

EPISODE 13: SUCCESS STREET

Characters:

Yankat

Nkiru

Osato

Zainab

Dafe

Mimi

Scene 1

Yankat's room, nighttime

1. **MUSIC:** **BRIDGE UP AND FADE**
2. **SFX:** **DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING**
3. **YANKAT:** **(STARTLED)** Yeh! NK, haba, why are you standing by the door like this? You startled me!
4. **NKIRU:** **(CURIOUS)** Ah ah, Yankat. Why so jumpy? And I see you're just getting back since morning? Where have you been?
5. **YANKAT:** **(EVASIVE)** Erm NK, since when did you start monitoring my movements?
6. **NKIRU:** **(SCOFFS)** Okay o. But at least you should be able to tell me who it was that dropped you off now now – the old man that just left in the taxi.
7. **YANKAT:** **(DEFENSIVE)** And how did you manage to see him, ehn? Oh so you've been spying on me? You've been spying on me Nk!
8. **NKIRU:** Is it my fault, ehn? Is it my fault? Look at the time you're coming back, when normally you for done reach house since. I was worried now! I thought something happened to you, that's why when I heard that car coming I jumped to check who it was.
9. **YANKAT:** **(RUDELY)** Well I'm fine, as you can see now. Thank you for all your worry.
10. **NKIRU:** I'm still worried o! At least I should still know where you're coming from and who that old man was.
11. **YANKAT:** That's still none of your business, Nk.

12. **NKIRU:** You can tell me, don't worry. Is that your famous sugar daddy, the Uncle Nate you're always talking to?
13. **YANKAT:** **(FURIOUS)** Sugar Daddy, keh? Me??? NK, are you mad?
14. **NKIRU:** Well who is that Uncle Nate that you're always talking to?
15. **YANKAT:** **(SHOUTING)** Not that it's your business NK, but he's like my UNCLE, NK! That's why I call him Uncle Nate!
16. **NKIRU:** **(SARCASTICALLY)** Oh so is he your Uncle or isn't he, Yankat? Because I don't know what "like an Uncle" means if not...
17. **YANKAT:** **(UPSET)** Don't even say it again, NK or I will be very upset with you! So that's your own work abi, NK? To just be chronicling my whole life? Why can't you just mind your business?
18. **NKIRU:** I'm sorry, but as a worried roommate, I am not in support of your need to collect all these men around you! From Uncle Nate to Moses and now this land dealer, Ehi.
19. **YANKAT:** **(ANGRILY)** You know what, Nk, I don't even have your time today. I just can't deal with you tonight. I'm going to find somewhere else to sleep; don't 'worry' about me too much.
20. **SFX:** **FOOTSTEPS STORMING OFF**
21. **SFX:** **DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING**
22. **NKIRU:** **(SHRILL)** Yankat! Yankat!! Where are you going? **(PAUSE)** Ehen, I'm sure you're going to that your Uncle Nate's place, ehn? **(SHOUTING AFTER HER)** Yankat! Yankat!!
23. **SFX:** **BRIDGE MUSIC**

Scene 2

Omoragbon residence, bedroom, night

24. **OSATO:** **(CONSOLING)** Mimi I don't want you to keep dwelling on this Port Harcourt matter; it's eating you up.

25. **MIMI:** **(SORROWFUL)** I can't help it, Osato. All I got from the trip was just another lead – go to Eleyele Base in Ibadan. The whole thing was just a waste.
26. **OSATO:** I understand how you feel, Mimido. But you're taking this thing so seriously. Look – it's even beginning to take a toll on you.
27. **MIMI:** What makes you say that?
28. **OSATO:** Anyone that knows you well just has to look at you to see it. Look at how skinny you've gotten.
29. **MIMI:** **(SURPRISED)** No I haven't! **(PAUSE)** Have I?
30. **OSATO:** It looks to me like you have.
31. **MIMI:** Hmm ... the stress of this search *has* been getting to me more and more of late. And it's true, sometimes I forget to eat.
32. **OSATO:** That's not good enough, Mimi. You need to take better care of yourself. After all, part of the reason we decided to use family planning was for your better health and to avoid stress.
33. **MIMI:** Yes Osato I know, and I *am* enjoying all the benefits of family planning. And I love using the family planning implant and not having to think about it regularly.
34. **OSATO:** It's just as well, with the way you're forgetting to eat, you'll probably likewise forget to go for family planning services. At least with the implant, you don't have to think about it for the next few years.
35. **MIMI:** **(ABSENTLY)** Yes the implant is valid for up to five years. **(BACK ON TOPIC)** But it's hard not to let this search consume me, Osato. I get so worried that I won't find my mom and twin sister.
36. **OSATO:** **(SIGHS)** I understand, Mimido. More than you might think. And that's why I think it would be a good idea for you to drop the search for now.
37. **MIMI:** I can't give up the search Osato. You know I can't.
38. **OSATO:** Why Mimi? Because they're your flesh and blood – your family? And what about Charlie and I – are we not your family? Or we're not to be appreciated as much as these relatives?
39. **MIMI:** Osato, you know that you and little Charlie are everything to me. But you have to remember, I promised my grandma.

40. **SFX:** **BRIDGE MUSIC**

Scene 3

Zainab's shop, exterior, nighttime

41. **SFX:** **FOOTSTEPS WALKING SLOWLY TOGETHER**

42. **ZAINAB:** Thanks for walking home with me, Dafe. You're a real gentleman.

43. **DAFE:** And I should also thank you for the lovely evening, Zainab. I enjoyed every minute of it.

44. **ZAINAB:** So did I.

45. **DAFE:** Though you never finished telling me the story of your former boyfriend? The one you used to live with.

46. **ZAINAB:** **(WISTFULLY)** Yes, and it was actually in this flat that I'm still staying in now o, can you imagine? **(SIGHS)** In all honesty I should have known there was something strange about him. There was never a day that I saw him in the evening, like I'm doing with you now. Once 6 pm came, he just disappeared, and I wouldn't be able to even contact him.

47. **DAFE:** Yes, that sounds very fishy, Zainab. So what now happened exactly between the two of you?

48. **ZAINAB:** **(SIGHS)** I was young and foolish. You know how at that tender age every love you have is a serious one. So foolish me, I thought he was the love of my life. Meanwhile the man was married somewhere else in Abuja without my knowledge.

49. **DAFE:** **(EXCLAIMS IN SURPRISE)**

50. **ZAINAB:** Yes o. I was only in SS2 at the time and dropped out because of him, against my parent's wishes and moved here to Abuja for him...

51. **DAFE:** Wow; can you imagine? I had a similar story – I had to drop out of school in SS2 for romantic reasons that just didn't work out. But please, don't let me cut your story short.

52. **ZAINAB:** That's an interesting coincidence. Anyway after coming to Abuja, he said we were engaged and that we would only cohabit for a short time before the wedding...

53. **DAFE:** (CONCERNED) So what happened?
54. **ZAINAB:** Well Dafe, one day, I returned home from the lesson I was attending to complete my studies and all his things were just gone from the room.
55. **DAFE:** Without any kind of explanation, or even a goodbye? Kai Zainab, that's cold ...
56. **ZAINAB:** And that's not the end of the story o, Dafe. I was able to track him down, and that was how I found out he was married. I saw his wife and children with my own eyes – he had been married for years o, mind you. And then, by the time I came back to the apartment the landlord was waiting for me to hassle me, that he was ready to throw me out if I didn't produce the money.
57. **DAFE:** Ah ah; which money is that?
58. **ZAINAB:** Apparently the man had been owing many many months of rent on the room since, and he just left me there. If not for a Good Samaritan in the form of my neighbor Mama Shakirat I would have been in serious trouble. She was the one that helped me.
59. **DAFE:** (SYMPATHETIC) Ah, thank God for people like that, Zainab. But why couldn't you just call your parents to help you? Or any family member?
60. **ZAINAB:** I couldn't now. You know I ran away from Ilorin my hometown to come and stay with this man in Abuja. I'm sure they wouldn't have been very happy with me, and me myself I felt so stupid and ashamed. I didn't even know how to start asking them for help.
61. **DAFE:** I understand. Though I hope for your sake that you'll make up with your family though. Family is the most important support group.
62. **ZAINAB:** You see? It's because of things like this that you say. All this your little pieces of advice and nuggets of wisdom. That's why I like you; you're so understanding, and straightforward.
63. **DAFE:** (TEASING) Oho; so you like me?
64. **ZAINAB:** (LAUGHING) Well you're smart, good-looking, organized, sensible and understanding. And you're just on your own hustling – no secret families or hidden children or anything like that. Why won't I like you?
65. **DAFE:** Ah; only me can't be all those things now. You're just trying to toast me.

66. **ZAINAB:** No Dafe, I'm serious. You're so open and honest, and I love that. With you I can be sure there are no unpleasant surprises coming my way.
67. **MUSIC:** **BRIDGE MUSIC**

Scene 4

Mimi and Osato's residence, interior, nighttime

68. **YANKAT:** (**APOLOGETIC**) Mimi, I'm so sorry for waking you and Osato up at this late hour –
69. **MIMI:** (**DISMISSIVELY**) Don't worry about it, Yankat, is it not you? Besides, you should have seen Osato. (**LAUGHS**) His eyes were not even fully open o, yet he still somehow found the pestle from the kitchen, he was now creeping to the door with it – as if that's a weapon!
70. **YANKAT:** (**LAUGHS POLITELY**)
71. **MIMI:** I had to even ask him, "So if it's really a break-in what do you want to do? Pound the thieves to death?" (**BOTH WOMEN LAUGH**) So what's the problem that brought you here at this time? I hope it's nothing serious?
72. **YANKAT:** Nothing really o. Nk and I just had a fight, and I needed somewhere to stay for the night. I'm telling you, Mimi, I can't stand that girl!
73. **MIMI:** (**CHIDING**) So is it because of just that? You can't be travelling around Abuja at night like that o, Yankat – it's not safe. Especially after your dealings with Moses; what if he had now seen you outside?
74. **YANKAT:** I know, I know. I really do need to be more security conscious. Though I took a drop straight from school to your door, so I don't think anyone saw me.
75. **MIMI:** And you now wasted your money on taxi fare again? Just cause of a quarrel with your roommate? (**CHIDING**) Yan-kat!
76. **YANKAT:** (**ADAMANT**) You don't understand, Mimi. I couldn't stay in that room with Nkiru the whole night o. She was just provoking me!
77. **MIMI:** (**CONSOLING**) I understand o. Sorry my dear. You're more than welcome to stay the night, you know that. You can take the parlour. Let me go and bring you something you can wear to sleep.
78. **YANKAT:** (**GRATEFUL**) Thanks so much, Mimi. I'm really grateful.

79. **SFX:** **SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS AND DOOR OPENING**
80. **YANKAT** **(CALLING OUT)** By the way, Mimi how is your search going? Have you found anything new?
81. **SFX:** **SOUND OF DOOR CLOSING AND FOOTSTEPS RETURNING**
82. **MIMI:** **(COMING ON MIC)** It's going alright o, thanks for asking. I have one new lead now – to go to Eleyele base in Ibadan. I've prayed over it; I hope this one produces something tangible.
83. **YANKAT:** It will by God's grace.
84. **MIMI:** It had better, Yankat. I don't know for how much longer I can keep living on the edge of my nerves like this.
85. **YANKAT:** You can do it Mimi; I believe everything will work out. You just have to persevere and be patient. **(SADLY)** You know ... I lost my own family too, and there isn't one day that goes by when I don't wish there was something I could do to get them back. Family ... is very very important.
86. **MIMI:** **(GENTLY)** Oh my dear, I'm so sorry. I didn't know you had lost your family. What happened?
87. **YANKAT:** **(DISMISSIVELY)** It was ... an unfortunate accident.
88. **MIMI:** **(PAUSE)** Oh ... okay. Well Yankat, I'm so sorry for your loss.
89. **YANKAT:** Thanks Mimi, And I'll be praying for your success in Ibadan.
90. **MIMI:** Hmm. This trip to Ibadan better bear fruit o, or I don't know what I'll do. I barely managed to convince Osato to let me take this trip; I doubt if he'll be willing to say yes to more trips in the future.
91. **SFX:** **BRIDGE UP AND FADE**