



THE CHAI LINE

A Pure Comedy 2-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: A woman in a rush insists on the exact same chai every morning, only to find the vendor has started charging her extra for emotional support. Their daily banter turns into a comic battle over sugar, foam, and personal boundaries. The twist: the vendor has been saving the woman's unfinished conversations all year because she knows she is about to quit her job and finally say what she really wants.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) | Character 1: Barkha (34)

LOCATION: A tiny tea stall under an awning on a crowded street corner, bright noon light softened by steam, with two stools and a constant kettle whistle.

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INT. TINY TEA STALL - NOON

Bright noon light filters through an awning. Steam hangs in the air. A kettle WHISTLES constantly. Two stools. A cash box. A sugar tin. Tea glasses. A reusable cup.

BARKHA (34), formal wear, fast-talking, checks her watch for the third time in ten seconds. SUMI (34), in a simple sari and apron, calm and observant, stirs chai with strong, practiced wrists.

BARKHA

Sumi, wahi wali chai. Exact. Thodi kam sugar. Foam zyada. Main late hoon.

SUMI

Aap roz late hoti ho.

BARKHA

Aaj zyada late hoon.

SUMI

Aaj zyada chai lagegi.

Barkha freezes.

BARKHA

Kya matlab?

SUMI

Matlab emotional support extra.

BARKHA

Main customer hoon, therapist nahi.

SUMI

Customer ho. Par roz chai ke saath apni life ka aadha drama bhi yahin chhod jaati ho. Uska packaging charge lagega.

BARKHA

Yeh koi rule hai?

SUMI

Naya rule hai.

Sumi pours chai into a glass, then into Barkha's reusable cup.

BARKHA

Maine bola tha half spoon sugar.

SUMI

Aap bolti ho half. Expression se full depression mangti ho.

BARKHA

Foam kam hai.

SUMI

Aapke office mein bhi kya itna hi foam hota hai? Upar se soft, andar se hawa.

BARKHA

Oho. Personal attack.

SUMI

Boundary set kar rahi hoon.

BARKHA

Main boundary samajhti hoon.

SUMI

Tabhi to roz cross karti ho.

Barkha checks her phone. A MISSED CALL flashes.

BARKHA

Dekho, main sach mein late hoon.

SUMI

Pehle chai peeyo. Phir duniya ko bhaago.

BARKHA

Mujhe bhaagna padta hai.

SUMI

Aapko aadat hai.

Barkha takes the cup, annoyed but sipping.

BARKHA

Waise aaj chai theek hai.

SUMI

Theek nahi. Premium hai.

BARKHA

Premium ka rate?

SUMI

Aaj cash nahi. Full payment.

BARKHA

UPI?

SUMI

Nahi. Truth.

Barkha laughs despite herself.

BARKHA

Truth ka QR code hota hai?

SUMI

Aapke paas nahi.

Sumi reaches under the cash box and pulls out a thick bundle of folded chits and paper scraps.

BARKHA

Yeh kya hai?

SUMI

Aapke unfinished conversations.

Barkha stares.

SUMI unfolds one note and reads.

SUMI (CONT'D)

"Main bas itna kehna chahti thi..."

She unfolds another.

SUMI (CONT'D)

"Mujhe lagta hai main is job mein..."

Another.

SUMI (CONT'D)

"Aaj main resign kar..."

Barkha goes still.

BARKHA

Aap... yeh sab?

SUMI

Har din. Aap yahan aati thi, bolna shuru karti thi.
Phir office ka call, boss ka message, phir woh
face—same face, bas thoda aur chhota.

BARKHA

Aapko kaise pata?

SUMI

Kyuki aap chai nahi, himmat lene aati thi.

A beat. Street noise hums. Kettle whistles.

BARKHA

Main bas...

SUMI

Aaj pehli baar chai ke baad mat bhaagna. Pehle apni
line complete karna.

Barkha looks at her phone. The screen shows OFFICE CALL.

She hovers. Then rejects it.

BARKHA

Main aaj resign karne wali hoon.

Sumi closes her eyes for one tiny second, smiling.

SUMI

Mujhe pata tha.

BARKHA

Kaise?

SUMI

Jo log roz chai pe aake apni zindagi ka draft chhodte hain, woh ek din final version leke aate hain.

Barkha exhales, almost emotional.

BARKHA

Toh emotional support ka charge?

SUMI

Paid ho gaya.

Sumi taps the cash box.

SUMI (CONT'D)

Boundary fee alag.

BARKHA

Kitna?

SUMI

Ek aur chai.

Barkha laughs, then sits on a stool for the first time.

BARKHA

Theek hai.

She takes a slow sip.

BARKHA (CONT'D)

Waise...

SUMI

Haan?

BARKHA

Aaj main bhaagne wali nahi hoon.

SUMI smiles, already pouring another cup.

SUMI

Good.

The kettle WHISTLES again as steam swallows the frame.

FADE OUT.