले से!

DEVA

लाठी-भाले से हो या गेंद-बल्ले से. मैं हमेशा अँग्रेजों के खिलाफ हर जंग विच शामिल होना चाहूँगा. मुझे इस लडाई विच हाथ बटाने दो भुवन... ये खेल में पहले खेल चुका हूँ.

BHUVAN

कब खेला?

DEVA

मैं अंग्रेजों दे लश्कर विच था. एक दिन बरदाश्त नहीं होया और पिस्सू दे पुत्रों को सलाम फेंककर लोट आया. मुझे अंग्रेजों से नफरत है.

Bhuvan realises that Deva is referring to Elizabeth.

BHUVAN

धीरज धरो... मेमसाब हमरे साथ है... खिलाफ नहीं.

Deva looks suspiciously at Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

तुम खेल के बारे में क्या जानते हो ?

DEVA

दो बातें मेमसाब - गेंद फेंकू तो तीनों लकड़ियों दी धज़ियाँ उडा दूँ और गेंद खेलूँ तो गेंद चीर के रख दूँ.

Elizabeth is stunned on hearing this simple deduction of the game.

ELIZABETH

That's good!

BHUVAN

देवा, गेंदबाजी तो देख ली तुमरी - अब बल्ला उठाओ, गोली, गेंद फेंक.

GAURI

गोली गेंद अलग रख... पहले खाना खा लो.

The women spread out with their respective men. Ishwar takes Deva. Tipu tags along with him. Gauri is about to open the packet when Elizabeth tells Bhuvan.

ELIZABETH

मुझे देर हो रही है, मुझे जाना होगा... भुवन, तुमसे कुछ कहना है.

BHUVAN

जी मेमसाब !

Elizabeth smiles at Gauri.

ELIZABETH

Bye, Gauri.

GAURI

जी, नमस्ते !

Elizabeth walks away followed by Bhuvan. Guran, seated under a tree growls.

GURAN

अडचन!!

Gauri looks at him and then back at the two, a little distance away.

Cut to...

35A

Elizabeth gropes for words as she expresses her feelings.

ELIZABETH

भुवन, मेरा कॅटोन्मेंट से निकलना मुश्किल है. अब मैं तुमसे रोज नहीं मिल सकती. और वैसे भी अब तुम्हें लोगों का साथ है, लेकिन वो मेरी वजह से नहीं तुम्हारी खुद की वजह से है. क्योंकि तुम एक अच्छे आदमी हो और अच्छे दोस्त भी... तुम्हें पता है, बचपन से मेरा कोई दोस्त नहीं था... जब तक तुम मिले... In fact पता नहीं मुझे कहना चाहिए या नहीं... लेकिन... Don't say it Eliza, don't say it...

Elizabeth talks to herself in English saying "Don't say it Elizabeth. Don't say it." She takes a deep breath and faces him.

ELIZABETH

In fact... I am falling in love with you.

Bhuvan does not understand but smiles as she walks away.

BHUVAN

अँग्रेजी समझ में नहीं आती, मेमसाब.

ELIZABETH

I'm falling in love with you !

She gets on the horse. Bhuvan joins his hands.

BHUVAN

जी... नमस्ते !

She disappears into the woods.

Cut to...

35B

Puzzled, Bhuvan returns to where Gauri was. She is nowhere to be seen. He sees the open, untouched packet on the ground. Jigni stands next to it fuming, waiting.

BHUVAN

जिगनी. गौरी कहाँ है?

JIGNI

वो तो गई!

BHUVAN

कहाँ?

Jigni glares at him. Bhuvan notices that.

BHUVAN

ऐसे काहे घूर रही है मुझे?

JIGNI

हफ...!

Jigni leaves in a huff. Bhuvan mutters to himself.

BHUVAN

कहाँ गई होगी?!

CUT TO... (5:00)

Scene 36

Bhuvan & Gauri - Love Culmination

Lover's hill

Ext / Day

Gauri is seated ontop of the hillock. She is crying. She seems to be talking to the heavens.

GAURI

काहे वो मेरी बात नहीं समझता? तू ही बता कैसे समझाऊँ उसे? मैं उसे खोना नहीं चाहती.

Bhuvan reaches the base of the hillock.

BHUVAN

गौरी... गौरी...

She does not respond to him. She hurriedly wipes her tears. Bhuvan walks up to her.

BHUVAN

कमाल करती है तू, सारा गाँव ढूँढ लिया - और तू यहाँ बैठी है. रोटी छोड़कर काहे आई ?

GAURI

मेरी मर्जी !

BHUVAN

का मतबल तेरी मर्जी... कम से कम मोसे कहके तो आती...

GAURI

कैसे कहती... उस करम फूँकी गौरी मेम से तोको फुर्सत मिले तब ना... वाईके आते ही कबूतर की तरह पंख फड़फड़ाते हो!
दूसरा कुछ दिखाई नहीं देता... और आज तो मोसे ऐसे भूल गए, जैसे मैं वहाँ थी ही नहीं !

Bhuvan realises that she is upset about something.

BHUVAN

बात समझ ले गौरी, मेमसाब को मेरे से कुछ जरूरी बात करनी थी.

GAURI

जरूरी बात करनी थी, तो वही पे नहीं कर सकते थे... अलग अकेले में ले जाने की का जरूरत थी? मैं का सब समझती नहीं
कि गंगा किधर को बह रही है...

Bhuvan decides to tease her.

BHUVAN

ss हाय दरद मोरे होए बिछी के मारे ss... तोको जलन हो रही है.

GAURI

जलन... मैं काहे जलने लगी भला...

BHUVAN

तोको जलन हो रही है... और मैं जानू हूँ किससे...

GAURI

अब के बाद मोसे बात करने की कोसिस मत कर.

BHUVAN

तो... आज के बाद तू भी मोसे बात नही करेगी.

GAURI

ठीक सुना.

BHUVAN

तो... आज के बाद तू मेरे लिए परेंठा भी नही लाएगी.

GAURI

बिल्कुल नहीं... और मेरे घर पर आने की हिम्मत नहीं करना...

She gets up and starts going down the hillock. Bhuvan gets up smiling.

BHUVAN

गौरी... सारे गाँव में एक ही तो घर है जिसके आँगन में नीस का पेड है.

Gauri keeps walking.

BHUVAN

दो भैंसे और तीन बकरियाँ भी है...

As she walks further away, Bhuvan's voice gets louder.

BHUVAN

और मैं जानूँ हूँ पगलिया कि वो घर मोरा है...

Gauri stops and turns slowly to look at him, her expressions changing.

BHUVAN

और तू माई को भी पसंद है...

Overjoyed by this confession, Gauri is happy, feels shy and runs away. Bhuvan runs after her and holds her hand.

CUT TO... (2:15)

Scene 37 : Playback Song Five

प्यार & Love

*Countryside / Village / Cantonment
Ext / Day - Evening - Night*

The song is in two languages - Hindi and English.

Bhuvan and Gauri confess their love for each other while Elizabeth fantasises about her love for Bhuvan.

In the song, there will be no reality with respect to costumes and locations.

- A. Bhuvan and Gauri ploughing the field together.*
- B. Elizabeth imagining Bhuvan dressed like a Lord and she like a village girl.*
- C. Russell returns to the cantonment and Lakha informs Smith who informs Russell.*
- D. Elizabeth puts a bindi on her forehead.*

CUT TO... (6:00)

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Scene 38

Elizabeth retaliates

*Cantonment: Elizabeth's Room
Int / Night*

As the song ends, Elizabeth is seated before the mirror, admiring the bindi on her forehead when a pair of hands grasp her from behind and turn her around violently. It is Russell.

RUSSELL

Despite my warnings, you continue to meet those bloody farmers... damn you!

He pushes her on to the bed. She reacts sharply to this violence.

ELIZABETH

How dare you raise your hand?

RUSSELL

The same way you raised your hand on my pride... and I'm not going to tolerate your nonsense anymore. You can damn well do what you want in London, but not here. You will pack your bags and leave for England by the next ship. Is that clear?

ELIZABETH

Let's make some things clear to you, Andrew... Stop telling me what to do. I'm not a child. And get this straight. I'm not leaving Champaner. And I'll go to the village as and when I so wish.

Russell is taken aback. He controls himself.

RUSSELL

Tell me Eliza, what's so special about them that makes you go against your own brother?

ELIZABETH

Nothing special about them, Andrew. You're the one who's unfair with your silly challenge! That's why I decided to help them. And mark my words, they'll give you a tough fight!

CUT TO... (1:00)

Scene 39**Kachra - Team is complete***Practise Field
Ext / Day*

The ground is full of people in a festive mood – like a Mela. Everyone is eager to watch Bhuvan and his team practise the game. The team of 10 stands in a group, engrossed in a discussion. Elizabeth tries to follow what is being said.

MUKHIYA

भई का हो रहा है? गाँव तुम लोगन का खेल देखना चाहते है.

BHUVAN

हमें ग्यारवाँ खिलाडी नाही मिल रहा है.

MUKHIYA

लो... अभी जुटाते है हम! भीमा को ले लें?

ISHWAR

अरे नाम का भीमा है. जरा जरा देर में पीठ का दर्द!

MUKHIYA

तो फिर... कासी राम.

BHURA

नाही मुखियाजी... दौडत पे ही टेढा तिरछा हो गया तो कासी अलग... राम अलग!

BHUVAN

हमें तगडा आदमी चाहिए. आप रहने दीजिए... देखा जई है. चलो देवा. गेंद फेंको. ईसरकाका आप बल्ला साधो.

The team spreads out. Villagers start applauding. Ishwar raises the bat to acknowledge. The cheers increase. Elizabeth takes the position of the Umpire and signals Deva to bowl. Deva takes his run-up and delivers the ball. Ishwar swings the bat connecting it with the ball to his own amazement.

The crowd cheers as the ball travels up in the air and Bagha tries to catch it, but misses. Jigni is disappointed. Bagha picks up the ball, in frustration, and throws it to Goli. The crowd cheers once again, not quite knowing what is going on.

Deva bowls again and Bhuvan mis-fields. The ball goes beyond him and lands near a man crouched on the ground. Bhuvan gestures him to pick up the ball and throw it. The man is hesitant.

BHUVAN

कचरा... गेंद फेंक !

Kachra gets up, moves towards the ball, still hesitant.

BHUVAN

अबे टिपुरता ही रहेगा? गेंद फेंक ना!

Kachra picks it up and throws it with his deformed hand. The ball takes a bounce before Bhuvan but spins away. Bhuvan manages to catch it, but gives a surprised look at Kachra.

BHUVAN

का किया तूने ?

KACHRA

मैंने ? मैंने का किया... तुम्हई कहेऊ फेंक... सो...

Kachra looks worried.

BHUVAN

इदर आ !

KACHRA

मैंने कौन जुरुम कीहीन... तुम्हई कहेयो सो मैंने...

The rest of the team wonders what Bhuvan is up to.

BHUVAN

कचरा... गेंद फिर से फेंक. सब लोग... एलाइजा मेमसाब देखो... कचरा को और वाकी गेंद को...

Elizabeth watches Kachra intently.

KACHRA

मैंने ऐसा का कर दिए?

BHUVAN

कचरा... गेंद फेंक! नाही बाए से नाही... दाहिने से...

Kachra shifts the ball from the left to the right hand and throws the ball. It spins again. Bhuvan misses it and Goli catches it.

BHUVAN

वाह का फिरकी मारत है... देखा... मेमसाब?

ELIZABETH

Amazing. He is actually spinning the ball! गेंद कितनी अच्छी तरह से spin करता है.

BHUVAN

मिल गवा हमें ग्यारवाँ खिलाडी. ईसरकाका, आप जाइए सामना कीजिए, देवा - कचरा को दिखा गेंद कहाँ से फेंकनी है, लाखा - तू डंडियों के पीछे हल ले... गोली, ला गेंद दे...

Goli and Bhura do not respond as they are a little indefinite and observe everyone. Everyone else stares at Bhuvan who realises that nobody has moved from their place. Lakha looks at Bhuvan defiantly.

BHUVAN

का हुआ ? खडे खडे मुँह काहे निहार रहे हो सारे?

LAKHA

भुवन. हम तो नाही खेलेंगे.

BHUVAN

काहे? का हो गया इकदम?

LAKHA

ये कचरा अछूत है... वो हमरे साथ नहीं खेल सकता.

Bhuvan is flabbergasted.

ISHWAR

पक्की बात है. हमऊ एक अछूत के साथ कंधा नाही साँट सकें.

Goli, Bhura and Arjan also voice their support.

GOLI

ये नाही हो सकत है भुवन... तनिके सोचौ!

BHURA

हम भी नाही खेलेंगे.

ARJAN

और हमऊ.

Elizabeth cannot understand what is going on. The Mukhiya and a few others walk on to the field.

MUKHIYA

यह का अनर्थ कर रहे हो भुवन? तलवार की धार से गन्ना काट के खेत कलांकित कर रहे हो? गोरों के साथ लडना धरम है... पर एक अछूत को साथ लैके पूरा दूध भ्रस्ट नाही होने देंगें भुवन!

ISMAIL

कचरा... चल भाग यहाँ से.

Kachra takes a step away. Bhuvan holds him by the shoulder. Women gasp on seeing him touch. Mai and Gauri are also shocked.

BHUVAN

कचरा... तू कहूँ नाही जाएगा.

He turns to face Mukhiya.

BHUVAN

दूध पर छूत-अछूत का छाप लगाएके दूध आप भ्रस्ट कर रहे हो! सारे गाँव की सांस इस छूत-अछूत के धुएँ से काहे घोंट रहे हो, मुखियाजी? चमडी के नाम पर मन को छलना नेक है का? काहे पूजते हो राम को जिनने सबरी के जूटे बेर खाए? जो भगवान सबकी नैय्या पार लगावे है उनकी नैय्या को एक छोटे जाती के नाविक ने पार लगाई. ये सब जानके भी छूत-अछूत की बात कर रहे हों? और आप ईसरकाका... पीडा हरते हो? रोगी की नाडी परखके इलाज करते हो? का आपका सास्त्र यही कहता है कि किसी अछूत का इलाज ना किया जाए? उसे मरने दिया जाए? ये तो इन्सानियत के नाम पर सबसे पडा कलंक होगा... और फिर कोई भी वैद को भगवान का दूसरा रूप नहीं मानेगा.

LAKHA

वो बात छोड़ो भुवन, तुमने तो तगड़ा खिलाड़ी चाहा था. कचरा तो लूला है.

BHUVAN

तुम्हारे हाथ सलामत हैं न... देवीमाँ महरबान है लाखा... सो कह रहे हो. मगर तुमने जिस कलाई को लूला कहा है वही हमरी ताकत बनेगी. देख लेना! ये बेजान सा पंजा ही हमें जीत दिलाएगा. एक बात में आप सबको फिर से याद दिला दूँ, ये सिर्फ खेल नहीं है जो किसी के मौज-मनोरंजन के लिए खेल रहे हैं. ये खेल गेंद का नहीं लगान का है. बल्ले का मतलब बल है, लाखा. गाँव की खुसहाली जीतने का बल, लगान से मुक्ती पाने का बल. ये एक लड़ाई है जो हमें जीतनी है. और वाके वास्ते में मरते दम तक किसी के सामने नहीं झुकूँगा. आप लोगन मोरा साथ दो या ना दो... मगर कचरा खेलेगा.

Bhuvan holds Kachra who has tears in his eyes. There is silence. No one looks at Bhuvan. Deva breaks the silence.

DEVA

आज तक मैं हमेशा गुलामी के खिलाफ लड़ता आया, लेकिन आज मैं तेरा गुलाम हो गया!

ISHWAR

भुवन बेटे, जो आँखे अब पूरी तरह खुल गई, उनमें सरम भी तो नहीं आ सके. तू ठीकै कहता है.

ISMAIL

मैं ईसरभाई के साथ सहमत हूँ.

MUKHIYA

कचरा हमरे साथ खेलेगा!

The whole village cheers. Yashodamai and Gauri are emotionally moved as mother and girlfriend.

Suddenly they hear the sounds of neighing horses. They turn to see a party of about a dozen horses headed by Russell and Smith beyond the boundary line.

Bhuvan and Russell's eyes meet.

He notices Elizabeth who looks at him defiantly.

One by one, the players start joining Bhuvan, their eyes on Russell in defiance. Russell seems to be counting and realises that they are eleven.

The team is complete.

Russell is unnerved.

CUT TO... (5:00)

Scene 40 : Playback Song Six

Preparation

Countryside / Village / Cantonment

Ext / Day

Silence except for a few birds chirping. Cows and buffaloes are grazing on a small hillock. Suddenly one buffalo stops grazing and lifts his head. A distant thudding sound is heard. It looks around but doesn't see anything. Another buffalo also reacts, and a third. They all look in one direction. The downward slope of the hillock. The thudding sounds approach closer and closer. The cattle look on.

And from the slope emerges the group of eleven, all running as fast as they can. As they come closer the cattle panic and make way for them. Ismail leads the whole team on a countryside run. The weakest are Ishwar and Lakha. The strongest being Bhuvan, Deva and Arjan.

The song consists of preparation montage :

The team going through stretching exercises with great difficulty. Deva teaches everyone all that he has learned in the British army with respect to stretching and body exercises. The weakest of the lot are Bagha and Ishwar, with whom he develops a bond. Tipu constantly stays on with Deva.

The womenfolk making rural home-made pads called godhadees for the team.

The team trying to run with the godhadees.

Bhuvan trains the team to run between the wickets while wearing the 'godhadees'. The naturals are Ismail and Bagha. The weakest is Ishwar. Guran manages but funnily.

Woodcutters cutting wood and scraping them into bats and stumps.

Lakha and a few others, including Harikaka cutting wood. Bhuvan, Arjan and Ismail scraping them into bats and stumps.

Catching hen / Catch practice, diving, getting hurt.

Bhura shows tactics of catching hens, then applies it for catch practice. Arjan is stiff. Ismail and Ishwar are good. Guran is petrified of hens. Bagha is hopeless as he keeps dropping the ball.

Gauri's nursing home.

In catch practice, everyone gets hurt. The injured are taken care of by Ishwar and Gauri. A proximity develops between Bhuvan and her. Jigni goes red in the face as she nurses Bagha who gives her a bunch of 'champa' flowers.

Batting and Bowling.

Arjan explains the most effective part of the bat. He gives batting classes to Kachra and Bhura, who are the weakest and to Ismail, Lakha and Guran who are the best. Bagha has a special ability - he can play lefty as well as righty. Deva teaches bowling. The naturals are Goli and Kachra. The trainees are Bhuvan, Ismail, Lakha, Guran and Tipu. Ishwar makes everyone spread round him in the distance, as he stands behind the wickets. Then he makes each one of the team aim at the stumps while he smartly keeps the wickets.

The villagers ploughing and digging a pit to create a pitch. Community lunch.

Bhuvan and gang sitting atop a tree at the polo cricket ground. They watch Yardley bowl and uproot stumps. Bhuvan and gang apply what they just learned at the polo cricket ground.

CUT TO... (4:00)

Scene 41

British Team introduced

Polo Cricket Ground

Ext / Day

At the polo ground, the British team is having a game. Russel is fielding in the covers. Yardley, a large man with whiskers covering half his face, bowls. The batsman, Burton, hits a boundary.

BURTON

How was that?

Yardley glares at Burton and goes for his run up. Infuriated, he delivers a short-pitched ball, which takes Burton by surprise and hits him on the shoulder causing him to fall on the stumps.

YARDLEY

How was that?

Burton is declared out by the umpire. The match is over. All the players rush to Burton, pick him up and move to the pavilion. Russel walks up to Yardley.

RUSSEL

That was not a good ball Yardley! There's a difference between pace and ferocity.

YARDLEY

I cannot take it when someone shows me the boundary.

RUSSEL

Take it easy! We're just playing, to enjoy ourselves. Save your energy for the match with the darkies.

YARDLEY

I won't even have to run-up for them. I'll just stand at the crease and throw the ball.

The players laugh.

RUSSEL

I'm going to announce the batting order now.

Russel's team consists of Burton, Flynn, Welles, Smith, North, Wesson, Yardley, Benson, Harrison, Brooks and Willis. Tea and refreshments are served.

In the distance, a crowd of about five hundred passes through the field.

SMITH

Where are the villagers going?

RAMSINGH

They have come from the neighbouring villages – to watch the home team practice.

Russel is alarmed.

SMITH

Not practice, but lose.

Everyone laughs. Smith gets an idea.

SMITH

Oh... even I'd like to see them practise. Maybe I could learn something...

WILLIS

Could be fun. Let's go Brooks. Anyone else would like to join us?

CUT TO... (2:00)

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Scene 42
Humiliation

Practise Field
Ext / Day

The two Mukhiyas – Ramprasad and Namdeo arrive with their villagers.

The crowds cheer and applaud the team as they practice. Goli is bowling and Arjan is batting. After a couple of balls, Arjan breaks his stance.

Six British players in white uniforms approach them casually. Smith leads them.

Willis takes the ball from Goli and after a long run up bowls to Arjan. He misses the ball completely and the stumps are uprooted.

Smith and the other British players applaud Willis.

SMITH

Good ball, Willis.

Brooks moves up to Arjan and takes his bat. Before going in a stance he reacts at the strangeness of the bat. He asks Goli to bowl who looks at Bhuvan for approval. Bhuvan nods.

The crowd is silent. Goli bowls.

Brooks connects and the ball lands beyond the boundary line.

SMITH

Good shot, Brooks!

Wesson scrutinises the home-made pads i.e. godhadees.

WESSON

Look at these works of art.

The Englishmen laugh. Bhuvan's team doesn't know how to react to this humiliation. The two Mukhiyas and their villagers look at the goings-on in disbelief.

Smith walks up to Bhuvan and looks him in the eye.

SMITH

जल्द ही मिलेंगे !

Bhuvan does not bat an eyelid.

BHUVAN

जरूर !

The Englishmen leave whistling and back-slapping. The visiting villagers get up, disillusioned.

SHAMBHUKAKA

अगर बरसात होती तो हमऊ तिगुना लगान भी दै देते.

RAMPRASAD

अब हमें कोई नाही बचा सके.

NAMDEO

उन्हें हराने का तो अब हम सुपना भी नाही देख सके.

The villagers start to leave the field. The players don't move, stunned. Bhuvan is shaken up.

CUT TO... (2:30)

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Scene 43

Bhuvan dejected - Yashodamai peps him up

Village Temple

Int / Night

Bhuvan enters the temple and stands before the idol. He keeps staring at it silently. A bell is heard. It is Yashodamai. She stands next to him and bows before the idol.

YASHODAMAI

का सोच रहा है, भुवन?

BHUVAN

माँ, ई बीडा उठाकर मैंने कोई गलती तो नाही की?

YASHODAMAI

ई मैं का सुन रहीं हूँ? का तू मोरा वोई बेटा है जिसने कभी हीया हारना नाही सीखा? तू लडने से पैले ही हार मान रहा है?

BHUVAN

वो बात नाही है माँ. लेकिन आज, सबके हौसले टूट गए... मैं भी एक पल के लिए... समझ में नहीं आवे का करूँ ?

YASHODAMAI

समझी! तो वो गोरे तोको उलझन में डालने में कामयाब हो गए. तूने ये कभी सोचा कि वो खुद चलकर तुमरे मैदान पर काहे आए? वो तुमरे बुलंद हौसले को तोडना चाहते थे - जिसमें वो कामयाब हो गए. भुवन, अब अगर तेरा मन धसक गया तो सारा गाँव रेत चाट चाट के मर जाएगा... लेकिन अगर हिम्मत बनी रही तो वो रेत ये फिरंगी चाटेंगे.

Bhuvan's face brightens up on hearing this. He holds her by her shoulders.

BHUVAN

लगान माफ होगा माँ... हमरा लगान माफ होगा!

Bhuvan rushes to the steps and rings all the temple bells on his way out.

CUT TO... (1:30)

Scene 44

Bhuvan boosts morale

*Village Square
Ext / Night*

The team and villagers are seated in the village square dejected. They react to Bhuvan as he comes down the temple steps yelling...

BHUVAN

लगान माफ होगा... हम जीतेंगे!

Everyone wonders what's wrong with him. Bhuvan joins them excitedly.

ISHWAR

आज हमारे साथ जो हुआ, उसके बावजूद तू ये कह रहा है?

BHUVAN

हाँ ईसरभाई... हमें गोरों का सुक्रिया अदा करना चाहिए.

ARJAN

सुक्रिया? किसलिए? आज हमरी धज़ियाँ उडईकर, हम कित्ते कमजोर हैं यह दिखा दिया, इसलिए?

BHUVAN

नाही. इसलिए कि उका अंजाने में हमका जीतने का मंत्र दे गए ससुरे!

BHURA

मंत्र?!

BHUVAN

हमऊ एक ऐसा मंत्र दिए है खेल के बारे में, जो हम नाही जानते थे. ई खेल सिरफ बल्ले और गेंद का नाही है. ई खेल है हौसले का. उन्होंने गेंद से हमरा हौसला तोडा - और जब हमनें गेंद डाली, तब उन्होंने बल्ले से गेंद की बजाय हमार हौसले को सीमा-पार कर दिए. हौसला और हिम्मत तोडना ही इस खेल के दौंव-पेच हैं. और हमऊ यहीं आजमाएँगे, ऊके ही खिलाफ. हमरे पास और सतरह दिन हैं, तैयार होने के लिए. कोई भी युद्ध किसी एक व्यक्ती से जीता नाही गया है. हमें अगर जीतना है तो आपस में तालमेल और सूझबूझ होना बहुत जरूरी है.

Everyone's eyes light up. There is hope.

CUT TO... (1:00)

Scene 45

Puran Singh impressed with villagers

*Jungle
Ext / Day*

Russel and Puran Singh are on horseback with their hunting party. They have not been able to find any game.

PURAN SINGH

लगता है आज हमें कोई शिकार नहीं मिलेगी.

RUSSEL

ऐसा क्यों कह रहे हैं?

PURAN SINGH

क्योंकि आप ही ने तो सारा जंगल साफ कर दिया है.

Puran Singh laughs at his own joke. Russel doesn't. Suddenly a knocking sound is heard.

PURAN SINGH

शायद कोई पक्षी है - तक्कडबगा... नहीं... शायद कोई हाथी अपनी सूँड झाड पर मार रहा है.

RUSSEL

शस्स...!

They start moving towards the source of the sound and reach a clearing in the jungle. Russel is aghast.

Eleven balls are tied to the branches of trees with ropes. Bhuvan and his team is practising to connect the ball with the meat of the bat. They are engrossed.

Puran Singh is impressed.

PURAN SINGH

कैप्टन साब, मेरी बात मानिए तो शिकार में ज्यादा वक्त मत बिताइए - आपको जरूरत है खेल की तैयारी करने की.

Russel is shaken up. Just then his horse makes a sound.

Bhuvan's concentration gets diverted after a stroke. He discovers Russel and Puran Singh watching them. The ball starts to swing back towards Bhuvan. He turns to look at the ball. The ball reaches him. Bhuvan swings and directs his shot towards Russel. The ball swings in Russel's direction and travels back towards Bhuvan who this time holds it in his hand staring into Russel's eyes.

Russel breaks his look and exits.

CUT TO... (1:15)

Scene 46**Cricket Gear - Bhuvan teases Gauri***Village: Bhuvan's House
Int-Ext / Day*

A huge bundle is dropped on the ground. Ramsingh opens it. Elizabeth is with him. They are in Bhuvan's house.

BHUVAN

ई का है ?

Ramsingh opens the bundle to reveal brand new cricket gear.

RAMSINGH

भुवन, तोहरा दल पूरा हो गया... मुझे खुशी हुई, क्योंकि ये भी अपने आप में एक जीत है. मेरी शुभकामनाएँ तेरे साथ हैं.

ELIZABETH

तुम्हारे खेल को सुधारने के लिए... खेल का सामान.

Bhuvan picks a bat.

BHUVAN

अरे वाह! सच्चे हमारे खेल में बहुत फरक पड़ेगा. ए टीपू... हाक दे... सब हीयाँ आवै!

TIPU

अमी लो!

Yashodamai comes out of the house.

ELIZABETH

नमस्ते !

YASHODAMAI

जीती रह बेटी. भुवन, इन्हें चौखट पे ही चुगाएगा, या भीतर भी लाएगा.

BHUVAN

आइए मेमसाब... हमारे घर में!

Cut to...

46A

Elizabeth enters the house, followed by Bhuvan and Yashodamai while Ramsingh stands outside. She looks around in the house. It is the first time she has entered a farmer's house.

ELIZABETH

(closes eyes and takes deep breath) कितनी अच्छी महक... Like fresh baked bread. तुम्हारा घर बहुत अच्छा है.

BHUVAN

मेमसाब - आप हमें खुस करने के लिए कह रही हैं. आपके और हमारे घर में तो महल और झोपडी का फर्क है.

ELIZABETH

महल हो या झोपडी... वो घर जैसा लगना चाहिए, भुवन. यह घर लगता है.

BHUVAN

यहाँ मेरी माँ के चरन है, मेमसाब.

Tipu enters the compound followed by the players. They gather around the bundle excited. Gauri reaches the gate and is shocked to see Elizabeth and Yashodamai step out of the house.

YASHODAMAI

बेटी, तुम जितनी सुंदर हो उतनी ही सलोनी बातें भी करती हो. जैसे दूध और गुड मिल गया हो. गाँववालों का मन मोह लिया.

RAMSINGH

मेमसाब, अब चलें?

ELIZABETH

Alright, भुवन... फिर मिलेंगे...

Cut to...

46B

Bhuvan starts to walk her across the courtyard to the buggy. Gauri moves a little away.

BHUVAN

मेमसाब... मेमसाब, गजब का सामान लाई है आप! आपके बदले में हम आपको का दें? एक जोडा बैल ले लियो.

ELIZABETH

दूसरा बैल कौनसा है?.. एक तो तुम हो!

BHUVAN

बना रहीं है हमें! कुछ लै लीजिए न, कसम से.

They reach the buggy. Elizabeth faces him. Gauri watches them from a distance.

ELIZABETH

ये गले का pendant दे दो!

BHUVAN

यै?!

ELIZABETH

हाँ!

BHUVAN

पर याकी कोई कीमत नहीं है मेमसाब.

ELIZABETH

कीमत है... देना नहीं चाहते?

BHUVAN

अरे नहीं... ये लीजिए.

Bhuvan removes the pendant and gives it to her, startling Gauri. Elizabeth takes it and before getting into the carriage, says 'Bye Gauri'.

Cut to...

46C

Bhuvan returns and joins the team. They spread out in the aangan and check out the cricket gear. Bhuvan is engrossed, Gauri calls Bhuvan.

GAURI

भुवन हीया आ तिनक भर बतियाना है.

BHUVAN

का है? बोल.

GAURI

उसे ताबीज काहे दै दिया? उसके बामू का रहा?

BHUVAN

अरे... तो कौनसी जमीन-जायदाद ले गई? हमारे लिए बहुत किया है वाने!

GAURI

ठीक है ठीक है! अच्छा, वो कह का रही थी?

BHUVAN

कब?

GAURI

अरे ताबीज उतारवाने के पहले?

BHUVAN

तब...? देख गौरी, तोसे का छुपाना. कह रही थी में बहुत रोबीला हूँ... एकदम गबरू... टनाटन!...

GAURI

अच्छा? तो तूने का किया? वाकी बात सुनत रहे?

BHUVAN

नाही तो और का करता? उसे चनकटा देता?... अरे गुरन... का कर रहा है?

Bhuvan walks away leaving Gauri flabbergasted. After a moment she calls him again. He does not respond. She walks in, holds him by the arm and drags him away from everyone.

GAURI

भुवन हीया आ. और का कहा उसने?

BHUVAN

किसने?

GAURI

वाई... मन मसोसनी चुडैल ने?

BHUVAN

एलायजा मेमसाब ने? उसने कहा कि वो मोपे लटपटा गई है... इसक हो गया है वा को मेरे से! मने परेम!

GAURI

हाय राम! बेसरम कहीं की! तो तूने का किया? अब भी वाकी लटपटी सुनते रहे?

BHUVAN

नाही तो और का करता? उसे चनकटा देता? ए भूरा... ये अंडे नाही है...

Bhuvan walks away once again and joins the team. Gauri contemplates for a moment and drags him away once again.

GAURI

भुवन... भुवन (drags him) उस बेसरम ने और का कहा?

BHUVAN

उसने कही... नाही जोन दो. सह नहीं पाचेगी!

GAURI

नाही... मोको बता... बताना पडैगा.

BHUVAN

बोली... चलो कहीं भाग चले... ब्याह करले.

Gauri is now almost in tears.

GAURI

ब्याह?! तो... तूने का किया? वाकी... बात सुनता रहा?

BHUVAN

नाही तो और का करता ? उसे चनकटा देता?

Gauri starts sobbing softly. Bhuvan tries to stop her.

BHUVAN

ऐ गौरी...

GAURI

का मैं जानी न थी कि वो चुडैल ही मेरी अडचन है... गुरन सही कहवे था!

BHUVAN

गुरन? गौरी... गौरी... मैं तो मजाक कर रहा था. तोको चिढाने को.

GAURI

चिढाने को? तुझ जैसा निर्दयी कोई न होगा. एक बात हमेसा याद रखियो. ना मैं रुक्मिणी हूँ और ना मैं राधा... मैं गौरी हूँ और गौरी ही गुजर जाऊँगी.

She starts to walk away in anger. Bhuvan holds her by her arm.

BHUVAN

धत मेरी पगली.. मैंने जरा सी ढील छोड दी, तू इत्ता आगे बढ गई! अरे मैं तो तेरा मन टटोल रहा था! एलायजा मेमसाब ने ऐसा कुछौ नहीं कहा!

GAURI

सच्ची?

BHUVAN

तेरे कजरे की कसम.

Gauri feels relieved. She wants to hug him, but cannot as there are too many people around.

She just holds his hand behind his back and squeezes it. Bhuvan squirms.

CUT TO... (4:30)

Amir Khan Productions Pvt. Ltd

Scene 47

Lakha reports - Elizabeth overhears

*Cantonment: Russell's Office / Terrace
Int / Night*

Russell and Smith are seated. Russell looks thoughtful while finishing his drink. A servant swings the roof fan. It is hot.

SMITH

Sir, you have been preoccupied all evening. Could I be of any help?

RUSSELL

I've been thinking about cricket.

SMITH

What about it?

RUSSELL

An unpredictable game... Patrick, do you think there is any outside chance of our losing this bet?

SMITH

Not a hope in hell, sir. But why these sudden doubts?

Cut to...

47A

Elizabeth is out on the cantonment terrace, thoughtful. The palace dome gleams in the moonlight behind her. She sees a man completely covered run surreptitiously across the lawn towards Russell's office. She wonders.

Cut to...

47B

The man enters. Russell asks the servant who is swinging the roof fan to leave. The man removes the blanket from his head. It is Lakha.

LAKHA

माइबाप, तुफान उमड़ रहा है! आज उनके पास खेलका सारा सामान आ गया है... जैसा हजूर के पास है, सरकार.

Russell looks at Smith astonished.

RUSSELL

खेल का सामान? गोरी मेम ने दिया?

LAKHA

जान बक्सें सरकार, लेकिन उस गोरी मेम का कुछौ कीजिए! बहुत कटिया फैंक रही है.

Meanwhile, Elizabeth reaches the office door and peeps through the gap in an attempt to catch a glimpse of the informer. She can only see Russell and Smith. Lakha is out of her vision.

RUSSELL

हं... Very good. अच्छी खबर लाये.

Lakha is pleased on getting this appreciation.

LAKHA

सरकार, आखिर मेरा दल में होना किसी काम तो आया.

RUSSELL

हाँ... अब तुम जाओ.

LAKHA

जो हुकुम, सरकार!

He moves towards the door but Smith gestures him to use the other exit. Elizabeth who was waiting near the door realises and runs towards the other exit to catch a glimpse of his face. But cannot. Lakha disappears in the darkness. She gets frustrated.

CUT TO... (1:45)

Aamir Khan Productions Pvt Ltd

Scene 48

Elizabeth informs Bhuvan

Village: Bhuvan's House
Ext / Morning

BHUVAN

ये का कह रही हैं मेमसाब? हमारे दल में से? ई नाही हो सकता.

A horse stands outside Bhuvan's compound. Tipu controls other kids from troubling the horse.

ELIZABETH

मैंने खुद कल रात उसे देखा है.

BHUVAN

पहचानी सूरत है आपकी? कौन था?

ELIZABETH

मैं उसका चेहरा नहीं देख पाई.

BHUVAN

तो फिर आप ये कैसे कह सके हैं की वो हमारे दल का है.

ELIZABETH

है भुवन! मैंने उसकी बात सूनी, उसकी आवाज सुनी. कह रहा था मेरा दल में काम... मेरा दल में होना किसी... मेरा दल में होना किसी... काम का नहीं.'

Elizabeth tries to remember whatever Hindi she had heard.

BHUVAN

मेरा दल में होना किसी काम का नाही? ऐसा कौन कह सके है? हं... इस गद्दार को ढूँढ निकालने का एक ही रस्ता है.

CUT TO... (0:45)

Scene 49

Who is the traitor?

*Village Square
Ext / Day*

The team stands before Elizabeth and Bhuvan in the village square.

BHUVAN

भूरा... बोल. मोरा दल में होना किसी काम का नाही है!

BHURA

का मतलब?.. काम का नाही है?

BHUVAN

जो कह रहा हूँ... सो बोल... मोरा दल में होना किसी काम का नाही है!

BHURA

मोरा दल में होना किसी काम का नाही है... है भुवन ! मैं जता के धर दूँगा !

Bhuvan looks at Elizabeth who has shut her eyes trying to remember. She shakes her head. Lakha finds the line familiar and realises that it's an identification parade. He is seventh in line, with Arjan and Deva after him.

BHUVAN

गोली, तू बोल.

GOLI

मोरा दल में होना किसी काम का नाही है.

Elizabeth shakes her head.

BHURA

ये सही बोलता है भुवन.

GOLI

तोको गोफन पे बाँध के घुमाऊँ का?

BHURA

तू सिरफ गोफन ही घूमा सकत है, तोको वाके सिवा आवे का है?

BHUVAN

थूथन बंद करो तुम दोनों... कचरा?

Kachra is scared.

KACHRA

मोरा दल में होना किसी काम का नाही है? सची भुवन?

BHUVAN

ईसरकाका आप बोलो.

ISHWAR

लों बोलते हैं. मोरा दल में होना किसी काम का नाही है.

Elizabeth shakes her head. Lakha is sweating. Instead of saying the line, Guran keeps staring at Bhuvan and Elizabeth.

BHUVAN

गुरन?

GURAN

अब अकास फटनेवाला है... धडाSSम... मुसीबत आनेवाली है...

BHUVAN

गुरन... सिरफ बात को दोहरा...

GURAN

मोरा दल में होना किसी काम का नाही है... मुसीबत आनेवाली है.

Elizabeth shakes her head before he can complete the line. Ismail takes that as cue, delivers the line flatly.

ISMAIL

मोरा दल में होना किसी काम का नाही है.

They skip Bagha and now it is Lakha's turn.

BHUVAN

लाखा... बोल!

Lakha does not know how to get out of the situation.

Just then, about 15 horses enter the village square and surround the villagers.

They are led by Russell and Smith. All wonder what is going on.

Bhuvan is thoughtful. Lakha sighs in relief. Russell stares at Elizabeth and orders his men.

RUSSELL

Search the houses!

The soldiers disperse and start ransacking the houses.

MUKHIYA

का हुआ लॉडसाब?

RUSSELL

जैसे कुछ जानते ही नहीं हो.

MUKHIYA

का जानते नहीं है, लॉडसाब?

RUSSELL

खामोश!

Russell rides around looking at the houses. Bhuvan cannot comprehend what Russell is looking for. Suddenly one soldier shouts from Ishwar's house.

SOLDIER

मिल गया सर... एक जोड़ी दस्ताना, pad, and three stumps.

It dawns on Bhuvan what they are after and turns to Elizabeth for support as more equipment is retrieved from other houses.

SOLDIER

दो बल्ले... दो जोड़ी दस्ताने!...

RUSSELL

Alright. गिरफ्तार कर लो... भुवन और उसके दल को... कंटोनमेंट से सामान चुराने के इल्जाम में!

ELIZABETH

तुम्हें कुछ गलतफहमी हुई है अँड्रू! They have not stolen anything. ये सब मैंने दिया है उन्हें.

RUSSELL

मैं सिर्फ इतना जानता हूँ की Queen Victoria की मुहर लगा हुआ सामान जो चोरी हुआ है, इनके पास मिला है... और इस गुनाह की सजा जेल है.

ELIZABETH

तुम ज्यादाती कर रहे हो...

RUSSELL

ज्यादती तो इन्होंने की है... ले चलो इन्हें.

The team is rounded up. Lakha is expressionless as Russell glances at him and guides his horse towards Bhuvan.

RUSSELL

भुवन तुम भी कितने बेवकूफ निकले... तुमने ये कैसे यकीन कर लिया की मेरी बहन तुम्हारी मदद करेगी.

Bhuvan is stunned to learn that Elizabeth is Russell's sister.

He stares at her in disbelief and mutters 'बहन'. Russell turns to her.

RUSSELL

एलायजा... शुक्रिया!

Russell gallops off with Smith. The team is led away. Bhuvan, yet in a daze comes face to face with Elizabeth. Deva is behind him.

DEVA

तो आखिर गद्दार मिल ही गया.

ELIZABETH

इसकी बातों का यकीन मत करो भुवन... मैं बेकसूर हूँ !

Bhuvan is speechless as he is led away. The team is whisked out of the square. Gauri runs a little alongwith Bhuvan. The villagers feel helpless.

Yashodamai and other womenfolk look at Elizabeth contemptuously.

OLD LADY

हम इसपे इत्ता भरोसा किये और यही घात किये.

ARJAN'S DURGA

अखिन में धूल झोंक दी... कब्बी छमा न देगा भगवान!

ISMAIL'S SALMA

का बिगाडा था हमने आपका?

GOLI'S KESARIYA

जैसा भाई वैसी बहन.

JIGNI

सारी मुसीबत की बला यही है.

YASHODAMAI

चुप... मेमसाब, तुम हीयों से चली जाओ.

Elizabeth, tearful, walks away.

She reaches Gauri, and looks at her hopefully for support.

GAURI

मेमसाब, कच्चे मन से भेद रखके छल किया है आपने!

That is the last straw for Elizabeth, as tears roll freely, and she leaves the village square.

CUT TO... (4:30)

Scene 50
Jailed!

Cantonment: Jail
Int / Night

The team is behind bars. They are shattered.

ISHWAR

खूब फँसाया भाई बहन ने मिलके.

DEVA

इसीलिए, मैंने कभी किसी भी अंग्रेज दे उप्पर भरोसा नहीं किया.

BHURA

अब का होयगा?

ISMAIL

बेकसूर ही सूली पे लटकेंगे.

There is a silence in the cell as Bhuvan paces, thoughtful.

CUT TO... (00:30)

Aamir Khan Productions Pvt Ltd

Scene 51

Russel pulled up by Superiors

*British HQ - City Palace
Int / Day*

Russel stands before Col. Boyer. Major Cotton and Major Warren are seated.

BOYER

Do you know why are you here?

RUSSEL

No Sir.

BOYER

Interesting. Well, it's the same matter again! So...you have arrested the farmers' team. On what charge?

RUSSEL

They stole cricket equipment from the cantonment.

BOYER

Interesting!

Boyer picks up an envelope and brings out a letter.

BOYER

How is this Miss Elizabeth Russel related to you?

Russel's mind starts to race on hearing this.

RUSSEL

...she is my sister.

BOYER

Well, she writes to us that it was she, who gave the equipment to the farmers. So there seems to be no question of stealing...

WARREN

... hence no charge, hence no arrest.

COTTON

Even then, if you are keen on making an arrest, she would be the person you are looking for.

RUSSEL

Sir, in fact...

WARREN

The fact, sir, is that you are a coward.

RUSSEL

Not at all, Sir.

BOYER

In that case, you should release the farmers immediately... don't you think?

RUSSEL

Yes Sir!

BOYER

I want them released by 1100 hrs.! You may leave!

RUSSEL

Yes Sir!

Russel starts to leave and reaches the door.

COTTON

Oh Captain... one more thing. Please let us know the day of the match. We'd like to get good umpires from Cawnpore. Can't have anyone playing dirty, can we? After all, we're Englishmen and a very fair people!

Russel clicks his heels in anger and leaves.

Cotton looks at Boyer and Warren victoriously.

Boyer and Warren exchange a look.

CUT TO... (2:00)

Scene 52

Russell slaps Elizabeth

*Cantonment: Elizabeth's Room
Ext-Int / Day*

Violent horses enter the cantonment, led by Russell.

He dismounts and walks angrily into the main wing.

Cut to...

52A

He walks through the corridor, goes up the flight of stairs and enters Elizabeth's room.

Cut to...

52B

Elizabeth gets up in defiance.

Russell walks up to her and slaps her.

She falls on the bed.

RUSSELL

You have exceeded my limits of tolerance. You have caused me humiliation before my superiors by sending them that damn letter. If only I could kill you... but I happen to remember that you are my blood. I will now leave nothing unturned to make sure that your team suffers the worst humiliation imaginable. I shall have the tax threefold. I'm postponing your return to England because I want you to see for yourself how those villagers starve to death one by one, inch by inch, right in front of your eyes. And to hasten your agony, I have yet another glorious plan.

Russell leaves the room.

Elizabeth gets up trembling with rage.

CUT TO... (1:00)

Scene 53

Team released

*Cantonment: Jail
Ext / Day*

The jail door is opened.

The team comes out, bewildered.

Bhuvan is met by Russell and Smith.

RUSSELL

तुम सब को आजाद किया जाता है. लेकिन खुशियाँ मनाने की जरूरत नहीं है. मैच की तारीख में छोटीसी तबदीली की गई है.
मैच अब ३० नहीं बल्कि १५ दिन बाद खेला जाएगा.

The team is shocked to know the new deadline. Bhuvan is unmoved.

BHUVAN

लक्ष्य को साधने के लिए वक्त की नहीं हौसले की जरूरत पडती है - जो हमारे पास बहुत है!

RUSSELL

Get out!

The team walks out of the cantonment.

CUT TO... (0:45)

Scene 54

Pre-match Montage - Theme One

*Village / Cantonment / Fort / Practise Field
Int-Ext / Day-Night*

This Montage will be cut to the sound of a bat cracking the ball.

- T Yashodamai on her way to the temple expresses worry to Haribhai about so little time remaining for the match.*
- P Bhuvan in a daze as he does his stretching exercises.*
- NV Haribhai tells some farmers it's not 40 but 15 days to the match.*
- B Ramsingh comes with equipment. Bhuvan rejects it saying he does not need it.*
- C Elizabeth wants to come to the village. Ramsingh stops her and tells her that she should leave Bhuvan alone for some time.*
- P Bagha drops a catch.*
- P Ishwar collects the ball and lifts off the bails.*
- V The farmers tell a man who is leaving Champaner-10 days.*
- P Arjan connects a ball correctly.*
- C Elizabeth pacing in her room thinking.*
- NV A man in a neighbouring village declares that 5 days remain for the match.*
- P Bhura runs after a ball, fields and throws it back to Ishwar.*
- PCG Russell connects for a six.*
- NV A villager speaks through a makeshift megaphone and announces that the match is starting the next day.*
- G Gauri preparing various 'jadi-booti' creams for injuries.*

By the end of this montage, it is evident that Bhuvan's team knows how to play cricket... well, more or less.

CUT TO... (1:30)

*T - Temple, P - Practise field, C - Cantonment, F - Fort, V - Village, NV - Neighbouring village.
B - Bhuvan's house, G - Gauri's house, PCG - Polo Cricket Ground.*

Scene 55

Russell notices fire

Cantonment: Terrace

Ext / Night

After the day's play, Russell and his team are unwinding on the palace terrace. Drinks are being served.

YARDLEY

Sir, what is our plan for the match tomorrow?

RUSSELL

If we win the toss, we'll bat and drum up a huge total.

ALL

Cheers! Cheers!

PURAN SINGH

आपके खिलाड़ियों का आत्मविश्वास देखकर लगता है आप किसानों की धजियाँ उडा देंगे.

RUSSELL

जी नहीं, मुझे लगता ही नहीं... मुझे पूरा यकीन है कि हम किसानों की धजियाँ उडा देंगे.

Smith suddenly notices a glow in the jungle. Burton also notices. They move towards the balcony.

SMITH

Looks like a jungle fire.

RUSSELL

कोई है? सिपाही, घोडे निकालो. Sound the alert. आग इस तरफ भी फैल सकती है.

CUT TO... (1:00)

Scene 56
Night Cricket

Practise Field
Ext / Night

Russell, Puran Singh and his men arrive.

Hundreds of villagers hold flaming torches to enable the team to practice at night. Russell is shaken up by this passion. Puran is impressed

PURAN SINGH

कॅप्टनसाहब, इन किसानों ने तो जीतने की ठान ली है... इनकी मेहनत देखकर लगता है, आपको सही टक्कर देंगे. इतना जुनून हमने पहले कभी नहीं देखा!

Gauri notices Russell watching. She points out to Bhuvan.

Russell and Bhuvan's eyes meet for a moment before he rides away.

CUT TO... (1:15)

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Scene 57
The First Day

Polo Cricket Ground
Ext / Morning

Sunlight creeps up the cricket pitch.

A man pulls a roller over the pitch.

Three large tents, two for the British and one for the Royals have been erected at the pavilion end.

Slowly, sounds are heard in the woods, the hills and every route leading to the ground. Thousands of villagers start accumulating in every possible corner of the field. Some perch on the nearby trees.

Buggies and horsemen start arriving. Officers in uniform, their wives dressed formally; start taking their seats in the pavilion. Boyer, Cotton and Warren arrive with some top brass. Elizabeth sits next to the them. Russell and his team occupy one whole tent.

Bhuvan and his team are on the other side with Gauri, Yashodama, Shambhukaka, Mukhiya and the rest of Champaner villagers.

Puran Singh Jhala and his noblemen take their positions in the Royal tent.

Cut to...

57A

An aarti is performed by the villagers for the players. Tilaks are put on their foreheads. Bhuvan touches Mai's feet. She blesses him with victory.

Coconuts are broken on bats, tilak is put on pads, gloves and the ball.

Puran Singh enters the villagers' tent. Everyone bow down in obeisance. Puran Singh says, "मैदान में इन गोरोंकी चमडी उधेड देना." The villagers are extremely happy as they whisper, "Long live... Rajah Puran Singh!"

Puran Singh leaves. Gauri notices someone on the back entrance of the tent. She gestures Bhuvan. It is Elizabeth. All the villagers notice. Bhuvan walks out to her.

Cut to...

57B

Bhuvan looks at her sharply.

BHUVAN

कहिए...

ELIZABETH

में तुम्हें ये बताना चाहती हूँ कि तुम्हारी गिरफ्तारी में... मेरा कोई हाथ नहीं था. यकीन करो!

BHUVAN

यकीन?... अनपढ़ गँवार हम, भले ही हो मेमसाब! पर इत्ता जाने है, खून खून का साथ देवे है. हमें अंधेरे में रखा कि आप वाकी बहन हो!..

ELIZABETH

हाँ भुवन, मैं बहन हूँ उसकी! नाइन्साफी बर्दाश्त नहीं कर सकती. इसी लिए तुम्हारी मदद की, भुवन!

Bhuvan keeps staring.

ELIZABETH

भुवन... मैं तुम्हें धोखेबाज लगती हूँ? भाई ने मुझे धोखा देकर तुम्हें गिरफ्तार कराया. क्यों? वह तुम्हें जीतते नहीं देख सकता था... अगर मैंने धोखा दिया है, भुवन, तो अपने भाई को! तुम्हें नहीं!

BHUVAN

अच्छा?! काहे?

ELIZABETH

क्यों? क्योंकि... भुवन... मैं तुमसे प्रेम करने लगी हूँ... मैं तुमसे प्रेम करने लगी हूँ...

Bhuvan is stunned. She rushes off.

Gauri joins him.

GAURI

का कह रही थी?

BHUVAN

कह रही थी कि वो बेकसूर है और...

GAURI

और?

BHUVAN

और वो मोसे परेम करती है.

GAURI

धत...

Gauri gives him a don't-tease-me look and leaves. Bhuvan looks at her, surprised and then in Elizabeth's direction.

Just then, a soldier walks in to call them for the toss.

Cut to...

57C

The two teams enter the field to a thunderous applause. On one side is the white-n-white uniformed team. On the other side, a dhoti-bandi clad barefoot team.

Boyer, Cotton, and Warren are amused to see this. Warren feels that this is a historic moment for cricket. Boyer walks onto the ground, the two umpires on either side. He walks through the two lines of players to the two Captains. The umpire tosses a coin. Russell wins the toss. He opts to bat. Boyer wishes both the Captains and leaves the field.

The players walk off the field. Elizabeth is very uncomfortable in the British tent as she would rather be with the villagers. Gauri and her eyes meet for a brief moment and Gauri looks away.

Cut to...

57D

Bhuvan's team comes together in a group. Bhuvan instructs the team field placing and all take their respective positions with Ishwar behind the wickets. Goli and Bhura in the first and second slip positions, Ismail in the gully, Guran at long off, Arjan at the long on, Bagha at the deep fine leg, Kachra at deep third man, Lakha at mid-on and Bhuvan at the covers.

There is a loud applause as Deva starts his run up and bowls to Burton. The ball pitches at a good length and Burton strikes the ball. There is chaos as all the fielders leave their positions and run after the ball. Bhuvan asks them to calm down.

The second ball is played well. It heads towards Ismail who leaps and collects it. No run. The third ball is cut in the slip. It is not a catch but Bhura grabs it quickly. The crowd applauds the fielding. The fourth ball is played towards Lakha who misses it deliberately and a boundary is scored. Bagha walks up to Lakha, tears in his eyes, making guttural sounds trying to goad him not to make a mistake. Lakha for the first time is shaken up, but he brushes off his guilt and continues with the game. The fifth ball is back to Ishwar. The sixth ball is played towards Guran who cannot save the single but saves a second run. The over is complete.

Bhuvan bowls the next over and a few runs are scored.

Fast transition of Deva and Bhuvan bowling in tandem for 12 overs. The score moves up slowly. For these overs, there is chaos and argument about taking each others placements.

Boyer comments if there was way one could measure the speed of Deva's delivery it would be faster than that of Yardley.

Cut to...

57L

Lunch.

Cut to...

57E

Bhuvan calls Goli to bowl the next over to Burton. Goli starts the run up. Burton is surprised to see that Goli has the most unpredictable arm action which he rotates as he is running. He bowls and beats Burton. On the next ball, Burton refuses to play and appeals to the umpire.

BURTON

I can not play unless he bowls properly.

The game is stopped.

There is commotion as the umpires consult each other and call Goli.

UMPIRE 1

You see we have a problem here. You will have to bowl conventionally.

Goli looks at Bhuvan questioningly.

Bhuvan is in a dilemma as to how the situation has to be tackled.

Elizabeth enters the field and appeals on behalf of the villagers.

ELIZABETH

Excuse me, Sir.

Russell sees this and he too enters the field.

ELIZABETH

I think you are being unfair to the home team.

RUSSELL

Unfair? How can you say that?

ELIZABETH

I'm merely asking them to be fair and neutral.

RUSSELL

It's only fair if they ask this man to bowl properly.

ELIZABETH

There is no rule written anywhere about such an action. Is there?

The umpires consult each other.

UMPIRE 2

It's not a written rule!

UMPIRE 1

Then, we better write some rules Captain, which, unfortunately can happen only after this match. Till then, let's get on with it!

Russell glares at Elizabeth and leaves. She looks at Bhuvan who is convinced that she is on their side. He is embarrassed about having doubted her. She smiles and leaves.

The play resumes.

Goli gets a wicket on the next ball. He clean bowls Burton. Burton leaves the field grumbling.

In the next few overs, a catch is taken by Ishwar.

The next wicket is a run out by Ismail.

Cut to...

57T

Tea

Cut to...

57F

Kachra is not successful as a bowler.

He is hit all over the ground.

On one of his deliveries Russell hits the ball in the air which Lakha conveniently drops.

Bagha also drops a simple catch and collapses on the ground in disappointment.

Russell leaves the ground at the end of the day with a score of 205/3.

Ramsingh explains the score to the cricket-ignorant audience.

Cut to...

57G

The home team returns to the tent dejected with the days outcome. The crowds and buggies have begun to leave. Kachra sits in a corner away from all, trying to gauge what went wrong with him during the bowling. There is bickering amongst the players.

ISMAIL

ए लाखे, का हो गया था आज तोको? तैयारी के बखत तू ठीक खेल रहा था!

LAKHA

तैयारी की बात और थी... लेकिन तू सिरफ मोको दोस काहे दे रहा है... सबसे बडा दोस तो भुवन का है.

ISMAIL

भुवन का?

LAKHA

का फायदा... उस अछूत को हमारे साथ जोड़ कर? देख लिया उस लुले का चमत्कार! का मैं गलत कह रहा हूँ बापू? आप लोगन बताओ. ऐसे ही चला ना, तो हम नाही जीत सके है. याद रखियो!

ISMAIL

लाखा अब इके आगे एक लब्ज...

Ramsingh decides to intervene.

RAMSINGH

अरे भैया, सिर्फ एक दिन खतम हुआ है... अभी और दिन बाकी हैं... घबराते क्यों हो?

Bhuvan and his team spot Elizabeth. They are awkward - yet unsure. Elizabeth wants to go and meet them but Boyer, Cotton and Warren are in conversation with her.

British team distract home team during the match by talking loudly to each other.

Gauri is the team doctor. She takes care of the team's sprains and injuries.

(First inning is not started by Deva. It is by Kachra who is ineffective. New ball not good for spin syndrome. Hence Goli is effective.)

CUT TO... (8:00)

Scene 58
Lakha caught

Village Square
Ext / Night

Elizabeth arrives there. Mukhiya meets her half way and folds his hands.

MUKHIYA

सारे गाँव के घोरे से माफी माँगत हैं, मेमसाब. का करें... हालात ही ऐसे थे.

ELIZABETH

मुखियाजी, आपकी जगह में होती, तो मैं भी ऐसाही करती.

VILLAGERS

धनबाद, बहुत धनबाद मेमसाब!.. आज आप ने जो कियो वासे... मन मोम सा पिघल गया.

She acknowledges and walks up to Bhuvan.

ELIZABETH

क्या सोच रहे हो मुवन?

Both are awkward, especially Bhuvan.

BHUVAN

यहीं कि वह गद्दार अब भी हमरे ही बीच है!

ELIZABETH

हाँ मैंने तीन लोगों की आवाज नहीं सुनी.

Arjan stands up, looks at Elizabeth and smiles.

ARJAN

मोरा दल में होना किसी काम का नाही है.

Elizabeth shakes her head.

Lakha makes desperate attempts to move but he is surrounded by villagers. Deva speaks next.

DEVA

मोरा दल में होना किसी काम का नाही है.

Lakha is scared as he stands up.

LAKHA

मोरा दल में होना किसी काम का नाही है.

Elizabeth finds the voice familiar, her eyes shut.

ELIZABETH

फिर एक बार!

Lakha gets tense.

LAKHA

मोरा... दल में... होना... आपके...

Elizabeth opens her eyes with surety.

ELIZABETH

यही आवाज सुनी थी... बिल्कुल यही!

Mukhiya is furious and so are the other villagers.

MUKHIYA

कमीने सही बोलता है! तेरे जैसे जहरीले नाग का इस गाँव में रहना कौनो काम का नहीं है!

VILLAGERS

जाने मती दीजियो... मारो... लाखा!

The villagers run after Lakha to beat him up. Bhuvan tries to stop them unsuccessfully.

BHUVAN

रुको... ठहरो... ठहर जाओ!

Lakha runs for his life, dodging the villagers. Finally he runs up the steps leading to the temple, gets inside and locks the door.

Bhuvan reaches the temple door and knocks it.

BHUVAN

दरवजा खोल, लाखा.

LAKHA

नाही... तू...

BHUVAN

में तोको कुछौ नाही करूंगा. लेकिन ये लोग यहाँ से टलनेवाले नहीं है. कब तलक भीतर रहेगा? तेरे जैसों की भगवान भी अंदर रच्छा नहीं करेंगे. मोको भीतर आने दे, लाखा.

Silence for a few moments.

The door opens and Bhuvan slips in.

CUT TO... (2:00)

Scene 59

Lakha asks for forgiveness

*Village Temple
Int / Night*

Lakha moves away from Bhuvan and stands next to the idol trembling.

BHUVAN

तूने ऐसा काहे किया लाखा?

LAKHA

गौरी की जलन ने बाउला कर छोडा था. मैं... मैं तेरे से नफरत करने लगा.

BHUVAN

चुटकी भर चाह में तूने किच्ची नफरत मोल लेली, लाखा... बोल!

LAKHA

माढी चढ गई थी मेरी आँखों पे. मैं पूरे गाँव और गौरी की नजर में तोहो गिराना चाहता था. तुझे हराना चाहता था... सो गोरों से हाथ मिला लिया.

BHUVAN

कितनी बडी भूल कर बैठा, लाखा!

LAKHA

होस गवाँ बैठा था भुवन. माफ कर दे...

BHUVAN

एक मौका दे सकता हूँ... गाँववालो का मन जीतना होगा. वफादारी साबित करनी पडैगी. नाही कर पाया... तो मैं कुछे नाही कर सकता.

LAKHA

मैं तैय्यार हूँ. जो कहोगे सो करूँगा!.. पछतावा करने का मौका दे दे, भुवन. बस!

CUT TO... (1:30)

Scene 60

The Second Day

*Polo Cricket Ground
Ext / Day*

Lakha dives and stops a ball from reaching the boundary. His attempts for forgiveness have begun.

By lunch, Russell's team is bowled out for runs.

Goli has taken 2 wickets, both clean bowled.

Guran has taken 1 wicket, caught and bowled.

Kachra has taken 1 wicket, Ismail has taken a catch at forward short leg.

Bhuvan 1 wicket, leg before wicket.

Deva 1 wicket, Ishwar has taken catches behind and a brilliant run out by Lakha.

Cut to...

60L

Lunch. Bhuvan and his team listen to Elizabeth as they sit for their midday meal in the traditional way. She points out different players from the British team. She tells them who the pace bowlers are and the spinners and good fielders. Bhuvan and his team absorb all of it hungrily. They identify Yardley, Wesson and Burton.

Cut to...

60A

Post Lunch. The opening pair is Ismail and Deva. Yardley, the pace bowler baffles both the batsmen. Wesson is the other bowler. For 3 overs Ismail and Deva struggle to score a single run. Finally, unintentionally Ismail scores a boundary as the ball connects with his bat and slips between his legs and zips past the wicket keeper. The crowd cheers.

Cut to...

60T

Tea.

Cut to...

60B

At the end of the day's play, the home team is 90 for 5 wickets.

Ismail and Arjan are bowled out.

Guran sustains a little, scoring a few runs. He plays his strokes like Gilli-Danda amid protests.

Bhuvan is steady at the wicket.

CUT TO... (3:00)

Scene 61

Mid-match Montage - Theme Two

*Cantonment / Village / Fort
Ext / Night*

Russell and his team celebrate because not only do they have a good score of 320 runs but they have devastated Bhuvan's team – 90 for 5.

But Russell commends the villagers' knack of not only getting them out but also scoring 90 for 5.

Ramsingh explains to the visiting villagers the present situation of the match. The villagers are dejected.

Boyer, Cotton and Warren feel that the villagers team is under immense pressure.

Rajah discusses with his noblemen in the fort.

The villagers are completely nervous that they have got only 90 for 5.

Bhuvan and his team analyse their mistakes. The ferocity of the bowlers was too intimidating. Bhuvan re-checks the game plan and the placement of fielders and the gaps.

CUT TO... (1:00)

Scene 62
The Third Day

Polo Cricket Ground
Ext / Day

The villagers come in to bat with Guran and Bhuvan. They resume at 90 for 5. Russell makes a strategic move of changing from pace to spin which leaves Guran flummoxed. Guran falls to the spin, and one by one all players fall while Bhuvan holds fort. By lunch, the home team is all out for a score of 160 runs in the first innings.

62L
Lunch

Cut to...

62A

Post lunch. The score is 90 for no loss.

Deva comes in to bowl. He is determined to get wickets. He gets his first wicket – clean bowled when the score is 120.

Deva gets a hat-trick by taking the next two consecutive wickets. Deva is congratulated by the whole team the score now being 120 for 3.

Russell's batsmen have difficulty in facing Deva's vigorous bowling. They decide to end Deva's spell. They deliberately knock him down while taking a run and make it look like an accident. Deva is injured and is forced to return to the pavilion.

The British are astounded to see the eight year old Tipu enter the field as a substitute for Deva who proves to be a diehard fielder. By losing Deva, Bhuvan finds himself in a difficult situation. He calls Guran to bowl but they are unable to penetrate through the British bat.

62T

Tea

Bhuvan brings on Kachra who was unsuccessful in the first inning.

Cut to...

62B

Right from the first delivery Kachra unknowingly mixes the right line and length with an innovative flight which is luring for the British batsmen. Bhuvan with brilliant placement of his fielders manages to encash on his bowling. Two wickets are taken in the form of catches - one by Lakha and the other one by Bagha, who breaks into a frenzy on finally being able to hold on to the ball. On another delivery of Kachra, Ishwar stumps the batsman when he is out of crease accidentally. The British don't know what hit them when Kachra takes two more wickets clean bowled.

They are finally wound up with a score of 210 all out with two lbw's by Kachra. Kachra is the new hero for the crowd.

The home team comes in to bat 15 overs after tea. The wickets of Ismail, Goli, Bagha, Ishwar and Bhura are lost in quick succession, the score being 90/5 at the close of play with Bhuvan and Guran at the crease.

Ramsingh tells the gathered crowd that Bhuvan's team is in shackles as they have a himalayan task of making 371 runs to win the match with only 5 wickets in hand which is a bleak possibility. Personal scores are as follows: Ismail-13, Bagha-17, Bhuvan-21 N.O., Ishwar-19, Goli-11 and Guran-9 N.O.

CUT TO... (4:00)

Scene 63
Loss of hope

Village Temple
Int / Night

Gloomiest night in the history of Champaner. The neighbouring villagers, the home team, everyone is disappointed with the state of the match and the team. All compare the score with the previous inning performance and start to believe that it is impossible to win.

There is complete loss of hope. They are considering defeat as inevitable. Yashodamai and others enter the temple. She keeps staring at the idol.

CUT TO... (1:00)

Aamir Khan Productions Pvt Ltd

Scene 64 : Playback Song Seven
Gloom

Village Square
Ext / Night

Yashodamai starts humming 'ओ पालन हारे... निर्गुन और न्यारे' and is joined by Gauri.

Soon the whole village participates in the song which is full of hopes.

Elizabeth prays in the church.

Ismail and Kazi perform 'namaaz'.

Deva also joins in the prayer.

By the end of the song, the whole team is charged as they wait for sunrise.

CUT TO... (4:00)

Aamir Khan Productions Pvt Ltd

Scene 65
The Fourth Day

Polo Cricket Ground
Ext / Day

Bhuvan and Guran come on to bat with their new found sense of power. But the British appear certain of victory.

*Bhuvan and Guran keep the scoreboard ticking which starts to alarm the British.
Guran keeps talking to himself in order to pep himself up.
Russell talks to Yardley and they arrive on a decision.*

Yardley bowls body-line. Bhuvan manages to miss a few missiles just by ducking. Russell has a vicious smile on his face.

When Elizabeth calls it unfair and appeals to the umpire, Russell informs her that there is nothing written in the book of rules, so his bowlers will bowl the line they please.

Bhuvan and Guran face the British bowlers body-line with more fury and start scoring runs. But the wickets start falling.

Guran is caught at the boundary for 31 runs. Deva gets injured.

Cut to...

65L
Lunch.

Cut to...

65A
Deva makes a brilliant 56 in spite of his injury before getting clean bowled. Lakha is made a target by the bowlers on Russell's instructions for supporting the villagers and playing a double game. He scores 38. Arjan makes a struggling 49. He is tricked out by the bowler who after taking the run up suddenly takes the bails off when Arjan is just out of the crease. The last man in is Kachra. Bhuvan so far has been steadily batting with 59 runs. The required runs are 63.

Bhuvan does not allow Kachra to face too many deliveries. The British are a little tense now as they decide to injure him and bowl body-line ferociously. Bhuvan plays some splendid hook and pull shots destroying their body-line attack. The crowd is vibrant in their applause.

65T
Tea.

Cut to...

65B

The score ticks along.

Cut to...

65C

It is the last over. Bhuvan is on 98 and 6 more runs to win. Its a fresh over from Yardley who rubs his left foot three times on the ground and takes off.

Bhuvan misses the first delivery and is extremely frustrated.

Cut to...

65D

As he faces the second delivery there is pin drop silence in the crowd. The ball is pitched short, Bhuvan tries to pull it instinctively, misses and a scream tears the silence as the ball hits him on the forehead. The bandana given by Gauri flies off and lands on the ground next to Bhuvan's bleeding face. The crowd gasps and some of his team-mates rush to the ground to bring him back as Russell and his team is in near celebration.

Bhuvan gets up shakily, picks up the bandana and ties it round his head looking at Gauri. He sends his team-mates back.

Cut to...

65E

On the third delivery he manages to take a run somehow. The crowd is on the edge as Kachra is about to face the next ball. 5 more runs to win.

Cut to...

65F

The fourth delivery is a deadly bouncer by Yardley. Kachra misses the ball, flabbergasted with the pace, looks at Bhuvan helplessly. Bhuvan looks at him reassuringly and walks up to him instructing him to run whether he connects the ball or not. Kachra nods in agreement but uncertainly.

Cut to...

65G

The fifth delivery is yet another bouncer. Kachra ducks and dashes towards Bhuvan but stumbles and falls. He fortunately keeps his bat in the crease in time. Bhuvan is anxious and half way on the pitch, turns and runs back to save his wicket. Bhuvan is disappointed and looks defeated. He walks up to Kachra and tells him that he has to make a big hit if they have to win. Kachra is in tears as

he shakily agrees with Bhuvan. The British team is now in near jubilation as victory looks already attained.

Cut to...

65H

Kachra anxiously awaits the next ball and the run up seems never ending. Yardley bowls a ferocious bouncer missing Kachra's head by an inch. Kachra ducks in time, realises he has missed, but yet yells out to Bhuvan to run and dashes towards him. Bhuvan complies half-heartedly knowing that they have lost it.

Russell and his team is about to celebrate when they realise that the umpire had given a "no ball" call. Russell tries to argue but to no avail. Bhuvan cannot believe that they have yet another ball to face and he is at the batting end.

Cut to...

65I

The Last delivery. Bhuvan gets into his stance as he sees Yardley walk towards his run up mark.

Every Shot is in **SLOW-MOTION** from here on.

Yashodamai and Gauri join their hands in reverence. Elizabeth crosses fingers of both her hands. The whole crowd waits in silent anticipation.

Yardley gives some last minute instructions to the fielders.

Bhuvan is in another dimension of time and space as he watches Yardley. He blinks his eyes as the sweat mixed with blood rolls down his forehead. He gets flashes of Mai complaining about the water problem.

Yardley reaches the run up mark and turns around.

Bhuvan in revolt in the village square telling the villagers to keep faith. Yardley starts to run. Russell fixes the bet and Bhuvan agreeing to it.

Yardley is twenty feet away from the crease.

The villagers firing Bhuvan. He blinks once again as he has tears in his eyes.

Yardley's footsteps sound like heavy thuds as he is ten feet away.

Gauri telling him that he has the knack to make things happen.

Bhuvan blinks once again and his face hardens as Yardley reaches the crease with his hand coming round to deliver the ball. The ball bounces before Bhuvan, he takes the bat way behind and starts to bring it in the front to connect. He pulls the ball with eyes shut for a huge six.

Russell runs after the ball.

Smith screaming at Russell.

Finally the ball enters frame and Russell grabs it. He is jubilant.

No one else is.

He looks at the umpire who is looking at his feet.

Russell looks down and collapses in shock. He is standing behind the boundary line.

THE UMPIRE DECLARES A SIX.

The home team has won.

Cut to...

65J

The villagers scream in joy and throw their turbans in the air forming a tricolour. They rush on to the ground from all sides and lift up Bhuvan on their shoulders.

Russell and his team is devastated.

Boyer, Cotton and Warren applaud.

Puran Singh Jhala applauds passionately.

Yashodamai has tears in her eyes.

Gauri is delirious as she rushes towards Bhuvan. Elizabeth also rushes towards Bhuvan and she gets the shock of her life to see Bhuvan hold Gauri's face in his hands and embrace her. Elizabeth realises their relationship and tears appear in her eyes. Over Gauri's shoulder Bhuvan notices Elizabeth. Elizabeth forces a smile and backs off through the crowd. Gauri comes out of the embrace.

GAURI

एलायजा मेमसाब को देखा? कहाँ है वो?

BHUVAN

पता नहीं... भीड़ में कहीं खो गई...

Cut to...

65K

Suddenly there is a sound of thunder and lightening. All look up. The revelry and the celebrations stop and there is silence over the field as all look skywards. There are dense clouds in the sky.

There is a second clap of thunder... and it rains.

There is a deafening sound on the ground, bigger than the thunder as thousands of villagers scream and yell and celebrate the coming of the rains.

Shambhukaka stands up with tears in his eyes as he joins his hands skywards.

Deva is thrilled, but in charge of his emotions. His eyes search for the British team through the crowds. He spots Yardley, Burton and others in a group and Russell in the pavilion tent.

Deva feels victorious. Just then, Tipu jumps up and hugs him.

Cut to...

65M

Russel enters the British tent in the pavilion. He picks up a gun and aims it on Bhuvan who is in the centre of the field on the head and shoulders of the villagers. Tension. Elizabeth comes before the gun, fury on her face. Russell for the first time lowers the gun and submits to Elizabeth.

CUT TO... (7:00)

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Scene 66

Wind Up

Cantonment / Village Street

Ext / Day

The rain continues.

The British flag is lowered. Puran Singh watches it with pride. A huge caravan consisting of buggies, horses, carriages and troops start to leave the cantonment.

66A

As the caravan passes through the village street it is watched silently by the villagers. On the outskirts of the village, the team awaits them lead by Bhuvan. Their eyes are looking for Elizabeth. A buggy reaches Bhuvan and Elizabeth gets off. She touches Yashodamai's feet, who blesses her.

YASHODAMAI

सुखी रहो, बेटी. जुग जुग जियो!

Elizabeth then gives a few flowers to Gauri.

ELIZABETH

गौरी, इन्हें मंदिर में चढा देना!.. दुआ माँग लेना दूल्हे की... वह तुम्हारा है... तुम्हारा रहेगा. तुम ही उसकी रुक्मिणी है... तुम ही राधा.

She faces Bhuvan.

BHUVAN

मेमसाब, आपने हमार लिए जो कुछ किया है उसे हम कभी नहीं भूलेंगे.

ELIZABETH

मैं भी नहीं...

Her eyes tearful, she gets into the buggy. Her hand is in the window of the buggy, the pendant hanging from it as the caravan leaves Champaner. A voice-over begins...

और इस तरह चंपानेर ही नहीं, उस प्रांत के सारे गावों को तीन साल तक कोई लगान नहीं देना पडा.

इस सबके बाद, अंग्रजों ने अपनी छावनी वहाँ से हटा ली. राजा पूरन सिंह के लिए ५० साल पुराना सपना साकार हो गया.

कैप्टन रसल का कोर्ट मार्शल हुआ और उसकी सेन्ट्रल अफ्रिका के रेगिस्तान में बदली हो गई.

एलीझाबेथ - अपने मन में भुवन की मूरत लेकर वापस इंग्लैंड चली गई और सारा जीवन अविवाहित रहकर, भुवन की राधा बनी...

भुवन और गौरी का विवाह बहुत धूम से हुआ, जिसमें उन्हें आशीर्वाद देने के लिए स्वयं राजा पूरन सिंह पधारे जिससे चंपानेर की शान चौगुनी हो गई.

इस ऐतिहासिक जीत के बाद भी, भुवन का नाम इतिहास के पन्नों में कहीं खो गया.

CUT TO... (2:00)

THE END