



THE WRONG BIRTHDAY CAKE

A Pure Comedy 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: Three friends gather for what Arjun believes is a surprise birthday party, but every clue suggests the celebration is for someone else. As they argue over the cake, the gift, and the missing guest of honor, they slowly realize they have all been celebrating the wrong person. The final twist lands when the apartment owner walks in and reveals the birthday was yesterday, and the real surprise is that none of them remembered his name.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Arjun (32)

LOCATION: A cramped apartment dining table at night, lit by warm ceiling light and one flickering birthday candle. The background is minimal: a sofa, a kitchen counter, and a half-decorated wall with balloons that keep slipping down.

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FADE IN:

INT. CRAMPED APARTMENT DINING AREA - NIGHT

Warm ceiling light. Ek birthday candle cake par jal rahi hai. Wall ke balloons half-decorated hain, aur dheere-dheere neeche phisal rahe hain. Sofa, kitchen counter, aur ek tiny dining table. Bas.

ARJUN (32), neat shirt, anxious smile, clipboard aur tiny party hat ke saath, table ko final inspection deta hai.

VIKRAM (34), untucked T-shirt, stubble, sofa se uthta hua, thoda lost.

IMRAN (31), stylish jacket, expressive face, gift bag ko overproudly pakde hue.

ARJUN

Okay. Perfect. Candle on. Cake centered. Balloon thoda left ko... nahi, zyada left.

VIKRAM

Bhai, cake ko center mein hi rehne de. Yeh NASA launch thodi hai.

ARJUN

Surprise hai, Vikram. Discipline chahiye.

IMRAN

(dramatically)

Surprise? Lovely. But kis ke liye?

Arjun freeze. Clipboard dekh■■ hai.

ARJUN

Guest of honor ke liye.

VIKRAM

Guest of honor kaun?

ARJUN

...Aata hi hoga.

IMRAN

Mujhe yeh dialogue suspicious lag raha hai.

Vikram cake ke paas jhukta hai.

VIKRAM

Waise cake maine laaya hai.

ARJUN

Great. Then you know whose birthday it is.

VIKRAM

Main bas cake laaya tha. Birthday details tum log sambhalo.

IMRAN

(to Arjun)

Tum clipboard leke khade ho, jaise election result announce karoge.

Arjun clipboard kholta hai. Sirf list hai.

INSERT - CLIPBOARD

Cake

Candle

Balloon

Gift

Surprise

No name.

ARJUN

...Name missing hai.

VIKRAM

Missing? Kaise missing?

IMRAN

(gasps)

Oh no.

Imran gift bag ko aur proudly chest pe chipka leta hai.

ARJUN

Tumne gift liya?

IMRAN

Obviously. Special gift.

VIKRAM

Kis ke liye?

Imran blank.

IMRAN

Emotionally, for someone important.

VIKRAM

Matlab yaad nahi.

IMRAN

Main feelings yaad rakhta hoon, names nahi.

Arjun panic mein party hat uthata hai aur Vikram ko pehna deta hai.

ARJUN

Birthday boy ko pehno.

VIKRAM

Main birthday boy hoon?

ARJUN

Ho sakta hai.

IMRAN

Nahi. Iska face "main bas khana khane aaya tha" wala hai.

VIKRAM

Aur tumhara face "main scene steal karne aaya tha" wala hai.

IMRAN

Because I did.

Balloon ek aur inch neeche phisalta hai.

ARJUN

Okay, focus. Koi toh yaad karo. Kaun hai party ka owner?

VIKRAM

Party ka owner?

IMRAN

Wait. Yeh mera flat toh nahi?

ARJUN

Nahi.

VIKRAM

Toh phir yeh kis ka flat hai?

Teeno ek dusre ko dekhte hain.

IMRAN

(slowly)

Arjun, tumne venue book kiya tha?

ARJUN

Maine? Nahi. Vikram ne bola tha "bas ghar pe kar lo."

VIKRAM

Maine bola tha? Maine toh sirf cake laaya.

IMRAN

Maine toh gift laaya. Main innocent hoon.

ARJUN

Innocent log gift bag ko aise hug nahi karte.

Candle flicker karti hai.

A DOOR OPENS OFF-SCREEN.

A tired MALE VOICE, the APARTMENT OWNER, enters from outside frame.

OWNER (O.S.)

Arre... yeh kya chal raha hai?

Teeno instantly freeze.

Arjun clipboard peeche chhupa leta hai.

Vikram party hat straight karta hai.

Imran gift bag sofa ke peeche hide karne ki koshish karta hai.

OWNER (O.S.)

Birthday toh kal tha.

Silence.

VIKRAM

Kal?

ARJUN

Wait... kal?

IMRAN

Toh aaj kiski birthday hai?

Owner finally enters frame enough to be felt, not fully seen. He looks at the cake, the candle, the balloons.

OWNER

Meri.

Beat.

ARJUN

Oh.

VIKRAM

Aaj?

OWNER

Kal.

IMRAN

(dead serious)

Then... we are one day late.

OWNER

You think?

Arjun gulps.

ARJUN

Sir, sorry. Actually... aapka naam?

All three lean in, hoping.

Beat.

OWNER

Main yahin rehta hoon. Teen saal se.

The three stare at each other.

VIKRAM

Naam yaad hai kisi ko?

IMRAN

Emotionally... no.

ARJUN

Honestly... no.

Owner stares, offended.

OWNER

Cake kaun khaayega?

Beat.

VIKRAM

Wrong birthday tha.

IMRAN

But cake right hai.

Arjun slowly removes the party hat from Vikram and puts it on the cake.

ARJUN

Officially... party still on?

Owner sighs.

OWNER

Khana khatam karo. Phir naam yaad karna.

Teeno, guilty and relieved, move toward the cake.

IMRAN

(to cake)

Happy wrong birthday.

VIKRAM

Best birthday ever.

ARJUN

Clipboard mein yeh note kar leta hoon.

Arjun looks at the clipboard.

INSERT - CLIPBOARD

Now with one new line:

"OWNER NAME: ??????"

They all stare at it.

CUT TO BLACK.

END.