

LEARNING BY EAR

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

EPISODE 7: “Domino Effect”

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List of characters by scene:

SCENE ONE: BERI INTERROGATES PUYANGA AT THE POLICE STATION

- **Beri (f, 45)**
- **Puyanga (m, 50)**

SCENE TWO: AT HON. KIZITO'S MANSION

- **Inspector Tino (m, 40)**
- **Bamju (m, 40)**

SCENE THREE: CHUNGA SANA, MAIN STREET

- **Mrs. Chacha (f, 45)**
- **Chambo (m, 30)**

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- **Zula (m, 18)**
- **Okosho (m, 18)**
- **Peter (m, 18-40)**
- **Jabali (m, 18)**
- **4-5 Mixed voices (m/f)**

SCENE FOUR: AT THE POLICE STATION

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

SCENE FIVE: CHUNGA SANA, MAIN STREET

- **Mrs. Chacha (f, 45)**
- **Chambo (m, 30)**
- **Zula (m, 18)**
- **Peter (m, 18-40)**
- **Jabali (m, 18)**
- **4-5 Mixed voices (m/f)**

Narrator (m/f)

INTRO:

Greetings once again and welcome to Learning by Ear, this being the seventh episode of our radio novella on drugs and substance abuse called “**The High that Brings You Low**”. In the last episode, police commissioner Beri discovered that the drug trafficking conspiracy went even further than she imagined. It seems that the local Member of Parliament, Honourable Kizito, is also involved. Okosho and Zula are looking for ways to get high again, while Chambo and Jabali are busy counselling addicts at the rehab centre in Chunga Sana. Today's episode is called “**The Effects of Drugs**”. And we pick up the story in the jail cell, where Commissioner Beri is holding her own husband on suspicion of drug trafficking.

SCENE ONE: BERI INTERROGATES PUYANGA AT THE POLICE STATION

1. SFX: BUNCH OF KEYS OPENING AN IRON DOOR

2. BERI: Who else is involved in this drugs ring, Puyanga?

3. PUYANGA: Where are your manners, Beri? I am your husband! Wives usually greet their husbands first before they --

4. BERI: **(cuts him short)** Don't waste my time, Puyanga. I did everything I could to be a good wife. Were you a good husband? No! You chose instead to be a criminal. So in here you will be treated just like any other suspect. Now, tell me who else is involved, apart from Kizito?

5. **PUYANGA:** **(shocked)** How... how did you...? Beri, please, don't bring Honourable Kizito into this. I beg you.
6. **BERI:** Why would I not? The days are over when people in high offices could commit crimes with impunity! Kizito is abroad at the moment, but I've sent Inspector Tino to his house. And guess who's joining him there? Bamju! He believes you've sent him to get the drugs. Thanks to your phone.
7. **PUYANGA:** Okay, Beri. Look, you've proven you're a good police officer. You'll get another promotion if that's what you want. But don't make this mistake. It will bring a lot of big people down.
8. **BERI:** **(furious)** So you want to keep on selling drugs and other substances, turning our people into addicts? Breaking up their homes? Increasing violence, making students drop out of school, and causing sicknesses and early deaths that could so easily be prevented?
9. **PUYANGA:** All right. All right. How much?
10. **BERI:** How much what?

- 11. PUYANGA:** How much money do you and Tino want? I know you must have found the money. Tell me how much you want, and I'll give it to you.
- 12. BERI:** You've just committed a second offence. Trying to bribe a police officer. No, thank you, Puyanga. I may be earning peanuts, but at least it's honest money. You can sit here and wait for your trial.
- 13. SFX: IRON DOOR BEING CLOSED AND LOCKED**
- 14. PUYANGA:** **(shouting from inside)** What about my rights! Hey! I need to make a phone call to my lawyer. Beri, one call. Please. I know I'm allowed one call.
- 15. SFX: IRON DOOR BEING UNLOCKED AND OPENED**
- 16. BERI:** Here. Use my phone. You have three minutes. I'll be at my desk.
- 17. NARRATOR:** Puyanga knows that these three minutes are all that stand between his freedom and a possible life sentence. He quickly takes Beri's phone and makes the call. Then he smiles, erases the number from the phone, and gives it back to Beri. What implications will that call have for the case? We'll soon find out. But now, let's join the action as Inspector Tino waits for Bamju's arrival at Hon. Kizito's house.

SCENE TWO: OUTSIDE HON. KIZITO'S MANSION

18. SFX: FRONT DOOR BEING CLOSED FROM INSIDE

19. INSP. TINO: Bamju, freeze! You're under arrest!

20. BAMJU: **(taken by surprise)** Oh no! Not you again, Inspector Tino!

21. INSP. TINO: It's over, Bamju. Drop the bag.

22. BAMJU: Okay, here's the bag.

23. SFX: HEAVY BAG DROPPED + RUNNING FOOTSTEPS

24. INSP. TINO: Hey! Bamju, stop!

25. SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS

26. INSP. TINO: **(frustrated and out of breath)** Oh no! He got away. I'd never have thought he could run so fast. Some of these criminals really ought to consider changing careers! Eish! But at least I have the bag - hopefully the drugs are inside.

27. **NARRATOR:** Bamju runs as fast as he can. He’s already been arrested once by Inspector Tino, and he isn't going to let that happen again. Meanwhile, some more action is about to take place on the main street of Chunga Sana, involving Okosho, Zula, and an unlucky lady.

SCENE THREE: CHUNGA SANA, MAIN STREET

28. **SFX: TYPICAL MAIN STREET AMBIENCE**
29. **ZULA:** **(worried)** Okosho, are you sure about dis? I've never done anything like this before.
30. **OKOSHO:** Zula, do you want to feel good or not?
31. **ZULA:** Yeah, man... I feel like I'm going crazy without it.
32. **OKOSHO:** Then just do as I told you. Remember, as soon as I have it you must run, too. **(noticing something)** Aha, that lady over there looks like she just came from the ATM.
33. **ZULA:** Hello, Auntie. Please help a brother here with something small. I haven't eaten since yesterday.
34. **MRS. CHACHA:** No. Sorry, I don't have money. **(hesitant)** Zula - is that you?
35. **ZULA:** **(shocked)** Mrs. Chacha!

36. **SFX: A QUICK ROUGH SCUFFLE (studio)**
37. **MRS. CHACHA:** **(Screams)** Wuuuui! Help! Stop those thieves! My handbag, wuuui!
38. **MIXED VOICES:** **(Shouts of “Thief! Thief!” fill the air from a mixed crowd)**
39. **PETER:** **(panting and trying to catch his breath)** Here - we... we caught one of them. I’m afraid the one who took your handbag got away, but do you recognize this one?
40. **SFX: MURMURS AND COMPLAINTS FROM CROWD (studio)**
41. **ZULA:** **(begging)** Forgive me, Mrs. Chacha. It wasn't me... I swear, it wasn't me.
42. **MRS. CHACHA:** This is a former student of mine. I didn't know he'd become a pickpocket.
43. **(Shouts of “Lynch him! Lynch him!” fill the air from a mixed crowd)**
44. **PETER:** **(angrily)** You drug addicts have gone too far this time. We need to send a warning to others like you, who go around stealing to feed their addiction.

45. **ZULA:** Please, don't kill me! I'm sorry...
46. **SFX: SLAPS, BEATINGS, PEOPLE SPITTING (studio)**
47. **MRS. CHACHA:** **(tries to intervene)** Hey, stop it! Violence in no answer!
48. **ZULA:** **(continous cries of agony)** Waah!... Uuuuh!... Arrrgh!..
49. **NARRATOR:** **In the meantime Chambo and Jabali pass by on the other side of the road.**
50. **SFX: STREET AMBIENCE**
51. **JABALI:** Chambo, did you see that crowd over there? It looks as if they're beating someone up. Shouldn't we go and see what's going on?
52. **CHAMBO:** Jabali, we have work to do. We're already late for our next appointment. If you want to take a look, go ahead. I'll see you later.
53. **JABALI:** **(calls out hurriedly, already on his way over)** I won't be long... **(Pause, STREET AMBIENCE GETS LOUDER)** Excuse me, excuse me please, can I get through? Thank you...Thank you.

54. NARRATOR: As Jabali makes his way through the angry crowd, not knowing who he’s about to find, at the police station Inspector Tino and Commissioner Beri have just finished giving an interview to the press about the drugs they found at Honourable Kizito’s mansion. They’re just congratulating themselves when Beri’s phone rings.

SCENE FOUR: AT THE POLICE STATION

55. SFX: MOBILE PHONE RINGING

56. BERI: (curious) Hmm... Anonymous call? (**Answers phone**)
Hello? Commissioner Beri.

57. MINISTER KAFEGI: (over the phone) You and Inspector Tino have been transferred with immediate effect!

58. BERI: (shocked) Is this some kind of a joke? Who is this?

59. MINISTER KAFEGI: (over the phone) Commissioner Beri. This is your Interior Minister, Honourable Kafegi.

60. BERI: (even more shocked) Minister Kafegi? I’m sorry, sir - I didn’t recognize your voice... Sir, I don’t know if you know, but we’re in the middle of a big drug smuggling case. We’ve just seized a large amount of heroin.

61. MINISTER KAFEGI: That is precisely why I’m transferring you. This case has attracted the attention of Interpol.

62. **BERI:** But... but, sir, I thought it was the Chief of Police who made such transfers.
63. **MINISTER KAFEGI:** (**getting angry**) The Chief of Police answers to me! This case is obviously far too big for you to handle. You and your inspector have one hour to pack your things. Goodbye.
64. **SFX: BEEP SOUND AS WHEN MOBILE PHONE CALL IS ENDED**
65. **BERI:** One hour?! What's the hurry? And why now? Surely the Interior Minister isn't part of this conspiracy as well?!
66. **NARRATOR:** That call has left many questions in Beri's mind - but she knows she has to act, and fast. Meanwhile Jabali has managed to break through the crowd and reach the front, where he sees his friend Zula being beaten by the mob. Jabali swings into action.

SCENE FIVE: CHUNGA SANA, MAIN STREET

67. SFX: SHOUTS AND NOISES FROM AN ANGRY CROWD (studio)

68. JABALI: (pleading) Nooooo! Please stop! Stop beating him - I know this boy, he's not a thief.

69. PETER: You! Are you one of them, too? We're going to put a hot "necklace" on the pair of you!

70. ZULA: (still in tremendous pain) Oh Jab...ali... sorry, man. We... stole from Mrs. Chacha... a handbag, we needed quick money for a fix, you know. The high. Okosho has the bag. Arrrgh! My whole body hurts.

71. JABALI: Mrs. Chacha! Oh, my God... Please, all of you, please forgive Zula. I promise you, it's the first time he's ever done anything like this - you heard him say it was only because he needed cash to buy drugs. He is ill.

72. PETER: Ill? He doesn't look ill to me. He looks like a drug addict.

73. JABALI: Addiction *is* an illness. I learned that today. My friend Zula needs treatment. Please - give him that second chance.

74. MRS. CHACHA: I agree and I am willing to give him a second chance. But my handbag had 5,000 in it. If you give me back the money, then it's okay. And I need the documents that are in that handbag.

75. JABALI: You'll get your things, Mrs. Chacha. I promise. But what about the rest of you? What do you say? Listen - I'm sure many of us have someone at home who's struggling with addiction – it could be to cigarettes, marijuana, khat, or alcohol, or even legal drugs like painkillers. There may even be some of you here who know deep down that you have a problem, too. My friend Zula is no different. You've beaten him enough. He's learned his lesson. Please - give him a chance to start afresh.

76. SFX: MURMURS FROM THE CROWD BECOME SOFTER AND CALMER (studio)

OUTRO:

With Jabali holding Zula's badly beaten and bleeding head, begging and pleading for his friend's life, we've come to the end of this seventh episode of “**The High that Brings You Low**”, our series about drugs and substance abuse. So is this Zula's all-time low? Is he now ready to change? And what will Beri do after being told of her sudden transfer? Don't miss next week's episode to find out the answers to all these questions. To listen to this episode again, or send in your comments, visit dwworld.de/ibe. Until we meet again, stay alert.