

**FOX STAR STUDIOS**

**Presents**

**NEERJA**

**A Bling Unplugged & Fox Star Studios Production**

Directed By

Ram Madhvani

\*

Story & Screenplay

Saiwyn Quadras

Dialogues

Sanyuktha Chawla Shaikh

## 1 EXT. KARACHI AIRPORT/BARRICADE - NIGHT

Super: 4th SEPTEMBER 1986 - 9:00 PM KARACHI

Birds eye view of Karachi airport. Fully staffed, air planes waiting to take off, cargo being unloaded, luggage trucks driving across, a plane in a distance gently taxiing into the runway. The visual sharpens as we switch to a binocular POV.

A Board reads - KARACHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The binocular pans - Lax airport security staff, saunter about, without the alertness and pace expected at an airport.

The binocular pans again and focuses on a small half closed gate- the guards exchange peanuts/snacks chat facing away from the half open gate, leaving the entry easily accessible.

CUT TO:

## 2 EXT. BUILDING TERRACE NEAR KARACHI AIRPORT - NIGHT

Binoculars are put down to reveal AL TURK (45) Stern expression on an intelligent and experienced face. He checks time on his wrist-watch- 9:35 PM. He moves swiftly, gets into a car and drives away, leaving behind a cloud of dust

CUT TO:

## 3 EXT. NEERJA'S BUILDING COMPOUND - NIGHT

MUMBAI - 9:30 PM.

A taxi comes to halt outside a residential complex as we hear a girl's giggle

NEERJA (O.S.)

Poocho kitni baar? Saat baar! hall mein! Anand ki toh ek ek line aati hain mujhe

TAXI DRIVER

Waah waah mere mureed

As the girl turns to the taxi driver, we reveal NEERJA BHANOT (23) Big naughty eyes, her natural beauty accentuated by a bright toothy smile.

NEERJA

Mureed? Who's Mureed? Im Neerja

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

The taxi driver sticks his head out as she steps out

TAXI DRIVER

Arre, mureed maane fan. Jaise ki  
hum hai yusuf saab ke, maane Dilip  
kumar ke

NEERJA

(delighted)

Oh, that's true ! woh toh mai hoon  
Jatin Khanna maane Rajesh Khanna  
ki. Acha toh hum chalte hain (she  
sings)

She laughs as she pays him some extra money.

TAXI DRIVER (O.S.)

Thank you didi, allah lambi umr  
bakshe tumhe

NEERJA

(Rajesh Khanna style)

Zindagi badi honi chahiye, lambi  
nahi babumoshai!

The taxi driver waves and drives away, Neerja enters the  
complex.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. COMMON COMPOUND, NEERJA'S BUILDING COMPLEX - MOMENTS  
LATER

Neerja walks towards the large garden area, a big banner  
reads 'ANNUAL GALA NIGHT'

Everyone is sitting looking bored, the stage is occupied  
by children dancing to a nursery rhyme. Some people are  
snacking on samosas, cake with paper plates in their  
hands and some having Rasna/other colored cold-drink.

Neerja's mother RAMA [(45) classic good looks compromised  
by a constant frown] is helping the building watchman  
balance 3-4 snacks and samosa filled paper plates and  
giving him some instructions about sharing it with  
others.

Neerja spots her father HARISH BHANOT [(48) serious  
looking man with gentle smile] sitting with a few same-  
aged men. One of Harish's friends spots Neerja walking  
with a bag and purse.

FRIEND:

Aa gayi aapki 3D.

(CONTINUED)

HARISH  
 (really happy to see  
 her)  
 Daddy's darling daughter!

RAMA  
 Oho! khul gayi halwai ki dukaan,  
 aap dono ke dekhte dekhte diabetes  
 ho jaana hain mereko

Tipsy the dog runs up to Neerja and starts jumping for her attention.

HARISH  
 Shoot kaisa tha? Kitni tired lag  
 rahi ho, ghar chale jao beta

Rama enters and takes the frisky Tipsy from Neerja.

RAMA:  
 Acha hua aa gayi Lado, pareshaan  
 kar diya hain sab ne poochte  
 poochte, Neerja kahaa hain, Neerja  
 kab aayegi, thak gayi hoon mai  
 jawaab dete dete

HARISH:  
 Kaam karke aayi yeh, aur thak gayi  
 hai aap?

Neerja laughs as she takes some wafers from her dad's plate and munches on it.

RAMA:  
 Wafers kyun khaa rahi hain? Bhook  
 lagi hain? Paronthia ni khaai? Aur  
 fruit? Maine sab diya toh tha  
 dabbo mein!

NEERJA:  
 (clearly lying)  
 Haan mamma sab khaaya maine.

She and her father share a look and Neerja quickly makes an excuse.

NEERJA:  
 Uff, sab itna dull dull hain  
 yahaan! Lets get this party  
 started, with Kaka ji !

Neerja opens her bag and removes a walkman from inside and moves away as Rama places tipsy down. The camera stays on the mother as she removes the casserole in Neerja's bag and removes the paratha (that Neerja hadn't eaten) and feeds it to Tipsy.

4 CONTINUED: (2)

Neerja is at the place where Sharma Sound System's DJ is playing some nursery rhyme as the kids are continuing to just stroll around on stage/dance area. Neerja shuts the tape and taking the mike...

NEERJA

Bacha party, very good, now go,  
(she turns to the building kid)  
ready?

Neerja then removes the cassette from the walkman. It reads 'My Fav Rajesh Khanna Songs' and puts it in one of the slots in the dual tape recorder connected to the speaker.

She plays a song then immediately stops and rewinds it and plays it again and 'Bye Bye miss goodnight' starts playing.

She pulls the first set of old people sitting in the front row

NEERJA

C'mon everyone!

Neerja continues to get everyone on their feet and is not taking a no from a few people hesitant to get into the act. Her mother and Father laugh and are telling their friends that there is no point resisting.

Neerja, facing the people standing is coaxing them to follow her lead and shows them Rajesh Khanna's steps. The song continues as we see the people losing quite a bit of their inhibitions and following Neerja as she continues to dance.

She tells her Dad to hold her from behind and signals her mother to do the same. The people get the lead and a train-chain has been formed. People laughing, smiling, enjoying. Neerja's smile and exuberance is infectious.

Amidst all this she spots her oldest brother AKHIL mixing some alcohol from a miniature bottle into a glass. She catches him in the act. sneaking a cigarette, catches him in the act.

AKHIL (26) handsome and shy is scared of his younger sister as she has a stern look on her face. Neerja shakes her head as we see a flash and she turns in that direction to see that it is ANEESH(24) cuter younger version of HARISH BHANOT, take the picture.

She pulls them both to join the train chain.

Music continues, so does the laughter and Rajesh Khanna steps.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (3)

The Bhanot family looks like a happy family together as Rama begins dancing and Neerja copies her. It is very evident that Neerja is a reflection of her mother.

Neerja giggles as she returns to the performance area. Neerja takes the lead once again, paying a genuine ode to her favorite movie star, singing the song loudly and dancing in the quintessential Rajesh Khanna style. Everyone claps and cheers her

CUT TO:

5 EXT. KARACHI MARKET STREET - NIGHT

KARACHI 10:00 PM

A car comes to a halt near a market road. Al Turk approaches a crowded biryani stall. The MAN serving some customers immediately spots Al-Turk and calls out to an assistant to assist the customers.

Al-Turk takes a corner table in the dingy shop as the MAN comes to take the order. Al-Turk looks up at the MAN and [almost cryptically] orders.

AL-TURK:

Chaar plate biryani. Special waali

The MAN walks out of the frame as Al-Turk continues to sit there staring at the busy stall in front of him.

The MAN breaks his gaze as he places a polythene bag on the table, and another bag near Al-Turk's feet. Al-Turk without checking the contents picks both those bags and places a thick wad of notes on the table and walks out. The MAN quickly picks up the bundle of notes and puts them in his Kurta pocket.

CUT TO:

6 INT. NEERJA'S HOUSE- NIGHT

The television is on.

Harish, Rama (removing her jewelry and placing it on the table in front of her), Akhil and Aneesh are laughing as Neerja manages a glass of water and at the same time imitating her mother dance.

NEERJA:

Hai na bhaiyaa? aisi hi dance kar  
rahi thi na mamma

(CONTINUED)

RAMA

Pare hutt bandar.. soja thodi der,  
thakti nai hai tu?

Neerja picks tipsy in her arms and begins petting it.  
Aneesh takes a 'Stardust' Magazine and begins flipping  
through it.

NEERJA

Arre haan! Sona chahiye thodi der!  
mamma aap mujhe thodi der mein  
utha doge please?

RAMA

Tu woh le le na, sick leave. Poora  
din shoot karke aayi hain....

NEERJA:

Nahi ma jaana padhega..Shanti ne  
already chutti li hai.

Then Neerja looks at Aneesh busy with the magazine.

NEERJA

Aneesh bhaiyya yeh magazine mere  
liye baahar hi chhod dena please.  
Mai saath le jaaongi.

ANEESH:

(looking at her  
weirdly)

Tu vaapas aake ke padh lena.

NEERJA:

Please bhaiyya. Mujhe plane mein  
padhni hai.

ANEESH:

Plane mein ni padhegi toh  
marjaayegi? aur vaise bhi pichli  
do baar tu bhool ka aa gayi thi  
meri magazine. Nothing doing

Neerja is clearly unhappy but Aneesh doesn't care and  
gets back to his magazine.

NEERJA:

Kanjoos. chalo main sonay jaa rahi  
hoon.

Just as she is leaving, a TVC featuring Neerja begins to  
play on the tele. Akhil calls out to her and she stops to  
watch the ad.

6 CONTINUED: (2)

AKHIL:

Lado dekh! Teri ad! Kitni aunty  
type lag rahi hain.

Neerja sticks her tongue out in response to her brother's teasing and enters the bedroom.

RAMA:

Kyon pareshaan karte rehte ho  
bechaari ko.

Akhil and Aneesh look at each other and laugh.

TRANSITION TO:

7 INT. BAKERY/HOUSE - NIGHT

KARACHI 10:30 PM

Two young boys Fahad and Mansoor - [both just about 18 years old] new found moustache and beard slightly growing on their young faces. Fahad is munching on a piece of bread.

FAHAD:

(in Arabic)  
Bhai Bhook lagi hai.

MANSOOR:

(in Arabic)  
Kab se intezaar kar rahe hain

Safirini- the 25 year old man looking out through the window doesn't pay heed to them but another man Khalil [25] big built, bearded face and drugged out eyes looks at the two boys with disdain.

Both the boys are almost scared of his glare.

KHALIL:

(stern-steely tone)  
Khana aa jaayega

Safirini spots the headlights of a car and turns back to the trio. His weary, withered face looks older than the age of 25. His demeanor and body-language clearly suggests that he is the mentor/leader of the trio sitting there. He turns away from the window.

8 INT/EXT. BAKERY - NIGHT

Al-turk arrives in an auto rickshaw and we see a van parked outside [the Pakistan Airport Security Van which we will establish later].

(CONTINUED)



8 CONTINUED:

He gets off with two bags in his hand, enters a shop where a few men in baniyan and lungi are stomping on big pieces of dough. They don't pay any attention to Al-turk; as if he is a regular there. He continues walking inside into a small passage that leads to a makeshift door.

He knocks thrice.

9 INT. BAKERY/HOUSE - NIGHT

Fahad and Mansoor look expectantly as Khalil opens the door and in enters Al-Turk with the bags.

Fahad and Mansoor get up from the corner they are sitting in and go to the table where the bags are kept. The young boys get the biryanis out while on the same table Khalil and Safirini take out the contents of the other bag- guns, rifle barrels, C4 bars and bullets. The normalcy of the food and guns being removed side by side is quite scary.

10 INT. NEERJA'S HOUSE- LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

5TH SEPTEMBER 1986 1:00 am

Rama is kneading dough in the kitchen. We can see potatoes and some green vegetables already prepped to make parathas. Rama looks at the clock it reads 1:00 AM

Rama walks into the living room as she unties her apron. She looks at the wall clock again, Harish is working busily on his typewriter. He looks up

HARISH

Mujhe pataa hain tum kya soch rahi ho, dus minute sone dogi toh daant padhegi.

RAMA

Ae wi theek hain,

CUT TO:

11 INT. NEERJA'S HOUSE/BEDROOM- NIGHT

Rama enters the room, puts the light on and gently wakes Neerja. Topsy following Rama jumps on the bed and begins waking Neerja by licking her face. Neerja grumbles.

NEERJA:

Tch Topsy! Mamma please, sone do,

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

RAMA  
 (gently carrying  
 tipsy and putting it  
 down)  
 Le! Soja, kissi ne roka hain

Rama starts to leave, Neerja pulls her to the bed, and puts her head in her lap. Rama settles her hair affectionately

RAMA  
 Aise mazdooron jaise kaam karna jaroori hain? Modelling enni changi chal rahi hain teri, yeh air hostess job chhod kyun ni dendi

NEERJA  
 Mamma I love my air hostess job

RAMA  
 Yehi toh saara siyappa hain! Tere flight pe chadte hi blood pressure high ho jaanda hain mera. Tera plane utaarta hain uske saath mera pressure.

NEERJA  
 Aur samose khao meri flight ko blame karo, maine dekha toh aapko kal, teen khaaye na?

Neerja turns away giggling

RAMA  
 Chal uth ab!

She pulls Neerja back

CUT TO:

12 INT. INTERCUTS BETWEEN NEERJA'S HOUSE BEDROOM AND BAKERY HOUSE

Neerja putting her make-up on.

Fahad and Mansoor washing their faces.

Neerja wearing her uniform.

Khalil, Fahad and Mansoor wearing some uniform as Al-turk and Safirini watch them. Safirini is dressed in a pathani with a waist-coat.

Neerja wears the Pan Am badge

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

Reveal the Karachi men's uniform read Pakistan Airport Security

Neerja checks her bag and shuts the suitcase

The Karachi men shut a heavy trunk with guns and grenades in it.

Safirini, Khalil, Fahad, Mansoor and Al-turk are standing in a circle and saying the Martyr's prayer

MARTYR'S PRAYER

(in Arabic)

Hum mehnat karne waale hain. Hum  
tayyar hain. Hum apne maqsad ke  
liye kuch bhi kar sakte hain. Iss  
maqsad mein humaari jeet hogi.

CUT TO:

13 INT. NEERJA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Neerja sits with her head bowed, in front of a big idol of Goddess Durga. Rama appears from behind

RAMA

Leh!

14 INT. NEERJA'S HOUSE- NIGHT

C/u of Neerja's hand held by Rama, its bare.

RAMA

Kya matbal mil ni ri? Mai keya si  
na, uttarna nai hain iss ring ko

Neerja exchanges a look with Harish sitting at the table, Rama tosses Neerja's hand away. Neerja is packing her vanity bag with the contents that are currently on the table. Make-up, lip-stick, hair accessories, etc. She remembers some VHS tapes, puts them in a plastic bag and shoves them in her big bag. Rama displeased, walks into the kitchen and gets some freshly cooked parathas and places it on the table.

Neerja is wearing her lipstick as Rama continues..

RAMA

Toofaan mail jaise phirna hain,  
yaa se waa, itne kaam kar leti  
hain din mein, ek ring ni sambhaal  
sakti? Maine pandit ji se special  
teri safety ke liye li thi

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

NEERJA:

(rajesh khanna style)  
 Arey meri pyaari maa..agar yeh  
 hota toh voh nahi hota aur agar  
 voh nahi hota toh shaayad yeh bhi  
 nahi hota..hota toh vohi hai na jo  
 ho na hota hai..kya samjhe.

Neerja takes her lipstick and pretends to apply it on  
 Rama's lips as Rama irritated, pushes Neerja's hands  
 away.

HARISH:

Waah kaka ji! kaunsi film ka  
 dialogue hai yeh?

Neerja struggles with wearing her earrings

NEERJA:

(still rajesh khanna  
 style)  
 Arey nadaan yeh toh original hai  
 re.

Harish and Neerja laugh.

RAMA:

(irritated)  
 Humor sense kitta jyaada changa  
 hain aap dono ki Hehe

NEERJA:

(giggling)  
 Mamma humor sense nai, sense of  
 humor! And I'll be safe I promise

The conversation is interrupted by a car horn Neerja  
 quickly gets up from her seat, plants swift kisses on her  
 parents cheeks and is about to run out when her mother  
 stops her and gives her yogurt and sugar. Neerja gulps it  
 and hurries out of the house with her bags in tow.

RAMA

Parothian khud bhi kha lena, sab  
 baant mat dena.(suddenly  
 remembering)Hai rabba! Laado tera  
 toh birthday hain 7 ko, miss ho  
 jaayega!

Neerja gets her shoes from the shoe rack and starts  
 putting them on

NEERJA

Mamma birthday New York mein!  
 Lekin mera gift leke rakhna!  
 bhoolna mat Ok Bye

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

RAMA

Arre par chaiye kya...

NEERJA

Daatne mein itne busy ho ke yeh  
bhi yaad nahi, maine dikhaya tha  
na woh yellow waala salwar suit?  
Mujhe wahi waala chaiye mamma,  
jiske dupatta mein woh chamki  
tha..

RAMA

Acha Haan! mai kal hi le aaongi,  
dhyaan se jaane beta, bye

Neerja rushes out waving

Rama and Harish walk to the window and look at Jaideep  
(29) handsome, shy is waiting for Neerja. He spots them  
and waves to them from below-nervously smiling.

HARISH

(pensive)

Mujhe Jaideep ke baare mein pehle  
hi soch lena tha Rama, Lado ke  
liye isse behtar ladka nahi ho  
sakta, pataa nahi kyun maine uss  
Naresh se..

Rama looks at her husband's guilt-ridden face and  
lovingly smiles at him. She places her hands on his and  
begins sweetly singing 'Ajeeb Dastan hai yeh...'

Both of them watch Jaideep and Neerja drive away

CUT TO:

15 INT. BAKERY/HOUSE- NIGHT

KARACHI - 1:40 AM

Al-turk looks at his watch.

AL-TURK:

(in Arabic)

Chalo.

KHALIL:

(in Arabic)

Mansoor- Fahad.. sab samaan gaadi  
mein daal do.

Mansoor and Fahad pick the heavy trunk and follow Khalil  
outside.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

Safirini walks up to Al-turk.

Safirini and Al-turk are in a serious conversation as Safirini is fidgeting with something under his kurta.

SAFIRINI:

(in Arabic)

Mansoor aur Fahad theek se kar  
paayenge? Training poori hain na  
inki?

Safirini takes the last sip from his cup trying to hide the concern on his face.

AL-TURK:

(in Arabic)

Haan Haan, kaam ke pakke hain  
dono, Mujhe yahaan poori tafseel  
milti rahegi, Ab hum milenge  
Cyprus mein

Safirini keeps the cup on the table.

CUT TO:

16 EXT. OUTSIDE BAKERY/HOUSE- NIGHT

Khalil is watching the boys place the trunk in the back of a van. The camera reveals- Pakistan Airport Security written on it. All of them get into the car with Khalil in the driver's seat. Khalil shuts the door.

CUT TO:

17 INT/EXT. CAR/BOMBAY ROADS - NIGHT

Jaideep is driving and Neerja is seated next to him. She is winding a un-spooled cassette with a pen. Their body language clearly suggests that they are very comfortable with each other.

NEERJA

(Russian accent)

I want to stay home and sleep, but  
instead I have to go on plane and  
serve strangers like they are  
family.

Jaideep chuckles

JAIDEEP

Bade exposed ho gaye ho  
Babumoshai!

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

NEERJA:

Hanste hi rahoge ke kuch bologe  
bhi? Ab mujhe german accent mein  
batao tumhara din kaisa tha

JAIDEEP:

din baut busy tha, Accent mujhe  
aata nahi,

NEERJA:

Waise toh mujhe bolne ka mauka  
nahi dete, humesha airport ke  
raaste pe hi itna chup kyun ho  
jaate ho?

JAIDEEP:

(teases)

Woh issiliye kyunki mai tumhe  
bahut dhyaan se sunta hoon

NEERJA:

How sweet!

JAIDEEP:

Mai ek baar full and final samajh  
jaana chahta hoon ke tumhari awaaz  
ka kaunsa part mujhe sabse zyaada  
annoying lagta hain, tone, volume,  
accent

NEERJA:

Haww! Is this true? meri awaaz  
itni annoying hain ke uska  
analysis karna hain

JAIDEEP:

(dead serious)

Haan.

Neerja sulks

JAIDEEP

But.. its very strange, jab tum  
nahi hoti na, toh mujhe tumhari  
awaaz hi sabse zyaada yaad aati  
hain

NEERJA

Haan haan kaan mein bajne waali  
annoying awaaz

JAIDEEP

Arre nahi, tumhari awaaz mujhe  
kaan se nahi dil se sunai deti  
hain babumoshai, I miss you and  
always with your annoying voice

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

Neerja smiles appeased

NEERJA  
Tum mujhe miss karte ho

JAIDEEP  
Of course!

NEERJA  
Oh oh ! aage se left jaldi!

JAIDEEP  
Lekin airport?

NEERJA  
Please please do minute

LONG SHOT OF THE CAR TAKING THE LEFT TURN.

CUT TO:

18 INT. CAR/HOARDING SITE - NIGHT

Neerja and Jaideep have halted. Neerja turns to Jaideep and smiles

JAIDEEP:  
dekho mai bahut ache ghar ka ladka  
hoon, I dont like where this is  
going.

Neerja giggles she whacks him playfully and points out of her window. Jaideep moves closer to her to see where she is pointing

NEERJA  
Tadaa! See!

Jaideep turns to see it is a huge BENZER hoarding of Neerja as a bride. Jaideep briefly taken by how beautiful she looks, breaks the moment

JAIDEEP:  
Itna bhi nahi miss karoonga tumhe

STRAINS OF LOVE SONG BEGINS

JAIDEEP:  
Babumoshai yeh tumhara birthday  
present

(CONTINUED)



18 CONTINUED:

He gets a few chocolates and a letter out of a the glove compartment, he gives only the chocolates first

NEERJA:

(British accent)

Wow snickers! my favorite! Oh but Jai-Deep how daft are you?

JAIDEEP:

Daft?? pataa hain kitni mehnat karni padhi

NEERJA:

(french accent)

Serves you right mes cherie, you give chocolates to a air hostess, one I have to watch my weight, two I travel the world and can get these anytime. What is that in your hand?

She points to the sealed envelope in his hand.

JAIDEEP:

(with purpose)

Yeh tum sirf aur sirf apne birthday pe khol sakti ho, aur chocolates wapis kar do, tumhe toh kahi bhi kabhie bhi mil sakti hain

He gives her the letter. She takes the letter and the chocolates

NEERJA:

(italian accent)

Dont be rude, you cannot take back a gift, stupid man. Now drive, I am late! Drive I say!

NEERJA:

(rajesh khanna

accent)

Oh chal na re, nahi toh late ho jaayenge re

Jaideep drives chuckling

JAIDEEP:

By the way, you make a beautiful bride Babumoshai.

Neerja gives him a perfunctory smile and stares out of the window as they drive away.

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

LOVE SONG SHOTS-

Neerja continues to talk and giggle as Jaideep reacts, smiles and listens to her.

C/U of Neerja tenderly holding the chocolates and the letter - maybe her fingers grazing the envelope as if curious to know what is written in it.

Jaideep asks for a chocolate as he is feeling hungry and she cutely refuses as if saying they are all mine.

19 EXT. OUTSIDE SAHAR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - NIGHT

MUMBAI 2:25 AM

LOVE SONG CONTINUES

The car door opens- Jaideep and Neerja have reached the airport.

Jaideep removes the one small bag and then picks her Vanity bag. He pretends to be dragged down by the weight of that bag.

JAIDEEP

Ooh! Badaa bhaari bag hain bhai!

NEERJA

(laughs)

Tumhe kya lagta hain? aise lagna  
(she gestures to herself) chota  
mota kaam hain?

JAIDEEP

Mujhe lagta hain tumhare liye toh  
kaam hi nahi hain

Neerja blushes, they both look at each other and smile. Neerja picks her bags. Slight nervous silence between them.

NEERJA:

Acha toh hum chalte hain!

JAIDEEP:

(looks at his watch)  
Ruko abhi time hain, its 2:27,  
three minutes more

Neerja [face away from Jaideep] smiles and then turns.

(CONTINUED)

NEERJA  
 (smiling naughtily)  
 teen minute mein kya ho jaayega ?

JAIDEEP:  
 (rajesh khanna style)  
 Kissi badi khushi ke intezaar mein  
 hum yeh choti choti khushiyoon ke  
 mauke kho dete hain

NEERJA  
 Bawarchi! wow you watched a Rajesh  
 Khanna Film! Great!

JAIDEEP:  
 (whispers)  
 Tum jaanti nahi lekin Kaka ji mere  
 liye bahut badaa kaam karne waale  
 hain

NEERJA  
 (mocking)  
 Acha? Woh kaise?

Jaideep looks at her with a lover's yearning, admiring her childlike laughter. He is about to tell her something when they are interrupted by two young girls- Tina and Debina[22-24 years old], dressed in Pan-Am air-hostess uniforms, almost identical looking because of the make-up and hair-style.

Suddenly Neerja is blushing and slightly on guard.

DEBINA:  
 Hi Jaideep, Tina humaari kismet  
 mein toh khadoos company drivers  
 hi likhe hai, don't you wish  
 humaara bhi pick up itna cute hota

Jaideep blushes

TINA  
 chalo we are late!

She pulls Neerja

TINA  
 C'mon! Bye Jaideep!

Neerja caught between colleagues at the last moment manages only a sideways embrace with Jaideep, his face falls

JAIDEEP  
 Half-hug? Really?

19 CONTINUED: (2)

NEERJA:

Pst (she points her chin to Tina  
and Debina and makes a sad face)

She quickly turns to see Tina and Debina laughing at her as she walks towards the entrance of the airport. Jaideep is waiting for her to turn back and he suddenly remembers something.

JAIDEEP

(calls out)

Neerja, Letter! birthday pe  
kholna!

LOVE SONG CONTINUES

But Neerja doesn't turn and he watches her walk inside. Slightly disappointed he turns back when suddenly he is surprised by arms around his neck- Neerja's. She hugs him tight and whispers

NEERJA:

Letter birthday pe hi kholoongi,  
I'll miss you, bye

Jaideep happily turns as Neerja makes a cute funny face, lands a quick peck on the lips [surprising Jaideep], and runs back.

JAIDEEP

Bye bye, miss good night

LAST BIT OF THE LOVE SONG - MUSIC FADES OUT.

20 SCENE CONTINUES EXT/ SAHAR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.~~INT.~~  
~~SAHAR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT/CHECK IN AREA NIGHT~~

A beaming Neerja walks towards Tina and Debina waiting for her. Both of them smile and look happy for Neerja. As they walk towards the gate leading to the entrance of the airport and wade through the crowd of people in and around the airport, Debina begins talking.

DEBINA:

Jaideep is so cute, Neerja ab toh  
tum shaadi kar hi lo

TINA

Kar Le Neerja, nahi toh yeh kar  
legi! she has big crush on Jaideep

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

Everyone laughs, Neerja doesn't pay heed to the joke as she is lost in thought. Debina squeezes Neerja's hand and whispers

DEBINA:

Oh C'mmon Neerja, purani baatien  
bhool ja, be cool. woh shaadi  
arranged thi, yeh love hain,  
zindagi ko ek aur mauka toh de kar  
dekh

CUT TO:

21 [FLASHBACK 1 BEGINS] INT. DOHA HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

The kitchen counter is piled with take out boxes. Neerja, still very much the blushing bride, arms covered with the traditional 'chooda' a spot of sindoor on her forehead, is organizing the boxes and pulling out serving trays and bowls. She reacts to some loud laughter from the living room. Just then her husband Naresh (28) serious looking with a no nonsense attitude, appears, he has the bill for the food in his hand, he checks it in disdain.

NARESH:

Tumhari maa bhi aisi hi hain kya?  
apne pati se home delivery  
karwaati rehti hain?

For a second Neerja doesn't know how to react but then assuming he is joking,

NEERJA

Meri mamma bahut acha khana  
banaati hain!

NARESH:

Toh shaadi se pehlay seekh leti  
unse. ke tumhe independent banaane  
ke chakkar mein kuch sikhaya hi  
nahi

NEERJA:

(a little hurt)  
I promise main jaldi seekh  
jaaongi.

NARESH:

Problem pataa hain kya hain  
Neerja, hume apni shakal dikhane  
ke paise nahi milte, hume mehnat  
karni padhti hain. Aur dekho, meri  
mehnat ke paise kisme jaa rahe  
hain? Khana order karne mein.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

21

CONTINUED:

NARESH: (CONT'D)

Yeh saara kharcha mein darling  
daughter ke daddy se vasool  
karoonga, Khana banaana tak nahi  
sikhaya tumahri maa ne tumhe Tsk  
Tsk Tsk

Neerja is stunned. She doesn't know what to say.

NEERJA

Tum har baat mein mamma ko mat  
laao please? hum manage kar lenge

She picks up a plate of food to take it outside. Naresh  
takes it from her

NARESH:

(angrily)  
Tum yahi raho, mai le jaaonga.

Neerja picks up another plate

NEERJA

(trying to make light  
of the situation)  
Khaana banaana nahi aata lekin  
serve toh karna aata hi hai. waise  
bhi mai tumhare doston ko hi toh  
bol loon, I don't want to be rude

Naresh extends his arms towards the wall and blocks  
Neerja from going any further.

NARESH:

Jaisa mai boloon waise karo. Yahi  
raho, baahar. Mat. Aana. Samjhi.  
Yeh sab saaf kaun karega?

Naresh continues to glare at a scared Neerja and takes  
the tray from her hands. Naresh walks out as Neerja is  
stunned with Naresh's behavior. She starts clearing the  
counter and throwing empty boxes, wrappers into the bin.

FRIEND (O.S.)

Bhai aur kitna chupaayega apni  
model biwi ko?

NARESH (O.S.)

maine bola usse aane ko lekin pata  
nahi kehti hai ussay baahar nahi  
aana hai.

FRIEND (O.S.)

Karne de naatak. Nayi nayi shaadi  
hai na. Dheere dheera line pe le  
aana usko.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

All the friends laugh, Neerja looks hurt.

CUT TO:

22 [FLASHBACK 1 CONTINUES] EXT. DOHA MALL - DAY

Neerja, wearing dark glasses, gets out of the mall carrying two big shopping bags. Her body language isn't that of the happy chirpy girl we are used to seeing so far. She walks up to a small tuck shop at the street corner, the SHOP OWNER (50) cheerful chubby Pakistan man greets her warmly

He takes the land phone and places it in front of her, she smiles gratefully and dials

23 [FLASHBACK 1 CONTINUES] INT. HT OFFICE/ HARISH'S CABIN-DAY

Neerja's father is giving his feedback about an article to a junior journalist.

HARISH:

Article toh theek hain, lekin  
tumhe nahi lagta tum kuch  
important bhool gaye ho?

HARISH:

(smiles)  
Nahi main waise hi pooch raha  
hoon.

JUNIOR JOURNO:

(unsurely self-  
critical)  
Uhh..sir..punctuation?!

He is about to say something further when the phone rings

HARISH:

Hello?

24 INTERCUTS BETWEEN PHONE BOOTH AND OFFICE CABIN

NEERJA:

Hello Papa? How are you?

HARISH:

(joy on his face)  
hello mere 3D, How are you?

(CONTINUED)

NEERJA:

Mai..mai theek hoon papa

HARISH:

Aaj office mein kaise phone kiya?  
Mamma ko bataaonga ki Daddy's  
Darling Daughter ne sirf mujhse  
baat karne ke liye phone kiya toh  
badaa naraaz ho jaayegi, she'll be  
so jealous![laughs]

Neerja doesn't respond and there is a few seconds' silence.

HARISH:

Kya hua beta? Is everything ok?

It is clear that there is a lot she wants to talk about but controlling the quiver in her voice she replies

NEERJA:

Papa woh mera ad hain agle mahine,  
aap uss agency ko phone karke bol  
do mai nahi aa paaongi. Unka  
business card mere cupboard...

HARISH:

Ek minute ek minute, kyun nahi  
aogi beta?

NEERJA:

Papa I think I should stop  
modelling, shaadi ke baad acha  
nahi lagta yeh sab karna

HARISH:

(surprised)  
What? Yeh kaisi ajeeb si baatien  
kar raho ho Laado, kis idiot ne  
kahaa yeh sab tumhe, Naresh ko  
bataaya? He'll laugh (he laughs)

NEERJA:

Papa Naresh ne hi kahaa mujhe,  
unhe nahi lagta mujhe modelling  
karni chahiye, aap cancel kardo  
please

Harish gets the vibe of what Neerja is implying.

HARISH:

Bhai yeh toh galat baat hain,  
we've discussed this.

(MORE)



HARISH: (CONT'D)

shaadi se pehle unn sab ne bola  
tha they will let you work, mai  
Naresh se baat karoon beta? He'll  
understand...

NEERJA:

(gets frightened at  
the thought)

Nahi papa, please aap Naresh se  
kuch mat kehna, Please papa, (her  
voice breaks) Mamma se kehna I  
miss her, aur Aneesh aur Akhil  
bhaiya se bhi.

Harish reacts to her tears

HARISH

Lado, bache, pehle toh hausla  
rakho, hausla hume har taqleef se  
nikaal sakta hain. Doosra, galat  
baat, na karna na sehna, teesra...

NEERJA:

(finishes the  
sentence)

Pehla aur doosra kabhie nahi  
bhoolna

Harish smiles

HARISH

That's my girl! Ab tum hi agar  
haanji haanji karne lag jaaogi toh  
kaise chalega. bahadur bacha kaun?

NEERJA:

(smiles)

Mai

Neerja hangs up the phone and looks into her purse,  
fishes through it, then looks up embarrassed

NEERJA

Uncle mai next time de doo paise?

SHOP OWNER

Dont worry bache, abba se baat ho  
gayi, bas.

He gives her a chocolate and smiles kindly, Neerja melts,  
as she has been completely bereft of kindness and  
affection, she smiles through her tears

NEERJA

Thank you

24 CONTINUED: (3)

She walks away from the shop feeling strong.

FLASHBACK 1 ENDS

25 INT. PAN-AM HOLDING AREA BATHROOM - NIGHT - DELETED

A/25 INT. PLANE - NIGHT

MUMBAI- 3:00 AM.

Camera pulls back from Neerja's face as she is holding the intercom phone. She gets information from Dolly.

DOLLY:

All equipment is correct in number  
and serviceable

NEERJA:

Thank you Dolly.

Neerja clicks a button.

NEERJA: (CONT'D)

What's the status Ramesh?

RAMESH:

All equipment is correct in number  
and serviceable

NEERJA:

Thank you.

Neerja places the receiver back and walks towards the staircase leading to the Upper Section/ Cockpit area

B/25 INT. UPPER SECTION - NIGHT

Neerja reaches the upper section and asks the Male steward stationed there for a status update. He gives her a thumbs up.

Neerja turns in the direction of the cockpit and knocks on the door. The door is opened by one of the co-pilots.

NEERJA:

Hello. I am Neerja Bhanot and I am  
the head purser for this flight.

CAPT. SNIPES.

Hello Miss Bhanot. All set?

(CONTINUED)

B/25 CONTINUED:

NEERJA:

Absolutely! We are raring to go  
Captain Snipes

CAPT. SNIPES.

great!

CO-PILOT BERTRAND:

Comment Allez Vous Miss. Bhanot?

NEERJA:

Je vais bien Captain. Bertrand.

CO-PILOT BERTRAND:

All checks done?

NEERJA:

Yes Sir

CAPTAIN SNIPES:

Excellent, Adrien, Richard and I  
are done with our technical checks  
too. All we need is some fuel at  
Karachi and lame lay over in  
Frankfurt. I wish we could fly  
straight to New York!

NEERJA:

Oh no! Please! We need the lame  
lay over captain, we need more  
food and wine for the passengers!  
So can we begin boarding?

CAPT. SNIPES.

Yes, please, lets get this show on  
the road

Neerja thanks all of them and gets out of the cockpit and  
takes the stairs to return to the lower section of the  
plane.

26 INT. PAN-AM HOLDING AREA- NIGHT - DELETED

A/26 INT. LOWER SECTION - NIGHT

Neerja walks down the stairs towards the front door. She  
informs the ground staff.

NEERJA: (CONT'D)

We are ready for boarding.

TRANSITION TO:

27 EXT. KARACHI ROAD - NIGHT

KARACHI 3:10 AM

The Pakistan Airport security van drives through the darkness. The passengers in the car are sitting silently.

Khalil's POV- he sees a police checkpoint a few metres away and slows the speed of the car.

He looks scared and then through the rear-view looks at Safirini.

SAFIRINI:

(in Arabic)

Agar roke toh jaise maine samjhaya  
hain waise karna

Mansoor and Fahad wipe their nervously sweating faces. The car approaches the checkpoint and they are stopped by the cops. The cops point their flashlights inside causing the passengers to squint.

The cop looks at them intently and then asks them for their ID's. All of them reach out to their pockets [Fahad and Mansoor's hands on their guns] when Khalil speaks up.

KHALIL:

(urdu)

Diplomat Sahab hai Libya ke  
humaare saath, unhe ruksat karne  
aaye hain

Khalil asks Safirini to show his Diplomat Passport.

Mansoor and Fahad are nervously staring ahead ready to use the gun as the cops check the passport.

On being satisfied with what he has seen the cop salutes Safirini the diplomat and signals the cops at the barricade to let the vehicle pass.

Everyone in the car breathes a sigh of relief and the two young boys ease the grip on the gun as Khalil gets back to the driver's seat and drives through the barricade.

28 INT/EXT. SAHAR AIRPORT/BUS - NIGHT

MUMBAI 3.15 AM

ANNOUNCER:

(Off- Screen)

Pan Am flight 73 to New York is  
ready to Board.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

ANNOUNCER: (CONT'D)

Kindly request all passengers to  
board the flight from Gate no.3

A first time flyer, Anand Parekh- 22 years old is  
restlessly waiting to get out of the bus to board the  
flight.

A couple of buses are seen driving towards the plane.

Establish a few of the passengers. Some of them looking  
out of the window and the huge plane on which is written  
'Clipper Empress of the Seas'

Both buses come and halt near the wing of the plane and  
an airport authority staff member allows a Pan- Am  
attendant to walk out with 3 kids.

Gopal is patiently waiting with his 5 month pregnant wife  
Babita as he watches people jostle to get out of the bus  
and into the plane.

29 INT - PLANE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Tina, Debina and Neerja are waiting in the front section  
ready to welcome the passengers now climbing the stairs  
while Sanjana and Dolly are manning the rear gate.

A/29 INT. PLANE - NIGHT - **FRONT GATE**

A Pan Am attendant comes towards Neerja with 2 girls 8-9  
years old and a boy of almost the same age.

ATTENDANT:

Hi Neerja three UNMs traveling to  
Frankfurt

BHAVIK:

My Name is Bhavik Desai she is my  
sister Rekha Desai and he is my  
cousin Jatin. We are not UNM, we  
are SRJ (she points to each  
corresponding Initial)

Neerja smiles

NEERJA

Bhavik UNM matlab Unaccompanied  
Minors. Aap apne mamma papa ke  
bina plane mein travel kar rahe ho  
na, toh aapka dhyan rakhne ke  
special responsibility meri hain.  
I'm Neerja, come!

(CONTINUED)

A/29 CONTINUED:

Neerja lovingly takes the kids to their seats, she helps them puts their bags in the overhead compartment and kneels down to the kids' level and lovingly smiles at them. Jatin is nervously fidgeting with a toy aeroplane.

NEERJA.

Ab kuch hi der mein mummy papa mil jaayenge. Excited?

BHAVIK:

Yes I am but Jatin is scared.

NEERJA:

Arre isme darne ki kya baat hain[looking at the toy in his hand] tum pilot banna chahte ho na

JATIN:

Haan

NEERJA:

(smiling at his innocence)

Tumhari mumma ne bataaya, mai pilot se boloon tumhe ek flying lesson dene ko?

Jatin's eyes light up

NEERJA

Nahi? Tumhe darr lagega na?

JATIN:

No no I want to go to pilot! Please aunty!

Neerja smiles

NEERJA

Ok done

Jatin is very excited all of a sudden and vigorously nods his head.

NEERJA:

Aap sab ke passports, bag mein rakh doon?

Bhavik hands over the 3 passports to Neerja as she gets up and reaches out to the overhead compartment to keep the passports.

30

INT/EXT. SAHAR AIRPORT/STAIRS/BUS - NIGHT

People get down from the bus and begin queuing up.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

The Hassan family are first people to board from the rear entrance of the plane

A hassled looking Hanif, managing all the bags and a child- Nasiah tugging at his pants, has all the passports in his hand. When Neeraj- a young man in his mid 20's comes and hands over a passport and boarding card that Hanif had dropped.

Shakeela and Hanif both thank Neeraj as he smiles and leaves them with Shakeela grumbling at Hanif for being irresponsible. Hanif ignores the woman's mumbling like an experience husband does as he orders his still arguing children to get on the stairs.

31 INT/EXT. SAHAR AIRPORT/PLANE - NIGHT

Quick establishing shots of the kind of passengers flying- with names on the boarding cards

Camera pans through the people walking into the plane.

32 INT. PLANE ENTRANCE - FRONT GATE

A few more passengers have entered followed by a young Indian with his slowly walking grandmother - Rahul Kumar and Sujata Kumar.

Behind them is the nervous passenger Anand Parekh

Sujata Kumar compliments Tina and Debina for their beauty. Sujata has in a way halted traffic behind her and Anand Parekh is restlessly trying to figure a way to pass through her but cannot.

SUJATA

Kitti pyari hai dono! Tum dono ki shaadi ho gayi? Mera pota, Amreeca mein settle hain! Milogi?

She points at Rahul who is embarrassed and doesn't know where to look, he mouths an apology to Debina and gently nudges his grandmother along.

SUJATA (CONT'D)

(conspirational)

Baad mein baat karenge..

Debina half-smiles at Rahul. Sujata lovingly tells him not to be embarrassed and walks away from there but not before telling the girls she will talk to them in the plane.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

Anand Parekh shows his boarding pass and smiles at Tina as she points to the direction of his seat.

A/32 INT. PLANE ENTRANCE - REAR GATE

Hanif and his wife Shakeela's teenage son Jannat and daughter Aliya are arguing with each other as the father Hanif Hassan [45 years old] is overloaded with everyone's hand bags.

JANNAT

I'll sit with Abbu

ALIYA

No I'll sit with Abbu

JANNAT

I'll sit, you see

Sanjana and Dolly smile and point the Hassan family towards their seats as a few more passengers enter.

Hanif Hassan's kids are now almost quarrelling with each other to sit with Hanif but he is busy stowing the many bags he has in the overhead compartments.

INT. PLANE ENTRANCE - FRONT GATE

An executive looking foreigner [who Tina was checking out earlier] -among many others. By this time Neerja has come back to her spot.

As Tina takes the boarding pass from the foreigner- Carl Malone

CARL:

Look forward to flying with you today.

TINA:

We do too sir.

Carl smiles as Tina blushes and then stops when Neerja and Sanjana stare at her authoritatively.

TINA: (CONT'D)

What?! I'm doing my job!

NEERJA:

(stifling a smile)  
Yeah right.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

A few more passengers enter followed by a scrawny looking hippy man- Ronnie Heston-

CUT TO:

B/32 INT. PLANE ENTRANCE - REAR GATE

Gopal is helping his 5 month pregnant wife Babita into the plane

Sanjana and Dolly smile at them and allow them to enter, Gopal insists on taking Babita's bag.

GOPAL:

Babita dhyaan se please. And no ulti till we take off ok?

BABITA:

(not amused)  
Not funny, Gopal

Gopal smiles and gently guides her through the aisle.

TRANSITION TO:

33 INT. PLANE - NIGHT

The plane is half full with passengers as a few of the cabin crew members are helping the passengers get comfortable.

Neerja moves towards the galley, takes a few sweets from a tray in front of her and goes towards the Desai kids and gives it to them.

NEERJA:

Don't tell anybody ok.

She winks at the kids and moves ahead.

Camera follows Neerja as she walks towards the first class section for final checks.

The Cabin Crew are seen busily completing their formalities. Some checking the safety of the galley stations while some roaming around the aisle telling the passengers to buckle up and straighten their seats.

The camera reveals the passengers reading newspapers, pressing the call-buttons, asking for water as the other air-hostesses smile and go about their duty.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

A couple passenger reading an Indian Magazine spot a full page ad of a brand featuring Neerja and as she approaches them they do a double-check. Neerja smiles as they show her the ad and passes them by.

The camera shows Tina serving Carl Malone a drink. He looks at her and smiles flirtatiously and so does Tina. Just then their eye contact is broken by Heston (sitting next to Malone)

HESTON:

Wow! Row 13!

CARL MALONE:

Oh is that unlucky for you?

HESTON:

I hope not, I only have half hour for my connecting flight. I hope we make it in time to Frankfurt.

CARL MALONE:

You better keep your fingers crossed that the plane is on time

HESTON:

I will. I have faith, the hills teach you that.

Heston smiles

CARL MALONE:

You a climber?

Heston nods, we leave them as they continue their conversation

**Neerja gives her command to start the safety demonstration through the PA system**

TRANSITION TO:

34 EXT. COCKPIT - NIGHT

4:00 AM- Mumbai

Pilot's POV - the airport guy on the tarmac with the UV baton guiding the plane out of the parking area.

Long-Shot of the plane on the runway as the pilot is heard.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

CAPTAIN. SNIPES:

(heavy American  
Accent)

Namaste deviyon aur sajjano and  
Good morning to all of you. Mera  
Naam hai captain Jack Snipes And  
with me are co-Pilots Adrien  
Bertrand and Richard King. Welcome  
to Pan Am 73 flying to New York  
via Karachi and Frankfurt. The  
time is 4:00 Am India time we hope  
to land in Karachi in 40 minutes.  
Quick fact about this flight -  
Your captain that is me is  
learning Hindi. By the time we  
reach New York please tell me  
'Mera Hindi Kaisi thi'. In return  
I promise a smooth take off and  
landing'

Passengers reactions - some laughing some indifferent.

NEERJA

(on the PA system)

Crew to arm all doors and cross  
check

The flight takes off.

CUT TO:

35 INT. PLANE- NIGHT

Neerja and Debina are sitting next to each other, both  
strapped securely in their jump seats, Neerja puts her  
hand in her pocket and half removes the letter Jaideep  
gave her

DEBINA:

Whats that?

NEERJA

Jaideep ne di hain

She smiles shyly

DEBINA:

Ooh! Love letter! so romantic!  
Khol khol!

NEERJA

No no, yeh mai sirf aur sirf  
birthday pe khol sakti hoon

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

DEBINA:

Arre khol na, I also want to see,  
usse kaise pataa chalega aaj kholi  
ki kal, pst, come on, open it

Neerja looks tempted, Debina pulls out the letter, Neerja  
snatches it back

NEERJA

Aye! Give it back! And No! Mai  
abhi nahi kholoongi, aur tumhare  
saamne toh bilkul nahi!

She puts the letter back in her pocket as Debina laughs

DEBINA:

Fine! Miss goody two shoes!

Just then they are distracted by the sound of a passenger  
call. She puts the letter away.

36 EXT. KARACHI AIRPORT/HANGAR - NIGHT

5:00 AM Karachi

The van is waiting in the cover of darkness. Fahad and  
Mansoor are both standing in a corner. Safirini has  
removed his waist-coat and is fidgeting with something  
under his pathani [wearing the explosives laden belt -  
maybe don't reveal it now]

Khalil opens the back of the van and slides the trunk  
towards him and calls out to Fahad and Mansoor. Safirini  
opens the trunk - guns, grenades, bullet magazines neatly  
placed

Safirini passes the guns to Khalil who in turn passes it  
to the young boys.

Mansoor looks overwhelmed. Khalil holding a gun in his  
hand..

KHALIL

(in arabic)

Ek aur baar. tees second ki  
training hai na teri? Phir se kar!

Mansoor's hands are trembling and he almost drops the  
gun.

(CONTINUED)

KHALIL:

(in arabic)  
Gadhe! yeh tere haath kyun kaap  
rahe hain. Darpok!

Safirini approaches..

SAFIRINI:

(in arabic)  
Khalil!

He gives Khalil a dirty look then addresses Fahad and Mansoor.

SAFIRINI:

(in arabic)  
Darre hua mat rehna, ab hum  
daraayenge apne plan ke mutabik  
chalna hain.Bas.

Safirini stares angrily at Khalil as Mansoor nods, still affected.

SAFIRINI:

(in arabic)  
Chal phir se koshish kar

Mansoor manages to get it right this time.

SAFIRINI:

(in arabic)  
Himmat rakh Mansoor. Issi din ki  
tayyari itni shiddat se ki hain  
tune. himmat.

Safirini pats Mansoor on his back as Khalil walks towards the van.

INT. PLANE - NIGHT

5:15 AM Karachi

The lights in the plane comes on as Neerja announces.

NEERJA:

Pan Am flight 73 will land at  
Karachi International Airport  
shortly. Please fasten your seat-  
belts and ensure that your seat is  
upright. For those deplaning in  
Karachi in thank you for choosing  
Pan Am airways.

Neerja keeps the PA receiver and walks towards the kids.  
She retouches the bedsheet on the 3 sleeping kids.

38 EXT. KARACHI AIRPORT/HANGAR - NIGHT

The foursome watch the plane land on the tarmac. Fahad and Mansoor look at each other nervously while Safirini and Khalil have the look as if to suggest that the hour of reckoning is here.

SHOTS- PLANE LANDING - POV FROM THE ATC - POV FROM THE PLANE AS IT REDUCES SPEED ON THE RUNWAY - C/U OF THE WHEEL COMING TO A HALT -

CUT TO:

39 INT. PLANE- NIGHT

Neerja is standing at the gate with a file in her hand as Tina and Debina are smiling and thanking the passengers disembarking.

TINA:

His name is Carl Malone.

NEERJA:

Kaun?

TINA:

Arey that cute guy in business class 13K.

Neerja makes a face as Pan Am officer enters and smiles at the ladies waiting at the entrance. Neerja hands over the file in her hand.

NEERJA:

No issues with the flight.

The Pan Am official takes the file, thanks the air-hostess and turns around. Coming up the stairs in an urgent manner is Imran Ali- the radio engineer with a wide smile on his 40-45 year old face.

IMRAN ALI:

Asalaam walekum. Had a good flight?

TINA:

Of course Imran bhai.

NEERJA:

(naughtily)  
Tumhe kab se humaari itni fikr hone lagi Imrani Ali. I know why you are being so sweet.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

Imran Ali pretends to be upset.

IMRAN ALI:  
Neerja humaari humdardi ka mazaak  
banaa rahi hain aap.

And walks inside.

NEERJA:  
Arey aap toh naraaz ho gaye

Tina and Debina are smiling at each other knowing that he is teasing Neerja.

IMRAN ALI:  
(gives up the  
pretense and smiles)  
Naaraz aur tumse? Ho hi nahi  
sakta, thoda kaam bhi kar liya  
jaaye? Kya khayal hain?

Neerja smiles and bows as she welcomes him inside, Imran Ali walks towards the stairs.

CUT TO:

40 INT/EXT. KARACHI AIRPORT - NIGHT

Security guards are doing last minute checks as the passengers are showing their passports and boarding passes as a van with one lot of passengers leaves towards the plane.

The van reaches the huge jumbo as the camera reveals the name of the plane 'Clipper Empress of the Seas'

Airport staff can be seen busy around the plane - the baggage guys unloading bags, a refuelling tanker and a few people around it, couple of engineers talking amongst themselves as they do the routine checks.

People begin to get into the plane through two doors. A couple of security guards are manning each door.

41 INT. PLANE - NIGHT - DELETED

42 EXT. KARACHI AIRPORT/HANGAR - NIGHT

Safirini and Khalil are seated in the front seat of the van while Fahad and Mansoor are sitting behind.

Safirini ignites the engine and looks through the overhead rear-view mirror.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

Safirini's POV as he is instructing the trio - The refuelling truck drives away from the plane, the mini-bus after dropping the first batch of passengers has left too.

SAFIRINI:

(in arabic)

**Fahad, Mansoor, plane mein jao  
peeche ke darwaze se**

Then adjusting something inside his kurta he talks to Khalil.

SAFIRINI:

(in arabic)

Mai aur Khalil aage se chadhenge  
aur tumhe...

KHALIL:

(in arabic)

Pataa hain. Pilots ko kabu mein  
karke cockpit ko control karna  
hai.

Khalil's eyes reveal his evil excitement for things to come.

Safirini looks ahead, turns the headlights on and then accelerates the car towards a small barricade.

43 INT. PLANE - DAWN

The radio engineer comes down the stairs.

44 EXT. KARACHI AIRPORT/BARRICADE - DAWN

The van crashes through the barricade and swerves on the tarmac. Safirini and Gang have their eyes on the plane.

45 (47) INT. PLANE COCKPIT - DAWN

The pilots sharing a joke with each other are also doing their last-minute status check of the equipment.

46 INT/EXT. VAN/TARMAC - DAY

Safirini is pushing the pedal harder as the van zooms towards the plane.



47 (45) INT. PLANE - DAY

People are still settling down and Neerja tells Tina to take a round through the aisle.

Imran Ali approaches Neerja waiting at the starboard side.

IMRAN ALI:  
Lambi flight aur itna load? Tayyar ho?

NEERJA:  
We are ever ready Imran!

Neerja is removing something from the overhead compartment- they are VHS tapes

Imran Ali excitedly takes them and looks at the titles.

IMRAN ALI:  
Neerja, ehsaanfaramosh nahi hoon  
lekin kabhie toh Kissi aur ka VHS  
laa diya karo! Har baar rajesh  
Khanna! bhai hume toh Amitabh  
Bachcan zyaada pasand hain

Neerja frowns

NEERJA:  
Waapis do.

Imran laughs, she tries to pull the tapes he keeps them and holds his ear with the other hand apologizing

IMRAN ALI:  
Tauba!

Their conversation comes to an abrupt end when they hear a few gunshots. Both look at each other wondering what really has happened outside.

48 EXT. TARMAC - DAY

The van comes closer to the plane. The security guards at the front door turn in the direction of the van and so do the guys unloading the bags but even before they can react, they are shot at by the terrorists from the van, killing everybody.

The Stair-van drivers shield themselves inside the van.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED:

The van comes to a screeching halt and Fahad and Mansoor rush out and run towards the 2nd door and on the way shoot the security guards at the 2nd door.

CUT TO:

49 IN. PLANE- DAY

Reactions of some people who have heard the gunshots.

Neerja looks concerned and shares a look with Debina and Tina- they all look scared.

Sanjana and Dolly are surprised too.

Neerja pushes Imran Ali to the side and moves towards the door but stops as she hears gun fire again. Neerja screams out.

NEERJA:

Tina...Debina..Shut the door!!  
Shut it quickly!!

Tina and Debina are slow to react and by the time they do the terrorists are inside the plane.

Screaming and shouting among passengers near the front door.

More screaming and shrieking from people at the back door as Fahad and Mansoor are hitting some passengers with their guns to get out of their way. Panic-stricken Dolly and Sanjana are pushed, shoved and slapped out of their way.

Neerja reaches out to the phone and hides behind the galley as Khalil aggressively enters in and takes the left towards where he thinks the cockpit is.

NEERJA

HIJACK. I repeat HIJACK

6:00 AM

She is about to mention the word again when she is suddenly yanked by her hair.

Neerja screams in pain and is forced to turn around- it is Khalil.

KHALIL:

(gritting his teeth)  
Phone down.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

Neerja is wincing in pain and Khalil is sadistically enjoying seeing her pained expression but is then ordered by Safirini.

SAFIRINI:  
 (urgency in his  
 voice)  
 Cockpit.

Khalil pushes Neerja away from the phone and goes in the direction of where he thinks the cockpit is.

Safirini grabs hold of a crying Debina and Tina and pushes them in Neerja's direction.

Safirini shuts the door and screams out to Fahad and Mansoor to shut their door.

Neerja is clearly shaken.

Mansoor shuts the door quickly and takes his position at the back.

CUT TO:

50 INT. COCKPIT - DAY

The sun is just about breaking out on the horizon.

The co-pilot is looking weirdly surprised at the pilot.

PILOT:  
 Did you hear it right??

CO-PILOT:  
 Yes I did.

They look at each other disbelievingly the Pilot pushes some buttons hurriedly.

51 INT. PLANE AISLE- DAY

Khalil is moving towards the cockpit with his gun. People around are cowering for security.

CUT TO:

52 INT. COCKPIT - DAY

PILOT:  
 What do we do?

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

CO-PILOT:

Let me go check.

PILOT:

No you will not. We will stick to protocol.

The Co-pilot has no other option but to follow the order.

53 INT. AISLE- DAY

Khalil is walking towards the curtains that part to enter the cock-pit.

54 INT. AISLE - DAY

Khalil spreads the curtains apart and is stunned to see business class passengers sitting there. The passengers scream looking at him and the gun. He has a surprised look on his face.

He rushes back through the scared business and first class passengers.

CUT TO:

55 INT. AISLE - DAY

Safirini speaks out animatedly in Arabic.

SAFIRINI:

What are you doing here? get back to the cockpit.

KHALIL:

(spotting Neerja and pulling her by her neck)

Come with me. Come to cockpit.

As he pushes Neerja ahead of him he tells Safirini.

KHALIL: (CONT'D)

There is no cockpit in front. It is upstairs.

He again aggressively grabs Neerja by her neck and screaming out to the passengers to be seated, pushes Neerja upstairs.

Safirini is turning his head left and right to see that no one is attempting to try anything funny.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

He looks at the scared girls and holds Debina as a shield. Debina shrieks and Tina is scared too. Safirini shouts out.

SAFIRINI:  
Hands Up..everybody hand up.

Rahul Kumar gets up to stop Khalil.

RAHUL:  
Yeh kya ho rahaa hain? Aap aisa nahi kar sakte. What are you doing?

Rahul's grandmother is pulling his hand to make him sit. But Rahul continues to protest.

RAHUL:  
Please stop this right now.

Safirini angrily pushes the butt of his gun on Rahul's face and he begins to bleed from his nose.

CUT TO:

56 INT. COCKPIT - DAY

Daylight begins to spread through the sky.

Dramatic music playing and we can only see the 3 pilots in the cockpit discussing something with each other. One of them takes a fire-axe, his eyes nervously on the door.

CO-PILOT:  
(in a dilemma)  
Are you sure this is the right thing to do?

The pilot is looking unsure

CUT TO:

57 INT. STAIRS - DAY

Neerja is leading Khalil [with his gun pointed at her] up the stairs. Maybe he is checking out her butt as she climbs up the stairs. Neerja can feel his eyes but is keeping her cool.

The reach upstairs and all the passengers in the upper class begin panicking.

CUT TO:

58 INT. COCKPIT- DAY

Hearing the voices outside

CO-PILOT:  
(freaking out)  
We need to decide faster.

PILOT:  
(making up his mind)  
It is decided.

He looks at everyone in the cockpit and they all nod in agreement.

They hear screams of passengers.

59 INT. OUTSIDE THE COCKPIT - DAY

Khalil barks, brandishing his gun, telling the passenger to shut up.

KHALIL:  
(orders Neerja)  
Darwaza khol.  
[to the passengers again,  
Screaming] chup, nahi toh goli

He gestures a finger on his lips and then his gun as Neerja knocks on the cockpit door.

CUT TO:

60 INT. COCKPIT- DAY

The pilots inside are nervous and antsy. They hear Khalil instruct Neerja. The co-pilot is ready to strike the moment the door barges open as the other pilots huddle behind, doing some activity [which is not clear to the audience]

KHALIL:  
(ordering louder)  
Darwaza khol!

CUT TO:

61 INT. OUTSIDE THE COCKPIT - DAY

NEERJA:  
(trying to mask her  
fear)  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

NEERJA: (CONT'D)  
Sirf..sirf andar se khulta hain,  
mai nahi khol sakti

She knocks the door again but there is no response. Khalil is not ready to wait anymore. He aggressively bangs the door.

Neerja is palpitating looking at him bang the door hard, as if almost having an anxiety attack.

Khalil begins to kick the door. He kicks the door hard. The passengers shriek.

Neerja is sweating and heaving.

62 INT. COCKPIT- DAY

The co-pilot is ready to attack and while other pilots clicking some buttons.

63 INT. OUTSIDE THE COCKPIT - DAY

Khalil kicks the door a few more times. Neerja is worried about what will happen if the door opens.

64 INT. COCKPIT- DAY

Everyone inside sweating and anticipating what is to come next.

65 INT. OUTSIDE THE COCKPIT- DAY

Khalil is relentlessly kicking the door. He lands another huge kick and the door slams open.

66 INT. COCKPIT - DAY

Khalil barges inside only to find the cockpit empty. Khalil looks around hoping to find the pilots hiding but it is empty.

Neerja looks up at the open hatch above the pilot seat and is relieved.

Khalil looks in the direction where Neerja is looking and spots the hatch. He climbs on the pilot seat and just spots the pilots running towards the lounge.

Khalil spots the emergency door open and rushes there and spots the pilots running towards the lounge.

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED:

They have reached quite a distance away. He sprays bullets in their direction.

67 EXT. TARMAC - DAY

The pilots are running zig-zag as fast as they can towards the lounge. As the ratatat of the bullets are heard they hide behind whatever shield source they can find around- Loading truck, A bus, a couple of them hide behind the moving staircase.

68 INT. COCKPIT - DAY

Khalil stops shooting and lets out an angry growl.

He looks at Neerja with those angry eyes that suggest that she is responsible for this big twist in their plans.

He closes the hatch, gets down and walks towards Neerja. As he closes in on her...

CUT TO:

69 ~~[FLASHBACK 2] INT. DOHA HOUSE/ROOM - DAY - DELETED~~

70 ~~INT. DOHA HOUSE/BATHROOM - DAY - DELETED~~

71 INT. COCKPIT - DAY

Khalil holds Neerja's neck and pushes her towards the wall behind. Neerja is choking, the passengers who can see all this taking place are shocked.

KHALIL:

(angry)

Yeh kaise bhaage, tumne signal  
diya

Neerja is unable to reply and is holding Khalil's hand trying to get him to loosen his grip.

Khalil angrily pushes her out of the cockpit

KHALIL:

(angrily)

Ek ek ko maar doonga.

Panic and shrieking among the passengers as Neerja (still trying to catch her breath)

(CONTINUED)



71 CONTINUED:

NEERJA:

Dekho, aise karne se kuch solve  
nahi hoga

KHALIL:

Chup!!

Khalil looks at her angrily.

KHALIL:

[to the passengers]  
Utho sab, utho! Chalo neeche

The passengers do as they are told. Neerja is telling them not to worry but it is clear from the passengers tears and fear on their faces that those words mean nothing.

Neerja watches the passengers walk down the stairs while Khalil is breathing heavily with anger and staring at her.

As the last passenger walks down Khalil pushes Neerja to walk down as well. Fear and dread on Neerja's face.

A/72 INT. NEERJA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Rama is chopping vegetables when suddenly she looks scared.

Mother leaves the chopping mid-way and walks out of the kitchen.

Tipsy is following the mother around.

With a troubled expression she enters Neerja's room.

B/72 INT. NEERJA'S HOUSE- BEDROOM - DAY

Rama looks around and slowly walks towards Neerja's bedside and puts her hand in the gap between the pillow and the mattress. She slowly removes the hand out- reveal that she has Neerja's ring.

Fear on Rama's face.

72 INT. PLANE - DAY

Khalil gets down the stairs and still holding Neerja as a shield, forces all the passengers from the Business and first Class seats towards the Economy section.

(CONTINUED)

72

CONTINUED:

Daylight has filled the aircraft but for Neerja, things look as dark as a moonless night.

Through her POV we see panic and shrieking continue as Fahad, Mansoor and Safirini are pulling, dragging, forcing the passengers sitting in the length of the plane to vacate their seats and gather in the middle section.

She looks at her terrified air-hostess colleagues and looks scared too.

People tumble, fall, dash into each other to escape from being hit by the butt of the guns which the terrorists are using to herd them to the centre. Chaos and fear as the terrorists keep screaming in Arabic to establish their authority.

Khalil shouts out at Safirini from behind the scared people in the aisle walking towards the economy section.

KHALIL:

Pilots bach ke nikal gaye

73

INT. AISLE- DAY

All the passengers are herded like cattle in the middle section of the plane. Some of them are sitting in the middle of the Aisle.

Neerja and the air-hostesses are made to sit separately in the business class section.

SAFIRINI:

(angry whisper-  
Arabic)

Kya matlab bach nikle? Kahaan se?  
Kaise? Neeche toh hum khade the,

Khalil has no response and is feeling insulted. He looks angrily in Neerja's direction who is pacifying the scared air hostesses.

SAFIRINI: (CONT'D)

(in arabic)

Dhyaan kaha hai tera??

KHALIL:

(in arabic)

Cockpit upar hain yeh aap bhi nahi  
jaante the bhaijaan. toh baat mujh  
pe toh daaliye mat

Safirini is mad as hell.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He turns back to the passengers and pointing his gun at them screams out in practiced English.

SAFIRINI:

This is hijack. No moving.

Everyone scared , slowly put their hands up.

MANSOOR:

(shouts out from his  
zone in Arabic)

Kya kar rahe hain?

SAFIRINI:

Kuch nahi sabh theek hai.

FAHAD:

Toh Khalil bhi neeche kya kar  
rahein hai? Why aren't we flying  
yet?

Safirini is about to respond but before that Khalil shouts out

KHALIL:

(in Arabic)

Plane mein pilots nahi hain

A passenger reacts to the word pilot

FAHAD:

(in Arabic)

Kya? Ab Kya hoga?

SAFIRINI:

(in Arabic)

Pilots aa jaayenge, sab plan ke  
mutabik chalna hain, jao, apni  
apni positions le lo. Jaldi!

Safirini still worried about what to do next.

SAFIRINI: (CONT'D)

hands up. Haath upar karo sab

The passengers, scared and unsure of what is going to transpire next, do as they are told. One by One all their hands come above their heads.

KHALIL:

(In Arabic)

Agar plane nahi chala, toh iss  
sab ka kya faayda?

Safirini just glares at Khalil and doesn't reply

(CONTINUED)

73 CONTINUED: (2)

7:00 AM

74 INT. KARACHI AIRPORT/LOUNGE - DAY

A crowd has gathered around the huffing and puffing pilots. Some passengers who were about to board the flight look relieved as they talk among themselves.

The pilots are telling the cops about their ordeal. Suddenly there is a hush around the lounge.

A group of commandoes walk through with an important looking man in the middle- Mr. Inzamam Younis. A no nonsense man with an air of authority around him with his suit and gelled back greying hair. A man on whom 55 years of experience sit very well.

The airport security commandoes part the crowd of people and tell the pilots to join them.

As Inzamam walks out he orders a few people.

INZAMAM:

Shut the airport down, Right now.  
saare plane Lahore reroute kar do  
DO it now!!

75 INT. AISLE - DAY

Safirini and Khalil are looking worried and they are talking to each other in a hush hush tone.

Reactions of Fahad and Mansoor. They looks scared too and are jumpy as if watching out for anyone who will make a move at them.

KHALIL:

(in arabic)  
Bhai ab hum kya karenge? Plane  
chala nahi toh hum mar jaayenge

Safirini reacts, he turns away to think of his options →

KHALIL:

(in arabic)  
Ab yahaan baith ke faayda kya  
hain. Pilot bhi bhaag gaye

SAFIRINI:

(in arabic)  
Shh! Chup!

Fahad and Mansoor unsure about what is happening as they watch Khalil and Safirini discuss.

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED:

Safirini walks towards the air-hostesses and points at Debina

SAFIRINI:

Idhar aa

Debina rooted in her spot in fear starts crying and looks towards Neerja, Neerja looks scared too, Safirini holds up his gun

SAFIRINI:

Suna nahi

Debina weeps, Neerja takes a deep breath

NEERJA

Mai in charge hoon, mujhse kaho

Safirini looks at her, The girls are surprised.

SAFIRINI:

Announcement karni hain

CUT TO:

76 INT. KARACHI AIRPORT/LOUNGE- DAY

Mr. Inzamam seems to have got the drift of things.

PILOT:

Sir there are 300 passengers in that plane.

INZAMAM:

Did you leave the engine running?

PILOT:

Yes sir, as per the hijack training procedure I did.

INZAMAM:

Good

CUT TO:

77 INT. PLANE - DAY

New York New York playing on a loop- the silence is at a flashpoint. The passengers are still with their hands on their heads but they are all clearly tired of keeping them raised for so long.

Neerja takes the intercom as Safirini is looking at the passengers.

(CONTINUED)

77 CONTINUED:

Neerja is about to make an announcement when she looks at the people struggling to keep their hands up.

NEERJA:

(clearing her voice)

Ladies and Gentlemen, iss waqt plane mein pilots nahi hain, the pilots have left so I am the commander of this plane..aap sabki zimmedaari ab meri hain.. Yeh..(she points at Safirini) inki dushmani aap se nahi hain. Aap mein se kissi ko kuch nahi hoga, No one will be harmed, Please please jaise mai baloon waisa kijiye, aaram se apne haath neechे kijiye, please put your hands down slowly

Safirini looks angrily at Neerja.

SAFIRINI:

(angrily)

No no haath upar

NEERJA:

(negotiating)

Unhe jitni tassalli milegi utna woh tumhare saath cooperate karenge. Tum yahi chahte ho na?

She looks at him for an answer, he realizes she has a point.

CUT TO:

78 INT. KARACHI AIRPORT/LOUNGE OFFICE CABIN - INT

Inzamam is walking around in the cabin room thinking what to do. He is getting some reports from the sub-ordinates in security uniforms and two other Pan Am officials.

SUBORDINATE 1:

Janaab, plane main takreeban 44 Pakistani hain. 50 aur hone the, lekin unse pehle terrorist pahuch gaye....

INZAMAM:

(sternly)

Maine poocha kitne pakistani hain?

(CONTINUED)

78 CONTINUED:

SUBORDINATE 1:

(nervous)

Uh Nai, nai janaab, woh toh mai  
aise hi...99 Indian hain aur  
kaaafi American passport waale bhi  
hain...poori tafseel isme hain ..

Inzamam snatches the file from the subordinate and scans through it.

INZAMAM:

Tarmac jaane ka intezam karo, roof  
pe camera lagwaaon, get me a photo  
of the hijackers ATC tower mein  
do log har second plane pe nazar  
rakhenege...

Inzamam walks out of the office cabin in a hurry.

79 INT. AISLE - DAY

8:00 AM

Mansoor and Fahaad are nervously looking around and Khalil is getting antsy too.

KHALIL:

(in arabic)

Hum Libya kaise pahuchenge? Inn  
logon ko yahi maar dete hain. Agar  
hum nahi pahuche, toh humaare yeh  
kaam, Ahmed Nidal aur Hanif  
Hussain ki jail se rihain dilwaa  
dega

Safirini does not answer.

SAFIRINI:

(in arabic)

Inn passengers ko hum apne kabze  
mein rakh lete hain, zinda. Taaki  
woh log humaari baat maan jaaye

Just then there is a voice heard from outside. It is Inzamam on the megaphone.

INZAMAM:

Mera naam Inzamam Younis hain, hum  
tumhari madad karna chahte hain,

Safirini and Khalil rush to the exit door and half open the window shutter to see Inzamam.

Behind Fahad and Mansoor looks through the window too.

(CONTINUED)

MANSOOR:

Fahad bhai yeh military to nahi hai na?

FAHAD:

Chup kar darpok.

INZAMAM:

Meri darkhwast hain ke passengers ko jaane diya jaaye ...

Safirini looks at all the passengers and then screams out.

SAFIRINI:

Close shutter. All you close shutter.

Khalil, Fahad and Mansoor begin ordering the same thing and poking the passengers near the windows with their gun barrels.

Mansoor forces Dolly to her feet and pushes her to the back area and orders her to shut the window.

Long shot of the shutters stopping the sunlight from streaming in. All of them are now trapped inside.

Khalil quickly drags Tina to the front section and orders her to close all the shutters. She is scared as hell but does as she is ordered to. He keeps shouting at her.

Once she is done he drags her back and throws her on the seat.

Safirini is thinking what to do. Khalil is anxious

KHALIL:

(In arabic)

Ispe goli chala de, tabhi pilot aayenge

As Inzamam continues to reiterate his plea..

INZAMAM:

Tumhari maange sunne ke liye mai yahaan hoon. Plane mai baithe logo ko iske beech mat laao, unhe chhod do, hum tumhari jo madad ho sake karenge

SAFIRINI:

(In Arabic)

Nahi. Jab tak pilot nahi aate, isse baat jaari rakhte hain.



80 INT. PLANE - DAY

Khalil is fuming. Safirini looks at Neerja. He goes towards the airhostess.

SAFIRINI:  
(broken hindi)  
ATC tower mein radio se  
...connection..poochon radio  
operate karna kisko aata hain

He picks Neerja and pulls her towards the PA system. Fahad and Mansoor from behind walk through the aisle asking. RADIO...RADIO..

NEERJA:  
Passengers mein koi hain jisse  
radio operate karna aata hain?

Imran Ali- the radio engineer is looking at Neerja and is about to get up from his seat when Neerja repeats the announcement

NEERJA: (CONT'D)  
Cockpit ka radio kissi ko operate  
karna aata hain toh please haath  
upar kijiye

She signals him not to get up by shaking her head side to side.

Safirini looks around and sees that there is no one. He looks out through the glass window on the door and watches Inzamam and then making up his mind, walks towards the aisle.

Brandishing his gun, he begins scanning around. The Passengers are cowering and shielding themselves or their loved ones sitting next to them.

He reaches Rahul Kumar, remembers him from earlier and holds him by his collar.

~~SAFIRINI:  
Kahaa se hai tu?~~

Rahul is trying to wrestle out of Safirini's grip and his grandmother is also pulling him towards her but Safirni is too strong.

~~SAFIRINI: (CONT'D)  
Bataa kahaa se hai.~~

RAHUL KUMAR  
I am an American. I am not an  
Indian.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAHUL KUMAR (CONT'D)

See [fumbling to get the passport  
out of his pocket] mera passport  
dekhiye.

Safirini has a smile that suggests that he has got the right man. Holding him by his collar, Safirini drags Rahul Kumar from his seat. Rahul resist's and the grandmother tries to help but to no avail. Safirini holds him by his collar and drags him out.

SUJATA:

Please jaane do usse, mujhe le lo  
uski jagah, mere bache ko chhod do

She is crying out for passengers near them to help her but they don't want to interfere lest they be taken in his place.

Safirini yanks Rahul and drags him towards the door.

KHALIL:

Amreeka ka yahi rob mitaana hain,  
tera amreeki passport hi teri maut  
banega, baith

Rahul Kumar is trying to wrestle out of Safirini's control as other passengers give way as if happy that they are not the ones in his place.

He reaches the front door and Neerja goes to plead for Rahul Kumar.

NEERJA:

Please aisa mat kijiye. Please,  
aapko jo chahiye milega. Please  
ruk jaaiye

Safirini pushes her heavily out of his way.

He then orders Debina [standing at the door] to open the door. Debina is too scared to react. The passengers are curious about what is going to happen. Rahul begins to feel the dread.

RAHUL:

Please leave me..meri daadi akeli  
hain, mujhe chhod do. Please dont  
kill me

KHALIL:

Chup. Bilkul chup. Baith.

Safirini forces Rahul Kumar to kneel as he continues to cry. Neerja once again comes in between.

(CONTINUED)

80 CONTINUED: (2)

NEERJA:

Please inhe chhod dijiye, inhe  
 maar ke kuch nahi hoga

Khalil is getting irritated with her pleading. The  
 passengers are just looking at the chaos near the door

SAFIRINI:

(to Debina)  
 darwaza khol!

Debina is paralysed with fear.

NEERJA:

(continuing to plead)  
 Please, please chhod dijiye inhe

Just then Khalil holds Neerja's hair forcing her to  
 scream in pain, makes her kneel down next to Rahul Kumar,  
 points the gun at her head and tells Debina in a calm but  
 menacingly cold manner.

KHALIL:

Khol darwaza nahi toh pehle isse  
 maaroonga

With trembling hands Debina opens the door. Fear on a  
 still pleading Rahul Kumar and Neerja's face. She can  
 feel the butt of the gun on the back of her head.

81 EXT. TARMAC - DAY

Inzamam watches the door half open and sees Rahul Kumar  
 and Neerja kneeling down and Khalil standing behind them  
 with a gun pointed at them. Debina is being held at  
 gunpoint by Safirini.

Safirini screams out to Inzamam.

SAFIRINI:

Thirty minute. pilot wapis,  
 humaari bataai jagah le jaano ko  
 tayaar milne chahiye. Sirf thirty  
 minute, bas.

INZAMAM:

Mujhe thoda aur time do please,  
 tees minute mein kaise...

SAFIRINI:

Time shuru, adhe ghante ek minute  
 pe pehli laash phak doonga baahar,  
 ek passenger ki

Inzamam looks at his watch.

(CONTINUED)

81 CONTINUED:

8:30 AM.

SAFIRINI: (CONT'D)  
Lekin sabse pehlay...yeh seedhi  
hata do yahaa se. ABHI!

They shut the door. Safirini sees Inzamam order the stairvan drivers to get out of there through the window. He watches the stair-van get out of there.

TRANSITION TO:

82 INT. OFFICE CABIN - DAY

Inzamam is in the midst of a heated conversation with someone.

INZAMAM:  
What do you mean your hands are  
tied. This is a Pan Am plane  
Goddamnit! Inn passengers ki  
safety aapki zimmedaari hain. You  
have take responsibility for  
these...

He reacts to what is being said on the other side, grinds his teeth and throws the receiver away

INZAMAM:  
Bhen Chodh!

A/83 INT. PLANE - DAY

8:59 AM

Neerja looks at her watch.

TINA:  
Koi aayega? Tumhe lagta hain kissi  
ko bheja jaayega, militry aayegi  
ke police?

NEERJA  
Negotiators - special services se  
Aate hi honge

TINA:  
Aur nahi aaye toh?

NEERJA  
Aayenge

(CONTINUED)

A/83 CONTINUED:

Safirini looks at his watch and is frustrated. Khalil is nagging him behind.

KHALIL:

(in arabic)

Aadha ghanta ho gaya hain, abhi  
tak kissi ne aana hota toh aa gaya  
hota

SAFIRINI:

(in arabic)

Sabar kar Khalil

KHALIL:

(in arabic)

Sabar kare taaki woh apni miltry  
tayyar karke plane ko udhaa de?

SAFIRINI:

(in arabic)

Jab tak yeh sab hain, aisa kuch  
nahi hoga

KHALIL:

(in arabic)

Mai keh rahaa hoon sab ko maar do

SAFIRINI:

(in arabic)

Abhi nahi.

Khalil gets off his back angrily and walks to his section. He looks at Fahad and Mansoor's clueless faces.

83 EXT. TARMAC- DAY

9:23 AM

Inzamam reaches the plane with the jeep. Just then the door of the plane opens.

Inzamam can hear the Indian American pleading as Safirini is at the door with him. Neerja is there too. They don't know what is going to happen next.

INZAMAM:

Dekho unhe chhod do, unhe iske  
beech mat laao

Safirini looks at Inzamam and then spots local media covering the happenings from the lounge area.

(CONTINUED)

83 CONTINUED:

INZAMAM: (CONT'D)  
Tumhare liye pilot aa rahe hain,  
hume thoda waqt do

SAFIRINI:  
(in arabic)  
Zabaan ke kache nikle tum Mr.  
Inzamam, hume samjhauta nahi  
karna, sirf apni baat pe amal  
chahiye

Safirini looks at Khalil and he gets the message. He passes his gun behind both the heads as if deciding which head to shoot first.

After choosing for a while the gun stops on Neerja's head. Rahul Kumar still crying- reactions of the distraught grandmother- Neerja waiting with bated breath reaching out to Jaideep's letter in her pocket.

Suddenly a Gun Shot - blood splatter on Neerja's face.

Debina begins to scream, shocked with the blood splattered on her face as well.

Reactions of shocked passengers. Grandmother begins to cry.

Khalil and Safirini look at each other nonchalantly.

SAFIRINI: (CONT'D)  
(to khalil in arabic)  
Phek de baahar

84 EXT. TARMAC - DAY

Inzamam is stunned as he continues to stare at the plane door. His POV he hears Safirini shout out.

SAFIRINI:  
Yeh teri wajah se hua, humaare  
bataaye waqt se chalo nahi toh aur  
har maut ki zimmedaari teri

He pushes a body out and slams the door shut

85 INT. PLANE - DAY

Debina still in shock as we see Safirini kick the body out of the plane.

86 EXT. TARMAC - DAY

Close-up of the Rahul Kumar's body thudding to the floor. From the low-angle of Kumar's body we see the plane door being closed by Safirini as Inzamam and the two people in the jeep rush towards the dead body. He is heard screaming for an ambulance.

INT. PLANE - DAY

Camera closes in on Neerja's blood splattered face. She is trembling in fear.

9:30 AM

### **INTERVAL**

87 INT. PLANE - DAY

Khalil and Safirini are talking to each other but those voices are muffled to the still kneeling Neerja. Blood splatter on her face.

Dazed with the near-death experience and the sight of Rahul Kumar being shot next to her she looks around and sees [POV] Rahul Kumar's grandmother howling and crying-passengers stunned and there is a deathly silence all around - Khalil is looking excited and Fahad and Mansoor are absorbing his enthusiasm.

88 EXT. TARMAC - DAY

Inzamam is by the body. He sees Rahul Kumar take his last gasp of breath and die. Inzamam is pained as an ambulance reaches them.

Two helpers rush with a stretcher and load the body on it.

89 INT. PLANE - DAY

Neerja is still gathering her wits. She looks really scared. She gets up and looks at an ambulance steer away from the tarmac through the open window of the emergency door. Neerja straightens her jacket and skirt, turns around to walk inside.

(CONTINUED)

89 CONTINUED:

Debina is clearly traumatised as Neerja, stands, grabs a hand towel and a bottle water, wets the towel and dabs Debina's forehead and face, she repeats.

Khalil comes to her and tries to stamp his authority on her. He yanks the towel from her hand and throws it aside

KHALIL:

Hilli kyun? (in arabic) issi ko  
qatl kar dete toh acha tha

Neerja is shaking all over with shock and fear but tries to control that voluntary reaction and angrily glares at him as if now fear is not even an option.

NEERJA:

unse baat karo (she points  
outside) woh tumharii madad...

Khalil slaps her, Neerja is stunned

KHALIL:

Jitna bola, utna kar, ek aur lavz  
nahi.

Shock on Neerja's blood splattered face. Her nose begins to bleed too. Neerja feels the blood running out and holding her nose, rushes to the toilet and shuts the door before Khalil can stop her.

CUT TO:

A/90 INT. PLANE BATHROOM. - DAY

Neerja shivers as Khalil continuously bangs on the door.

CUT TO:

90 [FLASHBACK 3] INT. DOHA HOUSE/ROOM - DAY

Naresh is standing outside continuously knocking on the door.

NARESH:

Come out Lado. kab tak chhup ke  
baithogi? You have to come out.

CUT TO:

91 INT. DOHA HOUSE/BATHROOM - DAY

Neerja's body is in shock and she is shivering as she is sobbing. She can hear her father ask..

(CONTINUED)



91 CONTINUED:

FATHER:

Hausla hume har mushkil se nikal  
sakta hain

92 INT. PLANE TOILET - DAY

Red water runs into the sink as Neerja lifts her wet face and sees herself in the mirror. Her hands are shivering. She has the same expression of fear when faced with a similar situation with Naresh. Her body jerks with fear every time Khalil bangs the door.

KHALIL (O.S.)

Baahar nikal!

She washes her face again, angrily scrubbing off the blood splatter on her face.

HARISH (V.O.)

Galat baat na karna..na sehna..

She looks at reflection once again and this time there is [the same] look of resolve on her face.

HARISH (V.O.)

Bahadur beta kaun?

NEERJA

Mai.

She takes a deep breath, removes her jacket and opens the door. Khalil looks livid and stops her in her path.

Neerja stares back at him and Khalil is enjoying this defiance.

NEERJA:

(soft but assertive)

Tumne uss passenger ko maarkar  
galat kiya hai.

KHALIL:

(evil smile on his  
face)

Mere farz ke aage kissi zindagi ki  
koi keemat nahi, meri bhi nahi. ek  
mare sau mare

The stare-off continues. Finally Neerja turns her face away, brushes past Khalil to the pantry.

93 INT. PANTRY - DAY

Neerja is removing something busily. She looks at the front section where the rest of her colleagues are seated.

Neerja begins making tea and coffee and calls Tina.

NEERJA

Tina

A scared Tina doesn't know what to do. Neerja calls her again

NEERJA

Tina

Tina gets up and joins Neerja. Safirini and Khalil look at each other surprised and Safirini goes towards Neerja aggressively and holds her by her arm.

SAFIRINI:

Kya kar rahi ho?

NEERJA:

Jab tak baahar se koi message nahi aata, saare passengers ko sambhalna mera kaam hain. Mujhe apna kaam karne dijiye please.

SAFIRINI:

Farz ki badi pakki ho

NEERJA:

Woh toh aap bhi hain, farz ke liye hi kar rahe ho na yeh sab

Safirini lets go of her arm, they hold each others stare

SAFIRINI:

Koi bhi hoshiyaari dikhaai, toh agli laash teri phekenge.

Safirini taps his gun on her shoulder and walks away

CUT TO:

94 INT. HT OFFICE - DAY

Neerja's father is busy typing an article on the typewriter when he is distracted by Mushtaq Khan- the editor of the newspaper. There are two junior journalists and the secretary inside his cabin.

(CONTINUED)

94 CONTINUED:

MUSHTAQ KHAN:  
 (stressed and  
 searching for words)  
 Harish? uhhh..zaraa baat karni  
 thi, do u have a minute?

HARISH:  
 I need to finish this  
 article..baad mein baat kare?

MUSHTAQ KHAN:  
 Urgent hain Harish

Harish looks at the stress on Mushtaq's face, stops  
 typing and gets up from his seat.

HARISH:  
 Kya baat hai Mushtaq...

MUSHTAQ KHAN:  
 (interrupting Harish)  
 No No..please sit..

We cannot hear the conversation but it is clear from  
 Mushtaq's body language that he is hesitatingly breaking  
 the news of the plane's hijack to Harish. Harish holds on  
 to the table as if the ground beneath his feet has  
 disappeared and then flops on the chair.

95 INT. KARACHI AIRPORT-LOUNGE OFFICE/ JEEP INTERIOR- DAY

Inzamam is on the phone with Brigadier TM. Brigadier is  
 being driven in a jeep. He has the pictures of Safirini  
 and Khalil (taken by the photographer on the rooftop) in  
 his hand.

BRIGADIER TM:  
 Inzamam Miya, tough times. Airport  
 seal ho gaya?

INZAMAM:  
 Yes Chief. Terrorists Libya se  
 hain

BRIGADIER TM:  
 Abu Nidal Organization ?

INZAMAM:  
 Yes Chief. they are ruthless.

BRIGADIER TM:  
 unki demands kya hain?

(CONTINUED)

95 CONTINUED:

INZAMAM:

Chief woh pilots maang rahe hain,  
but I have two theories. EK, woh  
passengers ko tab tak qaid  
rakhenge jab tak unke saathiyon ko  
Palestine ki jail se rihaa na kar  
diya jaaye aur...

He stops, looks worried.

BRIGADIER TM:

Aur doosri?

INZAMAM:

Woh plane to Israel mein crash  
land karenge, ek missile ki tarah

BRIGADIER TM

(angrily)

Tomorrow they'll fly the bloody  
plane into a building for all you  
know. stall them, chaar se paanch  
ghante unhe taalna hi hoga.

INZAMAM:

I'll try chief, lekin woh bahut  
besabar aur nervous sound kar rahe  
hain. Shukra hain pilots plane se  
nikal aaye, all thanks to Purser  
Neerja Bhanot, jisne ain waqt pe  
pilots ko hijack code bhej diya

BRIGADIER TM:

Great! Humaara ek fauji plane mein  
pehlay se hi hai. Mai special  
forces tayyar karwaata hoon.

Inzamam hangs up and looks around, everyone is waiting  
for his command, intent and anxiety crease his face

96 INT. PLANE - DAY

10:00 AM

Some passengers are still holding on to their tea/coffee  
cups dearly as Neerja and other air-hostesses are  
collecting the cups from those who have finished their  
drink.

Neerja takes a bin-bag passed by Debina to keep it where  
they store the trash when she overhears Safirini and  
Khalil.

(CONTINUED)

SAFIRINI:

(looking at his watch  
(in arabic)  
Bahut waqt le rahe hain, aur ek ko  
qatl kar dete hain

KHALIL:

(points to Neerja)(In  
arabic)  
Isko qatl kar dete hain, bahut  
pareshaan kar ke rakha hain

SAFIRINI:

(in arabic)  
Nahi. isko katl nahi karenge, wahi  
humaare kaam aa rahi hain

He points to the other air hostess, frightened and nervous

SAFIRINI (CONT'D)

(in arabic)  
Usse keh, sabke passport le aaye,  
pehle Amrican, phir doosre, samjha

Khalil nods and turns, he spots Neerja who looks busy

KHALIL:

Aye, idhar aa

CUT TO:

INT. PLANE - MOMENTS LATER

The passengers are all stressed.

Khalil smiles teasingly and Neerja, gritting her teeth, and takes the intercom.

NEERJA:

Hello ladies and gentlemen. apne  
passports nikal lijiye, unhe ab  
ikkattha kiya jaayega

Hearing this, there is a buzz among the passengers. Some of them begin telling that they don't have it with them. Some gesturing it is in their over-head bags. Some hesitatingly put their passports over their heads.

KHALIL:

(screaming out  
through the buzz)  
Jiske haath mein hain unse le lo,  
koi hila toh goli maar denge

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Neerja looks at rows and rows of hands above their head holding their passports. Neerja is sad as she announces..

NEERJA:

Sanjana and Dolly please help  
collect the passports from zone 3.

Neerja tells Tina to help her collect the passports from Khalil's side while she does it from Safirini's side.

The air-hostess' are taking the passports from the scared passengers as the terrorists are keeping a close eye on them.

Neerja, as she reaches a passenger spots an American passport. Neerja gingerly reaches out to take it and at the same time looks around. She spots that all the terrorists except for Khalil is looking at her. Neerja, a little scared, takes the passport turns her body away and pretending to put the passport in the bag drops it.

Quickly kicking the passport below the seat, she moves to the next passenger.

Neerja collects more passports and drops a few more American passports and kicks it. The Indian Americans look at her stunned and she gives them a half confident smile as if telling them to keep their expression neutral.

Sanjana watches Neerja drop another American passport.

Sanjana is scared and looks at Fahad looking at her.

Neerja takes a passport and hides it in her uniform jacket.

Neerja spots Sanjana looking at her scared and gets back to collecting the passports.

Sanjana too with quivering hands hides a couple of American passports.

Debina is too scared to try the stunt and with her head bowed puts every passport she collects in the bag and so does Tina

Sanjana tries to hide another passport but it falls from her hand to the floor. Neerja by this time has reached Sanjana. Neerja turns around to see Khalil watching them and as the passenger [whose passport it is] bends to pick it up, Neerja stops him.

NEERJA:

It's ok Sir. I've got it.

(CONTINUED)

97 CONTINUED: (2)

Neerja bends to pick the passport, she flicks it below the seats and pretends to put her hand in the bag. Sanjana is stunned at Neerja's blatant bravado as both of them walk towards Safirini.

Tina, Debina, Sanjana and Neerja are near Safirini and Khalil now as Safirini takes the bags from all of them. They are about to peer inside to pick American passports when a man sitting in front gets up from his seat and walks towards Safirini and Khalil.

KHALIL:  
(pointing his gun)  
Marna hain? Baith jaa

MAN:  
(scared)  
Sir please, mujhe diabetes hain,  
mujhe toilet use karne dijiye

KHALIL:  
(holding the man by  
his collar)  
Wapis jaa

He points his gun to his chest, The passengers, who were coming to terms with their situation so far, have begun panicking again.

Safirini on the other hand is peering through the bags and is getting frustrated. He throws one bag and takes another. Sanjana looks scared along with Tina and Debina as they watch Neerja.

KHALIL:  
Naam kya hain?

Neerja is slowly removing the passports in her jacket and drops it to the floor and kicks it inside.

KHALIL:  
Naam!

MAN:  
Akram Baig.

Khalil looks at the Man and everyone is stunned not knowing what is going to happen next. Khalil stares for a couple of seconds and lets go of the man's collar.

KHALIL:  
Allah ka shukr kar, bacha liya  
tujhe, jaa !

The man is relieved at being set free and is allowed to go to the toilet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Khalil watches Neerja straighten her jacket as Safirini looks angrily at the air-hostess and Safirini.

SAFIRINI:

Issmein koi bhi American passport nahi hai.

KHALIL:

Yeh. kaise ho sakta hain.

Safirini looks at the scared airhostess and so does Khalil. Khalil goes towards the (huddling in fear) Tina, Debina, Sanjana and Neerja. He pulls Tina towards him and frisks her from top to bottom. He does the same with Debina and with Sanjana

Neerja hides her fear as Khalil looks at her suspiciously and angry. Safirini too is surprised. Khalil moves menacingly towards her but Neerja stands her ground.

KHALIL:

American passport? Where?

NEERJA:

I ...I dont know, maine sab se passport liye hain, dekho

KHALIL:

Agar koi hoshiyaari dikhai..

Neerja stands there as Khalil hangs the gun on his shoulder and begins frisking Neerja. Neerja spots one passport slightly in view just close to where Khalil is standing.

Khalil's touch is clearly much more than frisking but Neerja's eyes are fixed on that passport. A man, next to where the frisking is happening, looks at Neerja and looks below his seat. Understanding what she is worried about, he slowly kicks the passport further inside. Neerja is relieved as Khalil finishes frisking.

He looks at her as if enjoying her helplessness.

SAFIRINI:

(in arabic)

Hatt peeche

He gives Khalil a warning glare

KHALIL:

(to safirini)(in arabic)

Mai check kar rahaa tha ke kuch chupaya toh nahi

(CONTINUED)



97 CONTINUED: (4)

SAFIRINI:  
 (picking up a brit  
 passport) (in  
 arabic)  
 UK ka passport laa, sab dhokebaaz  
 hain humaare khilaaf mile hue hain  
 [opens the passport and announces  
 loudly] Ronnie Heston.(in urdu)  
 Ronnie Heston kaun hain

All the passengers look around to see who is going to be the next sacrificial lamb. A hippy looking man is nervously trying to hide himself.

SAFIRINI:  
 (screaming out loud)  
 Kaun hain Ronnie Heston!

The hippy man nervously gets up from the window side of the seat and shaking nervously he gets out and trudges towards Khalil and Safirini passing Neerja and Akram Baig who just got out of the toilet and was walking to his seat.

Khalil jolts him from his slow-pace by holding him by his collar and forcibly makes him kneel down and places the gun to the back of his head.

Heston begins panicking and mumbling a prayer.

CUT TO:

98 INT. NEERJA'S HOUSE - PRAYER ROOM - DAY [MOVED TO A/72]

99 INT. NEERJA'S HOUSE- BEDROOM - DAY [MOVED TO B/72]

100 INT. NEERJA'S HOUSE- LIVING ROOM - DAY

Rama, staring out of a window and lost in thought is fidgeting with Neerja's ring that she has now worn on her finger. The land line rings and she quickly picks the receiver.

RAMA  
 Hello?

HARISH  
 Main bol raha hoon.

RAMA  
 (partially relieved)  
 Acha hua aap ka phone aa gaya,  
 badi ghabrahat si ho rahi thi

(CONTINUED)

100 CONTINUED:

HARISH

(not sure how to say  
it)

Rama woh... Neerja ka plane  
Karachi ruka tha na..wahaan..plane  
hijack ho gaya hain.

Before Rama can register what she has just heard, Topsy acts out of character and is uneasily tugging at Rama's salwar. Rama tries to pacify Topsy but he won't rest easy.

RAMA

(not believing her  
ears)

Kya ho gaya hain?

HARISH

Hijack, kuch terrorists ne plane  
kabze mein kiya hua hain

Rama is stunned speechless. The news begins to slowly sink and tears begin to well up as she looks at the ring in her hand. Topsy continues to tug Rama's salwar.

101 INT. KARACHI AIRPORT/LOUNGE OFFICE- DAY

Karachi - 12:30 PM

Inzamam is very agitated as he is talking to Pan-Am officials on the phone.

INZAMAM:

How can you not send me pilots,  
this is your plane, usme baithe  
passengers aapki zimmedaari hain,

Just then a man enters holding a lunch tiffin in his hands. Inzamam doesn't pay any attention as the man places the tiffin on the table and stands by the door looking at Inzamam shout on the phone.

PAN-AM OFFICIAL:

It is your Airport. This is your  
responsibility. We cannot risk our  
crew for this.

INZAMAM:

And the air hostesses? They are  
your crew

(CONTINUED)

101 CONTINUED:

PAN-AM OFFICIAL:

Sir, the plane is in your airport,  
the breach has been of your  
security. We cannot risk two more  
lives.

Inzamam angrily bangs the phone. Everyone else in the  
room is silent.

Inzamam breathes hard and then looks at the scared  
looking man.

MAN:

Janaab, aapke ghar se phone aaya  
tha, bhabhi ne khaane khaate hi  
phone karne ko kahaa hain, woh  
jaana chahti hain aapko saalan  
pasand aaya ke nahi

Inzamam just glares at the man and watches him quickly  
exit the room.

102 INT. PLANE - DAY

Heston is continuing to pray as Safirini and Khalil are  
talking with each other.

The passengers are drained out of energy and have almost  
given in to their fate. Neerja, Sanjana, Debina and Tina  
are seen offering water to passengers. Neerja is smiling  
and reassuring her passengers that everything will be  
alright.

One of the 3 kids - Jatin sitting near the window is  
innocently playing with a window shade pulling it up and  
down. Fahad notices this and goes to the child

FAHAD:

Aye, seedhe baith, khidki (he  
shakes his gun to gesture no)

Fahad pushes his gun forward to point to the window,  
Jatin stops and is fascinated with the gun that Fahad is  
holding. He reaches out to touch it and Fahad lets him.  
Just then Neerja spots him and rushes towards the kids  
and looking at Fahad as if reprimanding him for allowing  
a kid to toy with a gun. She gives them water to drink.

Khalil approaches Safirini

KHALIL:

(to Safirini)(in  
arabic)

Bahut intezaar ho gaya bhai,  
chaliye, ab maar do iss angrez ko

(CONTINUED)

102 CONTINUED:

He points to Heston. Safirini nods

Heston begins to pray louder as Safirini slowly opens to door only to see Inzamam approaching in his jeep together with a few security vehicles along side.

Safirini quickly half shuts the door and begins shouting at Inzamam whose vehicle has now reached the plane.

SAFIRINI:  
(screaming out at  
Inzamam)  
apni security ko wapis bhej, nahi  
toh iss poore plane ko udhaane ka  
barood hain humaare paas. wapis  
bhej de apni fauj

INZAMAM:  
Ok Ok, mai bhej rahaa hoon

He turns and motions for the surrounding jeeps to stop and turn away, he turns back to the plane and speaks into a microphone

INZAMAM:  
Jaisa tum kahoge waisa hi hoga.

SAFIRINI:  
pilot kahaa hain?

INZAMAM:  
French crew ke pilot pahuch rahe  
hain, airport seal karwa diya gaya  
hain issiliye pahuchne mein ...

SAFIRINI:  
Pilot bhej nahi toh mai laash  
bhejta hoon. hume plane ka radio  
operator chahiye, issi waqt..nai  
toh..

INZAMAM:  
Haan haan mai kuch karta  
hoon..abhi kissi ko...

Just then the person sitting next to Inzamam interrupts him and gives him some information. Safirini is watching what they are talking.

INZAMAM:  
(mumbles to his  
colleague)are you  
sure? (he turns)  
Plane mein ek radio engineer hain,  
Imran Ali.

(CONTINUED)

102 CONTINUED: (2)

Safirini looks angrily at Khalil and he to him and then towards the passengers.

KHALIL:

Imran Ali kaun hain?

Safirini shuts the door as Khalil once again barks.

KHALIL:

(louder)

Imran Ali kaun hain!

Neerja looks scared towards Imran Ali who gets up from the place he was sitting in.

Fahad and Mansoor [who are near him] look angrily at him and hit him a couple of times.

FAHAD:

Haraamzaade, (in Arabic) pehle jab  
humne kahaa toh khadaa kyun hai  
hua

Fahad hits him again and pushes him towards Safirini and Khalil. He slowly walks towards them and Neerja is looking concerned. Khalil is about to angrily walk towards him when Safirini stops him.

SAFIRINI:

(in arabic)

Bas. Chhod de usko, usse kaam bhi  
karwana hain

Imran Ali stands in front of the terrorists and Safirini is angrily glaring at him.

SAFIRINI:

(in arabic)

Mansoor, [signals Fahad to man  
that area alone and then to  
Khalil] mai isse upar leke jaa  
rahaa hoon tu yahaa dhyaan se  
sambhaal[and looking around he  
grabs Debina by her arms]

Safirini then orders Imran Ali to walk upstairs and pushes a crying Debina towards the stairs.

103 INT. COCKPIT - DAY

Safirini looks at his watch and it shows 4:00 PM. Debina is sitting in a corner scared as Imran Ali is trying to calm her down. Safirini removes the belt from under his kurta as he tell tells Imran Ali to operate the radio.

(CONTINUED)

103 CONTINUED:

Debina is scared further when she sees the belt laden with explosives. Safirini gently keeps it on one side as Inzamam comes on line.

INZAMAM:

(on the radio)

Pan Am ek french crew ko tayyar  
kar rahaa hain

SAFIRINI:

Kitni der mein?

INZAMAM:

Bas kuch hi der, tab take  
passengers mein se kam se kam  
aurtien aur bache toh chhod do.

SAFIRINI:

Tum waqt batao. Pilots jaldi aaye  
toh hum tumhari baat par amal  
karne ki sochenge

INZAMAM:

Mai poori koshish kar rahaa hoon,  
airport bandh hai issiliye unhe  
aane mein thoda waqt lag sakta  
hain

SAFIRINI:

Waqt nahi hain Inzemam. angrezi  
samajhne waali crew bhej jaldi.

INZAMAM:

Tum aurtein aur bache bhejoge?

SAFIRINI:

Sochenge.

Safirini cuts the radio contact.

104 INT. NEERJA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM- DAY

A sad looking Aneesh is sitting with his hand on his teary eyed Rama as she is on the phone with Harish.

It is as if Topsy knows the situation too and is sadly sitting by Rama's feet.

HARISH

Negotiations chal rahi hain Rama,  
abhi itna hi pataa chal hain yahaa  
se

(CONTINUED)

104 CONTINUED:

RAMA

Haan toh woh pehle bache aur  
aurton ko hi nikaalenge na? Yeh  
poocha ke nahi?

HARISH

Rama jaise hi kuch pataa chalega  
mai bataata hoon

RAMA

Jab hijack training kar ke aayi  
thi, toh maine pehle hi bol diya  
tha, chadd pare training, koi  
danger ho toh pehle apni jaan  
bachaa ke bhaagna, lekin yeh  
ladki sunti kahaa hain meri...

She wipes her tears

HARISH

Rama I hope humaari Lado ko..

Rama reacts

RAMA

Kya matbal I hope! mai yakeen se  
keh sakti hoon Lado theek hain,  
koi koshish bhi kar ke dekhe meri  
beti ko kuch karne ki, do beto ki  
maa hoon Harish ji, phir bhi beti  
ke liye mannate maangti rahi, uske  
paida hone pe hum dono ki jaan ko  
khatra tha. Tha ke nahi? Lekin  
maine haar nahi maani, na usne.  
Lado mere sapno se bani hain, mere  
dil ka tukda hain woh, mera wajood  
hain usse. Koi usse haath lagaa  
ke dekhe mai unna diyaa...

HARISH

Rama please relax, tumhara BP

Rama takes a deep breath

RAMA

100% usne mere paas wapis aana  
hain usne apna birthday gift  
chahiye usse, mai uski tayyari  
karti hoon (she controls her  
emotion) bilkul wapis aayegi lado

Rama wipes her tears and hangs up

RAMA:

Aneesh mai zaraa bazaar hoke aayi,  
Lado ka peela suit laana hain.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

104 CONTINUED: (2)

RAMA: (CONT'D)  
Usko wohi waala chahiye birthday  
pe

CUT TO:

105 INT. UPPER SECTION BUSINESS CLASS - DAY

Debina and Imran Ali are sitting in the Business class seats. With fear writ large on their faces they watch Safirini furiously pace up and down.

He suddenly barks at them with his gun pointed at them

SAFIRINI:  
Shutter bandh karo! Jaldi!

Imran Ali and Debina get up nervously and do as they are told. Safirini is watching them closely.

106 INT. PLANE - DAY

Khalil is keeping an eye on the passengers a little ahead of the galley. He looks frustrated.

Mansoor looks at (a half kneeling) Heston who is mumbling some prayer. He crouches next to him and touches the barrel of his gun to his head. Heston is startled and scared.

MANSOOR:  
Biwi bache hain ke apne liye hi  
duaayen maange jaa rahaa hain ?

HESTON:  
What?

MANSOOR:  
Do you have biwi? wife?

HESTON:  
Uhhh..no..

Mansoor shakes his head in disdain

MANSOOR:  
Tum angrezon ko shaadi karne mein  
pataa nahi kya taqleef hain

HESTON:  
I..I have a girlfriend.

MANSOOR:  
Girlfriend? waah! Waise teri umar  
bache paida karne ki lagti hain

(CONTINUED)



106 CONTINUED:

Heston is trying desperately to understand what Mansoor is saying, he tries his luck

HESTON:

You have? A girlfriend?

Mansoor tightens the grip on his gun, quickly looks around to confirm no-one is looking at him, then smiles sadly

MANSOOR:

no, Humaari bhi badi khwahish  
thi, kissi pe jaan qurbaan karne  
ki... lekin tumhare mulkon ne  
saara khel bigaad diya...(his tone  
changes suddenly) Ab jaa rahe unhe  
bachaane jo humaare liye qurbaani  
deke, jail mein hain.

Heston can only follow the English words, he tries to nod

MANSOOR:

Wahaan yeh plane foooosh!

He makes an explosion sound, Heston reacts. Mansoor is brought to attention by a screaming Khalil.

KHALIL:

(in arabic)  
Aye kutte, teri himmat kaise hui  
isse baat karne ki

MANSOOR:

(in arabic)  
Nai Mai toh bas pooch rahaa tha...

KHALIL:

(in arabic)  
Khada ho

Just then Neerja brings a crying Jatin and the two young girls through the aisle. Khalil looks at her.

KHALIL:

Aye, stop! yahaan kaise aaye?

NEERJA

bacha hain! toilet use karna hain,  
insaniyat thodi toh bachi hogi tum  
logo mein?

KHALIL:

Insaniyat? Huh!

He points with his gun gesturing them to go back

(CONTINUED)

NEERJA:

Rok lo apne haath, inn sab ko  
maarne se, khud marne se tumhare  
mare hue, bichde hue wapis nahi  
aayenge.

Neerja folds her hands earnestly, Khalil looks at those  
innocent children and then angrily at Neerja. Mansoor  
speaks up

MANSOOR:

(In Arabic)

Jaane do unko, mai dhyaan  
rakhoonga

KHALIL:

(In Arabic)

Kya matlab Jaane doon!

MANSOOR:

(In Arabic)

bache hain...

KHALIL:

(In Arabic)

Tere bache hain?

MANSOOR:

(In Arabic)

bhai chote bache hain, itna toh  
hum kar sakte hain, apne aap pe  
kaabu rakhiye

Before Mansoor can complete his sentence, Khalil slaps  
him causing Mansoor to reel and fall down. Mansoor is  
stunned and finds an angry Khalil standing on top of him  
with his gun pointed at his.

The passengers who were quiet because of exhaustion begin  
to scream and panic. Jatin is stifling his cries as  
Neerja is protecting him from the fracas.

KHALIL:

(in arabic)

Kaabu mein tu reh, tu mujhe  
sikhaayega?

SAFIRINI:

(screaming)

Aye Ladko

Khalil turns to see Safirini getting down the spiral  
dragging Imran and Debina with him

106 CONTINUED: (3)

SAFIRINI:

(in arabic)

Yahaan kya ho rahaa hain, tum log  
ladh rahe ho aapas mein

Mansoor pushes the gun from his face and gets up on his feet.

SAFIRINI:

(holding Khalil's  
collar)(in arabic)

Iss tarah karoge toh yeh  
passengers humaare sar pe chadh  
jaayenge. Akal kahaa hai teri

Khalil is angry for being reprimanded and looks angrily at Mansoor. Neerja is hoping that Khalil doesn't do anything untoward. Realizing that Jatin is sobbing hard she looks at him only to discover that he has peed in his pant.

Neerja feels bad for Jatin and using some tissues wipes his pants while pacifying him that this will all be over soon.

Khalil still fuming.

A/106 INT/EXT - PLANE/ NEERJA'S HOUSE/ HT OFFICE - DAY  
[MONTAGE]

Khalil is staring at Mansoor as Mansoor, ignoring those stares, looks ahead of him.

Heston is half kneeling and leaning on the side partition.

Sweta is pacifying her crying cousin Jatin.

Tina, Sanjana and the other airhostess sitting in the front section look exhausted.

Neerja is watching Jatin cry from where she is sitting and looks tired too.

Rama is staring blankly ahead of her and petting tipsy.

Akhil is by the stairs smoking and Aneesh is sitting next on one of the steps.

Harish Bhanot quietly staring at the glass wall in front of him.

107 INT. COCKPIT/ ATC TOWER - DAY

4:30 PM

Safirini is negotiating with Inzamam holding Debina at gunpoint in front of him. Inzamam is watching him from the ATC tower using a binocular.

SAFIRINI:

Hum ek ek ko khatam kar denge,  
kissi ka lihaz nahi hoga, na  
aurtein na bache na buzurg,

INZAMAM:

mai khud inteazar kar rahaa hoon,  
Pan Am Pakistani airline nahi  
hain...

KHALIL (O.S.)

(In arabic)  
Hum Bavakoof ban rahe hain

Safirini is surprised to see Khalil standing behind him.

SAFIRINI:

(In Arabic)  
Tu yahaan kya kar rahaa hain? Issi  
waqt neeche

INZAMAM:

Hello? Hello?

Khalil is still standing there defiantly almost glaring at Safirini.

SAFIRINI:

(warning)  
Khalil

Inzamam writes Khalil on a piece of paper and throws it to one the officers standing by who rushes away for more details

INZAMAM:

Please mujhse baat kijiye,

SAFIRINI:

(In Arabic)  
Tu neeche jaa, Mujhe pataa hain  
mere kaam

KHALIL:

(in arabic)  
Tujhe kuch pataa hain!  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

107 CONTINUED:

KHALIL: (CONT'D)  
ab tak hum Cyprus pahuch chuke  
hote, lekin Dus ghante se jhak  
maar rahe hain yahaa!

SAFIRINI:  
(in arabic)  
Neeche jaa, jaisa maine kahaa hain  
waisa kar, samjha

Before Safirini can complete his sentence, Khalil aims his gun at Imran Ali and shoots him in the head.

108 INT. PLANE - DAY

Everyone below has heard the gunshot. All of them look scared. Neerja is stunned too.

109 INT. ATC TOWER - DAY

Inzamam lowers his binocular and sits down heavily on a chair. Pain and disappointment clear on his face. Through the radio he can hear Safirini reprimand Khalil.

110 INT. COCKPIT - DAY

Khalil is watching blood ooze out of a dead Imran Ali's head.

SAFIRINI:  
(In Arabic)  
Khalil! goli kyun chalaayi?

Khalil doesn't reply as he snatches the radio from Safirini's hand.

KHALIL:  
Ab agar pilots nahi aaye, toh ek  
ek ka yahi hashr hoga.

Khalil walks out of the cockpit as Debina is crying next to Imran Ali's body.

KHALIL:  
(To Safirini) (in  
arabic)  
karte raho baat.

111 INT. PLANE- DAY

Everyone in the plane is sweating and some of them are gasping for breath.

(CONTINUED)

111 CONTINUED:

Neerja opens the pantry and is searching for water bottles but they are very few bottles remaining.

Khalil gets down from the spiral staircase and looks at everybody looking at him with dread in their eyes. He is taken over by blood-lust.

KHALIL:

Radio engineer ko yahaan (he  
points to his forehead) goli maar  
di

Fahad and Mansoor suddenly get anxious again and are on tenterhooks. Fahad is enjoying Khalil's antic but Mansoor looks concerned.

Khalil is smiling almost looking demented when he takes a grenade out from his pocket and begins showing them in a few passengers faces.

KHALIL:

Goliyaan bhi hain aur barood bhi.  
My choice

The mental trauma of being stuck in such a situation, their inevitable fate in front of them and no hope in sight, the passengers begin to tiredly cry.

KHALIL:

Thodi der aur...

Khalil is enjoying the sight.

He takes the grenade and shoves it in front of a few passengers and they begin to panic but Khalil seems to be deriving pleasure out of it.

CUT TO:

112 INT. KARACHI AIRPORT/HANGAR AREA- DAY

Brigadier TM is surrounded by military personnel around a table as Inzamam enters.

BRIGADIER TM:

Inzamam Miya, bahut bura hua, I  
just heard about Imran Ali.

INZAMAM:

Sir maine aapko pehle hi bataaya  
tha, they are nervous, unke  
actions predict karna mushkil hota  
jaa rahaa hain

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

112 CONTINUED:

INZAMAM: (CONT'D)

Ab stall karne ka waqt khatm ho  
rahaa hain, yeh kissi bhi waqt  
passengers ko maarna shuru kar  
sakte hain.

Brigadier nods and begins taking them through the plan for a break-in. Pointing at the blueprint of the airport and runway he is ordering group of people at a time about their positions and movements. Everyone around him is all ears.

113 INT. KARACHI AIRPORT/CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

A press-conference is on and a spokesperson is addressing a group of journalists.

SPOKESPERSON:

Hume poori ummeed hain ke haalaat  
jald hi humaare kaabu mein aa  
jaayega

JOURNALIST:

Terrorists ki demand kya hain? Kya  
aap unhe mulk se jaane denge?

SPOKESPERSON:

Dekhiye iss waqt hum sirf itna  
bataa sakte hain ke terrorists  
Libya se hain, unka India ya  
Pakistan se koi taluq nahi hain,  
issiliye unhone ne American  
airline Hijack ki hain. Hum sirf  
passengers ki salaamati chahte  
hain, aur ussi ki tayyari mein  
hain

114 INT. PLANE - DAY

C/u of Neerja as she looks towards the aisle where Khalil [sweat-soaked and bare-bodied] is getting frustrated and is roaming around the little space that he has. It is clear that he is waiting for something to happen.

Heston [who was kneeling all this while] is tiredly sitting and Neerja offers him a whatever little water there is.

115 INT. COCKPIT - DAY

Safirini is looking out of the glass. He looks really angry.

116 INT. SECURITY ZONE/HANGAR - DAY

The commandoes are getting dressed for action. Shots of them arming their guns, wearing their security cover almost getting ready for battle. Inzamam wears a bullet-proof vest as well together with Brigadier TM.

117 INT. NEERJA'S HOUSE - DAY

Rama completely drained out of energy, is sitting holding the phone and talking to Harish.

RAMA

Meri Laado nikli plane mein se?  
Maine uska gift khareed liya hain,  
kitta khush hogi dekh ke.

HARISH

Abhi nahi Rama, lekin khabar mili  
hain ke negotiations chal rahi  
hain, God willing sab theek ho  
jaayega

RAMA

Tussi wi zyaada tension na lena,  
Apne dawai khaayi blood pressure  
waali?

HARISH

Tumne khaayi?

Both of them are silent as the answer is obviously the same between- NO.

118 INT. PLANE - DAY

The passengers are completely fatigued, hungry and parched. Suddenly one senior woman [maybe Rahul Kumar's grandmother] begins to palpitate. She blacks out and falls down limp to the side of her seat. The passengers around panic for help. Sanjana immediately rushes the woman's aid.

Fahad [near whom this is happening] doesn't know what to do. He is brandishing his gun and screaming out to everybody to stay still. Sanjana doesn't care and reaches out to the old lady and begins administering CPR and in panic mode calls out to Neerja.

SANJANA:

Neerja, oxygen!!

Neerja quickly goes towards the business class and Tina joins her.

(CONTINUED)



118 CONTINUED:

She bends down to open the hatch on the floor when Khalil who was behind them stamps on the hatch and shuts it close.

KHALIL:  
Koi darwaza nahi khulega

NEERJA:  
Plane mein oxygen kam ho rahaa  
hain, woh aurat mar sakti hain

KHALIL:  
Toh mar jaaye.

NEERJA:  
please mujhe unki madad karne do.

Khalil points his gun at her.

KHALIL:  
Chal hat!

Neerja pushed away, looks at Tina and her expression suggests that they should listen to Khalil. The silence in the plane is at a flash-point. SUDDENLY the alarm inside begins to ring.

Khalil panics and Mansoors jolt to attention too.

KHALIL:  
(panicking)  
Kisne bajaaya alarm!

Neerja rushes back to him

NEERJA:  
(trying to calm him  
down)  
Please ruk jaao yeh alarm...

Khalil pushes the gun into her cheek

KHALIL:  
(angrily)  
pehle tune darwaza khola ab alarm  
baj gaya hain , tu miltry ko  
signal dene ki koshish kar rahi  
hain?

NEERJA:  
(calmly)  
Alarm toilet mein baj rahaa hain

Khalil turns, looks towards the toilet, the sound does seem to be emanating from there

(CONTINUED)

118 CONTINUED: (2)

He pushes Neerja towards the toilet, Tina spotting the chance opens the hatch and takes the oxygen tank out of the hatch and goes in their direction. Neerja opens the toilet and there Fahad is urinating with a cigarette in his mouth.

Khalil slaps Fahad at the back of his head, the cigarette drops in the pot. Neerja turns off the alarm

During this time Tina has reached Sanjana and has given her the oxygen and the woman is now breathing a little easy.

Khalil looks at Sanjana and Tina angrily, goes towards the business class and sees the hatch shut and comes out to where the passengers are and talks to Mansoor.

MANSOOR:

(in arabic)

Zaleel ho chuke hain, ab humaare  
saamne sirf maut hain, pilot nahi  
aane waale

KHALIL:

(screaming at the top  
of his lungs) (in  
arabic)

Unke baap bhi aayenge  
humaari tadbeer kaamyab hogi,  
poori duniya aaj ka din yaad  
rakhegi

The passengers sitting near them cower and hold on to each other for whatever little illusion of security or safety that comes from it.

Neerja looks very concerned and looks at Jatin and the girls crying in fear as well. Neerja walks up to them.

BHAVIK:

Mamma ke paas jaana hain

NEERJA:

Mujhe bhi

CUT TO:

119 EXT. NEERJA'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Aneesh, Akhil, Harish and Neerja are sitting at the dining table, lunch is under way there is butter chicken, dal, fried potatoes. Akhil serves himself

(CONTINUED)

119 CONTINUED:

ANEESH

Bhaiya aap humesha leg piece le  
lete ho

AKHIL:

Do taange hoti hain murge ki, mar  
mat, doosra tu le le

Neerja smiles, she seems disinterested in food.

HARISH

Neerja ko aloo paas kar, garam  
paronhi laa rahi hain mummy beta

Neerja serves herself a few pieces of potato Rama appears  
with casserole, she serves everyone a paronhi, Neerja  
refuses as she munches on the potatoes

RAMA

Arre ek toh khaani padhegi.

NEERJA

Mamma mera mann nahi hain

RAMA

Toh kya khaane ka mann hain, chal  
kal tu aur mai Sharma Aunty se  
chowmien banaani seekhe? Thoda  
bhaut banaana seekh legi na raje  
toh wapis jaa ke kam problem hogi

Neerja and Harish exchange a look

AKHIL

Sawaal hi paida hota ke yeh wapis  
jaayegi, Papa?

RAMA

Toh mai kaunsa kal bhej rahi hoon  
usse wapis !

She sits down and serves herself, everyone eats in  
silence for a few moments

HARISH

Dal pass karna

Aneesh passes the bowl to Harish

ANEESH

Papa waise thodi moulding toh  
karni padhegi Lado ko

Akhil gives him a look

(CONTINUED)

119 CONTINUED: (2)

ANEESH (CONT'D)

Nai mai yeh ni keh rahaa ke usne  
nahi ki, lekin thodi aur karke  
dekhe toh...

AKHIL

Kya kar ke dekhe?

ANEESH

(slightly nervous  
under Akhil's stare)

Bhaiya woh..moulding...

AKHIL

Khana kha tu chup kar ke

RAMA

Arre theek toh keh rahaa hain?  
Lado aise itni jaldi thode na give  
up karte hain? itni jaldi itni  
badi choice. bache adjustment  
humesha girls ko zyaada karni  
padhti hain, sab karte hain... sab  
koi tere papa jaise ni ho sakte,  
koi koi Akhil jaise bhi hota hain

She chuckles trying to lighten the moment, but is unsuccessful, she looks at Harish, he shakes his head, his eyes full of remorse, Neerja observes the exchange. Rama turns to Neerja not wanting to let go of the opportunity to discuss this

RAMA (CONT'D)

Beta mai Naresh se baat karoongi  
usse samjhaaongi

HARISH

Baad mein kare yeh sab discuss

RAMA

Mahina ho gaya hai, baad mein -  
baad mein karte Harish ji, itni  
jaldi koi shaadi pe give up karta  
hain?

Now everyone starts talking together, Akhil, Aneesh, Harish Rama as Neerja watches

ANEESH

Mamma sahi keh rahi hain bhaiya

AKHIL

Maine uski taange todh deni hain,  
haal dekha tha lado ka jab aayi  
thi

(CONTINUED)

119 CONTINUED: (3)

RAMA

Akhil aise ni bolte beta, Harish  
ji meri baat samjho

HARISH

Rama tumhe pataa nahi ke kya kya  
hua hain

RAMA

Kya pataa nahi hain, mereko sab  
pataa hain

Neerja gets up, everyone stops talking, she walks to a chest of drawers in the corner of the room. She stops and looks at Harish, they have a moment of silent decision making. Harish walks up to her, removes a small key from the lower drawer and hands it Neerja, she opens the drawer and pulls out a file it is neatly labelled 'NARESH CORRESPONDENCE' She brings the files to the table, flips through it and starts reading excerpts

NEERJA

Papa ko kai mahino se letters bhej  
rahe the Naresh...(she skims as  
she reads bits and pieces) Mujhe  
yeh bilkul pasand nahi ke aap baar  
baar apni beti ko phone karte  
rehte hain, Aapki beti se shaadi  
karna waste tha, usse koi kaam  
nahi aata, koi izzatdaar baap apni  
beti se kabhie modelling nahi  
karwaayega, agar aapne Neerja ko  
phir Bombay bulaaya toh usse wapis  
bhejne ki koi zaroorat nahi hain.

She turns to her mother

Rama looks at Harish, she has obviously never heard or  
seen these letters before. She walks up to him

HARISH

(whispers)

Lado ne manaa kiya tha tumhe  
bataane se

Neerja continues reading

NEERJA

(continues)

Mai iss shaadi se khush nahi hoon,  
Neerja is of no use to me...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

119 CONTINUED: (4)

NEERJA (CONT'D)

Agar usse khana banaana nahi aata  
 toh khana khaane ki bhi koi  
 zaroorat nahi hain...aapki beti ko  
 Ghar ka kaam, saaf safai, kuch  
 nahi aata, yeh sab uska kaam hain,

She turns to her mother

NEERJA

Mamma mujhse jo hua maine sab  
 kiya, jhadhu maara, bartan dhoye,  
 kapde dhoye, uski maid ban gayi  
 thi mai mamma, aur phir bhi dekho  
 aur kya likha hain (she continues)  
 koi gareeb aadmi bhi apni beti ko  
 shaadi mein kuch de deta hain, aap  
 ne Neerja ko khaali haath bhej  
 diya

AKHIL:

What rubbish, papa ne clear bol  
 diya tha ke hum dowry ke bilkul  
 against hain. Aur Naresh ne agree  
 kiya tha.

NEERJA

Mamma maine sab kuch kiya, mujhe  
 ghar mein kaam ke alawa kuch  
 allowed hi nahi tha, music system  
 ko haath lagaane ki bhi permission  
 nahi thi. Jab mai aayi thi toh jo  
 mere sar pe chot thi, woh girne se  
 nahi lagi thi mamma, mai clumsy  
 nahi hoon mamma aapko pataa hain  
 na? EK paisa nahi tha mere haath  
 mein, aapko pataa bhi hain mai  
 kaise aap ko phone karti thi?

Neerja's voice breaks at the memory, Rama rushes to her  
 daughter, she takes the file from her and throws it aside  
 and hugs her daughter tight. Neerja rests her head on her  
 mother's shoulder

NEERJA (CONT'D)

Mai marne se pehle marna nahi  
 chahti Babumoshai

RAMA

Maine kai ni jaane dena tereko.

Rama weeps for her daughters pain.

CUT TO:

STRAINS OF MAMA SONG BEGINS.

120 INT. PLANE - DAY

Neerja sadly smiles at the kids.

NEERJA:

Thodi der aur, be strong please,  
uske baad Tum aur mai dono apni  
mamma ke paas jaayenge, aur jab  
woh hume zor se hug karenge toh  
hum bhool jaayenge yeh sab, I  
promise.

The children nod their head and wipe their tears.

MAMA SONG CONTINUES.

121 INT. NEERJA'S HOUSE- EVENING

Rama stands by the balcony looking out, her face full of worry thinking about her daughter. She looks below at the compound and sees three school children, about 6 to 7 years of age, being taken home by their mothers.

TRANSITION TO:

122 INT. NEERJA'S HOUSE- BEDROOM - EVENING

Rama goes to Neerja's room and sits heavily on the bed. She looks at the wall and thinks about Neerja. She cleans up and organises Neerja's room. She settles her stuffed toy on her bed and then begins ironing her clothes. She moves towards one of Neerja's cupboards and removes a file/album from inside. The album has portfolio pictures and her modelling assignment pictures.

Rama then looks at one of the corners in the room and spots a pile of magazines. She picks one of the magazines and flips the pages till she reaches a full page ad featuring a smiling Neerja.

Rama then picks the whole pile of magazines and sits on the bed with a pair of scissors and is cutting Neerja's pictures and lovingly pasting them in the album.

As the song continues, Rama is done with all the magazines as they lie tattered on the bed. She sits for a while with concern on her face and spots a shopping bag on the bed. She reaches out to the bag and from there removes the yellow dupatta and starts gift-wrapping it.

Mother picks the gift wrapped dupatta and goes to the prayer room.

123 INT. NEERJA'S HOUSE- PRAYER ROOM- EVENING

Rama offers the gift to the god in the altar. With tears in her eyes she prays...

RAMA

Meri bachi ka dhyaan rakhna

MAMA'S SONG ENDS.

CUT TO:

124 INT.COCKPIT - EVENING

6:45 PM

It is getting dark outside. The lights at the airport are switched on.

An angry Safirini is screaming at Inzamam on the radio.

SAFIRINI:

Bahut ho gaya yeh tamasha

INZAMAM:

Generator aur crew dono aate hi honge

SAFIRINI:

Poora din nikal gaya jhooti dalile sunte, mereko pehle hi plane udha dena tha

INZAMAM:

Plane udhaane ki sochna bhi mat, mai chup hoon kyunki tere paas 300 masoom log qaid hain, nahi toh tere...

Suddenly the radio begins to crackle.

Safirini is unable to understand what Inzamam is trying to say. Safirini screams out a few hellos to Inzamam but it is as if the Radio has run out of battery. Safirini, unable to control his rage anymore, bangs the radio hard on the cock-pit and breaks it.

He paces around the cock-pit, furiously for a few seconds and then bursts out in rage and with the gun in his hands starts trashing the cockpit. Debina is cowering in fear. He trashes a few equipments and then points the gun at Debina. She thinks that her end is near.

(CONTINUED)



124 CONTINUED:

He looks at her scared and helpless and changing his mind continues to trash the cockpit.

125 INT. PLANE - NIGHT

The noises of Safirini's rage can be heard downstairs and people below have given up hope.

Neerja, almost knowing that the terrorists patience has reached its peak gets up from her seat. She looks at the tired and exhausted passengers, all of them seem to have given up hope.

Neerja takes a flask of tea and coffee and begins walking in between the passengers coaxing them to have the brew.

She reaches the man sitting near the exit hatch and coaxes him to have the beverage, he is not interested. Khalil is watching her serve that man tea. The tray is on the line of the seat.

Neerja, while serving him tea,

NEERJA:

(smiling and in a  
soft tone)

Iss tray ke neeche ek manual hain  
sir, le lijiye aur dhyaan se  
padhiye

She swiftly looks at the emergency exit hatch next to him, he takes the manual.

The man is stunned and scared as Neerja again smiles- from Khalil's point of view it seems as if she is being air-hostessy and trying to calm the man's nerves.

NEERJA:

Sir please padh lijiye, aap hum  
sab ki jaan bacha sakte hain

Neerja moves on to the other side of the seat and begins talking to the man on the other side of the hatch.

CUT TO:

126 INT. COCKPIT - NIGHT

Safirini has finished venting out his anger. After breathing heavily for a while he makes a decision and taking his gun, Tina to get moving downstairs.

SAFIRINI:

Chalo! Niklo yahaa se

(CONTINUED)

126 CONTINUED:

Debina, shivering, nervously follows his command and moves out of the cockpit.

Shot- Safirini has forgotten to take the explosives laden belt.

127 EXT. KARACHI AIRPORT/HANGAR AREA- NIGHT

Brigadier TM is giving last minute instructions to the commandoes. They are all ears.

128 INT. PLANE - NIGHT

Debina gets down the spiral staircase followed by Safirini. Debina goes towards her friends in the business class and bursts into tears as a couple of the girls pacify her.

Neerja is walking through rows and rows of mentally exhausted passengers.

Safirini looks stressed and Khalil is watching him.

Fahad and Mansoor are drained of energy and looks at Safirini and Khalil to come up with something soon.

CUT TO:

129 EXT. KARACHI AIRPORT/TERRACE 1 - NIGHT

A sniper takes position.

130 INT. PLANE- NIGHT

Neerja continues to walk. Sees the patient struggling to breathe and a worried Sanjana taking care of her.

131 EXT. KARACHI AIRPORT/TERRACE 2 - NIGHT

Another sniper focuses on the plane.

CUT TO:

132 INT. PLANE- NIGHT

Neerja looking around- a worried mother taking care of her two peacefully sleeping children. A Man fanning his pregnant wife trying to comfort her.

133 EXT. KARACHI AIRPORT/HANGAR AREA- NIGHT

Inzamam looking at his watch- zillions of thoughts running through his head.

134 INT. PLANE- NIGHT

Neerja still walking - Heston is sitting on the floor taking a look at the passports that are lying around him.

Safirini, Khalil and Mansoor looking nervous in the section near the galley.

135 ~~EXT. TARMAC NIGHT DELETED~~

136 INT. PLANE - NIGHT

Neerja still walking and through her POV - Mansoor is standing next to Heston and he looks tired too. Khalil's red-eyes flicking from one passenger to another.

Neerja passes him and goes towards the business class where a few of her colleagues are tiredly sitting.

From the overhead storage Neerja removes her bag and removes a couple of 5-star bars that Jaideep gifted her.

CUT TO:

137 EXT. CAR/HOARDING SITE- NIGHT

Jaideep is looking at Neerja smiling back at him through the hoarding. He is on the verge of tears as he listen to the radio broadcast through the car radio.

RADIO BROADCAST:

15 ghante se chal rahi Hijack ki  
paristhiti ka koi hal nahi ho paa  
rahaa, humaare sootron ki anusaar,  
militry Pan Am 73 ke andar humla  
karne ki tayyari kar rahi hain

CUT TO:

138 INT. PLANE - NIGHT

Neerja sits down heavily on a chair and is lost in thought. She is trying to fight negative thoughts from clouding her mind. She puts her hand in her jacket and removes Jaideep's letter.

(CONTINUED)

138 CONTINUED:

Lovingly she unwraps the chocolate and then removes the letter from the envelope.

Taking a bite from the chocolate she begins to read the letter.

JAIDEEP (V.O.)

'Ek chota sa ghaav bahut gehra  
zakham ban sakta hain aur ek choti  
si mulaakat jeevan bhar ka saath  
ban sakti hain.' Ghaav ko zakhm  
mat banne do Neerja, Zindagi jeene  
liye hoti hain, pachtaane ke liye  
nahi, mai chahta hoon ki humaari  
choti si mulaakat jeevan bhar ka  
saath ban jaaye. Ab please please  
apne Kaka ji ki baat mat taalna.  
Agar unse romance nahi seekha toh  
kya seekha. marry me Babumoshai?  
PS: Kaun si film? Safar right?

Neerja's eyes tear up as she continues to chew the chocolate holding it dearly as if a ray of hope.

NEERJA

(mumbles)

Aradhna you idiot

She weeps

CUT TO:

LOVE SONG

139 EXT. CAR/HOARDING SITE- NIGHT

Jaideep is still listening to the radio broadcast.

RADIO BROADCAST:

Nearly 100 Indians are said to be  
passengers and crew on Pan Am 73  
and it is difficult to say when  
this stalemate will end.

Jaideep is winding the radio cassette.

Jaideep cannot control his tears and begins crying harder.

CUT TO:

140 INT. PLANE - NIGHT

Neerja is silently crying too.

CUT TO:

141 INT. KARACHI AIRPORT/HANGAR AREA- NIGHT

8:30 PM

Inzamam is waiting for the next move when Brigadier TM enters. He signals Inzamam, without any words, that it is time for action.

142 EXT. KARACHI AIRPORT/TERRACE 2 - NIGHT

The sniper focuses on a window shutter that has slightly opened and he is relaying a message to Brigadier TM.

COMMANDO:

Sir ek terrorist ne apni window ka shutter khola hain, What is the order sir?

His POV Safirini is looking through the window.

143 INT. KARACHI AIRPORT/HANGAR AREA- NIGHT

Brigadier TM is on the radio channel with the commando. Everyone around is waiting with bated breath.

BRIGADIER TM:

Take the shot-

144A EXT. KARACHI AIRPORT/TERRACE 2 - NIGHT

The commando is about slowly about to pull the trigger. Suddenly the lights in the plane go off.

144B INT. PLANE - NIGHT.

Reactions- Neerja- other air-hostesses - Khalil - Panic amongst the passengers.

COMMANDO:

(surprise)  
What the... !!! Sir!

145 INT. KARACHI AIRPORT/HANGAR AREA- NIGHT

Brigadier TM looks frustrated as the commandoes around him are anxiously awaiting orders.

INZAMAM:

Auxiliary power khatm ho gayi hain

CUT TO:

146 INT. PLANE - NIGHT

Neerja looks worried, her mind buzzing with a million thoughts.

Some of the passengers have begun to panic

As she expected Khalil, Safirini and Mansoor react to the lights going off.

KHALIL:

(in Arabic)

Military ne bilji kaat di hain, ab woh tayyari kar rahe hain plane mein aane ki

Safirini unsure.

SAFIRINI:

(in Arabic)

Nahi, woh jaante hain agar woh plane mein daakhil hue toh hum passenger maarna shuru kar denge

Neerja is watching Khalil and Safirini talk loudly.

KHALIL:

(aggressively in Arabic)

Bhai jaan khalaas ab faisle ki ghadi aa chuki hain

CUT TO:

147 ~~EXT. TARMAC - NIGHT - DELETED~~

148 ~~INT. PLANE - NIGHT - DELETED~~

CUT TO:

149 ~~EXT. TARMAC NIGHT~~

~~Pakistani commandoes are stealthily approaching the plane.~~

~~Some of them are in the stair van driving in the direction of the plane so that they can charge inside.~~

~~CUT TO:~~

150 ~~INT. PLANE NIGHT - DELETED~~

153 ~~INT. PLANE NIGHT DELETED~~

154 ~~EXT. TARMAC NIGHT DELETED~~

A/155 INT. HT OFFICE - NIGHT

Neerja's father is stressed as he sees Mushtaq on the phone.

MUSHTAQ KHAN:

(on the phone)

Kya? Are you sure?

He listens for a while and then hangs up.

MUSHTAQ KHAN:

(to Neerja's father)

Pakistani commandos plane mein  
jaane ki tayyari kar rahe hain

CUT TO:

B/155 INT. NEERJA'S HOUSE - PRAYER ROOM - NIGHT

Rama, with folded hands, is praying to her gods. Her face tired and wrinkled with the stress of the day.

C/155 INT. PLANE - NIGHT

SAFIRINI:

(To Mansoor)(in  
arabic)

Mansoor Fahad ke saath peeche jao  
Khalil staff ko leke aage aao.

Mansoor picks Heston as a human shield and walks towards Fahad.

Khalil goes towards the business class area and begins roughing up the air-hostesses including Neerja. The other air-hostesses have begun to panic

Neerja is trying to plead with Khalil not to do anything rash but he continues to push the air-hostesses out of the business class area in economy class.

Neerja tries to go towards Safirini.

NEERJA:

Yeh plane ki auxiliary power khatm  
hui hain, isse kissi ne baahar se  
bandh nahi kiya hain. Generator  
aata hi hoga, please thodi der  
ruko

Khalil slaps Neerja and she falls away from Khalil where Jatin and the kids are seated.

Passengers have begun to panic and some of them can be heard crying and shrieking. A passenger behind looks scared and is getting antsy.

Neerja gets up from her seat again and Khalil points his gun towards her as if ready to shoot her when the nervous passenger gets up from his seat and runs towards the exit hatch diverting Khalil from Neerja and he fires some bullets in his direction and kills him.

Safirini, Fahad and Mansoor begin firing as well.

CUT TO:

155 INT. PLANE - NIGHT

Safirini and Khalil are madly spraying the passengers with bullets and from behind so are Fahad and Mansoor.

The passengers sitting in the front are victims while the passengers behind are screaming, shrieking, cowering and panicking.

(CONTINUED)



155 CONTINUED:

Shots of a few passengers being hit by bullets-  
Passengers cowering and barely escaping being hit.

The man next to the mother with the 2 kids is shot and the mother instinctively, almost throws her 2 sleeping children in the small space under the seat one top of the other.

A scared Neerja shouts at the cowering man near the exit to open the hatch but the din of the gunshots is too much. Neerja jumps into action and jumping over some passengers reaches the exit door and opens it. The chute inflates outwards.

She begins screaming for passengers to get out. The passengers near the hatch are so scared that they do not see the way out. Neerja pulls a few of them towards the door and almost pushes them out.

The passengers near the hatch quickly begin to rush towards that one door.

Neerja calls out to Sanjana and Tina

NEERJA

Go! Mai aa jaaongi, plane se  
niklo!

Sanjana approaches Neerja and pulls her

SANJANA:

Come!

NEERJA

Sanjana, tum jao mai baaki  
passenger ko chute tak laati hoon

SANJANA:

Dont be silly Neerja! jaldi chalo

NEERJA

Sanjana! Please!

She pushes Sanjana towards the chute

People begin pushing Neerja out of the way as the spray of bullets continue.

On seeing the hatch open The pregnant woman's husband is trying to tell his wife to come with him but he turns towards her and sees her eyes closed. Then looks at her face and sees that it has a bullet wound. He breaks down and cries seeing his pregnant wife dead. And while in tears gets out of the seat and rushes towards the hatch.

(CONTINUED)

155 CONTINUED: (2)

Safirini, Khalil, Mansoor and Fahad looks merciless as their face lights up with each gunshot.

The mother of the 2 children thinks it is time to make good their escape. She slowly reaches out to the children under her and suddenly her eyes widen with panic. She feels something wet in her hand. She sees blood and almost about to cry when she feels them both move. It was the blood from the man shot next to her that fell on the kids. She tells them both to stick with her and she walks out too.

Neerja pushes her way through the crowd of people and escaping the bullets fizzing past her she manages to open the other door and the chute inflates out. People near that door make a break for it pushing Neerja aside. Neerja looks around through the chaos and spots the 3 kids a little further away cowering under the seats.

People on the wing see the chute inflate. A couple of them are scared to jump from the wing almost 20ft down and decide to leap on the chute. One of the passengers manages to land safely on the chute. Others try the same. Some slip and slide on the wing. Some of them fall down and injure themselves but somehow find the strength to bear through that pain and get away from the plane.

The mother uses all her strength to throw her 2 kids one by one on the chute. They barely manage to make it. She then tries to do the same and misses the chute and crashes to the ground. Her kids help her get up and she turns back to see the flashes of the gunshots still on.

Some of them leap from the wing towards the chute. Some make it but some fall badly.

Shots of Heston jumping and landing on the chute. Satish Kumar's grandmother scared to jump but a commando is waiting down encouraging her to jump and she does. Some people landing on another person already fallen down. Utter chaos in their attempt to just get away from the carnage inside.

156 EXT. TARMAC- NIGHT

The ambulances rush into action and the Commandoes begin helping the passengers into them.

157 INT. PLANE- NIGHT

Neerja pushes through the crowd of people rushing to make their way out of the plane.

Some of them are bleeding because of the bullet injuries.

(CONTINUED)

157 CONTINUED:

Neerja pushes her way through the crowd. Most of the people have managed to rush out through the two open hatches but Neerja's eyes are on the 3 kids scared and crying under their seats.

Fahad removes a grenade from his pocket and is about to throw it in the centre of the plane from where the passengers have escaped when Mansoor stops him.

MANSOOR:

(in arabic)

Nahi Fahad nahi, agar humne iss  
bomb ko phak diya toh hum bhi mar  
jaayenge

FAHAD:

(in arabic)

Hum mar chuke hai Mansoor, aage  
khaai peeche kua hain, yahaan se  
bach nikle toh baahar militry maar  
degi

Mansoor looks at Fahad realizing that is clearly the end, his eyes fill with tears, he shakes his head

Mansoor is strongly holding Fahad's hand and stopping him from throwing the grenade and Fahad is trying to fight him.

ON THE OTHER SIDE.

Neerja crawls low over dead-bodies and reaches the 3 kids. They are scared to come out.

NEERJA

Chalo, be brave now, for me.

The boy holds Neerja's outstretched hand. And the 2 other girls follow.

The gun-shots have stopped and the plane is almost empty. Few injured people are groaning for help and struggling to get out. Neerja is caught in a dilemma whether to help the kids or the injured passengers but chooses the kids over them. Khalil watches Neerja attempting to take the kids to safety. He fires a few rounds trying to hit her but the injured passenger behind is hit.

Safirini feels under his pathani and remembers that he forgot the belt in the cockpit her runs towards the spiral stairs and upwards.

(CONTINUED)

157 CONTINUED: (2)

ON THE OTHER SIDE.

Fahad and Mansoor have started almost fighting with each other with the grenade in their hand. Fahad punches Mansoor but Mansoor is not letting go.

MANSOOR:

(in arabic)

Militry maaregi nahi, giraftar  
karegi, hum bach sakte hain

Another punch, the grenade falls from Fahad's hands and rolls away from them. Fahad is angry and takes out the knife in his back-pocket and stabs Mansoor.

158 ON THE OTHER SIDE.

Khalil comes running towards the hatch as Neerja is coaxing the kids to slide down the chute.

NEERJA

Go go, I'm right behind you. Woh  
aunty[pointing to a Sanjana at the  
end of the slide] tumhe catch kar  
lengi.

Just then they are startled by Khalil's menacing voice. Neerja looks up and sees him holding his gun at her.

Neerja protectively shields the 3 kids behind her back.

Khalil is about to fire at her when suddenly out of no where, Neerja pounces on Khalil angrily. He is taken by surprise. Neerja grabs a hold of his gun and tries to wrestle it out of his hands. Neerja is using all her force and Khalil slaps her hard a couple if time and tries to push her away but Neerja is not letting go.

In the midst of the scuffle a few shots are fired and finally Neerja manages to snatch the gun and fires a shot at Khalil injuring him as he falls backwards.

Neerja turns around to face the scared kids she smiles at them as they look at her in shock. We can now see that Neerja has taken the two shots fired during the scuffle. Neerja smiles and tells the kids that she is right behind them and tells them to slide. As they slide down she winces in pain.

Just then Safirini comes screaming wearing no pathani kurta but just the explosive laden belt.

SAFIRINI:

(screaming)

Fahad-Mansoor- Khalil-

(CONTINUED)

158 CONTINUED:

He looks around sees Khalil injured. Looks at Fahad and sees a blood soaked Fahad standing atop an injured Mansoor. Safirini's face reveals the failure of the mission.

Neerja watches the 3 kids slide down and Sanjana puts them in the ambulance and gets in as well.

She looks around to see if anybody else needs help but all around her are dead bodies.

Safirini stands in front of them, he is wearing the explosives belt, he looks down at the belt and looks at Fahad

SAFIRINI:

(in arabic)

Goli chala

Fahad hesitates looking frightened. He holds his gun down.

SAFIRINI:

(in arabic)

Miltry ke haath marne se behtar  
hain hum apne haathon mar jaaye

SAFIRINI:

(in arabic)

chala goli. Iss tamashe ko khatam  
kar de

Fahad comes closer and takes a shot, he is about to shoot at Safirini when suddenly his feet is yanked and he trips causing the shot to miss the belt but only injure Safirini.

It is Neerja near the hatch who pulled Fahad's leg. Neerja then rolls down the chute as blood marks spread a trail of her fall.

She lands hard on the tarmac.

Fahad is near the grenade that had fallen during his fight with Mansoor.

There is a blast in the plane.

159 ~~INT. AMBULANCE NIGHT DELETED~~

160 ~~EXT. TARMAC NIGHT DELETED~~

CUT TO:

161 EXT. TARMAC- BELOW THE CHUTE - NIGHT

Two stretcher-bearers come rushing towards Neerja lying in a pool of blood.

She is grimacing in pain as they put her on the stretcher and go sprinting towards the ambulance nearby.

CUT TO:

162 INT. AMBULANCE- NIGHT

Neerja is bleeding, the 3 kids and Sanjana are standing close by along with a few more injured passengers and the stretcher-bearers crowding the ambulance. Neerja beckons Jatin.

NEERJA

Jatin, mera ek kaam karoge

CUT TO:

163 INT. PLANE- NIGHT

Inzamam is in the plane. Sad, distraught and almost in tears. His eyes scan around and through his POV we see the aftermath of the Hijack in the plane. Blood. Carnage. Destruction.

He looks at the roof destroyed because of the grenade blast. A dove comes and sits on the edge and then flies off.

Inzamam finds it hard to control his tears.

CUT TO:

164 EXT. TARMAC - NIGHT

Brigadier TM watches as the military handcuffs the injured Safirini is taken into the vehicle. The other injured terrorists are carried on stretchers as well.

CUT TO:

165 INT. PLANE - NIGHT

Inzamam, crying now, as he sees the dead bodies- Imran Ali the radio engineer, Anand Parekh - with many other dead people in the plane-

166 EXT. CAR/HOARDING SITE- NIGHT

Jaideep is a broken man as he hears the news of the break-in gunshots, apprehension of the terrorists and the death of a few passengers.

167 INT. PLANE - NIGHT

Jaideep's love letter is seen floating around in the breeze and escapes through the hatch door.

168 INT. NEERJA'S HOUSE- NIGHT

The irritating monotone of the DD soundbar is heard. Aneesh is almost in tears as he is talking on the phone. Akhil is standing restless next to him.

ANEESH:

meri behen Neerja Bhanot uss plane pe hain, I need to know if she is safe. Please don't put me on hold again.

Akhil takes the phone from Aneesh

AKHIL:

Hello? Hello what is your name? Aap lagaataar hume hold pe daale jaa rahe hain, aapko pataa bhi hum pe kya beet rahi hain? I want to know the status of Purser Neerja Bhanot. No. I will not hold. Mai case kar doonga aap sab pe, Hello?

Akhil angrily bangs the phone.

AKHIL:

(to Aneesh)

Aneesh, ro kya rahaa hain budhu, Neerja ko kuch nahi hoga, jaa mamma ke liye paani leke aa, mai phir se try karta hoon

Akhil takes the receiver and calls again. It is clear that he is on the verge of breakdown as well.

Rama is blankly staring at the Color TV with the Colorbar on it. She is rocking back and forth and mumbling to herself

(CONTINUED)

168 CONTINUED:

RAMA

Bilkul kuch ni hona meri lado ko.  
Sab theek hoga, ghar aa jaayegi  
raat tak, karachi toh paas hi  
hain. Ghar aa jaayegi

169 INT. HT OFFICE - NIGHT

Neerja's father is on the phone with Pakistan dawn office.

HARISH:

Any news?

PAKISTANI JOURNALIST:

Sir bahut confusion hain yahaan,  
shanakht ki koi gunjaaish nahi,  
please thoda waqt dijiye hume,  
kuch maaloom hote hi mai aapko  
khud phone kar doonga

HARISH:

Thank you

Harish hangs-up - Exhausted and Sad.

170 INT. NEERJA'S HOUSE- DAY

7th September 1986 - Neerja's 23rd birthday.

Rama is all dressed up and is clutching a wrapped gift in her hand. She looks grief-stricken but at the same time trying not to break down.

Harish and brothers are looking sad.

RAMA:

(to herself)

birdday ghar pe manaayegi meri  
laado

171 INT. NEWSROOM - DAY

An Air India plane in the background.

REPORTER:

The special Air-India flight  
carrying the 86 Indian survivors  
of the Pan-Am 73 terrorist attacks  
landed half an hour ago.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



171 CONTINUED:

REPORTER: (CONT'D)

While there were scenes of joy and relief they are accompanied by a sense of gloom because of the 13 Indian passengers who lost their life during this heinous act of terror. ... [voice fades]

172 EXT. AIRPORT WAITING ROOM - DAY

Rama, Harish and the two brothers are in the waiting room. Forlorn, lost and dazed. Suddenly the door opens and Mother immediately gets up and a coffin arrives followed by crew and some passengers who were saved by Neerja.- Jaideep is standing with the family as well.

Sanjana and Tina spot Neerja's family and not knowing how to react lean on a wall.

Harish [trying hard to fight his tears] puts his arms around Rama's shoulders as the airport official opens the coffin lid.

Neerja's limp body is sleeping peacefully in it. Reality hits Rama as she slowly walks towards the coffin.

Rama reaches the coffin and lovingly passes her hand on Neerja's head.

RAMA:

Thak gayi na meri Lado

Tears begins to flow out of her eyes as she pulls out a delicate yellow dupatta from the wrapped present and puts it on Neerja

RAMA:

Dekh? Yahi waala tha na? Mujhe yaad hain beta, mamma ko yaad hain

and then she bursts out crying, Her knees give way and she drops holding the coffin and crying hard.

Harish breaks down, Aneesh grips him,

~~HARISH~~

~~Meri 3d, 4d ho gayi Aneesh,  
Daddy's dead darling daughter ho  
gayi~~

HE breaks down as, Jaideep standing close also looks broken.

The mood is sombre and the silence eerie. The crowd cannot hold their tears as well.

(CONTINUED)

172 CONTINUED:

Just then Rama's face is clutched lovingly by a small hand. It is Jatin.

JATIN:

Neerja ki mamma?

Rama nods

JATIN:

Neerja Aunty ne aapke liye message bheja hain...

All the passengers slowly begin gathering around the bereaved family. Jaideep cannot control his tears while the father and brothers are trying to be strong. The father holds Rama by her shoulders and gently gets her to her feet. Rama wipes her tears and looks at the people surrounding her.

Rama and the family is surprised when Sanjana, tearful yet proud, raises her hand in a salute. Tina looks at Sanjana and raises her hand in a salute as well. One by one all the passengers, staff, families, pilots begins raising their hands in a Salute of Honor including Jatin and his two sisters.

The camera pans through the people standing in salute as the family realizes the magnanimity of Neerja's actions and what it means to the survivors.

Rama accepts the salute and more tears begin to flow from her eyes.

CUT TO:

173 ~~EXT. BENARAS — DAY — DELETED~~

174 INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

The banner in the auditorium reads 'Neerja Bhanot Bravery Awards'. The room is filled with girls and boys of all ages and they are listening in rapt attention to Neerja's mother standing on stage.

Mother begins her speech and talks of Neerja's bravery.

RAMA

Ab sochti hoon toh believe hi ni hota ke meri Neerja...(her voice trails) aaj mere saath nahi hain.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

174 CONTINUED:

RAMA (CONT'D)  
 Pehle bahut bura lagta tha, unn  
 anjaan logon ke liye jaan de di,  
 apni mamma ka ek baar ni socha...

CUT TO:

175 TELEVISION SCREEN-

Over images of Safirini, Khalil, Fahad and Mansoor being  
 presented in a Pakistani Court.

NEWSCASTER 1:

PanAm 73 se giraftar kiye hue  
 Libya ke atankwaadiyon ko aaj  
 Pakistan mein, umr qaid ki sazaa  
 sunaai gayi. Vimaan mein 300  
 yaatri aur 13 viman karamchaari  
 the. Vimaan se utre har yatri aur  
 karamchari ka yahi kehna hain ke  
 Air hostess Neerja Bhanot saare  
 yatriyon aur apne  
 sehkaramchaariyon ki suraksha  
 karte khud shaheed ho gayi.

176 EXT. OUTSIDE A COLLEGE - DAY

Images outside Sophia's college- Kids drawing her picture  
 together with pictures of Mother Teresa, Indira Gandhi,  
 Sarojini Naidu.

NEWSCASTER 2:

Neerja Bhanot's act of courage has  
 made her the new hero for young  
 women all over India. Here you can  
 see her image together with the  
 picture of other women heroes of  
 India.

177 EXT. BENARES- DAY

Visual over Rama's voice over

Rama's close-up, in the backdrop of a rising sun, as she  
 is sitting in a dinghy with her husband and sons. The  
 father is holding the urn holding Neerja's ashes. Mother  
 looks at it as if waiting for Neerja to come out of there

RAMA

Yeh ni soch ke mamma kaise manage  
 karegi uske bina. Koi apni maa ke  
 kokh se brave paida ni honda.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

177 CONTINUED:

RAMA (CONT'D)

Kissi ko ni pataa hota ke aage  
chalke woh itne logon ki jaan  
bachaaenge. Bandoon se ni  
dareng.

178 EXT. BENARAS - EVENING

Father releases Neerja's ashes as they fly into the wind. The brothers cannot hold back their tears nor can the father. Mother continue to look at the ash stream out of the urn.

179 EXT. INDIA GATE, REPUBLIC DAY PARADE - DAY

Over images of Republic day parade and the Ashok Chakra award ceremony.

NEWSCASTER 3:

For her bravery, Neerja Bhanot will be honored with the highest award in Pakistan for an act of incredible human kindness, TAMGHA-E-INSANIYAT. In India, she will posthumously receive the Ashok Chakra award for bravery.. This makes her the youngest woman recipient to receive this highest civilian award for bravery.

180 INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Rama continues to speak

RAMA:

Iski kundli mein likha tha ke yeh  
kul ka deepak banegi, lekin  
aise...Jab 23 saal ki jawaan beti  
ki aise bematlab maut ho jaati  
hain toh..toh..uss dard ko mai  
biyaan hi ni kar sakti. Mujhe  
lagta tha mai khud bhi mar  
jaaongi

181 EXT. BENARAS - EVENING

The dinghy has reached the bank. Both the sons get down and so does the father and he offers her his hand to help her off the dinghy but she refuses to take the hand and gets out of the wobbling boat.

(CONTINUED)

181 CONTINUED:

She looks ahead of her and there are a lot of steps ahead of her. As if to symbolise that back to the top will take long.

INT. INDIA GATE, REPUBLIC DAY PARADE - DAY

A broken and sad Rama is walking up to the president as the announcer reads the citation of the Ashok Chakra award. Rama begins to cry as she reaches president Giani Zail Singh.

Zail Singh looks at her and comforts her with words. Rama's VO continues over Zail Singh's actions of consoling her but holding her by her shoulder and talking to her.

RAMA V/O:

Gyani Zail Singhji ki baat mereko  
aaj tak yaad hain, unhaane keya,  
Twade vargi koi maa nahi hain  
poore mulk vich, twaada sar fakar  
naal uchaa hona chaida hain. You  
should be proud Neerja like the  
rest of India

Rama looks on at the president, accepts the citation and turns back.

And this time as she walks through the aisle with everyone's eyes on her she is a different woman. She walks with her head held high and proud. Her eyes, though tearful, reveal the pride she has for her daughter as the auditorium reverbs with the applause that people are conferring on her.

The camera closes in on the Rama and to the certificate on which the name is mentioned in Capital and bold-NEERJA BHANOT.

183 EXT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

A large group of women entering the auditorium, big banner outside has Neerja's photograph

RAMA (O.S.)

Humaare mein bhaiyon ko Veer  
bulaate hain, rakhi Veeron ko  
bandhti hain behene,

184 INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Rama continues to talk

(CONTINUED)

184 CONTINUED:

RAMA:

beheno ko toh koi ni kehta ke meri raksha karna, meri Laado, Neerja bilkul aise hi pali badhi thi, usse hanshi mazaak kar lo, Rajesh Khanna ki kissi bhi picture ka koi bhi scene pooch lo, mast maula thi bilkul.

185 EXT. BENARAS - EVENING

Mother takes the first step upwards and confidently moves up as the family follows her.

Her speech continues as a VO.

RAMA:

Pataa nahi kab itni bahadur, itni nek ban gayi woh, mere se sab poochte hain ke kaise parvarish ki aapne ke aapki beti faujiyon se bhi bahadur nikli. By God mereko pataa ni tha ke meri bachi itti (her voice breaks) itti achi bachi hain.

186 INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Rama continues her speech.

RAMA:

Mai toh balki usse rokhti thi, tokhti thi, zyaada ni, kam mehnat karne ko bolti thi... Nazar neeche kar ke chalna, apne se matbal rakhna, khatre ki time apni laaj apni jaan ko sochna, yahi sikhaate hain na hum apni betiyon ko, socho agar Neerja ne yeh seekha hota mujhse (she pauses) jis din jaa rahi thi flight pe mai usse apni ring ghumaane ke liye daat rahi thi, aur woh idhar se udhar apni cheeze samet-ti hui minto mein chali gai ghar se. Kaash maine usse rok ke, uska matha choom ke ek baar zor se gale lagaa liya hota

A tear escapes her eye,

RAMA

Bas ek baar, mere seene se...

(CONTINUED)

186 CONTINUED:

Rama holds her hand to her chest as Neerja appears next to her, she smiles her radiant smile, wipes her mothers tears and hugs her tight, then she kisses her forehead and walks away. Rama smiles through her tears

RAMA:

Karmawaali hoon ji, ke Neerja meri beti thi, itti siyaani, itti hasmukh, pataa hain, jaate jaate bhi kya message chhod ke gayi mere liye? Ek chota sa bacha tha plane mein, unno keya ke meri mamma se kehna.. Pushpa..I hate tears.

The audience is moist eyed and one by one voluntarily stand up and give Rama an ovation. The auditorium is reverberating with the sound of the roaring applause.

187 EXT. BENARAS - EVENING

Mother reaches the top and her family joins her as she looks at the golden rippling waters of the ganges one last time and then smiles and holds her husband's hand and with the other hand calls her sons to walk ahead with her.

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Safirini, Khalil, Fahad, Mansoor and Al-Turk were members of the terrorist group the Abu Nidal Organisation.

They were tried in Pakistan and were sentenced to life imprisonment but release in 2008

Safirini was apprehended by FBI and tried in America and has been sentence to 160 year in prison.

Ashok Chakra citation- "Her loyalties to the passengers of the aircraft in distress will forever be a lasting tribute to the finest qualities of the human spirit".

Neerja Bhanot was posthumously awarded the title of Tamgha-e-Insaniyat by Pakistan for showing incredible human kindness.

The Neerja Bhanot Bravery Award- Do your duty, come what may. Never tolerate any injustice and never compromise on self-respect.

Music/ Inspirational Song Begins.

(CONTINUED)

187

CONTINUED:

THE END

120