

LEARNING BY EAR

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

EPISODE 3: “The Players and the Played”

AUTHOR: Chrispin Mwakideu

EDITOR: Ludger Schadomsky, Adrian Kriesch

PROOFREADER: Charlotte Collins

List of characters by scene:

SCENE ONE: OUTSIDE CLUB 2000

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

SCENE TWO: BERI AND PUYANGA AT HOME

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

SCENE THREE: BEHIND CLUB 2000

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

SCENE FOUR: PUYANGA AND BAMJU AT A CAFE

- Puyanga (m, 50)
- Bamju (m, 40)

SCENE FIVE: AT THE POLICE STATION

- Beri (f, 45)
- Inspector Tino (m, 40)
- Jabali (m, 18)

Narrator (m/f)

INTRO:

Greetings and welcome to the third episode of our Learning by Ear series “**The High that Brings You Low**”, focusing on drugs and substance abuse. In our last episode, police commissioner Beri was shocked not only to discover hard drugs in her husband's locked drawer, but also information about a new huge order. Jabali tried chewing khat with his friends Okosho and Zula, but didn't like it. Still outside the fancy nightclub 2000, Okosho has thought of a way to get them inside without ID cards. But will they succeed, with youth worker Chambo standing at the entrance? He's a former addict who has now been rehabilitated, and he's passionate about tackling drug and substance abuse. Keep listening to hear where the story takes us in today's episode, called “**The Players and the Played**”. We start off with the boys discussing their plan to get into Club 2000.

SCENE ONE: OUTSIDE CLUB 2000

1. **SFX: DJ music from outside**

2. **JABALI:** **(adamant)** No! Okosho, let's just go home. You look drunk already, and Zula is high.

3. **OKOSHO:** Relax, Jabali. It's easy. You tell the guy that you're a medical student in college. You look like one, anyway. **(giggles)** Zula and I are both at technical school. We're studying carpentry.

4. **ZULA:** Carpentry? No, man. Zula boy no gonna be a carpenter, man. Mechanic! We study to be car mechanics. You know what I’m saying.
5. **OKOSHO:** Whatever, man. Let's go now; it's starting to get cold outside. Remember, you two: put on adult faces.
6. **JABALI:** (**curious**) And just what do adult faces look like?
7. **OKOSHO:** Look at my expression! See, that is what an adult face looks like. Come on, let’s go.

(Zula and Okosho laugh)

8. **SFX: MUSIC GETS BIT LOUDER, THEN SOFTER AS THEY BEGIN TO TALK. FOOTSTEPS APPROACH**
9. **CHAMBO:** Ah, hello again. As I was saying, my name is Chambo, and I’m the founder of Youth Watch, a community-based organisation that works to ensure our teenagers and young people live free of drug abuse. I’m here to check your national identification, since nightclubs are among the many places where teenagers begin to experiment with drugs and other substances. So, can you please show me your IDs?
10. **OKOSHO:** (**faking excuse**) Aah ...Chamba Wamba...

11. **CHAMBO:** Chambo, my name is Chambo.
12. **OKOSHO:** Well... **(clears throat)** Chambo, you see, we're not from around here. These are my friends, and we ... This is so stupid, but we forgot our IDs in college. My friend here, Jabali, is a medical student. Zula and I are in technical school. We're studying carpentry.
13. **ZULA:** Mechanics.
14. **OKOSHO:** **(caught off guard)** Ah yes... mechanic carpentry!
15. **CHAMBO:** Go back home.
16. **OKOSHO:** What? Why? We are...
17. **CHAMBO:** I have heard all those lies before. No, actually, I've told them all before. And you know what? I was better at it than you. I know what you're carrying in that plastic bag, and I know that the two of you are already high on something. Him, I don't know. But I advise you to consider what you're doing to your bodies before it's too late.
18. **ZULA:** Who is dis man to lecture us? Eh? We are adults! We can do whatever we want, man! Go to hell!

- 19. JABALI:** This is not the kind of night I had in mind. Guys, let's just go home and forget about it. Okay?
- 20. OKOSHO:** **(fuming)** No! We're not going anywhere! This fool thinks he knows everything about us. If you're man enough, come and face me like a man!
- 21. ZULA:** Yes, come and face us over there. We'll teach you a lesson, man!
- 22. CHAMBO:** **(not threatened)** I'll be giving a talk on drugs and substance abuse at Limbi High School tomorrow afternoon. You're all invited. Goodbye, and good night.
- 23. ZULA:** It's Mrs. Chacha! She told dis man about us. Dat witch is evil! How did he know we came from Limbi High?
- 24. CHAMBO:** Aha, I see. So you're students from Limbi High. Let's pretend that this never happened. Go home, and please make sure you attend the discussion.
- 25. OKOSHO:** For your information, we're no longer Limbi High School students! We don't want to hear any stupid talk from you, or Mrs. Chacha, or anyone else for that matter.
- 26. JABALI:** Okosho, Zula – guys, let's go. You heard the man - we can't go in without identification.

- 27. CHAMBO:** You’d better listen to what your friend is saying. Otherwise I’m going to have to call the bouncer, and he won’t be so friendly.
- 28. OKOSHO:** Go ahead! Call him. He’s my friend, anyway.
- 29. CHAMBO:** **(calls out)** Bouncer! Bouncer! Please come over, we have some trouble here.
- 30. JABALI:** This is not good, this is absolutely not good.
- 31. NARRATOR:** Jabali is right, because as soon as the bouncer comes over he picks up Okosho by his shirt, lifts him as if he weighs only a kilo, and drags him away from the entry, while Zula and Jabali beg him to spare them. So what will the boys do next? Stay with us to find out. Meanwhile, police commissioner Beri is beginning to calm down after discovering something shocking in her husband’s drawer. But soon afterwards, Puyanga returns home.

SCENE TWO: BERI AND PUYANGA'S HOME

32. **BERI:** (takes a very deep breath) All right. Now that I've found this, should I act as a wife, or as a police officer?

33. **SFX: KNOCKING ON DOOR**

34. **BERI:** Oh no, he's back!

35. **SFX: DRAWER CLOSED QUICKLY AND LOCKED**

36. **BERI:** (calls out) Coming! (nervous whisper) Have I left everything as it was? All right - now, just one more thing...

37. **SFX: WATER BEING FLUSHED IN TOILET**

38. **BERI:** (calls out) Sorry, my dear, I was in the toilet. I'll open the door for you.

39. **SFX: DOOR BEING UNLOCKED**

40. **PUYANGA:** (drunk) What took you so long? Mmmh?

41. **BERI:** I just told you, I was in the bathroom. The question is: where have you been?

42. **PUYANGA:** (aggressive) Let's talk about this tomorrow. I'm tired.

43. **BERI:** Tomorrow? This can't wait until tomorrow. My husband...
44. **SFX: SOUND OF SLAP ON FACE**
45. **BERI:** **(screams in pain)** Owww!
46. **PUYANGA:** **(with emphasis)** Tomorrow, okay? No more questions.
47. **NARRATOR:** Many partners and family members find it difficult when they discover that someone close to them is an addict. They may be overcome by fear, mistrust, self-pity, or a range of other emotions. Questions arise that seem to have no answers. It gets worse when the addict starts to subject them to physical abuse, theft, and threats. Even Beri, a high-ranking police officer, has not been spared. Who should she turn to? Meanwhile, outside Club 2000, Okosho and Zula are still determined to have a night to remember.

SCENE THREE: BEHIND CLUB 2000

48. SFX: MUSIC NOW PLAYING IN THE DISTANCE

49. OKOSHO: Idiot! That bouncer is never going to get anything else from me ever again! Roll me a joint, Zula, and crack open the alcohol. Club or no club, we’re going to party.

50. ZULA: Dat is de way to go, man!

51. JABALI: No, Zula, the way to go is home! Don't you see how we’ve embarrassed ourselves?

52. SFX: CLANKING OF BOTTLES, MATCH BEING STRUCK (studio)

53. OKOSHO: **(inhales deeply)** Ooooh... that feels good! Here, Zula... have a smoke, then pass it on to the medical student.

54. ZULA: **(also inhales deeply, then exhales)** Man, dis weed be de real ting! Here, Jabali.

55. JABALI: No, thank you. I’ve had enough for the night.

56. OKOSHO: Just a puff to cool you down. It won’t even have any effect. Look at me - I'm still fine.

57. ZULA: Yeah, me too.

58. **JABALI:** (hesitant) Ah – okay. I guess one time won't do me any harm. (JABALI inhales, then coughs uncontrollably)
59. **OKOSHO/ZULA: (laughing out loud)** Hahahahahaha!
60. **NARRATOR:** And so, just like that, Jabali takes the bait. After the first puff he takes a second, a third, and so on and so forth. He drinks a liquor which has also been mixed with some drugs, and before he knows it he's blacked out. Far from being a night to remember, it's a night he can hardly remember at all. Now, though, it's the morning after, and Beri's husband Puyanga has a meeting in a café – with the criminal Bamju.

SCENE FOUR: PUYANGA AND BAMJU AT A CAFE

61. **SFX: CUTLERY AND CUPS AS WHEN PEOPLE HAVE TEA/COFFEE**
62. **BAMJU:** Boss, first let me thank you for getting me freed so quickly when I was arrested. That Inspector Tino... I --
63. **PUYANGA:** Tino is not our problem. Listen. There's a new shipment coming in. I want trusted people who can sell the goods without being noticed. It goes without saying that none of them can know who's behind this.
64. **BAMJU:** Of course, sir. I know two boys who've been buying "leaves" from me.

- 65. PUYANGA:** **(whisper)** This is much bigger than cannabis, Bamju. I promise you that if this deal goes through you will be rich beyond your wildest dreams.
- 66. BAMJU:** Of course, of course. You can count on me, sir. People are tired of the same old weed, tobacco, khat and alcohol. It's about time we had a change!
- 67. SFX: MOBILE PHONE RINGS.**
- 68. PUYANGA:** Yes, hello. Puyanga here... Aha, it's already arrived?
(Pause) Good. Make sure that you spare no expense getting it out. I don't care how much you have to bribe them – I want that cargo out today. Bye.
- 69. BAMJU:** Ehm, so...
- 70. PUYANGA:** Bamju, call me when you have the workers. Remember, my wife is a police officer. I want total discretion. And none of this can ever be linked to me.
- 71. NARRATOR:** Puyanga finishes his meeting and leaves in a hurry. At the police station, Inspector Tino is telling his boss, Beri, about his most recent arrest.

SCENE FIVE: AT THE POLICE STATION

72. **INSP. TINO:** I caught him outside Club 2000. He was totally out.
73. **BERI:** Isn't he too young, Inspector Tino?
74. **INSP. TINO:** Too young? Then what was he doing there?
75. **BERI:** Young man, what is your name? Do you know where you are?
76. **JABALI:** **(with hangover)** Aaah, my head! I need some painkillers. Please.

OUTRO:

With that desperate request from Jabali, who's nursing his first hangover, we end the third episode of this radio series looking at drug and substance abuse. Tune in again to find out what will happen to Jabali and the others. If you wish to listen to this episode again, visit dwworld.de/lbe. And until next time - stay away from drugs.