

LEARNING BY EAR

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

EPISODE 2: “Pandora’s Box”

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List of characters by scene:

SCENE ONE: NIGHT AT CHUNGA SANA BUS STATION

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

SCENE TWO: PUYANGA AND BERI AT HOME

- **Puyanga (m, 50)**
- **Beri (f, 45)**
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SCENE THREE: OUTSIDE CLUB 2000

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

Learning by Ear 2011 – “Drugs and Substance Abuse – The High that Brings You Low”, Episode 2

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

SCENE FOUR: BERI ALONE AT HER HOUSE

- **Beri (f, 45)**

Narrator (m/f)

INTRO:

Hello and welcome to Learning by Ear. This is the second episode of our continuing radio drama about drugs and substance abuse called “**The High that Brings You Low**”. In our last episode, Jabali was thrilled to have passed his exam and was looking forward to college. He also got an invitation from his former schoolmates, Okosho and Zula, to go for a night out at Club 2000. Bamju, a notorious thug, was arrested for possession of marijuana, but later strangely released, to the annoyance of Inspector Tino. So where will the story take us next? Stay tuned to find out in today’s episode, “**Pandora’s Box**”. We pick up the story at 9pm at Chunga Sana bus station, where Okosho, Zula and Jabali are meeting before going on to Club 2000.

SCENE ONE: NIGHT AT CHUNGA SANA BUS STATION

1. **SFX:** **OCCASIONAL CARS DRIVING BY. HOOTING, YELLING ETC.**

2. **ZULA:** (Singing song by Black Eyed Peas- ‘I Got A Feeling’)

3. **OKOSHO:** Zula, you confuse me. One minute you’re all Jamaican roots and reggae, the next you’re hip-hop. Do you have all the goody-goody I sent you for the night?

4. **ZULA:** Easy, easy, man. Zula boy got everytin onda control.

5. **JABALI:** Okosho, you still haven't told me how you intend to get us in. You know very well that we haven't received our identification cards yet. What will you do if they ask us for I.D.?
6. **OKOSHO:** Jabali, let me handle that when we get there. Don't worry. Like Zula said, everytin is onda control.
7. **(They all laugh)**
8. **SFX: PUBLIC VEHICLE ARRIVES AND HONKS**
9. **OKOSHO:** This bus is good - it drops us right outside Club 2000. Let's get in. Time to party!
10. **SFX: PUBLIC VEHICLE DRIVES OFF/ DRIVER STEPS ON GAS**
11. **NARRATOR:** As the three friends are boarding the bus to take them to the club, Beri, the police commissioner, is at home with her husband, Puyanga. Puyanga was just an ordinary businessman until suddenly, out of nowhere, he became very rich. He told his wife that he had gone into the shipping business, and that it was very profitable. But is this true? Let's listen in.

SCENE TWO: PUYANGA AND BERI AT HOME

12. SFX: FIZZY DRINK BEING POURED INTO A GLASS (studio)

13. PUYANGA: Enough! That's too much cola, Beri! I only need a little with my rum.

14. BERI: Puyanga, my husband. I'm only looking after your...

15. PUYANGA: **(cuts her short)** Rubbish! You look after your health, and let me look after mine. We all have to die some day.

16. SFX: PUYANGA DRINKS (studio)

17. BERI: Puyanga... You don't look good. You only started drinking alcohol when you got into the shipping business, and recently I've noticed you're drinking more and more. I'm worried about you - not as a police officer, but because I'm your wife.

18. PUYANGA: **(hidden rage)** Can we change the subject?

19. BERI: **(calmly)** My husband, I'm afraid you're becoming an alcoholic. You need to...

20. SFX: GLASS HITTING FLOOR/WALL AND BREAKING

21. PUYANGA: Stop telling me what to do, woman! I'm not one of your

juniors at the police station. Ah - I'd better go somewhere else where I can drink in peace.

22. BERI: **(lovingly)** I'm sorry, Puyanga. Where are you going? It's late.

23. PUYANGA: **(sarcastic)** Oh, am I under a curfew now? Why don't you just go ahead and arrest me? **(Pause)** See you.

24. SFX: DOOR OPENED AND BANGED

25. BERI: **(between sobs)** Puyanga, wait! I said I was sorry... Please! **(more sobs)**

26. NARRATOR: Alcoholism has been blamed for many ills in Africa - family break-ups, parents abandoning children, people losing their jobs, health problems, and even death. Is Puyanga going down that road too? How long will Beri put up with his behaviour? Is there any way to help him and others like him? These are the kind of questions many families ask. But before we try to find the answers, let's meet a young man called Chambo. He's a former drug addict and alcoholic who's been rehabilitated, and who now spends most of his time increasing awareness of how to stay clear of drugs and substance abuse. Today, he's in the right place - or should I say the wrong place... Club 2000.

SCENE THREE: OUTSIDE CLUB 2000

27. SFX: LOCAL HIT SONG PLAYING IN BACKGROUND

28. ZULA: **(excited)** Wuuuuuh! Mamma mia...look at all those pretty ladies!

29. JABALI: Aha, so only beautiful girls can make Zula drop his Jamaican accent.

30. OKOSHO: You two stay right here. I'll be right back. And Zula - stop staring at the ladies like that, your eyes might pop out.

31. ZULA: Heeeey man! I no look at de ladies, dey be lookin at me. Oi de ladies like Zula. **(whispering)** Jabali, I have something special for the night. First we start with this.

32. SFX: PAPER BEING UNWRAPPED (studio)

33. JABALI: Khat!

34. ZULA: No, *fresh* khat! You chew this and you don't fall asleep. You know, it's our night, man.

35. JABALI: **(hesitant)** Ah... I don't know, Zula. I thought we were only going to dance and have fun.

36. ZULA: This is the fun! And it's only the beginning. Here, have a

bundle. You don't have to take it all.

- 37. JABALI:** No... I... I don't even know how to chew this thing.
- 38. ZULA:** Watch me and learn. It's as easy as failing de exam.
- 39. NARRATOR:** As Jabali is outside the club getting a crash course on chewing khat for the first time, Okosho is working on getting them in without identification. But remember - Chambo is there too, with the permission of the club and with authority from the provincial administration, to check for young people who shouldn't be there in the first place.
- 40. (MUSIC STILL PLAYING IN BACKGROUND)**
- 41. OKOSHO:** **(signals to CHAMBO)** Hey! Pssssh... How's it looking today? Hmm. Here's a packet of cigarettes. There are three of us today, not the usual two.
- 42. CHAMBO:** Tough luck, boy, I just quit smoking. You should too. It's not good for your health, you know.
- 43. OKOSHO:** Okay, so no cigarettes? What can I give you instead? I have khat, booze, and - guess what? The real thing, too: marijuana! See, I'm set for the night. You have to let us in!
- 44. CHAMBO:** Listen. My name is Chambo. I work with the Youth

Watch organisation, and we try to help young people who are --

45. **OKOSHO:** **(cuts him short)** Wait a minute - let me go and get my friends. **(to himself)** We can't miss out on the action...

46. **SFX: Footsteps leaving**

47. **OKOSHO:** **(calls out to ZULA and JABALI)** Hey, Jabali, Zula - over here!

48. **SFX: ZULA WITH MOUTH FULL OF KHAT**

49. **ZULA:** **(in between chewing)** That took longer than usual.

50. **JABALI:** You people really seem to know your way around.

51. **ZULA:** **(still chewing)** What did you expect? We're unofficial members here.

52. **OKOSHO:** **(not impressed)** Zula, who said you should open the bag? Who said you could start without me?

53. **ZULA:** No one. We just got bored and needed to relax.

54. **OKOSHO:** And why is Jabali holding his khat like it's poison?

55. **ZULA:** Tried a leaf, spat it out. He says it's too bitter. I told him

after chewing a few it would taste like nectar.

- 56. JABALI:** No, this isn't my thing, Zula. Okosho, are we going in? It's getting rather late.
- 57. OKOSHO:** Yes, we are. But there's been a change of plan. Listen up, both of you.
- 58. NARRATOR:** Okosho is determined to get them into Club 2000. He's stocked up on all sorts of drugs that he and Zula have been taking for a while, and now they want to introduce Jabali to them as well. Okosho quickly gathers his two friends around and explains to them his strategy for getting into the club. Meanwhile, Beri is still reeling from her argument with Puyanga. She tries watching T.V to help her calm down, but it doesn't work, so she gets up and goes to their bedroom...

SCENE FOUR: BERI ALONE AT HER HOUSE

59. SFX: TV SET RUNNING IN BACKGROUND

60. BERI: This is boring.

61. SFX: TV SET SWITCHED OFF

62. BERI: **(monologue)** My husband has been acting so strangely recently. Could he be seeing someone else? And what are these new business ventures that he's so secretive about? I have to find out, the sooner the better. I can't go on living like this... First I'll lock the front door - who knows when he'll be back!

63. SFX: DOOR LOCKED SHUT

64. BERI: Right. Now I'll check his drawers. If he is cheating on me, I'm sure to find evidence somewhere. Goodness me! What if he truly is having an affair? Can I cope with that? And what about his drinking problem? Is it this new job that's causing him so much stress?

65. SFX: DRAWERS BEING OPENED AND CLOSED.

66. BERI: Locked?! Why does he lock this bottom drawer? It's a good thing I made a copy of every key in the house.

67. SFX: KEY OPENING DRAWER. THEN DRAWER PULLED OUT.

68. BERI: (in utter shock and disbelief) No! It’s impossible! This can’t be real! No... no, noooooo... (BERI’S denials fade away amidst sobs)

OUTRO:

It’s said that curiosity killed the cat... Beri felt very much like that cat after opening her husband's locked drawer. She knew immediately that her life, her marriage, maybe even her career as a police officer would never be the same again. But what is it that she’s seen? Will she be able to confront her husband, Puyanga? At Club 2000, will our boys manage to sneak in with Chambo standing by? What other plans does Okosho have for the night that Jabali is not aware of? Find out in the next episode of our continuing radio novella about drugs and substance abuse. To listen to this episode again or to send in your comments, visit our webpage at dwworld.de/lbe. Until next time - stay away from drugs.