



THE LAST CUP

A Pure Comedy 2-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: Arjun arrives every morning for the same perfect cup of tea, but today Mohan has run out of his favorite tea leaves. What begins as a petty complaint turns into a hilarious negotiation over taste, loyalty, and the absurdly personal rituals people build around one cup of tea. The twist: Arjun is not addicted to the tea itself, but to the five minutes of peace it gives him before work.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) | Character 1: Arjun (29)

LOCATION: A cramped neighborhood tea stall at dawn, with steam rising from kettles, warm amber tube-light mixed with early morning blue daylight, and two plastic stools beside a metal counter.

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INT. NEIGHBORHOOD TEA STALL - DAWN

A cramped tea stall. Steam curls from kettles. Warm amber tube-light mixes with pale blue morning daylight. Two plastic stools sit by a metal counter. A notebook, biscuit tin, sugar jar, cash box, two cups, and a tea kettle clutter the space.

MOHAN (41), cheerful tea vendor in a stained apron, rolls up his sleeves and wipes the counter with a towel.

ARJUN (29), hyper-organized office employee, enters with a reusable coffee tumbler, laptop bag, crisp shirt, tie slightly loosened.

ARJUN

Good morning. Same tea.

MOHAN

Good morning. Same face.

Mohan smiles and reaches for the kettle.

ARJUN

Strong. But not too strong.

MOHAN

Of course. Weak bhi nahi. Strong bhi nahi.

(beat)

Basically, chai hi nahi.

Arjun ignores the joke and places the tumbler on the counter.

ARJUN

One cup. Perfect.

Mohan freezes. He glances at the tea leaves tin, then away.

MOHAN

(carefully)

Aaj... perfect thoda adjust karna padega.

ARJUN

Adjust?

MOHAN

Haan. Small issue.

ARJUN

Mohan, main office jaa raha hoon. Meri chai mein "small issue" ka space nahi hai.

Mohan pours a tiny test sip into a cup, tastes it, makes a face.

MOHAN

Haan. Issue badh gaya.

ARJUN

Kya matlab?

MOHAN

Matlab jo tea leaves tu prefer karta hai na...

(winces)

Woh khatam.

Arjun stares.

ARJUN

Khatam?

MOHAN

Haan. Khatam. Finito. End.

ARJUN

Impossible.

MOHAN

Bilkul possible. Main bhi pehle believe nahi kiya.

ARJUN

You know my tea order.

MOHAN

Arjun, main tera Aadhaar number nahi, chai yaad rakhta hoon.

Arjun exhales sharply.

ARJUN

This is unacceptable.

MOHAN

Chai hai, Supreme Court ka verdict nahi.

ARJUN

I need consistency.

MOHAN

Tu chai peeta hai ya software run karta hai?

Arjun points at the kettle.

ARJUN

Make it with the other leaves.

MOHAN

Already made. Tasted like betrayal.

ARJUN

Then make it better.

MOHAN

Better ka license mere paas nahi hai.

Mohan grabs notebook and flips it open.

MOHAN (CONT'D)

Chalo, research mode.

He writes.

MOHAN (CONT'D)

Arjun Special: patti, doodh, sugar, boil, strain, respect.

ARJUN

Respect quantity mein add karo.

MOHAN

Quantity mein nahi. Service charge mein.

Mohan makes the first cup.

MOHAN (CONT'D)

Trial One.

Arjun sips.

ARJUN

Too light.

MOHAN

Of course. Teri personality jaisa nahi bana.

Mohan makes a second cup.

MOHAN (CONT'D)

Trial Two.

Arjun sips.

ARJUN

Too strong.

MOHAN

Wah. Chai bhi tere manager jaisi ho gayi.

Mohan makes a third cup.

MOHAN (CONT'D)

Trial Three. Desperation special.

Arjun sips. Pauses.

ARJUN

Still not right.

MOHAN

Ab chai ko blame kar. Mera dil already hurt hai.

Arjun sets the cup down.

ARJUN

You don't understand.

MOHAN

Toh samjha de.

ARJUN

(defensive)

I just want my tea.

MOHAN

Nahi.

(leans in)

Tu chai nahi, pause chahta hai.

Arjun looks at him.

ARJUN

What?

MOHAN

Tere face pe likha hai. Office se pehle ka
five-minute peace. Chai bas excuse hai.

Arjun is silent.

A distant scooter passes. The kettle hisses.

ARJUN

(low)

...Haan.

Mohan nods like he expected it.

MOHAN

Toh bolna tha na. Main chai mein shaanti mila deta.

He reaches behind a box and pulls out a tin.

ARJUN

Wait. That was here the whole time?

MOHAN

Haan.

(grins)

Main dekh raha tha tu mere stall ka regular hai ya
mere chai ka hostage.

Arjun almost smiles.

ARJUN

You are impossible.

MOHAN

Aur tu predictable.

Mohan makes the final cup with care.

He pours it into Arjun's tumbler.

MOHAN (CONT'D)

Lo. Wahi wali chai.

Arjun takes the cup, inhales, and finally relaxes.

He sips. This time, no complaint.

Mohan opens the biscuit tin and slides one biscuit toward him.

MOHAN (CONT'D)

Complimentary peace.

ARJUN

This is good.

MOHAN

Chai?

ARJUN

The peace.

Mohan laughs.

MOHAN

Kal same time?

ARJUN

Kal same leaves.

(beat)

And same five minutes.

Mohan salutes with the towel.

MOHAN

Deal.

Arjun picks up his laptop bag and heads out, calmer than before.

Mohan watches him go, smiling as steam rises between them.

FADE OUT.