



## **Synopsis — *The Vine That Withers***

Dalia and Layal are trying to build something stable.

Inside Waraq Enab Café, a small Toronto café, the two women work to create a life that looks independent, respectable, and secure. But in a city where starting over never really ends, effort is not always enough. The café becomes more than a business. It is proof that they are still capable, still moving forward, still holding on to the versions of themselves they believe they are.

Dalia carries the grief of an interrupted life. She came to Canada believing her story would continue, only to find herself pushed into a reality that does not reflect the person she knows herself to be. Layal, more pragmatic and survival-driven, sees stability as something that must be protected at almost any cost. Their different needs pull them toward the same dangerous question: what are they willing to do to stay afloat?

When an opportunity appears through a youth subsidy program, what begins as a practical solution slowly blurs into something harder to justify. Dalia and Layal make a choice they once might have questioned. Then another. As pressure builds, small compromises begin to feel necessary. Then normal. Then unavoidable.

Around them, Kamal and Rami become witnesses to the cost of those choices. Their presence forces the women to confront what is being protected, what is being used, and what is being lost. The café, once a symbol of possibility, becomes a pressure cooker where ambition, dignity, loyalty, and self-image collide.

*The Vine That Withers* is an intimate, character-driven drama about survival, identity, and the compromises people make to hold on to who they believe they are. Rooted in lived experience and moral ambiguity, the play asks what happens when the need to save face, succeed, or simply keep going begins to reshape the very self a person is trying to protect.