

Target Unlocked

Logline

Same actors. Same sets. Same budget. Different movie. A life-altering terrorist attack causes reflection – even in Hollywood.

Short Synopsis

Days after a shattering world event, A-list Hollywood screenwriter Douglas Leigh grudgingly struggles to retool the partially shot action film "Berserker" into a romantic musical comedy called "Enchanted Evening." Struck dumb by writer's block and single malt consumption, Douglas is forced to partner with Bollywood ringer, Dana Karachi. Can an old dog learn new tricks? Does a new dog even care?

Synopsis

A-list screenwriter Douglas Leigh's single malt consumption is on the rise as he succumbs to writer's block under the unfamiliar pressure of turning "Berserker IV", the latest from the outrageously successful Berserker franchise into -- a musical comedy!

Rewrite means balancing the insecurities of Anthony Fergus, the aging, non-singing, non-dancing, action hero and star of the Berserker franchise with the ambitions of his female counterpart, the much younger, voluptuous and driven, musical Mexican soap star, Rita Santiago.

Rewrite also means Douglas has to deal with the life and death pressures coming from Spike Ritts, ridiculously young, sleek black studio executive; Max Stern, perhaps Douglas' only friend and the man who made producer an honourable word; and Harper Lee, ambitious and talented Hong Kong director/cinematographer.

Adding to the pressure -- Douglas' daughter, Amanda, is missing somewhere on the other side of a precarious world. At least, that's got he and his former wife, Felicia, almost talking.

Unable to get even beyond the title page for a musical comedy called "Enchanted Evening," Douglas is forcibly introduced to his new partner, youthful ringer and Bollywood screenwriter, Dana Karachi. First he belittles and ignores Dana, then refuses to collaborate until Spike confines them to a run-down motel where they will not be released until they deliver.

Reluctantly, grudgingly, Douglas and Dana work on "Enchanted Evening" until they learn to marry styles, personalities and music. When East Indian GQ type Kaspar Jivan serenades Dana at a surprise curry dinner delivered by Dana's mother and family, Douglas' romantic feelings for Dana surface.

Meanwhile, Spike and Harper make backroom deals and Max plays high-stakes golf with Spike. Anthony learns how to dance. Rita beds Anthony, then his female agent. And shooting on “Enchanted Evening” begins.

Douglas, Dana and the others are excited, even inspired until Spike walks on set and drops a bomb: seems the viewing public has returned to its old habits – so back to the original “Berserker IV!”

Dana is now out of a job. Douglas returns to the bottle and the old “Berserker IV” script, except that now, neither satisfies him. After some sober self-analysis, Douglas realizes he yearns to pass on a sense of hope.

He convinces Dana to be his “Berserker IV” writing partner but also, to clandestinely help him make “Enchanted Evening.” Together, they set about enlisting Max, Harper, Rita and Anthony to film the romantic musical comedy behind Spike's back.

While the crew openly films “Berserker IV” and secretly films “Enchanted Evening,” a renewed Douglas tries to mend fences with his daughter, Max mortgages his life and Kaspar offers Dana marriage and a writing opportunity in Bombay. But Spike isn't fooled. He bets his career that he can deliver two hit films for the price of one.

To test “Enchanted Evening,” Spike slips in scenes at a Berserker Marathon. Amidst initial audience boos and catcalls for their lost hero, Douglas loses confidence and tries to stop the screening. Rita reduces Anthony to a simpering mess on the lobby floor. Dana hopes she fails up and Spike releases ownership of “Enchanted Evening” to Max.

When the audience turns and embraces “Enchanted Evening,” Spike is forced to keep his commitments. Max, Harper, Douglas and Dana have created a new genre. Action star Anthony has a renewed career as a romantic lead. Rita is on her way to the top and Dana must choose between Douglas and Kaspar.

In a big Bollywood-Hollywood finale, Douglas out dances Kaspar, wins Dana and they ride off. It is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

Background

Co-written with Michaelin McDermott -- an independent producer/writer/director. She spent three years as a Service Producer for the Discovery Channel and over a decade as a stills photographer on various features, mow's and television series. Michaelin has produced and directed a rock video, two half-hour dramas and work-shopped two of her short screenplays. She has recently completed a dark romantic road movie entitled “Pyramids.”