

YOUSSIF. Why?

AHMED. Why, Hadeel?

(Knocking on the door.)

(HADEEL opens. BANA enters.)

BANA. Hi.

ALL. Hi.

HADEEL. Where were you?

(Pause.)

BANA. Is it on?

AHMED. Not yet.

BANA. Good. Excuse me.

YOUSSIF. Bana...

(BANA goes to the bathroom. They wait.)

AHMED. What's going on?

YOUSSIF. I don't know.

HADEEL. I think I know.

AHMED. What do you know?

YOUSSIF. What?

HADEEL. Wait.

AHMED. What?

HADEEL. Should we knock?

(BANA returns.)

YOUSSIF. Are you OK?

(Pause.)

What's wrong?

BANA. What's wrong? I kissed someone.

YOUSSIF. What?

BANA. I kissed someone. A kiss.

YOUSSIF. Bana...

START

BANA. What do you care so much? What do you care about me? You weren't so upset when you were dumping me last night. You said that you were going away forever

to work. That you were leaving me to work in Dubai. Yes. But now I think that's just a big, big lie. You lied to my face. You prepared me a cup of tea and you talked all nice and then you hit me with the news that you have to travel? Forever? Go away? Forever? You're not going anywhere. I know. You're staying here. Because there's another woman. I know it. But don't worry. I know you're leaving me but I won't die without you. I won't. But after all these years together I had hoped... Everyone knows that there's a right way to break up, Youssif. If you want to break someone's heart, first you have to become distant and weird so one knows something is wrong and only then, after a few months of that you can stab the knife. The knife called truth. I cheated on you. I don't love you anymore. That's how you do it. But you can't wake me up in the middle of the night and tell me that you want to leave me because you got a job forever in Dubai. It's heartless. And cruel. And I can't believe that's the real reason you are killing me, because until yesterday I was sure you were in love with me. I saw it in your eyes. Which means that I, that I don't know what love is anymore. I'm broken. You damaged me forever. But it's not only my bleeding heart that hurts, it's also my eyes. Now I'm blind. Now I can't see love and beauty.

END

YOUSSIF. Did you kiss someone?

BANA. I did.

YOUSSIF. How?

HADEEL. Youssif...

AHMED. (*To YOUSSIF.*) Please don't do this...

BANA. My body hurts. My legs. Breathing hurts. I would love to just go to the hospital. Walk in, lay down and say... Undress me. Talk to me. Feed me. Inject me. Give me that plastic bag with the tiny drops. Let me have more blue pills. The red pills. The white. The red and white. The little green ones. The red. Let me press the button. Let me ask for morphine. Let me watch my soap opera. I'm in it. I can tell you how it ends. They get