"Breaking the Code"

SHOOTING SCRIPT

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BBC TASTER SHORTS - THE BREAK

"Breaking the Code"

1. INT. DAY. LAB, LONDON

Of ose up on the hot pink, smooth fabric of a hijab, the woman wearing it has her head bent down to her chin.

As the head lifts up, we CLOSE UP to reveal face of MUSHEERA (29, British Egyptian, Muslim, standard London accent). She has eyeliner flicks on the top of her big eyes and immaculate face make-up as well as a shiny lipgloss on her lips which she is biting, evidently nervous.

MUSHEERA takes a deep breath and nods to herself, addresses directly to camera.

MUSHEERA

Mum, I love you. But I've been lying to you for the last three years. There's a few things you haven't been told about me by me and so now seems to be the right time to tell it well it has to be, before you find out from someone else or say from the news or TV -

MUSHEERA breaks away again, aside.

Way too scary, all for eboding like I'm a murderer or some shit and don't mention the bloody news, Musheera, Right. Right. Just stick to the facts, no emotion, no pussyfooting about, just straight in there like swimwear get right down to the bone, facts facts facts, that's what you live for.

(TO CAMERA)

MUSHEERA faces back to direct camera address.

Mum, I love you to the moon and back, you know that.
You are so important I'd both be lost without you. Um
But...

With renewed energy, MUSHEERA Launches into direct camera address.

and Ashraf is just the best isn't he but (TO CAMERA)
Mum, cal m down, I ook,
what we've found, my team,
what we've found,
it's something great,
world changing, mind bending,
history making, I if e saving
and so you can give me your blessing
or you can, you can,
you can piss of f!!

MUSHEERA shakes herself out of her frustration. To herself, fiddles with stereo, stabbing at buttons, a track starts to

(WORRIED)

Mum I love you so much and you know that. You know so much about me that is really what makes me me, you know?

(Re - track now playing, nervous)

Like how I love to sing 1980s pop songs whenever there's a party or a shower or a -Yazz - ha, that was always a favourite in our house hey? I got that love from you. I got so much good stuff from you.

She needs to get really stuck here.

Lost and badly stuck, she considers the music as it kicks in.

(To HERSELF)

Ha, suppose the only thing for it, times like this, is to sing, yeah just like Mumtee taught me...face the music...

(Has an idea. Direct to camera, to her mum)

Close your eyes and sing...

MUSHEERA begins to hum 'The Only Way Is Up'. She smiles and now starts to sing along to 'THE ONLY WAY IS UP' by YAZZ, getting louder as things go into a FANTASY - Musheera's hijab becomes sequinned, the lab goes dark and there is a disco ball overhead. As the music plays without words (it is also shortened so we get to the chorus quicker), MUSHEERA speaks over it, in a performer-type style:

(TO CAMERA)

Mum, I love you.
Dance with me like you used to.
Forget that hip that hurts,
forget that broken heart,
throw it all to the wind,
let it blow itself dry,
as we dance circles around tomorrow
and join me now, Mum, as I say -

Starts to sing (well, but in an amateur way)

The only way is UP, baby, for you and me now, the only way is UP, baby for you and me now wooooh yeh -

There is a knock at the window partitioning the two labs where she works. She is shocked back into normality as she sees her ASSI STANT staring at her through the window, looking totally stunned at her behaviour. She coughs and looks embarrassed. She slowly looks back at the camera and half smiles as she takes a breath. She knows what to do.