FOX STAR STUDIOS

Presents

**NEERJA**

A Bling Unplugged & Fox Star Studios Production

Directed By

Ram Madhvani

Story & Screenplay

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Dialogues

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DRAFT 24 – APRIL 7TH, 2015 [PRE-SHOOT DRAFT]
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 taxing 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:

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:

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)
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:

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.
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 xhaaiai? Aur
fruit? Maine sab diya toh tha
dabbo mein!

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

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.

(CONTINUED)
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.
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:

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:

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.
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:

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.

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 bags - 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. Tipsy following Rama jumps on the bed and begins waking Neerja by licking her face. Neerja grumbles.

NEERJA:
Tch Tipsy! Mamma please, sone do,
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 ra hi 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.

*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)
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 maqasad ke liye kuch bhi kar sakte hain. Iss maqasad mein humaari jeet hogi.*

*CUT TO:*

**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!*

**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*
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)
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:

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)
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:

**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:

**INT/EXT. CAR/BOMBAY ROADS - NIGHT**

Jaideep is driving and Neerja is seated next to him. She is winding a un-spoiled 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)
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 dhyaaan 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)
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:

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)
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 chérie, 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)
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.

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.
NEERJA
(smirking naughtily)
teen minute mein kya ho jaayega?

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

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

JAIDEEP:
(wispers)
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 like 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?

(Continued)
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 kholoon, 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.

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)
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:**

[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:**

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
Yeh saara kharcha mein darling daughter ke daddy se vasool karoonga, Khana banaana tak nahi sikhaya tumahri maa ne tumhe 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)
All the friends laugh, Neerja looks hurt.

CUT TO:

[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

[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?

(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?

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 bataaoonga 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 paoongi. Unka
business card mere cupboard...

HARISH:
Ek minute ek minute, kyun nahi
aaogi beta?

NEERJA:
Papa I think I should stop
modelling, shaadi ke baad acha
nahi laagta 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 laagta 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)
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 kabhi 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
She walks away from the shop feeling strong.

FLASHBACK 1 ENDS

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

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

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)
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:
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:
(urd)  
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.

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)
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.

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 Unaccompanyed 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!
Neerja lovingly takes the kids to their seats, she helps them put 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.

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

People get down from the bus and begin queuing up.

(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.

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.

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 shaaadi 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 karengae..

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

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

CUT TO:

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:

INT. PLANE - NIGHT

The plans 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)
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)
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:

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:
What's 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)
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 khooolongi, 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.

EXT. KARACHI AIRPORT/HANGAR - NIGHT

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.
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 come 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 bedsheets on the 3 sleeping kids.
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:

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)
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:

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.

INT. PLANE - NIGHT - DELETED

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)
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.

INT. PLANE - DAWN
The radio engineer comes down the stairs.

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.
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.

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.
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:

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)
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:

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.

INT. PLANE AISLE- DAY

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

CUT TO:

INT. COCKPIT - DAY

PILOT:
What do we do?

(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.

INT. AISLE- DAY

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

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:

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)
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:

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:

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)
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.

INT. COCKPIT- DAY

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

INT. OUTSIDE THE COCKPIT - DAY

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

INT. COCKPIT- DAY

Everyone inside sweating and anticipating what is to come next.

INT. OUTSIDE THE COCKPIT- DAY

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

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 and 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)
CONTINUED:

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

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.

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:

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

INT. DOHA HOUSE/BATHROOM - DAY - DELETED

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)
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.

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.

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.

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.
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

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 kahaa 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.
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)
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!!

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 kareenge? Plane
chalaanahi 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.
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:

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:

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.
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, aaraam se apne haath neechi 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:

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?
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 lagwaao, 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.

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.
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 chalaa 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.
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)
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:

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

(CONTINUED)
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.

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 phek doonga baahar,
ek passenger ki

Inzamam looks at his watch.

(CONTINUED)
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:

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!

INT. PLANE - DAY

A/83

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)
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.

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)
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

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 vajah 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

INT. PLANE - DAY

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

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.

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.

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.
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)
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.
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.

Tina

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

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:

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.
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 hesitantly breaking the news of the plane’s hijack to Harish. Harish holds on to the table as if the ground beneath his feat has disappeared and then flops on the chair.  

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)
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

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 American, 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 hesitantly 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)
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.
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.
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)
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:

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

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

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)
Before Rama can register what she has just heard, Tipsy acts out of character and is uneasily tugging at Rama’s salwar. Rama tries to pacify Tipsy 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. Tipsy 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 zimmadaari 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, bhabi ne khaane khaate hi phone karne ko kaha 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)
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 raha 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)
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 raha hoon tu yahaa dhyaan se sambhaal[and looking around he grabs Debina by her arms]

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

**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)
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 raha 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 raha hoon, airport bandh hai issiliye unhe aane mein thoda waqt lag sakta hain

**SAFIRINI:**
Wagt 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 Tipsy 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)
RAMA
Haan toh woh pehle bache aur
aurnton 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 humaare 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 thaa. 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)
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.

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 raha 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
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 raha 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,
insaniat thodi toh bachi hogi tum logo mein?

**KHALIL:**
Insaniyat? Huh!

He points with his gun gesturing them to go back.

(Continued)
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
SAFIRINI:
(in arabic)
Yahaan kya ho raha 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 intezar kar rahaa hoon, Pan Am Pakistani airline nahi hain...

KHALIL (O.S.)
(In arabic)
Hum Bavakoo 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)
Before Safirini can complete his sentence, Khalil aims his gun at Imran Ali and shoots him in the head.

INT. PLANE - DAY

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

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.

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.

INT. PLANE- DAY

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

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 raha hain

(MORE)
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.

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

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.

INT. COCKPIT - DAY

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

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.

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.
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 raha
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 raha hai

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

(CONTINUED)
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 mau’t hain, pilot nahi aane waale

**KHALIL:**

(screaming at the top of his lungs) (in arabic)
Unke baap bhi aayenge humaari tadbeer kaamyaab hogi, poori duniya aaj ka din yaad rakhégí

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:*

**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.
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 paronthi laa rahi hain mummy beta

Neerja serves herself a few pieces of potato Rama appears with casserole, she serves everyone a paronthi, 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 raahi 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)
ANEESH (CONT’D)
Nai mai yeh ni keh raha 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 raha hain?
Lado aise itni jaldi thode na give up karte hain? itti 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 samjhaaoongi

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)
Akhil aise ni bolte beta, Harish ji meri baat samjho

Rama tumhe pataa nahi ke kya kya hua hain

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

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

Lado ne mana kiya tha tumhe bataane se

Neerja continues reading

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

(CONTINUED)
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? BK 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.
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 karengi toh
hum bhool jaayenge yeh sab, I
promise.

The children nod their head and wipe their tears.

MAMA SONG CONTINUES.

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:

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)
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:

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

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

EXT. KARACHI AIRPORT/HANGAR AREA- NIGHT

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

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:

EXT. KARACHI AIRPORT/TERRACE 1 - NIGHT

A sniper takes position.

INT. PLANE- NIGHT

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

EXT. KARACHI AIRPORT/TERRACE 2 - NIGHT

Another sniper focuses on the plane.

CUT TO:

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 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)
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:
INT. PLANE - NIGHT

Neerja is silently crying too.

CUT TO:

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.

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.

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-

EXT. KARACHI AIRPORT/TERRACE 2 - NIGHT

The commando is about slowly about to pull the trigger. Suddenly the lights in the plane go off.

INT. PLANE - NIGHT.

Reactions- Neerja- other air-hostesses - Khalil - Panic amongst the passengers.

COMMANDO:
(surprise)
What the... !!! Sir!
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:

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, woj 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 khalas ab faisle ki ghadi aa chuki hain

CUT TO:

EXT. TARMAC – NIGHT – DELETED

INT. PLANE – NIGHT – DELETED

CUT TO:
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:

INT. PLANE - NIGHT - DELETED

INT. PLANE - NIGHT - DELETED

EXT. TARMAC - NIGHT - DELETED

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:

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.
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:

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)
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 jaaoongi, plane se
niklo!

Sanjana approaches Neerja and pulls her

SANJANA:
Come!

SANJANA:
Sanjana, tum jaao 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.
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.

The ambulances rush into action and the Commandoes begin helping the passengers into them.

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.
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 phek 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 militia 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)
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.

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)
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 or the tarmac.

Fahad is near the grenade that had fallen during his fight with Mansoor.

There is a blast in the plane.

INT. AMBULANCE - NIGHT - DELETED

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 karo ge

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-
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.

Jaideep’s love letter is seen floating around in the breeze and escapes through the hatch door.

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 raahi 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)
Rama
Bilkul kuch ni hona meri lado ko.
Sab theek hoga, ghar aa jaayegi
raat tak, karachi toh paas hi
hain. Ghar aa jaayegi

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.

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

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)
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]

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
Mere 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.
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:

EXT. BENARAS - DAY - DELETED

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)
Pehle bahut bura lagta tha, unn anjaan logon ke liye jaan de di, apni mamma ka ek baar ni socha...

CUT TO:

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.

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.

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)
Kissi ko ni pataa hota ke aage
chalke woh itne logon ki jaan
bachaaenge. Bandookon se ni
darenge.

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.

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.

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 laagta tha mai khud bhi mar jaoonga

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.
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
aj tak yaad hain, unhaane keya,
Twade vargi ki 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.

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
bandhhti hain behene,

INT. AUDITORIUM – DAY

Rama continues to talk

(CONTINUED)
RAMA:
beheno ko toh koi ni kehta ke meri
raksha karna, meri Laado, Neerja
bilkul aise hi pali badhi thi,
usse hansì 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
pataaìi 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 rokti thi,
tokti thi, zyaada ni, kam mehnat
karne ko bolti thi... Nazar neeché
kar ke chalna, apne se matbal
rakhna, khatre ki time apni laaj
apni jaan ko sochna, yahi sikhaate
hain na hum apni betiyan 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)
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.

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:

THE END