

TEA FOR TERROR

By

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Cast of Characters

Samantha: Habitual Tea drinker. First time at TTA. On edge ready to snap at any moment.

Tina: In control most of the time. Been with TTA for some time but still craves Tea.

Rebecca: Recovering tea drinker runs the group. Stable.

Detective McQueen: Down to earth. All business dealt with Tea drinker before. A coffee drinker when not on the job.

Uniformed Cop: The new guy on the job. A bit green. Likes the occasional earl grey but not addicted

LIGHTS UP

A small group of three women are sitting in an empty hall There names are Samantha (Sam)Tina and Rebecca.

SAM

Good evening ladies. I trust you're all feeling well ?

General murmur of acknowledgment.

SAM (cont'd)

We have a new member in the group today. Her name is Rebecca .

REBECCA

Hello

Rebecca shyly nods..

SAM

Rebecca, is there something you'd like to share with the group ?

REBECCA

(Shy)I'm not really...I don't know.

SAM

It's okay. No one is hear to judge you. We're here to help in any way we can.

REBECCA

Reluctant)I don't know what to say.

SAM

Let's just start with your name and why you are here.

REBECCA

Okay, hello. My name is Rebecca. And... I'm a Tea totaller addict.

Everyone claps and encourages her.

SAM

Admitting to your addiction is the first step to curing it.

Rebecca is embarrassed and uncomfortable about the attention..

TINA

I used to drink sixty cups a day. I just couldn't stop.

SAM

My favourite was Earl Grey. I would drink it constantly. I resorted to holding up Convenience stores so I could pay for the top of the line brand.

TINA

One time my tea pot broke. I was horrified. The shops were closed and I didn't even have tea bags. I had a seizure and I was in a coma for a month. It's ruined my life. My husband left me. I was fired from my job. My pets won't talk to me. And for what ? That full bodied taste of finely grounded Ceylon leaf that refreshes and fills me with such soothing warm...Oh God I need a cup of tea.

SAM

No, Tina. Look at me. Get a grip.

TINA

I need tea. Milk and two sugars. *SAM grabs*

Tina.

SAM

Tina ! Tina, what do we do when we hear the T word.

TINA

Biscuits. Must have Chocolate biscuits with it.

SAM

Tina, what do we do. Come on, you remember?

TINA

(timid) We count cute fluffy animals.

SAM

Good Girl.

TINA

(With difficulty) One cute fluffy bunny. Two cute fluffy bunnies, Three cute fluffy bunnies, four cute fluffy bunnies. FIVE CUTE FLUFFY BUNNIES.

SAM

Good. Now how do you feel ?

TINA

Better. Thank-you, Doctor.

SAM

You're welcome.

Rebecca looks at the clock anxiously. It is nearly four O'clock, afternoon tea time.

TINA

First time without afternoon tea ? *Rebecca nods.*

TINA (cont'd)

First time's always the hardest.

SAM

Don't worry. It takes a while for the cravings to stop. Sometimes weeks.

REBECCA

I'm fine.

TINA

MY first time, I had to lock the kettle away with a padlock on the cupboard.

SAM

I was only allowed to drink beer for a week.

TINA

My wife threatened to put my hands in a vice if I went any where near the tea pot.

REBECCA

I'm okay, really. More beers, anyone ?

SAM

I'm fine thanks,

TINA

I'll have another stubby if you're getting one.

Rebecca grabs the empties and goes to the kitchen. The others watch her. They think she is cracking Rebecca takes a couple of stubbies from the fridge. She sees the kettle sitting on the sink. She looks at the kitchen clock it is a couple of minutes past four. She feels the craving. She picks up the kettle and plugs it in. She struggles to resist turning it on. Her hands shake, she breaks into a sweat and her jaw quivers. She goes to the cupboard and grabs a teapot.

SAM

STOP !

TINA

Rebecca, put the tea pot back

REBECCA

I can't help it.

TINA

Yes you can.

REBECCA

I need my earl grey.

SAM

No, you don't. Grab another stubbie from the fridge.

REBECCA

NO! I want my earl grey.

TINA

It's not there. It was thrown out yesterday, remember.

REBECCA

(desperate)NO !

She pulls apart the contents of the cupboard. The group take her away from it. She struggles.