

LEARNING BY EAR

**“DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE – THE HIGH THAT BRINGS YOU
LOW”**

EPISODE 5: “The High that Brings You Low”

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List of characters by scene:

SCENE ONE: PROTEST MARCH BY WOMEN AT THE POLICE STATION

- Inspector Tino (m, 40)
- Beri (f, 35)
- Woman (f, 45)
- 4-5 Women (f, 18-50)

SCENE TWO: JABALI AND CHAMBO OUTSIDE LIMBI HIGH SCHOOL

- Jabali (m, 18)
- Chambo (m, 30)

SCENE THREE: OKOSHO AND ZULA AT BAMJU'S HOUSE

- Zula (m, 18)
- Okosho (m, 18)
- Bamju (m, 40)
- 2 ladies (w, 16-30)

SCENE FOUR: BERI AND PUYANGA AT HOME

- Beri (f, 35)
- Puyanga (m, 50)

Narrator (m/f)

INTRO:

Hello and welcome to yet another episode of Learning by Ear. We're on the fifth instalment of our continuing story about drugs and substance abuse called “**The High that Brings You Low**”. Just to recap, for those who are joining us for the first time: in our last episode, Okosho and Zula were recruited by Bamju to sell drugs to young people. Youth worker Chambo gave a brief talk on substance abuse at Limbi High School, with Jabali, a close friend of Okosho and Zula, in the audience. And a large consignment of drugs arrived for Puyanga, the husband of police commissioner Beri. Things are hotting up. Since then two weeks have gone by – so where are all our characters now? Find out in today's episode called “**The Highs and Lows.**” We start off with an unusual protest in front of the police station.

SCENE ONE: PROTEST MARCH BY WOMEN AT THE POLICE STATION

1. **SFX: POLICE SIRENS RING THROUGH THE AIR**
2. **WOMEN:** **(A chorus of chanting)** We want our husbands back!
3. **INSP. TINO:** **(talking though a megaphone)** Women of Chunga Sana, what you are requesting is not possible. All the men who are being held in here have broken the law one way or another.
4. **WOMAN:** Officer, who said anything about the criminals in your cells? Our grievances are with our own men, who have denied us our marital rights!
5. **WOMEN:** **(Same chorus of chants and ululations)**
6. **INSP. TINO:** I beg your pardon?
7. **WOMAN:** **(with emphasis)** Our husbands have become completely useless, thanks to the local brew. All they do is sit around and drink alcohol, and when they come home they don't even notice that we exist, let alone fulfil their marital duties.
8. **INSP. TINO:** Those are domestic issues. We don't interfere with --

9. **WOMAN:** **(interrupting)** This is all your fault! You have failed to arrest the people who sell illegal alcohol. Now our sons are copying their fathers!
10. **(WOMEN GRIEVE AND WAIL LOUDLY)**
11. **INSP. TINO:** **(defeated)** Madam Beri, please take over... I don't know what else to say.
12. **BERI:** **(takes megaphone and shouts emotionally)** We want our husbands back!
13. **WOMEN:** **(CHANT RISES SEVERAL TIMES)**
14. **INSP. TINO:** **(shocked)** Commissioner Beri!
15. **NARRATOR:** Inspector Tino can't believe his eyes. His senior officer Beri has joined the women protesters! But who can blame her? She's experiencing the same pain as these women, watching her husband turn into an alcoholic. Meanwhile, Okosho and Zula are suddenly living a different lifestyle, thanks to the money they've got by selling drugs to students and young people. What they don't realize is that they, too, are becoming addicted to the heroin they're selling. First, though, let's join Jabali, who has just been to a second lecture on drugs at his former high school, and has followed Chambo out.

SCENE TWO: JABALI AND CHAMBO OUTSIDE LIMBI HIGH SCHOOL

16. SFX: HIGH SCHOOL AMBIENCE IN BACKGROUND

17. JABALI: (calling out) Hey, Chambo! Wait a minute.

18. CHAMBO: I remember you... Aren't you one of the boys who were thrown out of Club 2000 recently? You and your two friends?

19. JABALI: Oh, don't even remind me about that night. Chambo, I don't know what they gave me. I simply didn't know who I was, where I was, or what time it was. It's like my whole brain went blank.

20. CHAMBO: Well, that's what drugs do to the brain. They change the way the brain normally works and interfere with your ability to think clearly, see clearly, exercise good judgement, or even control your behaviour.

21. JABALI: Well, I've certainly learned my lesson. But we need to help my friends. I grew up with them – I've known them all my life. I don't want to see them go down this road.

- 22. CHAMBO:** Wanting to help them quit drugs is one thing. But they have to decide for themselves. I remember many times when I sat down alone and felt so bad, so guilty, so hopeless. I prayed and cried about my drug problem. But you know what? I still found myself going back for more.
- 23. JABALI:** After smoking marijuana and drinking alcohol, I felt like all my problems had been solved. I felt calm, relaxed even. But after a few hours... my gosh! It was terrible.
- 24. CHAMBO:** Drug addiction often starts with experimentation. You do it because your friends are doing it. Some do it because it's seen as cool, others to escape problems in their lives. Initially, getting high can make things seem better, so you end up doing it more and more often. That's how you become addicted. You're lucky that you realized this early on. Many people end up dead, or hospitalized; they might suffer permanent injury, or family break-up.
- 25. JABALI:** **(takes a deep breath)** Is there no way of helping Okosho and Zula? I'm so afraid of losing them.

- 26. CHAMBO:** I'm sorry - I've only given you the bad news, haven't I. The good news is that drug addiction is treatable. With support and treatment you can go back to a healthy life. Look at me - I'm living proof! But that's just one way of tackling the problem. We also need to stop the supply of drugs so they become less easily available, and we need to inform people about the dangers of drugs and substance abuse. That's what I'm doing.
- 27. JABALI:** **(enthusiastic)** Do you need a volunteer? I've just finished my exams, and I'm still waiting to go to college.
- 28. CHAMBO:** That's wonderful! Welcome to Youth Watch. Let's meet at my office tomorrow morning. You should know it - it's the Chunga Sana bus stop.
- 29. JABALI:** **(laughs out loud)** You're so funny, Chambo.
- 30. CHAMBO:** **(serious tone)** That wasn't a joke! I'll see you there tomorrow.

31. NARRATOR: And so Jabali is left standing, with more questions on his mind than answers. He’s just learned so much from Chambo, in such a short time, about substance abuse. How can it be that a worthy organization like his doesn’t even have an office? Little does Jabali know that, just a few blocks away, Okosho and Zula are on their way to the house of the drug dealer Bamju, to bring him the day’s takings.

SCENE THREE: OKOSHO AND ZULA AT BAMJU'S HOUSE

32. BAMJU: So how was it today?

33. OKOSHO: This stuff is going so quickly... Soon we’ll be millionaires!

34. SFX: BAMJU COUNTS NOTES AND COINS ON THE TABLE (STUDIO)

35. BAMJU: Good work, boys. Today I have a present for you, in addition to your salary. A little bonus, so to speak.
(shouts out) Ladies! Come on out!

36. (TWO LADIES GIGGLING AND MUMBLING)

37. BAMJU: So, what do you think?

- 38. OKOSHO:** (shy and embarrassed) Eh... eh, I don't know...
What do you think, Zula?
- 39. ZULA:** I tink de ladies are cool, man!
- 40. BAMJU:** Good! Ladies, please come and join us. Let me get the syringes ready. Let's all have a bit of brown sugar before we start to party, and it'll feel like we're in heaven.
- 41. NARRATOR:** This is the life that Okosho and Zula have plunged themselves into. A life full of risk, that can only lead to one thing: tragedy. But will Jabali and Chambo manage to rescue them in time? Or is it already too late? The story continues... Meanwhile, at home that evening, Beri can contain herself no longer. She decides she has to confront her husband, Puyanga.

SCENE FOUR: BERI AND PUYANGA AT HOME

- 42. SFX: TV SET ON IN THE BACKGROUND - A FOOTBALL MATCH**
- 43. BERI:** Puyanga. I need to talk to you.
- 44. SFX: DRINK BEING Poured INTO A GLASS (studio)**

45. **PUYANGA:** Then talk. I’m listening.
46. **BERI:** **(emotional)** No, you are NOT! The TV is on, and you are still drinking. For once, please respect *me* more than that bottle of alcohol.
47. **SFX: TV SET TURNED OFF AND REMOTE PUT ON THE TABLE**
48. **PUYANGA:** Okay. This had better be good!
49. **BERI:** Believe me, my dear husband, this is not good at all. Today I joined a protest organized by women from Chunga Sana.
50. **PUYANGA:** **(acting bored)** Okay...where are you going with this? Get to the point, Beri, I want to watch the football.
51. **BERI:** Two weeks ago I was going through our drawers, and I found a shipment order in your name, for unspecified goods. I’ve been a police officer long enough to know that shipments like that are always one of two things: either it’s a shipment for the military, or the cargo is illegal.

52. **PUYANGA:** Is that so? (**sarcastic**) And what else did you discover, Miss Bond?
53. **BERI:** What shocked me the most was the packet attached to the shipping order. I had some tests done on the contents, and they've confirmed that it's heroin. I could have arrested you some time ago, but I want you to confess to me first.
54. **PUYANGA:** Confess to you? Beri, what are you? A priest? Listen - how do you think you got promoted to police chief? This thing is big. It goes way beyond you and me. So I advise you to let it go, turn a blind eye. Otherwise we'll both be in trouble.
55. **BERI:** (**shocked**) Are you saying that you or someone else is responsible for my promotion? That I didn't deserve it?
56. **PUYANGA:** Oh, come on, Beri, don't be naive. We put you there because you're my wife. With you as police chief, we knew our business wouldn't be jeopardized.

57. **BERI:** We? Who is *we*? How dare you call drug trafficking a business? Don't you know the damage this is doing to our people?
58. **PUYANGA:** No one forces them to take drugs! They do it because they want to.
59. **BERI:** No! Not because they want to - because they can't control themselves! You give them the taste for it, and they become dependent, they become addicts. You should know that better than anyone. You can't stay away from your alcohol.
60. **PUYANGA:** **(threatening)** Now you've crossed the line!
61. **BERI:** **(firmly)** And you have broken the law! Puyanga, I am arresting you on suspicion of trafficking illegal drugs.
62. **PUYANGA:** **(laughing sarcastically)** You can't be serious.
63. **BERI:** I'm absolutely serious. I've already taken photos of the shipping order, and I've just recorded this whole conversation on my phone.

64. PUYANGA: Are you really arresting your own husband?

65. BERI: No. I am arresting a criminal suspected of drug trafficking. Now, are you coming voluntarily? Or do you want me to handcuff you?

OUTRO:

Puyanga slowly put down his drink and followed Beri to the police station. But will his arrest be enough to put a stop to the local drug trade? How will Bamju, Okosho and Zula react to the news? And what about Chambo and Jabali? The story has only just begun... To find out what happens next, don't miss next instalment of our radio novella. And if you want to listen to this episode again, or to any previous ones on drugs and other topics, visit dwworld.de/ibe. Until next time, take care and bye bye.