

LEARNING BY EAR

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

EPISODE 6: “Repercussions”

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List of characters by scene:

SCENE ONE: AT THE POLICE STATION

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

SCENE TWO: MORNING AT CHUNGA SANA BUS STOP

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

SCENE THREE: OKOSHO AND ZULA AT BAMJU'S

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

SCENE FOUR: CHAMBO AND JABALI AT THE REHAB CENTRE

- Jabali (m, 18)
- Chambo (m, 30)
- Jane (f, 35)

SCENE FIVE: AT THE POLICE STATION

- Beri (f, 45)

Narrator (m/f)

INTRO:

Greetings and welcome to Learning by Ear. We are on the sixth episode of our drugs and substance abuse story called “**The High that Brings You Low**”. In the last episode, women from Chunga Sana were protesting, saying that their husbands had been made “useless” by alcohol. To the utter amazement of Inspector Tino, they were joined by Police Commissioner Beri. Not long afterwards, Beri’s husband Puyang, who is suspected of drug trafficking, was arrested by none other than his own wife. Jabali has volunteered to help Chambo in his Youth Watch initiative that encourages young people to stay away from drugs and offers counselling for addicts. Meanwhile, Jabali’s friends Okosho and Zula are enjoying what seems to be the good life. But how long will this go on? Let’s find out in today’s episode, which is all about “**Repercussions**”. We start off with a desperate phone call from the criminal Bamju, who doesn’t yet know that Puyanga has been arrested.

SCENE ONE: AT THE POLICE STATION

1. BERI: (tough and firm voice) Inspector Tino! Do you have all of Puyanga's personal belongings?

2. INSP. TINO: Yes, Chief. It seems your husband is a very rich man, but how he got rich is unclear.

3. BERI: Please, Inspector, stop referring to him as my husband. He is now an official suspect in...

4. SFX: MOBILE PHONE RINGING

- 5. BERI:** (hurriedly) That’s his phone! I know that ringtone. Quick - check who’s calling, but don't answer the call.
- 6. INSP. TINO:** Bamju calling! What did I tell you – I knew he was dealing drugs. I’ve been trying to catch him for ages. What shall I do?
- 7. BERI:** End the call. We need to think clearly about what to do next.
- 8. INSP. TINO:** I am so sorry about all this, Beri. But you are truly what the police force is all about. I salute your courage.
- 9. BERI:** Oh, stop feeling sorry for me! You need to go out now and stop our people from destroying themselves by buying and using these drugs.
- 10. SFX: SAME MOBILE PHONE RINGING AGAIN**
- 11. INSP. TINO:** Bamju again. He must be getting impatient.
- 12. NARRATOR:** True, Bamju is not only getting impatient, he’s getting nervous as well. He needs more drugs. Business is booming – so why can’t he reach Puyanga? Meanwhile, the same morning, at the Chunga Sana bus stop, Jabali finds Chambo already waiting for him.

SCENE TWO: MORNING AT CHUNGA SANA BUS STOP

13. SFX: BUS STOP AMBIENCE, MORNING

14. CHAMBO: Your first day, and you're late for work.

15. JABALI: I'm sorry. Good morning.

16. CHAMBO: Morning to you. Are you sure you're ready for this? It's not going to be an easy day, I can promise you.

17. JABALI: It's all right, I'm ready. What are we doing today?

18. CHAMBO: I have a counselling session with drug addicts at the rehabilitation centre, then a meeting with the centre leaders, and afterwards I'll be doing my usual rounds.

19. JABALI: **(takes a deep breath)** Okay. Let's do this.

20. NARRATOR: Many efforts are being made, but Africa still lags behind when it comes to taking care of drug addicts and rehabilitating them. There's still a need for trained counsellors, facilities, treatment and therapies to cope with the rising numbers of drug and substance abusers. Even Chambo has had little formal training. But first, let's see how Okosho and Zula take some bad news.

SCENE THREE: OKOSHO AND ZULA AT BAMJU'S

21. SFX: HEAVY BANGING ON A TABLE (studio)

22. OKOSHO: **(furious)** What do you mean, you can't reach the supplier? We need the stuff, and we need it now!

23. BAMJU: **(calm but threatening)** Young man, watch your mouth! I told you, I don't know why he's not answering his phone. I've tried a hundred times.

24. ZULA: **(speaking sluggishly – he is “high”)** Aah... may...may...maybe he's dead. You know, like... like... in da movies, man.

25. OKOSHO: **(suddenly begging)** Please. We need the stuff, Bamju. Please help us. Can't you see we're suffering? We can't do anything without our daily dose. Help us, please. **(almost in tears)**

26. (ZULA is heard snoring)

27. BAMJU: **(angrily)** Out! Get out, both of you! Useless, worthless cabbages! I don't need you any more. You're addicted already. I told you, heroin is not the same as chewing gum. Out!

28. OKOSHO: Please... please, Bamju!

29. ZULA: (as if in a dream, still sluggish) Okosho, what... what’s happening man?

30. BAMJU: Nothing is happening! Nothing happened, and nothing will happen. I don't ever want to see you here again. Is that clear?

31. SFX: DOOR OPENED, THEN CLOSED AND LOCKED; NOISE OF TOWN IN BACKGROUND

32. OKOSHO: (thinking aloud) No, this can't be real... Wait a minute. Bamju said that there were other pushers in Chunga Sana. We have to find them and buy our fix. But what about the money? How will we get it, if we’ve got nothing to sell? Hmm... I know. Come on, Zula boy, let's go to work.

33. NARRATOR: One of the repercussions of substance abuse is that it can easily turn the user into a violent person. We can see the warning signs in Okosho and Zula, who are both already heavily addicted. How far will they go to get their so-called “dose”? Keep listening. A few kilometres away, Jabali and Chambo have entered the rehab centre. And to Jabali's surprise, the first patient is a young lady called Jane. She's in her thirties, and Jabali can't understand how such a pretty lady could end up here.

SCENE FOUR: CHAMBO AND JABALI AT THE REHAB CENTRE

34. SFX: 3 WOODEN CHAIRS BEING PULLED ACROSS THE FLOOR.

35. CHAMBO: Hi, Jane. Good to see you this morning.

36. JANE: Hello, Chambo. Who is this handsome young man?
Your brother?

37. CHAMBO: No. My new workmate. Is it okay with you if he joins us
today?

38. JANE: No problem. It's nice to see a new face for a change.

39. CHAMBO: Great! Well, go on then, tell her who you are. She
seems to like you already.

40. JABALI: **(clears throat)** My name is... I... I'm Jabali. Nice to
meet you!

41. JANE: Nice to meet you, Jabali.

42. CHAMBO: Great. So, shall we start? Jane, why don't you give
him a brief explanation of why you're here.

- 43. JANE:** I’m here because I need help. I’m addicted to nicotine. There’s nicotine in all tobacco and cigarette products, as you know, and I started smoking while I was still in high school. By the time I graduated I was on a packet a day, and after that it just got worse. Recently I started having problems with my health, and when I got checked, the doctor told me I had to stop smoking. It’s very difficult, but with Chambo’s help I am making progress.
- 44. CHAMBO:** How are you feeling today?
- 45. JANE:** The headaches are still there. The anxiety has got better, but my body is still craving cigarettes.
- 46. CHAMBO:** Jane, you’re doing great. Remember, when the craving starts, you should...
- 47. JANE:** ...remind myself why I want to quit.
- 48. CHAMBO:** And what are your reasons, Jane? Do you remember them?
- 49. JANE:** (**worried**) Can I use the paper where I wrote them down?
- 50. CHAMBO:** Absolutely!

51. SFX: PAPER TAKEN OUT OF A POCKET (studio)

52. JANE: (calmer, reading from paper) First reason: I’m quitting smoking to avoid getting ill or even dying as a result of nicotine addiction. Secondly, I’m quitting smoking because it harms not only me, but those around me as well. Thirdly, I’m quitting smoking because it’s expensive and I can’t afford it. Fourthly...

53. NARRATOR: Jane goes on and on counting the reasons why she’s determined to quit smoking. All Jabali can do is sit, watch, listen, and marvel at her courage. Bamju, on the other hand, has reached a point of no return, so he does what many of us in these modern times do when phone calls go unanswered.

SCENE FIVE: AT THE POLICE STATION

54. SFX: SMS RINGTONE AS WHEN A TEXT MESSAGE ARRIVES

55. BERI: (excited) Bingo! Patience always pays off in the end. So, Mr. Bamju, what kind of message have you sent to my husband?

56. SFX: BEEP TONE AS WHEN ONE OPENS A TEXT MESSAGE

57. BERI: (reads out) “Boss, what’s going on? Tried calling but no reply. Haven't received today’s supply. Fired two workers already. Should I go to pick up myself? Awaiting your orders. Bamju”. (thinking aloud) Hmm... no wonder Puyanga took on that bossy attitude with me. All right - what should I do now? Hmm...

58. SFX: BEEPS AS WHEN ONE TYPES A TEXT MESSAGE.

59. BERI: (talking as she types) “Sorry. Got held up. Yes, go and pick up from source. Confirm with me that you know the place? Puyanga” (Pause) Send message... Yes!

60. SFX: BEEP TONE AS WHEN MESSAGE IS SENT.

61. BERI: Sorry, husband, I’m afraid I have to lie a bit. But at least the “being held up” part is true. Now, let's wait and see if Bamju is as foolish as I think he is.

62. NARRATOR: Bamju is thrilled to receive a message from Puyanga, not knowing that it was actually sent by Beri, from the police station where Puyanga is in custody. He immediately sends a reply back to Puyanga - and Beri almost collapses in shock.

63. SFX: SMS TONE AS WHEN A TEXT MESSAGE ARRIVES

64. BERI: **(impressed)** Wow! That was quick... Let's see...
(reads text out again) “Good to know you’re okay.
Yes, I remember you said the source was our...
(sound of shocked disbelief) area MP (*Member of Parliament*), Honourable Kizito. Any changes, let me know. Thanks Boss - you can count on me”.

OUTRO:

Shock, fear, disbelief: Beri’s feeling all of this, and more. How high up does this thing go? She can't waste another minute. She’s just learned something VERY important. But what is she going to do? Where can she turn, if high-ranking politicians are also involved? And what options do Okosho and Zula have as they try to find ways to satisfy their appetite for drugs? Meanwhile, Chambo and Jabali are still at the rehab centre, where other experiences await them. All this and much more is coming up in the next episode. To listen to this episode again, or to others that have already been broadcast, visit [d world dot d e slash l b e](http://dworld.de/lbe). Until we meet again - take care.