# SCRIPT – NINA AND TAJ

***COFFEE SHOP***

***INT (NIGHT)***

*7:50pm, Nina and Taj, oblivious to anyone but each other, are still sitting finishing their meals.*

**Nina** Have you ever ready any James Joyce?

**Taj** *Uncertain…* He wrote Ulysses, didn’t he?

*Nina nods.*

**Taj** I started it but I didn’t get too far.

**Nina** Nor did I. I’ll lend you Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man. You’ll like it, I think. It’s full of opium dens and bawdy wenches.

**Taj** Sounds good.

*A pause.*

**Taj** What’ll I lend you? *Thinking…* Well, there is this one thing. It’s a comic, but don’t condemn it till you see it. The artwork is amazing. No opium dens, but there are a couple of shady underworld types…

*Nina smiles, charmed.*

**Nina** Sounds great. *Pause…* Hey, you know how I owe you a movie?

**Taj** How could I forget?

**Nina** Well what about next weekend? There’s a new… movie coming out.

*Taj’s face falls, as he remembers why he’s not free that weekend.*

**Taj** Um, actually that might be a bit of a stretch… Allie arrives next weekend.

*Nina is a bit taken aback.*

**Nina** That’s going to take up the whole weekend…?

**Taj** If my mum has her way, yes. Basically I’ve been as good as grounded. Can we do it another time?

*Nina tries to make light of the situation.*

**Nina** Is this one of those things where your mum loves your ex-girlfriend and thinks she was the one that got away and wishes you’d never broken up with her?

*Not seeing that Nina is just making a joke, Taj is defensive.*

**Taj** Of course not. She just wants me to help her settle in, alright? I thought you were cool about this.

**Nina** I thought you were too. I was kidding. It’s fine. We can see a movie whenever.

*There is an awkward beat, Taj regretting his momentary flare up. Then, he leans over impulsively and kisses Nina.*

**Taj** I’ll make it up to you I promise. Name anything you want.