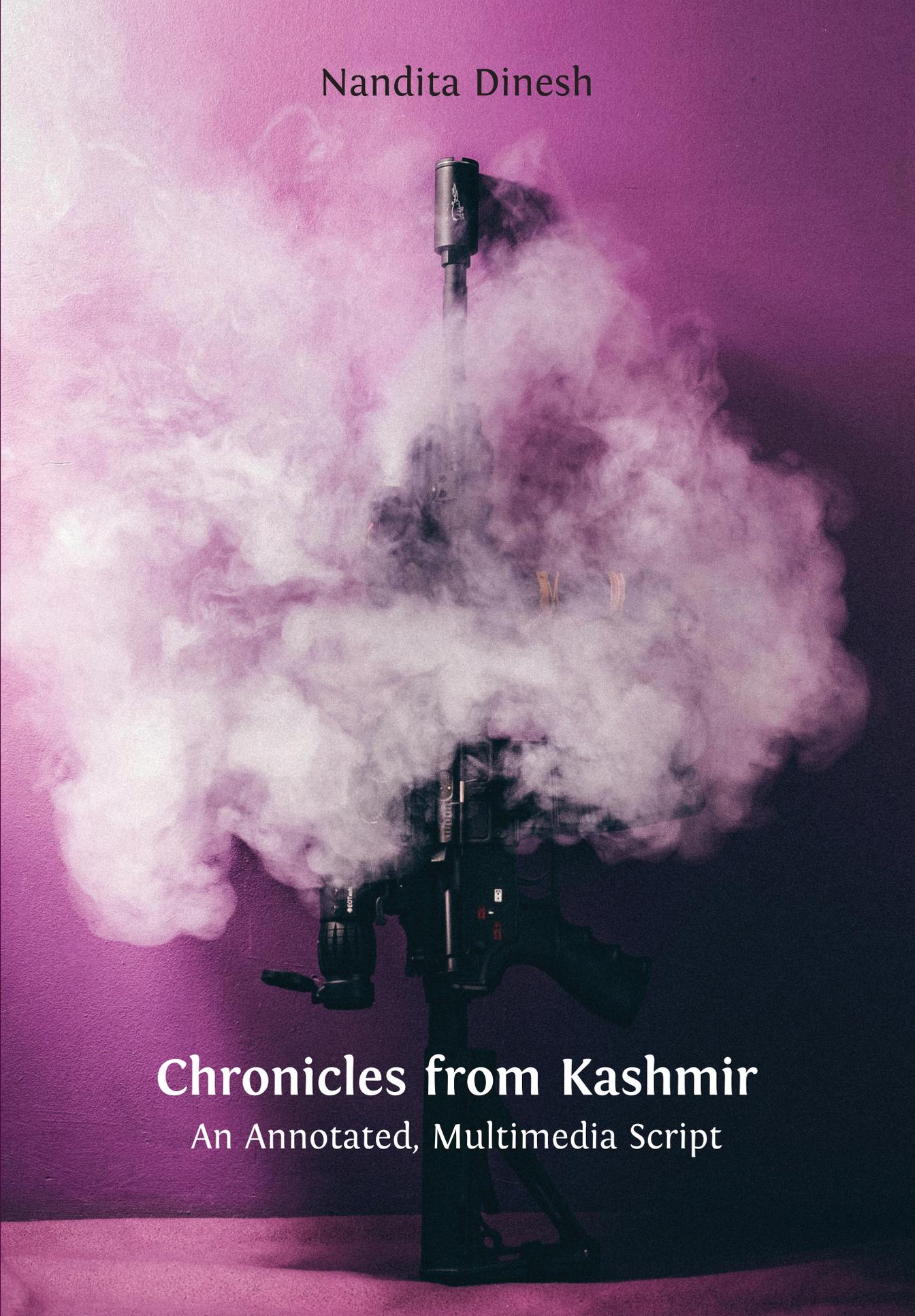


Nandita Dinesh



Chronicles from Kashmir

An Annotated, Multimedia Script



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Scene Seventeen: The Game Show



▶ WATCH THE VIDEO

The space is set up like a game show.

HOST: *Namaskar, namaskar, namaskar!* Welcome to *Kaun Banega Crorepati*. Today we have three participants in our show and the prize money will go to the person who knows the most about Kashmir! Contestants, please introduce yourselves.

*Namaskar
Greetings
Kaun Banega Crorepati
Who wants to be a
millionaire?*

GUEST #1: Hello everyone. While I've never been to Kashmir before, I have been studying a lot about its history and current affairs. By winning this prize money, I want to apply for an MA in Political Science.

GUEST #2: Good morning. Like my friend, I too have never been to Kashmir and if I win this money, I would like to take my first trip there!

GUEST #3: Hi everyone. I come from very far away and I am here to learn more about Kashmir as much as to share my knowledge. If I win this money, I will... I don't know yet what I will do (*laughs*).

HOST: Excellent. Now that you've introduced yourselves, let me quickly explain the rules of the game. As you know, you will be asked a series of questions, and, starting with Rs. 1000, for every correct answer, you can win greater and greater sums of money. When a question is asked, the first person to ring the buzzer in front of them will get to respond first. If they answer correctly, that person will be asked another question to double their winnings. If they answer incorrectly, I will provide the correct answer and move on to the next question. If you ever do not know the answer to a question, each of you can use our three lifelines: Audience Poll, Fifty-Fifty and Phone-A-Friend. Ready? Ladies and gentlemen. Our first question:

what is the capital of Pakistan-Administered Kashmir or Azad Kashmir, as it is also known?

- a) Srinagar
- b) Islamabad
- c) Muzaffarabad
- d) Lahore

GUEST #1 presses the buzzer.

GUEST #1: Islamabad!

HOST: The correct answer is Muzzafarabad. OK, let's move on to the second question.

Where is Kargil?

- a) Jammu
- b) Pakistan
- c) Ladakh
- d) Kashmir

GUEST #3 presses the buzzer.

GUEST#3: Ladakh

HOST: Correct! You have won 1,000 rupees! Let's hear some applause for this contestant, ladies and gentlemen.

Audience applauds (led by the GUIDES).

HOST: Now to our second question for this contestant. If he answers this one correctly also, he can double his winnings to 2000 Rupees. What is at the heart of the conflicts in Kashmir? The options are:

- a) A desire for self-determination
- b) Conflicts between India and Pakistan
- c) Terrorists
- d) None of the above

GUEST #3: Can I have a lifeline please, sir?

HOST: Sure, which one would you like to use?

GUEST #3: Can we have the audience poll please?

HOST: Of course, audience, please help our guest win 2000 Rs. Here is the question again: What is at the heart of the Kashmir issue? The options are:

- a) A desire for self-determination
- b) Conflicts between India and Pakistan
- c) Terrorists
- d) None of the above

Who says option a); please raise your hands. Option b)? Option c)? Option d)?

HOST counts the responses and announces what the audience poll suggests. Regardless of the answer given by the audience:

GUEST #3: I'm going to say that the answer is b): conflicts between India and Pakistan.

HOST: That answer is... incorrect! The correct answer was a): a desire for self-determination. You, sir, remain at 1,000 Rs. Next question for all the contestants. Where are Gilgit and Baltistan located?

- a) Jammu
- b) Kashmir
- c) Pakistan
- d) Ladakh

GUEST #2 presses the buzzer.

GUEST #2: Ladakh!

HOST: Incorrect. The correct answer is... anyone in the audience?

Audience is given a chance to answer.

HOST: The correct answer is c): Gilgit and Baltistan are administered by Pakistan. All right, let's make this more exciting now. The next question is a bonus question and whoever gets this right will get 10,000 Rs! Ready? Ok. For a prize of 10,000 Rs the question is: What does AFSPA stand for?

- a) Armed Forces Special Powers Act
- b) Act for Soldiers' Protection and Autonomy
- c) All Friends of Pakistan and America

If you had to design a game show that asked contestants to showcase their knowledge about income inequality in your community, what would the rules of that game be?

What kinds of questions would you ask?

Who would be your ideal contestant pool?

None of the above

GUEST #3 presses the buzzer.

GUEST #3: a) Armed Forces Special Powers Act.

HOST: YES! Correct. Congratulations. You have now won 10,000 Rs in addition to your existing 1,000 Rs prize. You are now leading with 11,000 Rs. Sir, you have a great opportunity now. If you answer this follow up bonus question correctly, you can now double your winnings to 22,000 Rs immediately. Are you ready?

GUEST #3: Yes, sir!

HOST: The question for 22,000 Rs is: What is the most feasible solution to Kashmir's conflicts?

- a) Create more ways for Kashmiris to identify with India
- b) Search for a political solution that involves discussions with Kashmir, India, and Pakistan
- c) Increase tourism to Kashmir
- d) None of the above

Pause.

GUEST #3: Could I have another lifeline, sir? I would like to call a friend.

HOST: Of course. And who will you be calling today?

GUEST #3: My father, sir.

HOST: OK.

Sounds of a phone call being made.

VOICE: Hello?

GUEST #3: Papa it's me. I'm calling from *Kaun Banega Crorepati* and I need your help.

VOICE: Of course, of course. Hello everyone!

HOST: Hello, sir. Thank you for helping your son today!

VOICE: Of course, sir. I'm a big fan of the show. What is the question?

GUEST #3: Dad, the question is: What is the most feasible solution to Kashmir's conflicts?

- a) Create more ways for Kashmiris to identify with India
- b) Search for a political solution that involves discussions with Kashmir, India, and Pakistan
- c) Increase tourism to Kashmir
- d) None of the above

HOST: Can you help your son, sir?

VOICE: Yes. I think so. Let me see... I think the answer is definitely a). We must create more ways for Kashmiris to identify with India. Yes, that's the most feasible solution.

HOST: Thank you very much, sir. We appreciate your help.

VOICE: Yes, yes. Thank you. Good luck, *beta*! The answer is a).

Sound of phone call ending.

HOST: So, sir. For the question about the most feasible solution to Kashmir's crises, what is your answer? Are you going to go with your father's answer or choose something else?

Pause.

HOST: You have fifteen seconds left to make your decision.

GUEST #3: Sir... I'm not sure but I think I will agree with my father and choose a).

HOST: Our guest chooses option a): that what is needed is to create more ways for Kashmiris to identify with being Indian. That is... INCORRECT, ladies and gentlemen. The right answer is b), the search for a political solution.

GUEST #2: Wait, what?

HOST: That is the right answer sir.

GUEST #2: According to whom? That's not right. Option b) is not the right answer. Option a) is the correct answer.

HOST: Unfortunately —

GUEST #1: Please stop using this show for your own propaganda sir. Kashmir is an integral part of India — all we need to do is build more healthy relationships between people.

GUEST #2: Yes. Leave all this self-determination stuff aside and just focus on what's real.

HOST: This is not a political de —

GUEST #1: This is political as soon as you ask about a solution to what is happening in Kashmir.

GUEST #2: Yes, do not run away from the issue.

HOST: Look sirs, you need to calm —

GUEST #1: I find all your questions to be offensive and seditious. You know I could report you for this?

HOST: No, sir. No need to do that... We just have to...

GUEST #2: What kind of political quiz show is this? This is nonsense. Please stop spreading your own agenda around

GUEST #1: That's right.

GUEST #3: Come on, folks. We're on television. They've created the questions —

GUEST #2: I don't care. You can't just provide wrong answers like this.

Consider a historical event that you have studied.

Rewrite that event's history by using a perspective that was not included in your study of that event.

GUESTS #1, #2 & #3 start arguing. HOST beckons security guards who come and drag the GUESTS outside. The title song plays loudly to drown the fighting.

HOST: Thank you all for coming. Good night.

HOST exits.

GUIDE #2: Sorry about that, ladies and gentlemen. Everyone has an opinion about Kashmir... I would like to ask you all a question. So much of what people think they know about Kashmir is based on what they have been taught in school.

I looked at the history and politics textbooks from (*insert name of place in which performance is being conducted and use textbooks that are specific to that context*) and I was surprised to see what they actually include about Kashmir (*make reference to chapter names; number of pages; whatever is relevant in that book*). Imagine that you have the power to design a textbook that would include a section about Kashmir — what would you want it to contain?

GUIDE #1: You will see blank sheets of paper in the different corners of this room, and next to them, you have been provided materials to write with. We welcome you to design your own textbook — what would your book contain? You can use these existing textbooks for your reference.

The HOST and the GUIDES facilitate the division of the spectators into groups. Each group is given some time to design a textbook about Kashmir — with topic headings of what such a schoolbook should include. Once all groups are done with their creations, the GUIDES encourage the groups to walk around and see each other's work.

When done, the GUIDES take the spectators to the next space along a path created using strobe lighting. Maybe the audience members are blindfolded as they go down this path?

