

BARBED WIRE

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EXT. A LARGE VILLA'S VERANDA, LAHORE - DAY

ABDULLA (63) sits with AMAR (12) on wooden chairs. They look out to a large garden with lush green grass surrounded by a neat bed of flowers.

They watch the slight drizzle outside under a gloomy grey sky. Abdulla sips on his tea. A slight breeze rustles his grey hair.

Amar hands him a kite and string.

AMAR
(American accent)
Dadu (grand father), teach me?

Abdulla takes the string from Amar's hands and caresses it with his fingers. He then ties it to the kite.

ABDULLA
(Pakistani accent)
When I was younger, I could do this
blindfolded.

A MAID comes to pick up his empty tea cup.

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
I used to play everyday with my
brother.

AMAR
Dadu, you have a brother?

Abdulla looks up into the sky. He takes a deep breath.

ABDULLA
I had one.

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

EXT. DESERT LAND - AFTERNOON

1999, on the India-Pakistan border near remote villages of Malhana Khurd, Rajasthan, India and Toba Baluchan, Punjab, Pakistan.

Abdulla (13) and AMAR (10) fly kites in the scorching heat of the sun. Abdulla's palms are abundant with old cuts from the string. Amar's are clean, fair and soft.

Two piles of kites sit behind them - one for each. Amar's pile is considerably smaller with just two kites.

Abdulla has a white laced cap tight around his head and Amar has a small black turban that holds the bun of his hair over his head.

They fix their eyes onto their kites. They pull on their kite strings and move back and forth as if in a ballroom dance.

ABDULLA
(Urdu)
chote, kal sikhaya tha na?
Chalo meri patang kato!

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
chote (younger one), do what
I taught you yesterday. Try
to cut my kite!

AMAR
(excitedly)
Haan bhaiyya!

AMAR (CONT'D)
(excitedly)
Yes, bhaiyya (older brother)!

Amar tugs at his string. His kite moves towards Abdulla's and the strings intertwine as if in a battle.

ABDULLA
Chalo ab zor se kheencho!

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
Okay, now pull hard!

Amar quickly jogs backwards and gives his string a strong pull with all his might.

In the sky, Abdulla's kite string breaks from the friction and floats with the wind.

ABDULLA
Vah re! Aap to ek din me
seekh gaye! Chalo ab bhaag ke
lao warna patang gum ho
jayegi!

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
Wow! You learned well in just
a day! Okay hurry! Go chase
it before it gets lost!

Amar takes off his rubber slippers and carefully puts them beside him. His eyes fixed on Abdulla's floating kite.

He rubs sand under his foot. He rubs sand on his hands. He then takes off. Abdulla looks at him run and smiles to himself.

Amar does not take his eyes off the kite and runs at full speed. He dodges pebbles, small shrubs and old fallen trunks. He does not once look at the ground.

The kite slowly descends into Amar's sweaty, sandy hands as he comes to a rest.

It is majestic, big and blue with large black spots on it. Short ribbons of red hang from its tail. It is nothing like any other kites the two children have.

Amar walks back triumphantly. He drops the kite on his pile of smaller kites.

AMAR
Bhaiyya, phirse! Main aapki
saari patang jeet loonga aaj!

AMAR (CONT'D)
Bhaiyya, once more! I will
win all your kites today!

ABDULLA
Ha Ha! Aaj ke liye bas! Lo,
main aapke liye kuch laya
hoon.

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
Ha Ha! That's enough for
today! Here, I got you
something.

Abdulla pulls out a large chocolate bar with a shiny wrapper.
Amar's eyes widen in excitement.

AMAR
Bhaiyya! Kahan se mili?!

AMAR (CONT'D)
Bhaiyya! Where did you get it
from?!

ABDULLA
Paas vale gaon se khareed ke
laya. Lo na!

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
I went to the vilalge closeby
to get it. Take it!

Abdulla puts the bar in Amar's hands. Amar tears up the
wrapper and takes a bite.

AMAR
Ye to bohot mehengi hogi na?

AMAR (CONT'D)
It must have been expensive
right?

ABDULLA
Arrey chote, aapke liye kuch
bhi! Aaj aap pehli baar jeete
na!

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
Oh chotu, it is for you! You
won my kite for the first
time today!

Abdulla has a playful smile on his face. He watches as Amar
digs into his chocolate.

EXT. OUTSIDE ABDULLA'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Abdulla walks towards his small house. He suddenly stops as
large army trucks and bulldozers drive by. They carry sand
and cement. Soldiers drive them.

The vehicles say "Border Patrol" on them. Abdulla watches
them pass and then continues to walk.

Abdulla's house is cement gray. It is the only house in the
vicinity. A small bicycle leans on the wall near his door.

There are small fields of potatoes in front of his house. Far
behind, ARMY SOLDIERS in uniform drive past in small jeeps.

Patches of paint poorly cover small bullet holes on one side of his house.

FADE TO:

INT. ABDULLA'S LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

ABBU sits in front of the box television on the floor. At the back, AMMI cooks chappatis in the kitchen on a small fire stove with a gas cylinder underneath.

The small kitchen has one stove and several large steel boxes of grains. The living room has a box television and a rug.

An embroidered piece of cloth hangs near the top of the television wall. It has the word "Allah" written in Arabic calligraphy in black and gold.

Abdulla places the kites in one corner of the living room.

<p>ABBU (surprised) Aapki badi patang kahan gayi?</p>	<p>ABBU (CONT'D) (surprised) Where is your big kite?</p>
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<p>ABDULLA Abbu, vo Amar ki ho gayi. Usne meri sabse achhi patang kaatli! Abbu, bahir itne truck kyun hai?</p>	<p>ABDULLA (CONT'D) It's Amar's now. He cut my most beautiful kite! Abbu, why are there so many trucks outside?</p>
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<p>ABBU (sighs) Kya pata?</p>	<p>ABBU (CONT'D) (sighs) Who knows?</p>
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Abbu changes the TV channel to the local news. The connection is static and unclear.

<p>NEWS REPORTER ... Punjab ke tamam sarhadon par fauj ki sakth pehredari. Sadar Musharraaf ne aas paas ke tamam rehne vaalon ko door rehne ki taakeet ki hai varna sakth ikdamaat liye jayenge --</p>	<p>NEWS REPORTER (CONT'D) ... reinforcement on all border patrols in Punjab. President Musharraaf has cautioned all residents to stay away or severe consequences could be taken --</p>
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Abbu and Ammi exchange morbid looks. They look at Abdulla. Abdulla stares back in sadness. He looks at his pile of kites and tears up.

FADE TO:

INT. ABDULLA'S LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

The next afternoon, Abdulla, Abbu and Ammi sit on the floor. They have their lunch. Abdulla sulks and plays with a pea on his plate.

He looks at the clock. It is 2 pm.

INT. ABDULLA'S KITCHEN - SAME

Abdulla walks to puts down his steel plate in the sink. He wipes his hands on his shirt.

INT. ABDULLA'S LIVING ROOM - SAME

Abdulla slowly walks to the window and picks up a piece of mirror kept near the TV. He shines it at the sun to create a glare.

EXT. VIEW OUTSIDE ABDULLA'S HOUSE - SAME

Outside the window a tall Pakistani flag rustles in the wind. Farther away in the distance, an Indian flag does the same.

Far on the left, several WORKERS dig the ground and set up a barbed fence.

A small group of PAKISTANI ARMY SOLDIERS patrol the area. Far into the distance, INDIAN SOLDIERS do the same. They are all in alert mode.

Large trucks that say "Border Patrol" carry bricks and sand. They drive close to the soldiers and come to a stop. The DRIVERS talk to the Soldiers.

INT. AMAR'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Amar looks at the plastic framed clock in his house and sits near the window of his room. It is 2 pm.

The room is small with torn and taped up paper posters of Sikh Gurus. The walls are pale green and a clay pot of water sits on the corner.

In the background, the CLATTER of dishes is heard. A static radio signal plays old Hindi music.

RADIO

Aa chalke tujhe ... main leke
chalun ... ik aise gagan ke
tale ... jahan gham bhi na ho
... aansun bhi na ho ... bas
pyar hi pyar pale

RADIO (CONT'D)

Come let me take you ...
under a sky ... where there
is no sorrow ... no tears ...
just love everywhere

Amar picks up a piece of glass from the corner of the window sill.

EXT. VIEW FROM AMAR'S WINDOW - SAME

Far into the distance, Amar sees large trucks bring in bricks and sand. He sees the close by Indian flag and a far away Pakistani one.

He watches the commotion for a few seconds. He then squints to find Abdulla's signal. He finally spots the sun glare onto glass. Amar glares the sun on his own glass and gets up.

INT. AMAR'S KITCHEN - SAME

He runs to the kitchen and picks up two pieces of homemade sweets. The kitchen is cluttered with steel utensils.

Some clay pots sit under the sink. A window with a bird's nest in a corner looks out to more barren land.

He slips the sweets into his pockets and runs onto the roof of his house.

EXT. AMAR'S ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

The roof has a charpoy (a bed with wooden legs and jute strings). Washed clothes hang to dry off on the sides of the walls. Amar picks up his pile of kites from underneath the charpoy and runs downstairs to go outside.

EXT. OUTSIDE AMAR'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

His house is small. It has beige cracked walls. There is a field tractor on one side and wheat fields behind it.

There is a small military tent far away for supplies for the Indian Soldiers on patrol. The Soldiers sit and have a meal.

Amar runs at full speed away from his house to play with Abdulla.

EXT. DESERT LAND - CONTINUOUS

The two children meet in the same spot that they usually meet. Abdulla does not have his kites with him. He looks sad. Amar puts his kites down.

AMAR
Main aap kel liye laddoo
laya!

AMAR (CONT'D)
I got you laddos!

Amar pulls out the sweets from his pocket and shows them to Abdulla. He grins.

AMAR
Ek din main aapke liye badi
si chocolate bhi laung --

AMAR (CONT'D)
One day, I'll buy you a large
bar of chocola --

ABDULLA
(morbidly)
Chote, kal se yeh sab band.
Hum khel nahi sakenge.

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
(morbidly)
Chote, this has to stop. We
wont be able to play from
tomorrow.

He points to the barely visible border under construction far away.

ABDULLA
Yahan bohot saare soldier
aane vale hain. Hum phir nahi
mil sakenge.

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
There will be too many
soldiers here. We will not be
able to meet again.

Amar's grin vanishes. He drops the sweets on the ground.

AMAR
Par-par-bhaiyya? Phir --

AMAR (CONT'D)
But-but-bhaiyya? Then --

Abdulla suddenly hugs him tight.

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
Chal chote ghar ja.

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
Chote, go home.

Abdulla pushes Amar away gently and turns his back to him. Amar looks at him in disbelief.

ABDULLA
JA chotu!

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
GO, chotu!

Amar runs backwards slowly. Then he turns away. He does not look back.

Abdulla turns around, sees him run, and bursts into tears. He looks down at the dropped sweets and sulkily walks towards home.

FADE TO:

INT. ABDULLA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Abdulla lies down on his rug to sleep. The sound of construction keeps him up. His eyes glisten. They flinch with every THUD of a machine or HONK of a truck.

FADE TO:

INT. AMAR'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Amar has just had lunch. He picks up his plate and takes it to the kitchen. He then runs back into the living room. He looks up at the clock. It is 2 pm.

He sits at the window. He picks up the piece of glass and is about to give Abdulla his signal for the day.

He looks out of the window.

He breathes hard and tears up.

Outside the window, between the flags, he sees a prominent high wired fence that splits the land. It stretches across the land.

The construction has shifted to the other side. Soldiers patrol on both sides.

MUMMY comes into the room. She sits with Amar and holds him in her arms, pity on her face.

MUMMY

Beta, hum khelenge. Aap mummy ko sikhao na, hum roz patang udaenge.

MUMMY (CONT'D)

Son, we will play ourselves. You can teach mummy how to fly a kite. We will play everyday if you want.

Amar gently moves away from her. He walks upstairs to the roof silently.

EXT. AMAR'S ROOFTOP - SAME

His kites are under the charpoy. He picks up Abdulla's majestic blue and black kite - the one he had won two days back.

A gush of sadness fills his eyes as the wind blows faster. He takes a deep breath, wipes his eyes dry and picks up his reel of string.

He ties the string on his kite and hangs the kite off the side of the roof wall. He tugs at the string a few times to give it flight.

A few tugs later, Amar flies Abdulla's kite high in the sky, this time all alone.

INT. ABDULLA'S HOUSE - SAME

Abdulla sits near the window. He stares at the new barbed fence. He looks devastated.

AMMI and ABBU eat lunch behind him.

ABBU (CONT'D)
Beta, kuch aa ke kha lo.
Subah se kuch nahi khaya.

ABBU (CONT'D)
Son, come eat some chappatis.
You have not eaten anything
all day.

ABDULLA
Bhookh nahi hai, Abbu. Thodi
der baad.

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
I'm not hungry, Abbu. Maybe
later.

His voice is hoarse. A wind blows through his hair. He looks back outside the window.

Abdulla does a double take.

He squints his eyes to focus.

Far into the distance, he sees his own blue and black kite soar like a free bird.

Abdulla smiles.

He walks to the living room corner with his kites and picks up a smaller red one.

EXT. OUTSIDE ABDULLA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

He turns around and walks outside his house with his kite. He writes on his red kite with a pencil and puts it on the ground.

He then pulls the string to give it flight.

EXT. AMAR'S ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

As Amar flies his kite, he spots another in the sky, a bright red one. He suddenly turns towards the distant houses on the other side of the fence.

AMAR

B - Bhaiyya?

He tugs at his string to direct his kite towards the other. The kites intertwine, and begin to dance together.

Amar is filled with playfulness again. He moves backwards and pulls at his string.

The red kite loses control and soars with the wind towards Amar's house.

EXT. OUTSIDE ABDULLA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Abdulla sits outside his house desperately looking into the sky as his cut kite flies away towards Amar's home.

EXT. OUTSIDE AMAR'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Amar runs after the kite and comes to a stop as it lands in his hands. He begins to walk back and suddenly stops in his tracks. He looks at the kite - there are words on it.

INSERT - THE KITE, which reads:

"Chote, mujhe maaf kar de. Agar hum
pakde jaate to ye Soldiers humein
pakad lete. Tu kaisa hai? Abdulla"

"Chotu, I am so sorry. If we got
caught, the soldiers would arrest
us. How are you? Abdulla"

Amar reads the message aloud and happily hugs the kite. He then runs back home.

FADE TO:

MONTAGE - ABDULLA AND AMAR COMMUNICATE THROUGH KITES

-- Outside Abdulla's House -- Abdulla writes on his kite with a pencil.

INSERT - THE KITE, which reads:

"Tera test kaisa tha? Abdulla"

"How was your test? Abdulla"

Abdulla flies the kite into the sky and the kites intertwine.

-- Outside Amar's House -- A kite lands in Amar's hands as he comes to a stop. He reads the message and runs home.

-- Amar's Rooftop -- Amar writes a message on his own kite. He flies the kite off the walls of the roof. He hangs the kite off the wall and tugs at it to give it wind and flight.

-- Outside Abdulla's House -- Abdulla holds a kite from Amar.

INSIDE - THE KITE, which reads:

"Teacher ne mujhe haath par maara
tha. Maine teen aur teen taintees
kaha tha. Amar"

"My teacher hit my palms with a
ruler. I said three and three is
thirty three. Amar"

Abdulla chuckles to himself and looks into the sky.

-- Amar's Rooftop -- Amar reads several messages on Abdulla's kite. He smiles at some, frowns at others and giggles at more. He takes a deep breath and writes on his yellow kite with shaky hands.

INSERT - THE KITE, which reads:

"Bhaiyya, yahan se thodi door bohot
saare ped hain. Main aapko milna
chahta hoon. Shayad aap is taraf aa
sako? Kal 2 baje milo na? Amar"

"Bhaiyya, there are lots of trees a
little far from here on the border.
I want to meet you. Maybe you can
come on this side? Tomorrow 2 pm?
Amar."

Amar flies his kite in the sky. His kite meets Abdulla's. Within a few seconds, Abdulla cuts his kite and it begins to drift away.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. OUTSIDE ABDULLA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Abdulla runs after the yellow kite Amar has sent him. He is agile on his feet. His eyes are fixated on the kite. He runs through the land without hesitation.

The kite begins to lower and falls on the ground near the fence.

Abdulla stops dead in his tracks. His eyes are wide open in and his jaws dropped.

Two Pakistani soldiers in uniform, AYUB ZAFAR and WASIM FAROOQ walk towards the kite. Wasim picks it up and reads aloud.

WASIM FAROOQ

Bhaiyya, yahan se thodi door bohot
saare ped hain. Main aapko milna
chahta hoon. Shayad aap is taraf aa
sako? Kal 2 baje milo na? Amar

WASIM FAROOQ (CONT'D)

Bhaiyya, there are lots of trees a
little far from here on the border.
I want to meet you. Maybe you can
come on this side? Tomorrow 2 pm?
Amar.

AYUB ZAFAR

Amar?! Ye to uss taraf se aya
hai!

AYUB ZAFAR (CONT'D)

Amar?! This is from the other
side!

The soldiers look around and spot Abdulla frozen in his tracks in the distance.

AYUB ZAFAR

Oye! Idhar aa! Ye teri hai
kya? Tu border chadhega?!

AYUB ZAFAR (CONT'D)

Oye! Come here! Is this
yours? You gonna climb this
border?

Abdulla instantly turns around and dashes home. The soldiers chase him. Abdulla does not look back to look at his fate. He runs as fast as he can.

His eyes fixated at his house in the distance, he dodges every bush and stone in his way. The soldiers run after him. Large guns hang on their backs.

Abdulla's face is sweaty and he tears up.

INT. ABDULLA'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

He reaches his house, runs inside, and runs into the kitchen past Ammi.

AMMI
ABDULLA KYA HUA?

AMMI (CONT'D)
ABDULLA WHAT HAPPENED?

Abdulla finally takes a deep breath.

INT. ABDULLA'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The soldiers reach the door. They knock ferociously and Ammi opens the door.

AYUB ZAFAR
(angrily)
Aapka beta kahan hai?

AYUB ZAFAR (CONT'D)
(angrily)
Where is your son?

AMMI
KYUN? Usne kiya kya?

AMMI (CONT'D)
WHY? What did he do?

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Abdulla peeks through the kitchen door to look at the Soldiers.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ayub Zafar spots Abdulla and points at him.

AYUB ZAFAR
Tum! Idhar ao!

AYUB ZAFAR (CONT'D)
You! Come here!

Ayub pushes past Ammi and enters the house.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Abdulla stops breathing. He immediately kneels and hides in the corner of the kitchen in desperation. He shakes in his spot.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ammi walks hurriedly behind the Soldiers. She sobs and pleads.

The soldiers hurl everything in their way as they walk to the kitchen.

Ammi screams and tries to pull Ayub back.

AMMI	AMMI (CONT'D)
Usse chodo! Bachha hi to hai!	Leave him! He is just a child!

Ayub pushes her away. She trips and falls on the floor.
Ammi's head hits the wall and she falls unconscious.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

ABDULLA	ABDULLA (CONT'D)
(screaming)	(screaming)
Ammiiiiii! Yeh aapne kya kiya!	Ammiiiiiii! What did you do!

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Abdulla runs into the living room, throws himself on Ayub Zafar and smacks his fists on his stomach. Wasim picks him up and hands him to Ayub.

Both soldiers leave the house overturned. Abdulla is on Ayub's shoulder. His legs kick and his fists punch whatever they can reach. He screams out of anger.

AYUB ZAFAR	AYUB ZAFAR (CONT'D)
(Smirks)	(smirking)
Ab is Amar ka pata lagana hai.	Now let's find out about this Amar.

FADE TO:

INT. PAKISTANI ARMY SHELTER - EVENING

The camp is a medium sized tent with a few jeeps parked outside. Inside, there is one table and four chairs around it. In one corner, a large trunk says "AMMUNITION" on it.

On the other side, an open cupboard has canned food items. A YOUNG SOLDIER sits in one corner as he cleans his rifle.

Ayub Zafar and Wasim Farooq bring Abdulla inside and push him onto a chair. They then sit opposite him.

Abdulla glares at them out of anger. He breathes loudly and heavily. Wasim reaches for a walkie talkie from under the table.

WASIM FAROOQ
(on the walkie talkie)
Hello, Colonel Wasim Farooq
speaking. BRIGADIER ALTAF? Over.

WALKIE TALKIE
Go ahead Colonel.

WASIM FAROOQ	WASIM FAROOQ (CONT'D)
Sir, ek baccha pakda gaya hai	Sir, we have a child - he was
- kisi Hindustani ke saath	talking to an Indian about
border chadhne ki baat kar	climbing the border. Over.
raha tha.	

Abdulla shifts in his seat uneasily. He sniffs and breathes hard from the aftermath of crying and screaming.

BRIGADIER ALTAF	BRIGADIER ALTAF (CONT'D)
Hold on to him. Main aa raha	Hold on to him. I am on my
hoon. Over and out.	way. Over and out.

Ayub and Wasim look at Abdulla sternly.

AYUB ZAFAR	AYUB ZAFAR (CONT'D)
Amar kaun hai?	Who is Amar?

ABDULLA	ABDULLA (CONT'D)
(angrily)	(angrily)
Main nahi jaanta.	I don't know.

Abdulla does not meet their eyes. He looks down out of anger.

AYUB ZAFAR	AYUB ZAFAR (CONT'D)
Tum jaante ho humare mulko	Do you know our countries are
mein jung ho rahi hai?!	at war?!

Abdulla's eyes are red.

Brigadier Altaf enters the camp. He looks at Abdulla with his bright green, piercing and menacing eyes. He is clean shaven with several wrinkles on his face. He is strongly built and much bigger than Ayub or Wasim.

Ayub and Wasim immediately get up to salute him. They give him the kite and whisper to him. Brigadier Altaf reads it. He then glares at Abdulla angrily.

BRIGADIER ALTAF	BRIGADIER ALTAF (CONT'D)
Humein akela chod do.	Leave us.

Ayub and Wasim leave the camp. Abdulla's angry expression slowly changes to a frightened one.

BRIGADIER ALTAF
(sternly)
Tum unse kya chahte ho? Kyun
baat kar rahe ho unse?

BRIGADIER ALTAF (CONT'D)
(sternly)
What do you want from him?
Why are you talking to him?

Abdulla opens his mouth, but he cannot voice his words. He begins to tear up again.

BRIGADIER ALTAF
(shouts)
JAWAAB DO! Amar kaun hai? Tum
ek Sikh se kyun baat kar rahe
ho?

BRIGADIER ALTAF (CONT'D)
(shouts)
ANSWER ME! Who is Amar? Why
are you talking to a Sikh?

ABDULLA
(Shaking)
V-v-vo mera b-b-bhai hai.

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
(shaking)
He's m-m-my b-brother.

BRIGADIER ALTAF
BHAI? Kya tumme zara bhi
sharam nahi hai? Kya tumhe
pata hai is par kya likha
hai?

BRIGADIER ALTAF (CONT'D)
BROTHER? Do you have no
shame? Do you have any idea
what is written on this?

Brigadier Altaf throws the kite at Abdulla. Abdulla reads the message with his mouth open in disbelief.

Abdulla looks up at Brigadier Altaf's eyes. He has nothing to say.

ABDULLA
Par maine --

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
But I --

BRIGADIER ALTAF
Wasim! Ayub! Come in here!

Wasim and Ayub enter the camp. They salute the Brigadier. He whispers to them.

Brigadier Altaf turns to Abdulla.

BRIGADIER ALTAF (CONT'D)
Ab suno. Kal 2 baje tum usse
milne jaoge. Wasim aur Ayub
tumhare saath ayenge.

BRIGADIER ALTAF (CONT'D)
Now listen. You will go see
him tomorrow at 2 pm. Wasim
and Ayub will go with you.

ABDULLA
Nahi! Aap uske saath kya
karoge?

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
No! What will you do with
him?

BRIGADIER ALTAF (CONT'D)
CHUP! Ye mat bhoolo ki main
jaanta hoon tum kahan rehte
ho. Maine suna tumhari Ammi
ko kya hua.

BRIGADIER ALTAF (CONT'D)
SHUTUP! Don't forget I know
where you live. I heard what
happened to Ammi today.

FADE TO:

INT. ARMY SHELTER CELL - NIGHT

Abdulla sits in the corner of a cell. There are jail bars on
one wall. Moonlight shines in from a small barred window.

Wasim comes into the room and pushes a steel plate of food
into the cell. There is a piece of bread and some watery
lentils in a steel bowl.

Abdulla jumps at the plate and gobbles the food instantly.
Wasim watches him with a smirk.

Abdulla crawls back to his spot in the corner. He folds his
knees and puts his head on them to sleep.

FADE TO:

INT. PAKISTANI ARMY SHELTER - DAY

Brigadier Altaf briefs Colonel Ayub and Colonel Wasim.

BRIGADIER ALTAF
Remember, our aim is to find out
what exactly they are communicating
about. Find out who the messages
are from and who they are meant
for.

Brigadier Altaf then speaks to Abdulla.

BRIGADIER ALTAF (CONT'D)
Zyada hoshiyari nahi.

BRIGADIER ALTAF (CONT'D)
Don't do anything smart.

EXT. OUTSIDE PAKISTANI ARMY SHELTER - CONTINUOUS

Ayub and Wasim grab Abdulla by his upper arm and walk.

WASIM FAROOQ
Chalo, aage chalo!

WASIM FAROOQ (CONT'D)
Lead the way!

Wasim pushes Abdulla ahead so he could lead the way. The two
Soldiers follow Abdulla at a distance to the far away trees.

EXT. BANYAN TREES ON THE BORDER - CONTINUOUS

Abdulla sits near the border behind a wide Banyan tree trunk, almost invisible from a distance. Ayub and Wasim hide behind a rock. The three of them await Amar's arrival. Abdulla looks up at the sky, a single tear rolls down his cheek.

Abdulla looks at his hands, abundant with cuts from flying his kite strings.

Abdulla suddenly hears FOOTSTEPS close by. His breathing becomes faster and louder. He waits quietly, as he peeks from the side of the tree. And then he sees him.

On the opposite side of the border, Amar walks cautiously towards the border. He looks around for soldiers and looks ahead for Abdulla. He beams.

Abdulla looks over his shoulder toward the Soldiers. They watch him, alert.

<p>AMAR</p> <p>Bhaiyya! Mujhe laga aap aoge nahi! Aap kaise ho bhaiyya?</p>	<p>AMAR (CONT'D)</p> <p>Bhaiyya! I thought you would not come! How are you, bhaiyya?</p>
---	--

Abdulla forces a smile on his face. Ayub and Wasim cautiously peek from behind the rock.

<p>AMAR</p> <p>(happily) Mujhe lag raha hai ki hum saalon se nahin mile. Kal ghar ke peeche bohot firing hui thi. Bilkul tractor ko chootke gayi. Aaj kal neend nahi aa sakti --</p>	<p>AMAR (CONT'D)</p> <p>I feel like we haven't meet in ages! Yesterday there was a lot of firing behind my house. Just missed the tractor. It is hard to sleep these days --</p>
--	--

Abdulla hears Amar's voice fade away. He stares blankly towards Amar.

<p>AMAR</p> <p>Oh main to bhool gaya!</p>	<p>AMAR (CONT'D)</p> <p>Oh I almost forgot!</p>
---	---

Amar springs up at his spot, and brings Abdulla back to reality. Abdulla shakes it off and looks at Amar.

<p>AMAR</p> <p>Main aapke liye kuch laya!</p>	<p>AMAR (CONT'D)</p> <p>I got you something!</p>
---	--

Amar pulls out a small chocolate bar from his pockets and smiles at Abdulla. Amar sits back down and waits for Abdulla to pick up his share.

AMAR
Maine apni sabse badi patang
bech di! Poore 20 rupay ke
liye.

AMAR (CONT'D)
I sold my biggest kite for 20
rupees.

Abdulla stares at the bar, then at Amar and then bursts into
tears and drops on his knees.

Amar's smile vanishes instantly.

AMAR
(quietly)
Bhaiyya, kya hua?

AMAR (CONT'D)
Bhaiyya, what happened?

ABDULLA
Chote main ye nahi kar sakta.
Jab main kahu, to bhaag
jaana. Kuch pooch mat. Do
soldier mere peeche aye hain.
Bas jab main kahu, to
bhaagna!

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
Chotu I can't do this. When I
say so, RUN. Don't ask me any
questions. Two soldiers are
behind me. Just run when I
say so.

Amar does not move at all. He looks right into Abdulla's
eyes.

AMAR
(Whispering)
Bhaiyya --

Abdulla hears footsteps. Ayub and Wasim run towards the
children.

ABDULLA
(screaming)
-- Chote bhaag! Teri kasam,
chote, Main unhe nahi laya.
Unhone dhamki di --

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
(screaming)
--Chote, run! I SWEAR chote,
I didn't bring them. They
threatened me --

The footsteps get louder and faster.

ABDULLA
Chote BHAAG! BHAAG!

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
Chote RUN! RUN!

Amar looks behind Abdulla and spots the Soldiers.

Amar he takes off. He does not look back. His focus is on his
house. He runs as fast as his body allows him.

Ayub and Wasim suddenly stop in their tracks. Ayub pulls his
gun from his back and aims at Amar.

ABDULLA
NO! STOP!

Abdulla runs towards Wasim and leaps on him. It is too late. Ayub pulls the trigger.

Suddenly Abdulla hears the gun shot.

Everyone freezes in their spot.

There is no sound from anywhere else.

Abdulla turns around to look at Amar.

No one moves.

Very slowly, Amar's body falls to the ground. A pool of blood begins to develop.

Ayub and Wasim look at each other. Ayub puts back his rifle. He looks around for soldiers close by.

Abdulla drops to his knees, speechless and red. His arm extends to Amar in the distance.

ABDULLA (CONT'D)

(crying)
Chote --

He opens his mouth to let out a painful wail but no sound comes out. He cries silently.

Wasim points at Abdulla.

WASIM FAROOQ

(whispers)
Isko utha isse pehle ki koi
dekhe.

WASIM FAROOQ (CONT'D)

(whispers)
Pick him up before someone
comes.

Ayub lifts Abdulla up. The soldiers take him away.

INT. ARMY SHELTER CELL - EVENING

Abdulla hangs from a rope that ties his hands above his head. He has no shirt on. Brigadier Altaf stands next to him with a stick.

BRIGADIER ALTAF

Tumhe laga tum bach jaoge?
KAUN THA VO?

BRIGADIER ALTAF (CONT'D)

You thought you would get
away with that? WHO WAS HE?

ABDULLA

MEERA BHAI!

ABDULLA (CONT'D)

MY BROTHER!

BRIGADIER ALTAF
 Jab tak tum sahi jawaab nahi
 dete, tum yahin rahoge. Bolo.
 Vo-duhman-hai.

BRIGADIER ALTAF (CONT'D)
 We will keep at it till you
 get it right. Say it. He-is-
 the-enemy.

Abdulla looks into his eyes.

ABDULLA
 VO-MERA-BHAI-HAI

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
 HE-IS-MY-BROTHER

Abdulla moves his body to loosen the ropes. Brigadier Altaf
 smacks his back with the stick. Abdulla screams.

ABDULLA
 AAAAAAAH!

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
 AAAAAAAH!

Brigadier Altaf hits him again.

ABDULLA
 MUJHE MAR DALOOOOO!

ABDULLA (CONT'D)
 JUST KILLLLL MEEEE!

BRIGADIER ALTAF
 Nahi. Tum zinda rahoge. Logo
 ko pata hona chahiye ke tum
 jaise mujrimon ka kya hota
 hai.

BRIGADIER ALTAF (CONT'D)
 Oh no. You will stay alive.
 People should see what
 happens to those who break
 the law.

He smacks Abdulla's back again. Abdulla's back has a large
 flaming red marks. He slowly closes his eyes and passes out.

EXT. OUTSIDE ABDULLA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Abdulla opens his eyes and the soldiers drop him on his door
 step. They knock on the door and leave.

Abbu opens the door and drops on his knees. Abbu cries and
 picks Abdulla up. He lies him down in the living room.

Abdulla turns his head and sees Ammi unconscious. Abbu picks
 up a box of antiseptic cream next to Ammi and sits closer to
 Abdulla.

He applies cream to Abdulla's back. Abdulla puts his head on
 Ammi's stomach and sleeps.

END OF FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

EXT. A LARGE VILLA'S VERANDA - AFTERNOON

Abdulla wipes tears away from his eyes and looks back at Amar.

ABDULLA
He was my life. Just like you are
now.

The sun comes out and shines through the wet clouds. The drizzle has stopped.

Amar playfully pulls Abdulla up and leads him into the wet garden. He gives Abdulla the string.

Abdulla puts the kite on the ground and tugs at it from a distance.

The kite gains flight effortlessly.

AMAR
(ecstatic)
Dadu! Look!

Abdulla smiles at him and gives Amar the string.

ABDULLA
Gently now. Be careful with it.
Pull it!

Abdulla watches as Amar maneuvers the kite, moving his entire body.

He turns his head in the other direction and hallucinates. A young Amar with a turban on his head and faded shorts and shirt appears. He flies his kite.

Abdulla looks at young Amar and smiles. Young Amar's hallucination smiles back.

Abdulla looks down suddenly. His grandson, Amar, tugs on his clothes. He has the kite in his hands and he beams.

Abdulla turns back to the hallucination but it fades away.

The screen fades to black. A static radio signal is heard.

RADIO
Aa chalke tujhe ... main leke
chalun ... ik aise gagan ke
tale ... jahan gham bhi na ho
... aansun bhi na ho ... bas
pyar hi pyar pale

RADIO (CONT'D)
Come let me take you ...
under a sky ... where there
is no sorrow ... no tears ...
just love everywhere