

DELHI CRIME

Season 1

Episode 7

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CONFORMED SCRIPT as on Feb. 7, 2019

Golden Karavan LLC

SK Global Entertainment

*SCRIPT NOTE - Italicized dialogue is in Hindi, the rest in English.*

TEXT ON SCREEN:

*"The Following is Inspired by Case Files"*

*"Day 6 2 am"*

INT. VARTIKA'S AMBASSADOR VEHICLE - NIGHT

Vartika and Bhupendra drive quickly (seated in the back of her vehicle) with the lights blaring through the streets. The call pulls up to the Delhi Guest House. They quickly jump out...

EXT. DELHI GUEST HOUSE - NIGHT

... And run towards the exterior door of Akash's room, where a Constable is still stationed. Vartika is about to barge in, when Bhupendra stops her.

BHUPENDRA

Madam. Go easy on him.

VARTIKA

Why Bhupendra?

Still fuming, Vartika doesn't seem ready to hear this. The Constable nearby is saying nothing, just standing at attention.

BHUPENDRA

If it were in my hands I would straighten him up right here. But the problem is he's broken no law. Just... think about it. We should talk calmly about it. And explain to this scoundrel that this one interview will damage our case. We need him, Madam. Whatever sin he has committed will catch up to him

Vartika sees the sense in what Bhupendra is saying, and sucks it up. She exhales, and calmly knocks on the door.

Akash answers, the TV on.

INT. DELHI GUEST HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

She enters, saying nothing. Akash closes the door, comes back in, and sits on his bed. His Uncle is not present.

VARTIKA

(calmly)

*You're coming on TV? You have the gift of life that Deepika doesn't. What else do you want? Do you realize you're going to hurt this case. You have to keep quite or the accused might just walk free. And if you're recorded the defense will use your own words against you. You cannot do this. Do you understand?*

AKASH

I understand Madam.

VARTIKA

So call it off.

Akash is quiet.

Vartika is about to lose it still, looking into his eyes as he eats on his bed.

Instead, she sucks it up and leaves, saying nothing more.

Bhupendra is left standing there.

BHUPENDRA

*Aksah, If you go to the press again, you'll damage our case. It would be bad if these things came out. That you were paid to do this interview. That you received calls that night from another girlfriend during the crime, and that you could have done more to help Deepika... I would hate for these things to come out. Think about it, Akash.*

He leaves.

Akash is left stunned.

OPENING TITLE SEQUENCE

EXT. DELHI GUEST HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Bhupendra walks outside the guest house, and dials a number on his phone. It's an old friend.

BHUPENDRA

*Hello, Sailesh. How are you?*

BHUPENDRA (CONT'D)

*Buddy... I need a favour. I have a key witness from Uttar Pradesh. I need a background check on him. Family history, criminal record, anything... Get a pen and paper... I'll give you the details. Come on, buddy. You never carry one... Forget it, I'll text you.*

Vartika stands by her car, still stifling her anger, watching as Bhupendra finishes his call and heads towards her.

BHUPENDRA (CONT'D)

Madam, I think Akash got the message.

He's about to get in the car, when he sees she isn't moving. Just staring ahead.

VARTIKA

You'd seen it coming. In my entire life, my heart has been broken only two times. Four days ago when I saw her... and today. He's knows he is going to destroy her case.

She looks at him.

VARTIKA (CONT'D)

How do you do it?

BHUPENDRA

Madam...

VARTIKA

Dealing with scum like this, how do you go back home smiling?

BHUPENDRA

Madam, It helps when you look at the statistics. Day and night we only deal with the scumbags. But 99% of people are decent. It's just that we'll never meet them.

Vartika wishes that could comfort her at this moment.

VARTIKA

I don't know. It feels like the closer we're coming to solving this case, it seems like we're getting closer to losing it all. We have to depend on these kinds of people. BUT you're right. If we lose him, we don't have a case.

She shakes her head, not wanting to contemplate the consequences. Bhupendra doesn't know what to say (and perhaps even regrets saying what he just said to Akash!).

BHUPENDRA

I can promise you: we'll catch them all.

INT. POLICE VAN - PRE-DAWN

Sudhir and Vimla drive in a police van, a handful of other cops with them, mostly nodding off. They're all dressed in plain clothes. The streets are dead-quiet, the only time this happens in Delhi.

Sudhir is wide awake, while Vimla tries to keep her eyes open. He notices this, and tries to make conversation.

SUDHIR

*I think this Sonu is the youngest of the lot.*

VIMLA

*How old do you think?*

SUDHIR

*I don't know. The others refer to him as a kid... It breaks my heart. These kids who can't even think and process properly, are doing things like this.*

VIMLA

*You should've been a teacher.*

SUDHIR

*(he smirks)*  
*You think so? I was supposed to be one actually. It's why my wife married me. Poor Girl.*

A beat.

SUDHIR (CONT'D)

*And you? Why'd you join?*

VIMLA

*I was accompanying friend. She really wanted to join. In giving her company I sat for the test. After school, it was my first job. Just like that, 20 years have passed.*

SUDHIR

*And what happened to your friend?*

VIMLA  
*She failed the entrance exam.*

SUDHIR  
 (smiles)  
*She got lucky.*

They laugh.

EXT. ANAND VIHAR BUS TERMINAL - PRE-DAWN

They arrive, along with 20 other officers, and congregate at the station. Subhash joins them too, severely limping as he approaches.

SUBHASH  
 Be careful. Stay alert...  
 (to the chai man)  
 You're sure you'll recognize him?

CHAI MAN  
 Yeah, for sure. He comes here.

SUBHASH  
 Is that right?... What time will he arrive?

CHAI MAN  
 Don't know, but should be soon.

VIMLA  
*Sir, you're okay?*

SUBHASH  
*I'm fine, all good here. We have four teams, spread along the platform. You two stand there, near the tires.*

VIMLA  
 Okay.

SUDHIR  
 And him?...  
 (to the vendor)  
 Come.

Teams of police and vendors/IDers move into place, watching the entrances and exits to the bus stand from different angles. Sudhir, Vimla and Subhash can see each other clearly.

Dressed as regular passengers, they're hidden in plain sight. It's freezing outside, and many of them wear shalls and scarves, covering their faces, looking almost like vagabonds. The station is relatively quiet, so early in the morning.

The first bus arrives and people start to dismount.

None of the IDers are able to confirm a dismounting Lallan or not. They signal each other - nothing. The bus drives off.

They look around, waiting for the next.

INT. RUNDOWN HOTEL - DAWN

Early morning in the dingy hotel room, Jairaj Singh is asleep. His phone rings - the ringer set way too loud. He's jolted out of sleep, and answers.

JAIRAJ (ON PHONE)

Yeah?

SHO AJAY VISHWAS (O.S.)

*Wake up! Our friend Bahadur just called. Alok's come home.*

Jairaj scrambles up, quickly waking the others up and stumbling to get ready.

JAIRAJ (ON PHONE)

*On our way.*

*(to Shukla)*

*Shukla, get up, we got to go*

EXT. ANAND VIHAR BUS TERMINAL - DAWN

Another bus arrives at the station. Same routine, as the different groups of officer watch it closely.

Vimla and Sudhir signal to each other:

VIMLA

*(signalling)*

*Anything?*

SUDHIR

*(signalling)*

*No.*

People keep emerging, many of them bundled up.

But the youngsters are easy to identify as their faces are not covered.

Sudhir looks at one of the Vendor/IDers beside him, who's watching like a hawk. Nothing.

The Vendor then turns his attention to another bus that's landed, and taps Sudhir on the shoulder.

CHAI MAN

Sir.

Sudhir looks. The Vendor motions towards this new bus.

CHAI MAN (CONT'D)

*I think that's him.*  
(pointing)

SUDHIR

Come on.

Sudhir quickly signals Vimla and Subhash. They all quietly approach this young man, when he suddenly calls out:

SONU

(yells)  
*Gurgaon! Gurgaon! Gurgaon!!!*

It's a strange call, unlike anything they've heard before, and just like everyone described.

They quickly close in on him and surround him.

He realizes he's surrounded by a group of people.

SUDHIR

Is this him?

CHAI MAN

Yeah.

SONU

*What are you doing?*

SUDHIR

*Shut up! Delhi Police.*

He's now frightened. They grab a hold of his arm.

They search him - seizing his wallet and a phone.

SONU

*That's mine!*

VIMLA

I know.

SUDHIR

Come on, follow us.

They walk him out of the station, towards their mini bus, where the entire team converges. Subhash drags behind them, limping his way there.

They take him inside the bus. The sun is starting to rise now, but it's still dark inside the bus.



INT. POLICE MINI BUS - DAWN

SUDHIR  
Come on, move it.

VIMLA  
Come here.

SUDHIR  
Sit, sit, sit.

SONU  
*Sir, can someone tell me, what's happening?*

SUDHIR  
*I'm Sub Inspector Sudhir Kumar..  
That's Sub-Inspector Vimla  
Bharadwaj. He's SHO Subhash Gupta.  
Your name's Sonu?'*

SONU  
*Yes.*

SUDHIR  
*The night of 16 December, Sunday,  
where were you?*

SONU  
*Sleeping in the bus.*

SUDHIR  
*Can anyone confirm this?*

SONU  
*Don't know, I was sleeping.*

VIMLA  
*On the night of 16th December you  
rapes a girl on a bus, in South  
Delhi*

SONU  
*No, Ma'am I didn't rape anyone.*

Vimla checks his wallet, examining his ID.

VIMLA  
*What's your real name?*

SONU  
*Ahmed Mansuri.*

VIMLA  
*Where did you get this phone?*

SONU  
*Found it on a bus.*

SUBHASH

You mean you stole it from that person in the image, right?

Subhash turns it on, a photo of Banke Lal is on the display - the guy who was robbed!

Vimla also finds Dipika's ATM card in Lallan's wallet.

VIMLA

*And the victim's ATM card... where'd you get this?*

No answer.

SUDHIR

*Come on. Now tell us the truth. It's for your own good. We already caught Jai, Vikas, Amar and Brajesh. They told us everything. Now you tell us what you did that night. Tell us.*

He looks down. Subhash shakes him. He yells.

SUBHASH

*Talk! Will you talk or should I make you talk?*

SONU

*Sir, i'll tell you. I'll tell you.*

SUDHIR

You're coming to the station.

They all step outside.

EXT. ANAND VIHAR BUS TERMINAL - CONTINUOUS

Vimla gets a good look at him through a nearby street lamp, and the rising sun now.

VIMLA

*Hey kid, how old are you?*

SONU

*(quiet, frightened)  
I don't know.*

SUBHASH

Answer.

SONU

*Ma'am, I don't know.*

SUDHIR

Tell her.

SONU  
Maybe 17 or 18.

VIMLA  
17 or 18?

SONU  
*Ma'am I swear, I don't know!*

Vimla confers with the others as Sonu is held by Inspector Binde.

VIMLA  
*Sir, He looks like a minor. He must be 16.*

SUBHASH  
*How can you be so sure?*

VIMLA  
*I can't be, Sir, but look at his face. His facial hair hasn't grown yet? And he's tiny. I want to book him as a minor.*

SUBHASH  
*Are you out of your mind? The defense is will pin the entire crime on him. He will get 3 years maximum. And those motherfuckers will get away with it.*

VIMLA  
*And I don't want to be responsible for a minor being sodomized in jail. I'm the Juvenile Welfare Officer and on this issue I outrank you all. I'm booking him as a minor. Please.*

Subhash gives Vimla a nod

VIMLA (CONT'D)  
(to subhash)  
Thank you.  
(to Sonu)  
Come.

She turns around to proceed with Sonu.

Subhash shakes his head. Sudhir pats him on the back.

Subhash looks at him. He smiles, breathing a sigh of relief.

INT. BHUPENDRA'S OFFICE - MORNING

At the command centre, the place is heaving with activity. More assistants, more anxiety.

Vartika confers with a constable, as Bhupendra receives a call, he answers, whispering in the corner.

BHUPENDRA  
(jovial)  
*What? Seriously? You're sure it's  
Sonu?*

He laughs.

He hangs up.

BHUPENDRA (CONT'D)  
Wow guys, we got Sonu!

The office erupts into celebration and applause.

VARTIKA  
Hello, excuse me. There's still one  
more to go.

Bhupendra crosses Sonu off the chalk board, showing Alok still remaining.

Vartika dials a number.

VARTIKA (CONT'D)  
Sir.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - MORNING

Kumar walks down a corridor at headquarters in a hurry, his Assistant behind him. He answers his ringing phone.

KUMAR (ON PHONE)  
Yes, tell me.

VARTIKA (O.S.)  
We have Sonu. Only Alok is  
remaining.

KUMAR  
Well done. But I need them all.

VARTIKA (ON PHONE)  
On it. Sir

He hangs up and enters another room.

INT. MAIN CONTROL ROOM, HQ - CONTINUOUS

Kumar enters the main Control Room at Police Head Quarters, where dozens of screens controlling thousands of cameras around the city are focused on mass protests. Two operators man the switchboard. The phone rings in the control room.

One of them point to a series of monitors.

There are thousands of people jammed together near India Gate, and tensions are rising.

His Assistant interrupts.

ASSISTANT  
(holding the phone)  
Sir, The Cabinet Secretary wants to  
speak to you in 5 minutes.

KUMAR  
(to Assistant)  
Okay.

He leaves the control room.

EXT. INDIA GATE - DAY

Chandni stands with her friends again at India Gate, within the protests, with her girl friends. They're all yelling and screaming together with the crowd.

Off to the side with the rest of the police at India Gate, Neeti is back in full riot gear, about to go back into the ruckus.

She's totally drained, still having not slept a wink. She receives a call and answers.

NEETI (ON PHONE)  
*Mama - I'm at work. I'll call you  
later.*

INT. NEETI'S FLAT - DAY

Neeti's Mother sits in the kitchen with her Father, clearly concerned.

NEETI'S MOTHER (ON PHONE)  
*I'm sorry - Just one question. Can  
we sell the TV?*

NEETI  
(surprised)  
*TV? Why?*

NEETI'S MOTHER  
*We need money to buy gifts for the  
groom's side.*

NEETI  
*Why do we need so many gifts?*

NEETI'S MOTHER  
*We just do.*

A group of officers run by her.

Neeti catches on to what's happening with her in-laws.

NEETI  
*Mom, if they're asking for it, then  
it's wrong? You know It's illegal,  
right?*

NEETI'S MOTHER  
*I know, child. Please let it go.  
It's our custom, it's fine.*

SUPERVISOR (O.S.)  
*Move out!*

More cops run by Neeti as she hears the orders to move.

NEETI (ON PHONE)  
*Mama, I'll talk to you later. But  
don't sell the TV, okay?*

NEETI'S MOTHER  
*Just listen...*

She hangs up and kneels near the staging point, praying, and trying to focus her eyesight from her exhaustion.

INT. KUMAR VIJAY'S OFFICE - MORNING

Kumar enters his office as the desk phone rings. He answers.

KUMAR  
*Sir.*

INT. NSA'S OFFICE - MORNING

The CABINET SECRETARY (mid 50s, in a suit, no-nonsense) sits in his office, with two other Generals with him, on speaker.

CABINET SECRETARY  
*Kumar, you're obviously tracking  
what's happening at Parliament?*

KUMAR  
*Yes, Sir.*

## CABINET SECRETARY

The PM is concerned. The Russian president is coming to the Hyderabad House tomorrow evening. They can't possibly allow him to be so close to this protest. What should we do?

## EXT. INDIA GATE - DAY

Back at the protests with Chandni again, things are getting crazy, even violent now. Her friends Arunesh and Arjun have joined nearby, but they're separated by a dozen people. Chandni sees them. Arunesh looks at her and nods. She smiles an apology.

Neeti sees the same mania from the front lines, in front of the barriers, and facing thousands of protestors. She sees a man - RAHUL - on a makeshift podium nearby, addressing the crowds, and fuelling the fire against the cops. The protests are also being taken over by bad elements - one group overturns a media van, another pulls wooden posts from the ground and lights them on fire. Her comrades are getting ready to fight.

## RAHUL

Friends, today we can stay silent. Today, we can back down. But, mark my words Today, if we stay silent, today if we back down, this will happen again! And again! Today we won't back down

The cops nearby start using water cannons and tear gas to push the people back as they approach the President's grounds.

## INT. KUMAR VIJAY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Still on the phone, the Assistant pops his head in.

## ASSISTANT

Sir - come quickly!

## INT. MAIN CONTROL ROOM, HQ - CONTINUOUS

Kumar bursts into the control room. This time it's full of high-ranking officers and officials, watching the madness. It's gotten violent now, as the images show.

Protestors are attacking individual cops. The officials in the room start muttering.

One protestor beats a cop with a steel pipe.

OPERATOR

Sir, a few have reached the north block of the PM's office.

KUMAR

Disperse that crowd now. Sticks only.

OPERATOR

Yes, Sir.

(into headset)

CP's order. Disperse the crowd immediately, sticks only.

EXT. INDIA GATE - CONTINUOUS

RIOT OFFICER

Attention! You're being ordered to leave now! If you do not we will press charges against you! And use our water cannons!

RAHUL

Friends, there's nothing to fear. Friends, stay put.

Neeti and the others hear the call, and move ahead together. Readying herself for mayhem, she's covered in sweat now.

One protestor runs at her with a steel pipe swinging. She ducks it and hits back with her stick.

It quickly turns into chaos as she beats back as many people as she can, more for protection than anything else. She hits one guy charging her, and blood floods over his face as he screams and collapses.

Her instinct is to help him, but another protestor pushes her over, and she stumbles.

Chandni is appalled by what she's seeing. She backs off, and watches the insanity from the sidelines. Water cannons are being used, people are screaming.

One group realizes who the man is on the makeshift podium.

PROTESTOR

(shouting)

It's the Chief Minister's son!

The crowd starts to charge him, since he's connected with the government, to lynch him!

A group of riot-police quickly grab him, yelling that they have to protect him, and pulling him back (even taking a few blows as a result).



INT. MAIN CONTROL ROOM, HQ - CONTINUOUS

Kumar watches it from the control room. It's gotten out of hand.

OFFICIAL  
What do they want?

Kumar looks at him.

OFFICIAL (CONT'D)  
They're angry, but what do they actually want?

Kumar gets an idea.

INT. BHUPENDRA'S OFFICE - DAY

Vartika and Bhupendra and a handful of others watch it all TV, as a newscaster speaks over the images of rioting:

NEWSCASTER  
As you can see, the police attacked first. This is unprecedented, and totally without provocation...

Vartika shakes her head at the blatant lies. Her phone rings, she answers.

VARTIKA (ON PHONE)  
Yes, Sir?

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Kumar and his assistant walk at breakneck speed through the stairwell and corridor of the building as he speaks on the phone.

KUMAR (ON PHONE)  
Vartika, I need to know. If I can rest my career and yours on this case?

VARTIKA  
(confused)  
Sorry, Sir?

KUMAR  
See, I have a way to shut down these riots, but I can't unless I know you'll get this last guy. And our case against all of them is air tight.

VARTIKA  
I promise, Sir.

INT. BHUPENDRA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

KUMAR (ON PHONE)  
Good enough.

He hangs up. She lingers on his words, perplexed. Bhupendra's phone buzzes, he reads a message.

VARTIKA  
I really hope so.

BHUPENDRA  
Madam. I did a background check on our star witness. His father's a criminal lawyer in Uttar Pradesh, and he has 20 cases *against* him.

Vartika looks at Bhupendra, shocked. She sits.

VARTIKA  
Since when did we start running background checks on victims?

BHUPENDRA  
Ever since we ran into this scumbag

Vartika receives a text message from Dr. Bhutani:

*"Dipika fit to make a statement."*

VARTIKA  
Rakesh.

VARTIKA (CONT'D)  
Yes, Madam.

Vartika stands and leans into the adjoining office, where Rakesh sits and works.

VARTIKA (CONT'D)  
I need you right now. We're going to Safdarjung, Deepika's ready for a statement.

Rakesh quickly stands. They run out the door together.

RAKESH  
(to someone on the phone)  
I'll call you back.  
(to Vartika)  
Should I call the magistrate?

VARTIKA  
I'm doing it.

INT. KUMAR VIJAY'S OFFICE - DAY

Kumar sits in his chair, and takes a deep breath, considering his next move carefully. He picks up his phone.

KUMAR

Yeah.

He hangs up. Silence. He stares at the TV in front of him, on mute. Images of rioting.

The phone rings, he answers.

ASSISTANT (O.S.)

Cabinet Secretary on the line.

KUMAR (ON PHONE)

Yes. Sir.

CABINET SECRETARY

Yeah, Kumar, tell me you have a solution for this.

KUMAR

Sir... it seems to me that people want accountability, so let's give it to them. Why doesn't the government set up a commission enquiry to see if there was any lapse in police conduct on this case. Any retired Chief Justice will jump at the chance. I will even propose we modify anti-rape laws

INT. MINISTRY CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

The cabinet secretary walks with the Generals and two assistants as he speaks on his mobile.

KUMAR

The crowds will go home if they hear they've achieved something major. Let them have their victory.

CABINET SECRETARY

But Kumar... what if they actually find a lapse?

KUMAR

I will take full responsibly. I'll be the fall guy.

A beat.

CABINET SECRETARY

Okat, I'll call you back later.

EXT. INDIA GATE - AFTERNOON

Back at India Gate, the cops are heading back to the buses, as more arrive to take their place. It almost feels like shift work, between the protestors and police.

POLICE MEGAPHONE

You are being ordered to disperse.  
If you do not you will be arrested.

Catching her breath as she walks slowly towards the staging zone, Neeti takes her helmet off, with spurts of blood on her mask.

Neeti sees a text from Vartika: *"Need you back at hospital for statement."*

She starts to remove her riot-gear.

INT. PUBLIC BUS - AFTERNOON

Neeti takes the bus in her regular uniform, bits of blood still in her hair, and on her skin. She averts the gaze of people around her, leaning against the window as she sits.

INT. SAFDARJUNG HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

She arrives at the hospital, and goes into a bathroom.

INT. HOSPITAL BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

She frantically washes the blood off her hair and her hands. She then stops, and breaks down in tears. She falls to the ground, finally letting it all out.

INT. KUMAR VIJAY'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Still watching the TV, Kumar patiently waits.

The phone rings, he answers.

KUMAR

Yes, Sir...

CABINET SECRETARY

Officially, the PM is not in favour of this enquiry - he feels that the police has done everything right. But he'll go with it if you think it will calm things down.

KUMAR

I do, Sir.

CABINET SECRETARY

Okay, We'll proceed in that case.

CABINET SECRETARY (CONT'D)

Thank you, Sir.

CABINET SECRETARY (CONT'D)

And by the way the Chief Minister's son was at the protest today. The crowd attacked him but the police saved him.

Kumar smiles.

KUMAR

Really?

CABINET SECRETARY

Thought you should know.

KUMAR

Thank You Sir.

He hangs up and thinks to himself. He laughs out loud, and picks up another phone.

KUMAR (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)

Get me the Chief Minister, please.

ASSISTANT

Yes, Sir.

He waits, a beaming smile on his face. The phone rings.

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

You're connected.

KUMAR (ON PHONE)

Hello, Sir..

CHIEF MINISTER (O.S.)

Hello Commissioner.

KUMAR

I'm allowing a full commission inquiry into police conduct on this case. Our force will fully cooperate and if there are lapses. they will be found.

CHIEF MINISTER

That's good...Good to hear.

KUMAR

By the way how is your son? Is he ok? I hear he was at India Gate.

CHIEF MINISTER

Just... a bit bruised, but fine.

KUMAR

Glad to hear that, Sir. And..  
Umm... I'm happy that the police  
was there to do their job

The Chief Minister hangs up. Kumar laughs.

EXT. CHAPARA VILLAGE - DAY

Driving in the convoy again, Jairaj and his team (in their own unmarked vehicle) once again approach the small village of Chapara.

Entering the narrow streets, they barrel through, stop in front of the Old Steward's home and quickly enter, as the paramilitary cover the area. All of them wear bullet-proof vests.

INT. OLD STEWARD'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

They enter, and the Old Steward Badhur sits on his bed, as if waiting for them again.

SHO AJAY VISHWAS

Greetings.

BADHUR

*Greetings. Your man's here.*

SHO AJAY VISHWAS

Is that right?

BADHUR

He came this morning.

JAIRAJ

Is he still home?

BADHUR

Yes.

Jairaj looks at the SHO, who signals his men.

SHO AJAY VISHWAS

*Let's go then.*

INT. SAFDARJUNG HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

Now fresh, and calm, Neeti arrives in front of Dipika's room, where Dr. Bhutani, Dipika's father Prem, Kiran, Vartika and Rakesh wait.

VARTIKA  
 (to Neeti)  
 You okay? You survived?

Neeti shrugs.

VARTIKA (CONT'D)  
 (looks down the corridor)  
 The magistrate's here.

They see the MAGISTRATE (female, early 50s) approaching, along with a camera crew! She reaches them.

MAGISTRATE  
 You're DCP Chaturvedi.

VARTIKA  
 Yes, My Lord. Thank you do much for coming.  
 (looks at the crew)  
 What is this about? May I ask?

MAGISTRATE  
 I'd like to film the statement.

VARTIKA  
 (to Prem)  
*Can we film Deepika's statement?*

PREM  
 No.

MAGISTRATE  
*But I have to record the statement, to avoid any discrepancies later.*

VARTIKA  
*With all due respect, My Lord, that's exactly why you're here. And if the family doesn't want te statement to be filmed, we have to respect their wishes.*

Annoyed, the Magistrate realizes she has no counter argument. She motions for the crew to leave.

INT. DIPIKA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They all enter Dipika's room, where her mother Asha sits with her, holding her hand.

Dipika is barely awake, but lucid. Her eyes are swollen, and her movements labored.

VARTIKA  
*Deepika. How are you feeling?*

DIPIKA  
 (quiet, but clear)  
*Okay.*

Vartika smiles.

VARTIKA  
*The Magistrate's here to take your official statement. Can you explain what happened that night?*

The Magistrate steps up to Dipika and smiles.

MAGISTRATE  
*Hello Deepika. I just want to tell you that everyone in the country is praying for you. You've got to pull through this.*

DIPIKA  
*I'm trying, Ma'am.*

MAGISTRATE  
*I'm going to dismiss everyone so we can talk, okay?*

DIPIKA  
 (affirmative)  
*Hm.*

The Magistrate looks around. Vartika ushers everyone out of the room quietly, leaving Dipika and the Magistrate alone. She pulls out a pen and notebook to write.

MAGISTRATE  
*Dear. From the start, what happened that night.*

DIPIKA  
*Me and Akash went to see a movie...*

EXT. ALOK'S FAMILY HOME - AFTERNOON

The paramilitary troops surround Alok's place, snipers ready in various strategic positions, covering them from any potential Naxalite attack.

Jairaj and his men get into position across the small lane from Alok's family home.

The SHO - also in a strategic position outside the home - signals Jairaj to proceed.

Jairaj, Ashok, and Shukla approach the door - which is closed for a change - and signal each other.

They burst in.



INT. ALOK'S FAMILY HOME - CONTINUOUS

JAIRAJ  
*Delhi Police!*

Immediately, they see Alok, scurrying up a small brick staircase to the roof.

JAIRAJ (CONT'D)  
*Hey, Don't go up there! They'll shoot you.*

EXT. ALOK'S FAMILY HOME ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE ON: One of the snipers, stationed on a rooftop nearby. From his POV, Alok suddenly appears on the roof. He has him in his sights, ready to shoot.

Jairaj rushes after him and quickly blocks the shot as he waves his arms to the snipers not to shoot.

JAIRAJ  
Stop - don't shoot.

Alok jumps to another roof, they all follow.

Jairaj is moving quickly, none of them anticipated this chase.

Jairaj catches Alok in his sights.

JAIRAJ (CONT'D)  
Fucker...

SHO AJAY VISHWAS  
Alright alright...

JAIRAJ  
Try to run, bastard.

SHO AJAY VISHWAS  
All done?

SHUKLA  
Yeah, it's done.

SHO AJAY VISHWAS  
Come on.

After a few more roof jumps (the places are close together) Alok trips and slides towards the edge of the next roof. He considers rolling off, but Shukla jumps over him and lands on the ground below (two stories) as Jairaj reaches him. Alok has nowhere to go.

The snipers continue to look out for other threats.

INT. ALOK'S FAMILY HOME - CONTINUOUS

They bring him back to the house, where his estranged wife Pallavi and his parents wait, all under guard. Jairaj pushes Alok onto the sofa.

He looks at the others.

JAIRAJ

*Tell me... is this Alok Kumar? Huh?*

The parents stay quiet, but Pallavi doesn't.

PALLAVI

*Yeah, that's Alok.*

ALOK

Shut up.

Jairaj smacks Alok.

JAIRAJ

*(to Pallavi)*

Go on.

PALLAVI

*Alok Kumar - The same bastard who left me six months ago. Now rot in jail!*

ALOK

I'm innocent, Sir.

JAIRAJ

Of course you are. Come.

ALOK

I'm innocent.

JAIRAJ

Move it.

Jairaj gives Alok a look.

EXT. CHAPARA VILLAGE - AFTERNOON

They quickly drag Alok back to the vehicles, as the other police keep a watch out for a possible ambush.

SHO AJAY VISHWAS

*Well done, well done. Come on.*

He jumps into the front vehicle of the convoy, as Jairaj, his men, and the prisoners climb into their own vehicle in the middle.

SHO AJAY VISHWAS (CONT'D)  
Follow me. Let's Go. Come.

They move as if they're deep in an enemy war zone, but somehow having not aroused the Naxalites.

INT. UNMARKED POLICE VEHICLE - CONTINUOUS

Inside, Jairaj looks at Alok, who's quiet. Elated, he pinches Alok on the cheek, as if this was a cops and robbers game, and he gave them quite a chase.

He laughs with the others, relieved.

INT. BHUPENDRA'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Bhupendra stands by the window, watching the protests outside the station, when his wife Geeta and daughter Rebha appear at the door with the custom-made chair.

BHUPENDRA  
*What's this?*

GEETA  
*You don't come home so we brought this here. Maybe it can help with your back pain.*

They slide it over to him, with the help of another constable. Shilpa has a smile on her face.

They place it in front of his desk. He smiles, and sits. It's very comfortable!

REBHA  
*See?! What would you do without us? Even our names should come in the papers, since we help you catch the bad guys.*

BHUPENDRA  
(joking)  
*Absolutely. But I'm happy to trade places with you, anytime!*

He then gets a call, and answers promptly.

BHUPENDRA (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)  
*Tell me you got him?*

JAIRAJ  
*Yes, Sir.*

Bhupendra yells in relief.

BHUPENDRA

*Well done. Take the first flight out, and stay alert. Call me when you reach the airport.*

JAIRAJ

Yes, Sir. Will do.

INT. UNMARKED POLICE VEHICLE - AFTERNOON

Jairaj briefs Ajay over his speaker phone as they drive.

JAIRAJ

*Sir, we've got orders to head straight to the airport. Thank you all for your help.*

SHO AJAY VISHWAS

*We're not out of it yet. By now, everyone surely knows about your precious cargo. You're a target. We'll accompany you to the airport. Over.*

Jairaj is not reassured by Ajay's words. And somehow, Alok seems confident, as if he's not in danger. Jairaj notices this. He speaks back into the phone.

JAIRAJ

*Copy.*

EXT. CHAPARA VILLAGE STREETS - CONTINUOUS

As the vehicle drives, we see people watching from different vantage points - men, women, teenagers. Jairaj tightens his grip on the wheel as he drives.

INT. DIPIKA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - AFTERNOON

The Magistrate continues taking the statement from Dipika - it's everything we've already heard, but in her own words:

DIPIKA

*They moved towards Akash and started swearing at him. They then hit him. I tried to stop them so they beat us both. They took me to the back of the bus. They tore off my clothes and then took turns raping me. They hit me with an iron rod and bit me all over my body. Six people took turns raping me on a moving bus. This went on for an hour. Their name, Alok, Jai Singh Sonu, Amar, Brajesh, Vikas.*

(MORE)

DIPIKA (CONT'D)

*We were in the dark the entire time. I heard someone saying 'girls like her should be killed.' Then they inserted an iron rod inside me. In front, then behind. They kept putting it in and pulling it out over and over. Then they put their hands inside me and I don't know what they pulled. And threw us off the moving bus. On the side of the road, we both lay naked until someone saw us and informed the police.*

The Magistrate finishes her notes, eyes watering. She wipes them.

MAGISTRATE

*Dear, can you sign and date this testimony?*

DIPIKA

*Hmm...*

MAGISTRATE

*Right or left?*

DIPIKA

*Right.*

The Magistrate puts the pen in her hand, and the paper in front of her. It's takes all of Dipika's strength to do it, but she does so. The Magistrate smiles at her.

MAGISTRATE

*Thank you.*

She stares at her for a moment, before leaving. Immediately, Asha enters, waiting outside the door, to be with Dipika.

INT. SAFDARJUNG HOSPITAL WAITING AREA - CONTINUOUS

The Magistrate enters the waiting area, where Vartika, Neeti, and Prem sit. She joins them, wiped out from the encounter. There's a moment of silence as she digests it all. She looks at Vartika.

MAGISTRATE

*She's signed a 4-page statement which is very detailed, and totally lucid. It will hold.*

Vartika sighs a relief, as does Neeti.

VARTIKA

I'll shall get the official medical report to you from the hospital as well.

INT. UNMARKED POLICE VEHICLE - EVENING

Jairaj continues to drive, with Ashok now holding his mobile phone on speaker, Ajay's voice coming through as they move...

SHO AJAY VISHWAS

*We're with you until the airport checkpoint. After that you should have no problems.*

JAIRAJ

Copy.

As they hit a main road, everyone is quiet, scanning the roads, while the armoured vehicle is directly in front of him.

Alok and Shukla sit in the back.

EXT. AURANGABAD STREETS - EVENING

They drive by villages, food stands, bazaars, past all sorts of locals. Some look suspicious, others are just civilians going about their business. All see this mini-convoy.

INT/EXT. UNMARKED POLICE VEHICLE - EVENING

Jairaj sees an old man get on his cell phone as soon as the convoy approaches. Jairaj takes the open channel mobile from Ashok.

JAIRAJ (ON PHONE)

*Sir, an old man saw us and made a call.*

SHO AJAY VISHWAS (O.S.)

*It could just be an old man on the phone.*

JAIRAJ (ON PHONE)

*It could also be an attack order.*

ALOK

(from the back)

*It's your fault for coming here, now suffer.*

SHUKLA

Ass. You'll suffer.

INT. BHUPENDRA'S OFFICE - EVENING

Bhupendra sits alone in his office, in his new chair, waiting for news of them reaching the airport, nervous.

This is the last piece of the intricate puzzle - them reaching safely.

INT/EXT. AURANGABAD STREETS - EVENING

After several tense moments on side roads and through small alleyways, they reach a main road, with a sign that signals the "Airport" nearby.

EXT. JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (PATNA) - CONTINUOUS

They reach the boundaries, and approach a military checkpoint.

SHO AJAY VISHWAS (O.S.)  
*Keep going - no one will stop you..*

They drive past a military checkpoint, whereby the armoured vehicle pulls over, and waves Jairaj through.

INT. UNMARKED POLICE VEHICLE - EVENING

They do so, and nod goodbye to the commandos in the vehicle.

JAIRAJ (ON PHONE)  
*Thank you, Sir.*

SHO AJAY VISHWAS (O.S.)  
*Give our best to Central.*

JAIRAJ  
*Will do.*

They hang up.

They're safe, and leaving behind the local officers to deal with their guerilla conflict.

EXT. JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (PATNA) - CONTINUOUS

The armoured vehicle does a u-turn and heads back.

INT. UNMARKED POLICE VEHICLE - EVENING

Jairaj lets out a sigh of relief, as do the rest of the team. Alok looks down, not sure what to feel.

He dials Bhupendra.

INT. BHUPENDRA'S OFFICE - EVENING

Bhupendra answers.

BHUPENDRA

*Go ahead.*

JAIRAJ (ON PHONE)

*We've reached the airport.*

BHUPENDRA

(smiles)

*Happy journey.*

JAIRAJ

Thank You

He hangs up. He dials Vartika's number, and is about to press 'send,' but hesitates.

He stands, and leaves the office.

EXT. DELHI STREETS - DUSK

The sun sets over Delhi, always the same, always dusty and lush, and gorgeous.

EXT. SAFDARJUNG HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Bhupendra walks through the crowds after getting off the rickshaw, and makes his way inside.

INT. SAFDARJUNG HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Vartika confers with Dr. Bhutani.

VARTIKA

*...We can need the report by tonight doctor...*

DR. BHUTANI

*I will take more time. I have only given you the preliminary report and...*

She sees Bhupendra approaching. He should be at the office - she sees the look on his face.

He sees her, and nods.

She smiles as she walks up to him, and gives him a bear hug. He accepts it, not caring.



The hospital stops in their tracks - what's happening?

Neeti - standing nearby - is shocked, as this is against all protocol.

The hug lasts forever - Vartika is so relieved. Prem and Kiran also watch them.

Vartika then goes to Kiran and whispers in her ear. She closes her eyes for a moment and smiles.

INT. DIPIKA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Vartika enters with Neeti, and whisper to Kiran, Kiran is ecstatic and whispers to Dipika, who also smiles, though it hurts her to do so.

KIRAN  
(whispering to Deepika)  
Chunnu - they caught them all.

Neeti watches from the side, conflicted, knowing Dipika may not survive still.

INT. SAFDARJUNG HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Vartika dials a number on her phone.

VISHAL (O.S.)  
Hey, how are you?

VARTIKA (ON PHONE)  
Babes, we got all of them.

INT. VARTIKA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Vishal sits on the bed, working on his laptop, while Chandni watches TV lying at the foot of the bed.

VISHAL  
Wow, only in five days. Not bad.

VARTIKA  
I've just got some stuff to wrap up  
and I'll be home.

VISHAL  
Okay, I'll see you.

VARTIKA  
Is Chandu there?

VISHAL  
 Yeah, she's here... One second.  
 (to Chandni)  
 Your mother.

Chandni takes the phone.

CHANDNI  
 Mom - are you coming back home?

INT. SAFDARJUNG HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

VARTIKA  
 Yeah, tonight.

CHANDNI  
 You got them?

VARTIKA  
 All of them.

CHANDNI  
 Awesome. So can you take a day off  
 now?

VARTIKA  
 Of course I can baby.

CHANDNI  
 Maybe you can show me this city?

VARTIKA  
 I guess I have two weeks left, huh?

Vartika's stomach sinks from the topic...

CHANDNI  
 Yeah. Okay, I'll see you at home.  
 Bye.

VARTIKA  
 Bye.

Surprised, Vartika smiles.

INT. KUMAR VIJAY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Kumar finishing talking on the phone, puts it down, and  
 (alone) literally jumps up and down, celebrating.

KUMAR  
 Yeah, Vartika, tell me.

INT. SAFDARJUNG HOSPITAL FORENSICS DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

Vinod is oblivious to what's happening, as he works with a forensics doctor, reading instructions off of his phone, and taking a cast of Amar's jaw with the Plaster of Paris.

VINOD

(to Amar)

Okay, now open your mouth.

(to the Doctor)

Put that straight in his mouth.

(to Amar)

And you have to clench your jaw for ten seconds, okay?

(to the Doctor)

Go ahead.

Amar - looking ridiculous with plaster on his face, just sits and takes it, having no choice.

INT. DELHI GUEST HOUSE - NIGHT

Akash, sitting in his hotel room, picks up the ringing phone, and listens for a moment. He smiles, happy to hear this.

AKASH

Hello.

He then hangs up, and stares ahead, unsure of what he feels. It all starts to hit him, and he tears up.

INT. DELHI GOLF CLUB - NIGHT

Rahul (a big scruffy from the riots earlier) sits with the same accountant, Adersh, from the beginning, at the Club lounge.

Adersh wears a traditional Indian suit, along with several gold rings. They're served drinks as they talk.

ADERSH

I paid you good money to unseat Kumar and you failed. So how can you look so smug .

RAHUL

I'm not, just staring.

ADERSH

Kumar Vijay wouldn't allow an enquiry unless he was sure he'd get off clean.

RAHUL

You don't know that.

ADERSH

This was a perfect chance... I'll deal with him. And you and your Dad fucked this up.

He drops money on the table for their drinks, and leaves. Rahul is stuck.

INT. RAM PRATAP'S HOME - NIGHT

Head Constable Ram Pratap returns home, as his wife sleeps. As he enters - late - she gets up, and immediately starts to prepare food.

RAM'S WIFE

(groggy)

You didn't tell me you were coming.

RAM PRATAP

They caught those bus guys.

RAM'S WIFE

Hmm.

Ram hands her the medicine.

RAM PRATAP

Try this. Maybe it'll help.

Ram's wife is too tired to pay attention, as she prepare her husband's late dinner, and he changes out of his uniform. The same lack of intimacy, the same routine as before. Ram goes to turn on a light in the corner of his place. As he does...

INT. VINOD'S HOME - NIGHT

Vinod switches the light on, entering his own bedroom, where his wife Aparna sleeps. Still in uniform, he looks at her, and sits on a chair beside the bed. He stares at the beautiful sight of his sleeping wife. It's a quiet moment.

EXT. JANTAR MANTAR - NIGHT

Neeti arrives at Jantar Mantar, a public park and ancient observatory, where thousands of protestors have set up an all-night vigil for Dipika, surrounded by riot police who calmly watch for rowdy behavior.

She walks around, surveying the scene. Home-made signs with various slogans in Hindi and English litter the area as groups sit in circles and argue over a plan of action, how to instill change.

PROTESTORS (O.S.)  
 It comes from inside. The country  
 will change when we change  
 ourselves. Then society changes...

Even children are protesting, walking around quietly with  
 candles in their tiny hands.

Neeti stops and stands over an old man who's lying on the  
 ground, surrounded by well-wishers. He's on a hunger strike  
 until justice is done.

She leaves.

EXT. INDIA GATE - NIGHT

Late at night, only a few protestors stick around the India  
 Gate area. The Giant Arch monument is lit beautifully, a  
 remnant of colonial design.

Vartika, Bhupendra, Rakesh, Narayan (Vartika's wireless  
 operator from the first episode) and Sudhir have ice cream  
 from a local vendor.

They sit on the grounds, in a cordoned off area only the  
 police can access.

Rakesh is buying, handing each officer their share.

Vartika, Bhupendra, Subhash and Narayan eat together.

RAKESH  
 ...And the orange one.

BHUPENDRA  
 Whatever, just bring them.

VARTIKA  
 I don't care what people says. In  
 the winter, ice cream is the best  
 antidote for chai.

BHUPENDRA  
 Exactly Ma'am.

An autorickshaw pulls up, and Neeti gets out.

BHUPENDRA (CONT'D)  
 Why aren't you eating?

SUBHASH  
 Take a look, my foot's infected.

BHUPENDRA  
 The infection is in your foot, not  
 in your throat.

SUBHASH  
Eating cold makes it worse.

RAKESH  
What happened anyway?

SUBHASH  
Ah, what can happen...

VARTIKA  
How's the foot?

SUBHASH  
Madam, It's badly Infected. I'll  
take care of it now.

VARTIKA  
Show it to a doctor.

They eat in silence. Vartika looks at Narayan.

VARTIKA (CONT'D)  
You know Narayan, I can't help but  
thin. If it wasn't for your call  
that night, these animals would  
have gotten away, and done it  
again.

SUBHASH  
We're not out of it yet, Madam.  
There'll be a public inquiry on top  
of the judicial commission.

VARTIKA  
So let them come. We did everything  
right. And what the hell, Subhash.  
Are you scared of a little inquiry?

SUBHASH  
No Madam, I know we did everything  
right. But, it's crucial we record  
it, properly.

Vartika looks at him, understanding.

VARTIKA  
We will.

Vartika sees Neeti, standing by herself, away from the group.  
She stands and walks towards Neeti.

BHUPENDRA  
Try it. Here, take mine.

SUBHASH  
Look, I don't want it. Don't push  
it. When you're my age you'll  
understand.

BHUPENDRA

If you're so over the hill, retire.

ANGLE ON: Neeti now, as she stares ahead, at the location of the rioting only a few hours earlier.

This is what it looks like after hell. She even sees blood stains on the ground, not cleaned up yet.

Even more disturbing, 6 dummies hang by their necks on a nearby tree.

Vartika reaches her, with a serving of ice cream as an offering.

NEETI

Thank you, Madam Sir.

VARTIKA

How are you holding up?

She shrugs.

NEETI

Did you read Deepika's prognosis report?

VARTIKA

Not good.

NEETI

Do you think she'll survive?

VARTIKA

Doesn't matter what I think.

A beat.

NEETI

Madam Sir, can I speak frankly with you?

VARTIKA

Sure.

Neeti looks back at their group, laughing amongst themselves.

NEETI

Everyone's celebrating, but I feel like saying "fuck this investigation." The statements, court cases... I just want Deepika to be okay.

VARTIKA

I understand.

NEETI

During the interrogation, when I saw Jai Singh, there was nothing in the eyes. He took such pride in what he did.

(looking at her colleagues)

It was like his...his soul was missing. I don't know how we can celebrate.

VARTIKA

Earlier this year, in Qutub Vihar, there was a girl, gang raped by a broken beer bottle, she died. They accused were immediately caught, and sentenced to death. It happened very quietly, so it missed the media radar.

Neeti tries to respond, but can't.

VARTIKA (CONT'D)

You're trying to ascribe meaning to all this? Forget it.

Bhupendra then interrupts them.

VARTIKA (CONT'D)

Yeah?

BHUPENDRA

Ma'am, I got a call from Tihar Jail. Jai Singh's dead. They're saying it's suicide.

Vartika closes her eyes for a moment, taking this in.

She shakes her head, and looks at him.

VARTIKA

And I wanted to go home and convince my daughter not to leave the country.

BHUPENDRA

Go, Ma'am. We'll handle it.

VARTIKA

(jokes)

No way am I leaving this on Vinod. Come on

She goes off with Bhupendra. Another all-nighter ahead.

Neeti looks back at the dummies, swinging in the gentle breeze.



END OF EPISODE 7

END OF SEASON 1

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