

THE RETURN OF MELISSA

*The Extended Version*

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Excerpt: Whitewater Crossing (Pages 45-52)  
- India

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## **THE RETURN OF MELISSA**

**Extended Version (106 pages - Colorado/India/Colorado)**

A tightly-paced, high-tension adaptation of the original feature script (62 pages), expanded with Part II (India / Colorado - ~40 pages) to continue Nathan's journey abroad and return. Compact, cinematic, and designed for festival circuits, short-format consideration, and international distribution.

**Excerpt Selection::** Whitewater Crossing (Pages ~45-52)

INT. RISHIKESH, TOURIST OFFICE - DAY

A small humble room, empty table with a ventilator and  
TOURIST AGENT, Indian man in his 30s.

TOURIST AGENT  
Hi, how are you?

NATHAN  
I'm fine, thanks.  
(beat)  
Are you arranging rafting on  
Ganges?

TOURIST AGENT  
No, problem. We can do that. How  
many people?

The tourist agent removes a tattered notebook from the  
drawer.

NATHAN  
Just one.  
(beat)  
How is it organized?

The Tourist Agent writes something in the notebook.

TOURIST AGENT  
You will be in a rubber boat with  
others and a trainer.

NATHAN  
Any equipment?

TOURIST AGENT  
Equipment? Take spare clothes for  
yourself. The rest you'll get at  
the site.

EXT. GANGES' SHORE - DAY

Nathan, in a life jacket and a helmet, launches a rubber boat  
along with six others and a TRAINER, an Indian man in his  
20s. All of them are Indians and all are men except VIPASHA,  
an Indian girl in early 20s.

NATHAN  
(to trainer)  
Which language will you use for  
commands?

TRAINER  
English. They are from different  
parts of India. English is a common  
language for all of us.

TRAINER (CONT'D)  
(to all)  
Now!  
(beat)  
Take your seat!

INT./EXT. ON RIVER GANGES. IN THE BOAT - CONTINUOUS

Everyone is in the boat.

TRAINER  
Our goal is to pass four rapids.

The group of five guys cheers up; Vipasha remains a silent.

TRAINER (CONT'D)  
Paddle harder on my signal and stay  
balanced!

INT./EXT. ON THE RIVER GANGES. IN THE BOAT - CONTINUOUS

The boat is approaching the first rapids. The Trainer blows a  
whistle.

TRAINER  
Stay balanced!

The boat successfully passes the rapids.

TRAINER (CONT'D)  
Move forward!

They pass the second rapids.

NATHAN  
(to Trainer)  
That was more challenging than the  
previous one.

TRAINER  
Yep! The difficulty increases all  
the time.

NATHAN  
Really? I felt like we did the most  
challenging ones already.

Nathan's and the Vipasha's eyes met. She smiles slightly.

LATER

The boat stops at the quiet waters. The Trainer takes off his helmet.

TRAINER

The upcoming one is the most  
difficult. Remember to stay  
balanced!

He puts his helmet back on.

TRAINER (CONT'D)

Move forwards!

The rapids look terrifying.

TRAINER (CONT'D)

Stay balanced!

All try their best, but the boat heels to the side. Nathan  
sees the Vipasha's frightened eyes.

TRAINER (CONT'D)

Stay balanced!

The boat capsizes and spits them out into the water.

EXT. ON THE GANGES RIVER - MOMENTS LATER

The life jacket keeps Nathan at the water well.

TRAINER

Catch the rope!

Nathan swims to the boat as he sees that the river stream has  
taken the Vipasha away and carried her towards the rocks.

As Nathan sees her frightened face he rushes to help Vipasha.

A rapid current.

He finally manages to catch her life jacket. Vipasha is  
exhausted and frightened.

NATHAN

(anxiously)

Are you OK?

(beat)

Can you swim?

GIRL

A bit.

NATHAN

Grab my vest!

Vipasha nods.

INT./EXT. ON THE RIVER GANGES. IN THE BOAT - LATER

All, soaking wet, are inside the boat.

TRAINER

Is everyone in?

NATHAN

(counting)

One, two, three... eight! We are here all!

TRAINER

Move towards!

EXT. GANGES' SHORE - NIGHT

The Trainer collects the helmets and life jackets. Vipasha is trembling with cold.

TRAINER

(to Vipasha)

Do you have any spare clothing?

VIPASHA

No.

TRAINER

Where do you live?

VIPASHA

I'm staying in the Hotel Le Roi in Haridwar.

TRAINER

(frowned)

That's a long way.

NATHAN

(to Vipasha)

I have some spare clothes and they're dry.

VIPASHA  
How about you?

NATHAN  
I live close by. I will be fine.

VIPASHA  
(with chattering teeth)  
Are you sure?

NATHAN  
Yes.

VIPASHA  
(to the Trainer)  
Where can I change?

TRAINER  
In the tourist office.

EXT. TOURIST OFFICE - LATER

It's dark. Nathan looks at his cell phone. It's 6:45pm.

Smiling Vipasha returns from the office in Nathan's clothing.

VIPASHA  
I feel much better. Thank you.

NATHAN  
No problem!  
(beat)  
Haridwar?

VIPASHA  
Haridwar.

NATHAN  
I'll get a taxi for you.

VIPASHA  
Thanks!

INT./EXT. TAXI - MOMENTS LATER

Vipasha is inside the taxi cab with seats wrapped in cellophane.

NATHAN  
(to Vipasha)  
Do you have money?

VIPASHA

Yes, I do. How will I return your clothes?

NATHAN

I can come to your hotel. It's Le Roi or something?

VIPASHA

Yes, it is. It's easy to find. How about tomorrow at 11 am?

NATHAN

Great! 11 am it is.

VIPASHA

Thanks for everything!

NATHAN

No problem.

The car's engine starts.