



THREE CUPS OF TEA

A Emotional Drama 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: Farida invites her daughter and granddaughter for tea to discuss a family wedding, but the conversation quickly turns into a history of sacrifices no one thanked her for. Salma wants peace, Huma wants honesty, and Farida wants one apology before she dies. The tearful ending reveals that the wedding was never the real reason for the meeting—Farida is leaving town to live on her own for the first time.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Farida (70)

LOCATION: A small tea stall under a tin roof during rain, lit by gray daylight and the warm steam of boiling tea. Three stools, a counter, and the sound of rain make the space feel private despite being public.

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FADE IN:

EXT. CHAI STALL - RAINY AFTERNOON

A small tea stall under a tin roof. Gray daylight. Rain hammers the street. Steam rises from a BOILING KETTLE. Three stools. One counter. A sugar tin. A folded UMBRELLA leaning against the wall.

FARIDA (70), dignified in a wool shawl, sits on the center stool. SALMA (45), practical in a simple kurta, sits to one side. HUMA (18), in college uniform, restless, sits on the other.

A wedding invitation lies on the counter.

FARIDA

(softly)

Chai thandi ho rahi hai.

HUMA

(dry)

Baarish mein chai thandi kaise hogi, Nani?

Farida gives a tiny look. Salma suppresses a smile.

SALMA

Aapne hum dono ko yahan kyun bulaya, Amma?

Farida taps the wedding invitation with one finger.

FARIDA

Shaadi ki baat karni thi.

HUMA

Shaadi ki ya jhagda ki?

SALMA

(warning)

Huma.

HUMA

Kya? Main bas pooch rahi hoon.

Farida signals the TEA SELLER offscreen with a glance. He pours three glasses. Only the hands are seen.

FARIDA

Tum dono ko lagta hai main buddhi ho gayi hoon.

SALMA

Aisa kisne bola?

FARIDA

Tumhari aankhon ne.

A beat.

HUMA

(muttering)

Wah. Direct hit.

Farida almost smiles.

FARIDA

Yeh invitation dekho. Family mein ek aur shaadi.

(beat)

Socha, sab ek saath baith jaayen.

SALMA

Main shop bandh karke aayi hoon, Amma. Seedha bolo.

Farida takes a sip. Calm. Measured.

FARIDA

Seedha hi bol rahi hoon.

(to Salma)

Jab tu school mein thi, fees ke liye maine apni chudiyaan bechi thi.

(to Huma)

Jab tu paida hui, teri maa ne do raat bhi sahi se soya nahi.

(to Salma)

Jab teri shaadi hui, maine apna pasand ka suit drawer mein hi rakh diya.

Salma stiffens.

SALMA

Amma, ab purani baatein mat nikalo.

FARIDA

Purani?

(hurt, controlled)

Main zinda hoon, Salma. Purani baatein nahi, meri zindagi hai.

Rain intensifies. The kettle WHISTLES.

HUMA

(frustrated)

Bas karo aap dono. Har baar aisa lagta hai jaise sacrifice ka competition chal raha hai.

Salma looks at her, shocked.

SALMA

Huma!

HUMA

Kya? Sach bolna bhi gunah hai?

Farida studies Huma. Then, unexpectedly, she nods.

FARIDA

Haan.

(beat)

Sach hi toh bulaaya hai tum dono ko.

She reaches for the wedding invitation, flips it over.

FARIDA (CONT'D)

Yeh shaadi bahana tha.

Salma frowns.

SALMA

Matlab?

Farida takes a breath. For the first time, she looks slightly afraid.

FARIDA

Main kal subah town chhod rahi hoon.

Silence.

HUMA

(whispers)

Kahan?

FARIDA

Ek chhota room dekha hai. Station ke paas.

(beat)

Apne liye.

Salma blinks, unable to process.

SALMA

Akele?

FARIDA

Haan.

SALMA

Kyun?

Farida's eyes stay steady.

FARIDA

Kyunki poori zindagi sabke liye ghar banaya. Apne liye ek kona bhi nahi banaya.

Huma's eyes fill up.

HUMA

Nani...

FARIDA

Ab bas.

(gentle)

Ab thodi zindagi meri.

Salma is shaken. Her practical armor cracks.

SALMA

Aapne humse poocha kyun nahi?

FARIDA

(simple)

Kyunki tum mana kar deti.

That lands hard.

SALMA

(low)

Amma...

She can't finish.

FARIDA

Main tumse paisa nahi maang rahi. Izzat bhi nahi.

Bas... ek baar yeh sunna chahti thi ki maine jo kiya,
woh kisi ne dekha tha.

A long beat. Rain. Steam. Breathing.

HUMA wipes her cheek angrily.

HUMA

(small)

Maine dekha tha.

Farida looks at her.

HUMA (CONT'D)

Bas... bolti nahi thi.

Salma finally breaks.

SALMA

(soft, ashamed)

Amma... shayad humne aapko kabhi dekha hi nahi.

Farida's eyes well up. She turns away quickly, pretending to adjust her shawl.

FARIDA

(quiet)

Aaj dekh liya.

Salma reaches across the counter, touches Farida's hand.

SALMA

Sorry.

Farida nods once. Enough.

FARIDA

Chai aur mangwao.

Huma lets out a wet laugh through tears.

HUMA

Nani, aap sach mein bhaag rahi ho?

FARIDA

(with a glint)

Bhaag nahi rahi. Chal rahi hoon.

The three women sit in the rain-lit steam, no longer arguing.

The TEA SELLER places three fresh glasses on the counter.

Farida lifts her cup.

FARIDA (CONT'D)

Pehli chai meri taraf se.

Salma and Huma exchange a look, then lift theirs.

They drink.

The rain continues, but the stall feels warmer now.

FADE OUT.

THE END.