

LEARNING BY EAR

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

EPISODE 8: “Whistleblower”

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List of characters by scene:

SCENE ONE: CHUNGA SANA, ON A STREET CORNER

- Bamju (m, 40)
- Okosho (m, 18)

SCENE TWO: AT THE LOCAL PRESS OFFICE

- Beri (f, 45)
- Mugo (m, 40)

SCENE THREE: OKOSHO'S ROOM

- Zula (m, 18)
- Jabali (m, 18)

SCENE FOUR: OUTSIDE BERI'S HOME

- **Beri (f, 45)**
- **Minister Kafegi (m, 55)**
- **Inspector Tino (m, 40)**

SCENE FIVE: AT CHUNGA SANA BUS STOP

- **Zula (m, 18)**
- **Jabali (m, 18)**

Narrator (m/f)

INTRO:

Hello there, welcome to Learning by Ear. We are on the eighth episode of our drugs and substance abuse story, “**The High that Brings You Low**”. In our last episode, Jabali rescued his friend Zula from an angry mob. Police Commissioner Beri got a phone call from the Interior Minister Kafegi, who gave her the shocking news that she was suddenly being transferred. Where will the story take us next? Find out in today's episode, called “**Whistleblower**”. It opens on the same street in Chunga Sana where Jabali has just convinced the mob to pardon Zula. But Zula wasn't alone when he tried to rob his former school principal, Mrs. Chacha. Okosho got away with her bag, and the money that was in it, and he's now standing on a street corner, negotiating with Bamju.

SCENE ONE: CHUNGA SANA, ON A STREET CORNER

1. **SFX: LIGHT TRAFFIC AND HOOTING FROM A DISTANCE**
2. **OKOSHO:** **(shocked)** What! 500? No way, Bamju! It used to be only 250.
3. **BAMJU:** Things have changed. Supply and demand.
4. **OKOSHO:** **(cursing, aside)** Well, I wish we'd known. Zula and I would be driving cars by now. Okay. Give me one sachet. Here's your money.
5. **SFX: HANDBAG WITH ZIPPER BEING OPENED**

6. **BAMJU:** I don't have change. Why don't you take two sachets for a thousand?
7. **OKOSHO:** Actually, give me four. I have two thousand.
8. **BAMJU:** Wow! Okay. Where did you get the cash, Okosho? Eh? Go slow, though - this is heavy stuff, you know. Are you having a party?
9. **OKOSHO:** No, this is just for me and Zula; if he's still alive, that is.
10. **BAMJU:** What did you just say?
11. **OKOSHO:** Never mind. Just give me the stuff.
12. **NARRATOR:** It's always heartbreaking to see the effects of drugs and other substances on their abusers. As well as damaging their health, substance abuse completely disconnects the user from reality. The only thing that matters to them is the next “high”. Okosho has already reached that point. Where is this going to lead? Meanwhile, police commissioner Beri, after getting the call from Minister Kafegi, quickly sat down, drafted a letter, cleared her desk, and left the letter on top. But where can she run to? Beri knows there's only one place she can turn.

SCENE TWO: BERI AT THE LOCAL PRESS OFFICE

13. SFX: BUSY WORKING OFFICE AMBIENCE

14. MUGO: Hello. I’m Mr. Mugo, the Editor-in-Chief of “The Voice” newspaper. Please come through to my office.

15. SFX: DOOR OPENED THEN CLOSED

16. MUGO: Have a seat. Do you mind if I smoke?

17. BERI: Yes, I do mind! Mr. Mugo, you have a sign right outside your door saying smoking is not permitted in this office.

18. MUGO: Yeah, well, you know, that’s just company policy. But once in a while, you know, to help deal with the stress at work, and to relax a bit...

19. BERI: That’s the kind of attitude that’s got us where we are today. But are you going to listen to my story?

20. MUGO: Of course, of course. I’m very interested to hear it. But before we start, please tell me one thing. If you have substantial evidence that high-profile people in government are connected with the drug trade, why don’t you just arrest them and let the courts deal with it?

21. **BERI:** After all that’s happened, I don’t trust anyone.
22. **MUGO:** What about me? You know very well that our media company is partly owned by politicians in our government.
23. **BERI:** I’m aware of that. But I came to you because I remember you as a young journalist demonstrating in the streets for the freedom of the press. I believe in the same principles.
24. **MUGO:** **(thoughtful)** I’m very glad to hear it. Yes ... those were tough times. All right...
25. **SFX: PAGE FLIPPED AND PEN SCRIBBLING ON PAPER (studio)**
26. **MUGO:** I’m ready when you are.
27. **NARRATOR:** Beri takes Mugo through the whole story step by step, giving him all the details of the drugs conspiracy. Mugo takes pages of notes, stopping only occasionally to ask a question or clarify a point. While Beri is telling the story to the press, on the main street of Chunga Sana Jabali has taken Zula to a public dispensary, to get treatment for his deep cuts and bruises. Zula has now been discharged, and he and Jabali have gone to search for Okosho, to talk to him and get back Mrs. Chacha’s handbag.

SCENE THREE: OKOSHO'S ROOM

28. SFX: NOISE OF A BUSY STREET IN THE BACKGROUND

29. JABALI: Zula, are you sure this is the place you two rented?

30. ZULA: Yes. Dis be place. I know it because I planted dis weed plant here.

31. JABALI: **(shocked)** My goodness! It really is a weed plant. What were you thinking, Zula? Do you know what trouble you'll be in if the police find this? **(sighs deeply)** Okay, first things first.. Let's see if Okosho is in.

32. SFX: SEVERAL KNOCKS ON DOOR

33. ZULA: He is inside. Maybe he's knocked out.

34. JABALI: You mean he's high? Boy! What happened to you two? Okay, we'll have to force our way in. We can't wait.

35. SFX: DOOR PUSHED OPEN BY FORCE

36. **JABALI:** **(disgusted)** Fyuuu! What in the world is that smell? Puuuu... And why is this place so dark? How do you two survive here? When was the last time you cleaned this place? And when was the last time you took a bath?
37. **ZULA:** I don't know. Honestly, I don't remember because most of the time I've been high.
38. **JABALI:** What?... **(calls out)** Okosho, where are you? It's Jabali and Zula. **(pause)** Seems like he's not here.
39. **ZULA:** He is here. He's on the bed.
40. **JABALI:** There's a bed? Where? Oh, I see it now... I see... Oh my God! **(in panic)** Okosho! Okosho! Wake up!
41. **ZULA:** **(trembling voice)** Oh no... Oh no... He... he took *four!*
42. **JABALI:** Four? What are you talking about? What four did he take?
43. **ZULA:** **(almost breaking down in tears)** There are four empty sachets of heroin. Usually we split one between two of us. I think Okosho has taken an overdose. He's... Look... He's dead.

44. **JABALI:** **(confused and shocked)** Dead? No! What heroin? Zula, what are you saying?
45. **ZULA:** We're too late. He's gone, Jabali. Our friend Okosho is gone. **(now weeping)**
46. **JABALI:** **(also breaking down in tears)** Okosho...! You can't be dead. Wake up!... *Nooooo!*
47. **NARRATOR:** Jabali calls the police and emergency services, who confirm that Okosho has died of an overdose of heroin. It often happens that substance abusers don't really know what they're taking. It may be a stronger dose than they're used to; or the dealers may have diluted the drug with other poisonous chemicals, like bleach. This is another reason why many people die or sustain permanent injuries, like blindness, after taking illegal substances. The day after Okosho's death, the newspapers are filled with scandalous headlines: “The country's drug lords” - “Top leaders accused of drug trafficking” - “Are we losing the war on drugs?”. Beri is just buying her copy when she's startled by a phone call.

SCENE FOUR: OUTSIDE BERI'S HOME

48. SFX: MOBILE PHONE RINGING

49. BERI: **(answers call)** Good morning, Beri speaking. Who is this?

50. HON. KAFEGI: **(furious, threatening)** Who do you think? It's Minister Kafegi! Is this how you repay me? How you repay your government?

51. BERI: You left me no choice, Minister. I've quit my job. But I'm proud of what I've done. If you're not guilty, then you have nothing to worry about. I didn't do this for myself; I did it for the many young men and women whose lives have been ruined by drugs.

52. HON. KAFEGI: I have spent my whole life fighting crime and insecurity in this country. There is an ongoing investigation into drug trafficking and prevention which I started. Why didn't you say anything about that?

53. BERI: Minister Kafegi, how can a thief arrest himself? I have been a police officer; I know that these investigations are just a ploy to hoodwink everyone into believing that something is being done. How long has your investigation been going on now? Two years? Three?
(Silence)

- 54. HON. KAFEGI:** Listen to me. If I have to resign as a result of this scandal, or if, God forbid, I am summoned to appear in court, I swear by my mother's grave, I will make you pay!
- 55. BERI:** It's too late for threats now, Minister. Everything is out in the open. On print, in the electronic media, on social networks on the internet... You know what that means, don't you? The whole world has its eyes on this case.
- 56. HON. KAFEGI:** And I have my eyes on you!
- 57. SFX: MOBILE PHONE CALL DISCONNECTED WITH BEEPING SOUND**
- 58. BERI:** Dear me! How did I end up in this mess? Oh - I need to check on Tino.
- 59. SFX: MOBILE PHONE NUMBER BEING DIALLED**
- 60. BERI:** Good morning, Tino. How's your first day after resigning?
- 61. INSP. TINO:** Bad. I miss my job, and I've vowed that I won't rest until I bring Bamju in. But after you resigned, I knew I had to do the same.

- 62. BERI:** You know, you can still go back. By the way, have you seen the papers?
- 63. INSP. TINO:** No, why? What happened? Are we sending the first African to the moon?
- 64. BERI:** **(laughs)** No... even better! Go and get a copy.
- 65. NARRATOR:** For the first time in many weeks, Beri laughs and jokes with her former colleague, Tino. But will Minister Kafegi's threat come true? Let's listen on... Jabali has a lot to talk to Chambo about this morning. He convinces Zula to come with him to their usual office, the Chunga Sana bus stop. But when they get there...

SCENE FIVE: AT CHUNGA SANA BUS STOP

66. SFX: BUSES AND VAN ENGINES REVVING

- 67. JABALI:** I still can't believe Okosho is gone. And in such a horrible way.
- 68. ZULA:** I would have been dead, too, if it weren't for you. Thank you for rescuing me. I owe you my life.
- 69. JABALI:** No, Zula. We're friends. That's what friends do. When Chambo comes, he can tell you more about getting clean, and how to stay free of drugs. I wonder why he's late. It's not his style.

70. ZULA: Maybe they kidnapped him. These people are bad, Jabali. They'd kill anyone who stood in their way.

71. JABALI: **(worried)** Goodness me! I hope you're wrong, Zula. Chambo is the only one I know who's really fighting the drug trade head on.

OUTRO

Jabali is suddenly frightened by the thought that his new-found mentor may have been kidnapped, or even murdered. But does he have reason to be afraid? What has happened to Chambo? Will Zula agree to go to the rehab clinic? How about Beri and Tino - have we seen the last of them? Hon. Kizito will soon be back from his trip abroad. How will he be received at home, with all the charges made against him? For this and much more... don't forget to listen in again next week. And visit dwworld.com/le to catch up on previous episodes. Stay safe.