

Northern law

SAMPLE SCRIPT

FADE IN:

CLOSE UP:

A pen taps on a wooden desk. Irritated, discordant, a drum roll of frustration

INT- COURT 3, GUILD CROWN COURT- DAY.

NORTH sits tapping the pen, bored, frustrated.

BECCA the CPS clerk sits up on a desk behind him. Across the bench, a conceited defence barrister, LIONEL ROXBURGH, glares in irritation. ASHRAM KHAN, a friendly barrister between jobs, sits next to Becca.

ROXBURGH
Will you stop that?

KHAN
Mr. North has a nervous twitch,
Mr. Roxburgh. It happens when the
jury's out (beat)

North gives Khan a quizzical look- he's covering again

KHAN (CONT'D)
Or when he's thinking

NORTH
I could stop...

ROXBURGH
-But?

NORTH
I'd have to find something else
to annoy you

The pen tapping intensifies, and now North pounds the table with his other hand like a demented drummer. Roxburgh simpers at Becca like a slug on a rose.

ROXBURGH
Doesn't he annoy you, dear lady?

KHAN
He annoys me...

BECCA
I thought you liked him?

KHAN

I drew the short straw

BECCA

How many chambers before yours?

Khan holds up four fingers so only she can see.

BECCA (CONT'D)

Friend or watchdog?

KHAN

Some days it feels like both

ROXBURGH

I'm glad its not just me who
finds him annoying!

BECCA

My boyfriend's worse.

NORTH

-At annoying people? Worse than
me? I'm insulted!

BECCA

For drumming!

NORTH

Long hair, beer stained T-shirt,
lives with mum; can't see it.
(preens) You need someone tall,
proud, intelligent...

BECCA

Wearing a wig?

NORTH

I have real hair.

BECCA

From your nose?

NORTH

What does he do? He's not in a
tribute band is he? 90's hits in
social clubs? Shoot me!

KHAN

I've tried!

BECCA

He doesn't play drums in a band.

NORTH

Unambitious...

BECCA
He plays them at home!

NORTH
Annoys the neighbors? Promising!