

*Life Don Beta...***Episode 1****Characters***Efe**Isoken**Edogun**Grace**Pullen*

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**Scene 1, Pullen's House, Morning (about 8AM).**

1. **SFX:**            **EARLY MORNING SOUNDS, NEWSPAPER HAWKERS HONKING THEIR HORNS, MORNING TRAFFIC.**
  
2. **ISOKEN:**        **(STUDYING, MUTTERING IN CONCENTRATION)**  
The three arms of government na executive, legislature and judiciary. Dem dey help to promote checks and balances...
  
3. **EFE:**             **(SHOUTING OFF MIC) Isoken!, Isoken!!**
  
4. **ISOKEN:**        **(SCARED) Ohhh no, na wetin again?**
  
5. **EFE:**             **(COMING ON MIC, STILL SHOUTING) Dis useless lazy, good for nothing girl, dem send you to come give me hypertension? Wetin time dey talk?**
  
6. **ISOKEN:**        **(COWED) Mummy good-morning.**
  
7. **EFE:**             **(SNAPS) Wetin good about am? I say wetin time dey talk? Or you nor fit talk time now?**
  
8. **ISOKEN:**        **(SHAKY VOICE) Na 8 o'clock, ma.**
  
9. **EFE:**             **(MIMICS) Na 8 o'clock, ma. So why you jus dey lie down? You dey wait make Efe, your humble servant clean house for you?**
  
10. **ISOKEN:**        No mummy, never.

11. **EFE:** So why just you siddon dey do nothing when you get housework to do?
12. **ISOKEN:** **(VOICE SHAKING)** Mummy, no be like dat. I jus dey try read for my JAMB.
13. **EFE:** **(SNORTS IN CONTEMPT)** JAMB.
14. **ISOKEN:** Yes, mummy.
15. **EFE:** So make your papa wake up come chop morning food inside dorthy house, because you wan go waste everybody time, go fail JAMB again abi? Na wen you don fail am up to ten times naim you go happy make we hear word?
16. **ISOKEN:** Mummy, abeg, I don already do all my house work. I don wake since 4.30 AM so that I go fit do dem, come read before I begin go for lesson.
17. **EFE:** **(DISBELIEVING)** You don do everyting? You don wash cloth? Make afternoon food for your small brodas and sisters? Wash pots?
18. **ISOKEN:** Yes Mummy.
19. **EFE:** **(CLAPS, REMEMBERING SOMETHING)** Ok, what about di Veranda wey I say make you clean since last week?
20. **ISOKEN:** I don clean am. I even use Brasso polish di tiles.
21. **EFE:** **(GRUDGING)** Make I even see one stain like dis, I go send you go meet your mama. Anyway since you no busy, you fit go sell those bread wen we get yesterday.
22. **ISOKEN:** But mummy, I get lesson, we dey do mock exam today.

23. **EFE:** **(ANGRY/SNAPPING)** Come on, shut up! Which kain stupid mock exam enh? You don fail 2 times already, You nor dey even shame?
24. **ISOKEN:** **(SADLY)** I know say I fit pass am dis time.
25. **EFE:** Mscchewwww. Make I tell you something, Isoken. You dey stupid. All dis I wan be lawyer talk, you nor be small pikin again. You nor sabi book reach to pass JAMB. Leave am, after all nor be evribody suppose go school.
26. **ISOKEN:** Mummy abeg, dis time go dey different. I don dey work hard well-well, and dis Mock Exam go really help me see wetin I need to know. Abeg jus allow me go today.
27. **EFE:** **(THREATENING)** Isoken, nor let me show you my red eyes. I say make you do something, you stand there dey follow me talk like say you wan buy crayfish for my hand? Dey talk meh meh meh. Nonsense! Come on, go carry dat bread commot for here!
28. **ISOKEN:** **(SADLY)** Yes, ma.
29. **EFE:** And if you like drop dem for road as you do di last time, drop even one...we go see how you go chop for dis house. Useless girl.
30. **SFX:** **DOOR BANGS AS EFE LEAVES THE ROOM**
31. **ISOKEN:** **(MOURNFULLY)** Iye mwen, (*my mother*) Abeg nor sleep o. Abeg
32. **MUSIC:** **BRIDGE UP AND FADE**

**Scene 2, Edogun's House, Afternoon**

33. **SFX:** **SOUND OF DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING. PAPERS BEING DROPPED ON A TABLE AND A BODY SITTING ON A BED/CHAIR.**
34. **EDOGUN:** **(SIGHS HEAVILY)** True, true, I don tire.
35. **GRACE:** **(SYMPATHETIC)** Ahn ahn my husband! Wetin happun? Edogun, follow me talk
36. **EDOGUN:** Grace, dis ting dey disturb me. Six months! Six months since wey dem commot me for work and I neva find anoda work since. Dis country ehn, if you no sabi anybody, your own don finish oh.
37. **GRACE:** Take heart my husband. God nor go fail us. You go find someting.
38. **EDOGUN:** I no know oh. Di place wen I go today now, we dey dia tey-tey before dem take only two people, say make those wey remain, come back tomorrow. **(SIGHS)**
39. **GRACE:** **(ENCOURAGING BUT FIRM)** Edogun, abeg, take am easy. You nor fit lose hope oh. Things hard for my side too.
40. **EDOGUN:** **(CONCERNED)** But I tink say business dey good.
41. **GRACE:** No oh. Edogun, we don chop everyting o. everyting for my shop don go. no gain! Even di money wen I take start di market nor dey again
42. **EDOGUN:** Chei. Make God pity us oh.
43. **GRACE:** Amen! We need Baba God Favour dis time. Di landlord been come here again today.
44. **EDOGUN:** Dat man sef. Wetin im dey find?
45. **GRACE:** You know na. Rent.

46. **EDOGUN:** Make im go siddon abeg. We get gbege wey big pass im rent. **(HOTLY)** Na we bi di first and only people wey dey owe rent?
47. **GRACE:** Edogun, we dey owe di man 9 months. If im hear you dey yarn like dis, na for street naim we go see ourself oh.
48. **EDOGUN:** **(SIGHS)** Abeg leave di man. Even Nigeria sef get gbese. Make im relax. When we get money we go pay am.
49. **GRACE:** Edogun, I don tire to dey beg-beg. Dem even drive di children commot for school today
50. **EDOGUN:** Wetin? Why?
51. **GRACE:** School fees now. Dem say if we never pay by next month, make we nor bring dem come again. Say dem nor be awoof school.
52. **EDOGUN:** Ah ah! E don serious reach like dat?
53. **GRACE:** e even pass like dat o. we never p[ay since two terms now. See how di VP just dey shout for my head anyhow. Nor be small disgrace.
54. **EDOGUN:** **(SIGHS)** Okay. I go go look for factory tomorrow. Dem dey always get some kain small work. Even if na cleaner work, I go take am.
55. **\_GRACE:** **(HESITANTLY)** Maybe I for go see Broda Pullen.
56. **EDOGUN:** **(ANNOYED)** Your broda? To do wetin?
57. **GRACE:** To collect small money now. I know say you nor like am, but wetin we go do again?
58. **EDOGUN:** Grace, I no sabi o. I jus nor like make we dey go meet am for help. I be man, I suppose fit look after my own family without help from outside. Your

broda go de look me like who don fall im hand final.

59. **\_GRACE:** **(CONSOLINGLY)** You know say dat one nor be true talk. Broda Pullen respect you. Anyway, I jus wan go collect my own part of di rent. You sabi say papa been leave dat house wey Pullen dey live for me and am.
60. **EDOGUN:** I know. I jus no like am. You never go collect rent dia since all these years. Im go sabi say something don happun if you start now
61. **\_GRACE:** Nor worry Edogun, dia trouble go pass. God naim be our strength. I dey here for you anytime
62. **EDOGUN:** **(CHEERS UP).** Na true you talk. **(VOICE GOES DEEPER, A LITTLE SEDUCTIVE)** You know, Grace. I get luck say I get wife wey love me, dey tanda my side every time. And you come fine well-well join.
63. **GRACE:** **(GIGGLES)** Thank you, my husband.
64. **\_EDOGUN:** **(AMOROUSLY)** Why we nor go inside bedroom, push all dis palaver commot from mind?
65. **GRACE:** **(SHORTLY)** Abeg Edogun, nor be now.
66. **\_MUSIC:** **BRIDGE UP AND FADE**

**Scene 3, Pullen's House, Morning.**

67. **SFX:** **PLATES BEING PLACED ON TABLE.**
68. **PULLEN:** **(HAPPY)** Waaaow, Efe, wetin we dey celebrate?
69. **EFE:** **(PROUD)** Noting, Pullen, Pullen. My Sweetie husband. I jus wan surprise you with your favourite food before you go work today.
70. **PULLEN:** I be very lucky man o, Efe. Pounded yam and draw soup. Well done oh. You go don wake before day break to cook dis.
71. **EFE:** Dat na noting my husband. Na my work as wife and mama to make sure say I settle everybody for my family.
72. **PULLEN:** You do well. I hope say you nor dey over work yourself sha. Isoken dey help you at all so?
73. **EFE:** She dey help. I wish say she fit try read her book small sha. JAMB don dey near.
74. **PULLEN:** Where she dey sef? I hope say she don dey go lesson now.
75. **EFE:** Mscheww. Pullen, I nor sabi wetin to do with dat girl ohh. I say make shew go school today but she say na bread wey she wan go sell
76. **PULLEN:** **(SHOCKED)** What? Isoken my pikin talk so?
77. **EFE:** Pullen, I no sure say dat girl wan go school o. I feel say e go better make we nor dey waste our money again, e don do abeg.
78. **PULLEN:** **(UPSET)** I for no believe say she fit do like dat o. She be really correct student when she still dey secondary school. Wetin come happun?

79. **EFE:** Maybe now wey she don grow, she dey find husband. You sabi how girls dey wen dem don reach her age.
80. **PULLEN:** Nor be di same Adeswua wey we dey yarn? Dat girl don dey dream say she wan be lawyer since she begin talk. She no fit forget dat dream easily. Something dey wrong.
81. **EFE:** **(ANNOYED)** Di only ting wey wrong here be say dat girl don spoil, and na you spoil am
82. **PULLEN:** Wetin dat one come mean now, Efe?
83. **EFE:** **(ANGRILY)** Pullen! Isoken be your only pikin? I mean am oh, Pullen. Di girl no serious. Nor be only dat one, she nor dey grateful.
84. **PULLEN:** **(EXCLAIMS)** Efe!
85. **EFE:** Imagine all di money wey we don blow on top di two times wey she do JAMB. And she nor wan dey serious with school. E nor better to spend di money for pikin wey dey serious, wey go put head for school matter well-well?
86. **PULLEN:** **(SIGHS)** Maybe na true you talk o. We suppose sit am down talk to am before e too late.
87. **EFE:** I don try, but she nor dey hear my talk. Maybe because no be me born am. I don try oh, I don try to love dat girl **(voice breaks with emotion)**.
88. **PULLEN:** Efe my wife! I go talk to am. Meanwhile, abeg make sure say she go school.
89. **EFE:** **(COMPOSES HERSELF)** Ok my husband, you sabi say na beta ting I want for am. I just feel say maybe she for try learn handwork. Maybe she nor wan be lawyer again.



90. **PULLEN:** We suppose discuss with am. You fit dey correct. I been pray say she go be lawyer, but e nor good make she jus dey waste her life if nor be wetin she wan do be dat.
91. **EFE:** **(CHANGING THE SUBJECT)** My husband abeg eat your food, e don dey cold and time dey waka. We fit talk dis matter again wen you return from work.
92. **MUSIC:** **BRIDGE UP AND FADE**

**Scene 4, Efe's Shop, Afternoon.**

93. **SFX:** **HEAVY FOOTSTEPS, PANTING, DOOR BEING OPENED AND SLAMMED.**
94. **EFE:** **(SHOUTING)** Hey, hey, hey! Who be dat wey dey try break my gate. Devil dey chase you?
95. **ISOKEN:** **(CRYING)** God, why me. Why me?
96. **EFE:** **(SKEPTICAL)** Wetin dey worry you Isoken? Wetin happun? Why your body scatter-scatter like dis? See your dress don tear, you nor fit dey careful?
97. **ISOKEN:** **(PANTING AND SOBBING CAN BARELY GET WORDS OUT)** Mummy.. Aunty Efe... I don die o
98. **EFE:** You dey here dey talk and you say you don die. Come on. Wetin happun to you? Where my bread dey?
99. **ISOKEN:** **(SOBBING HARD)** I been dey sell di bread as you send me. Naim some men call me, say dem wan buy bread.
100. **EFE:** Enh enh? So wetin come happun?
101. **ISOKEN:** As I come enter di yard... (SOBS)
102. **EFE:** Nor dey cry like dog. Tell me wetin happun?
103. **ISOKEN:** Mummy....One of dem block di gate and dem say dem nor go allow me go unless I **(VOICE BREAKS)** make dem happy.
104. **EFE:** God! **(CLAPS HANDS)** So wetin happun? Dem touch you?
105. **ISOKEN:** I kick di one wen been block di gate, den I run.
106. **EFE:** And di bread?

107. **ISOKEN:** No mummy, thank God oh! I... **(SHOCKED AT EFE'S CALLOUSNESS)** di bread?
108. **EFE:** Yes, di bread, or you nor carry bread commot house dis morning?
109. **ISOKEN:** **(CALMING DOWN)** Di bread fall troway wen I dey run.
110. **EFE:** God eee! Na wetin dey worry dis girl? Why you send am to come kill me, God? You sabi how much dat bread cost?
111. **ISOKEN:** Mummy, dem been wan by-force, rape me. Noting wey I fit do again!
112. **EFE:** **(SHOUTING)** You for allow dem do am. After all no be free you dey dash am all those useless boys for area? E for beta make you stay dia, make di bread come house, instead of dis nonsense tory wey come dey open mouth dey yarn me so.
113. **ISOKEN:** **(STARTS TO CRY)** Aunty Efe...
114. **EFE:** **(SNAPS)** Nor dey make noise dia abeg. How you wan take get di money back?
115. **ISOKEN:** **(SOBBING)** Ah! Mummy!
116. **EFE:** Na di only ting wey you sabi be dat. Cry- Cry! Make I tell you someting, Isoken. Dat money dey very important. I need am. Or you tink say na your papa post office salary dey put food for table? If you sabi wetin good for you ehn, find way get dat money back.
117. **ISOKEN:** **(BEGGING)** Mummy abeg. I nor plan to leave di bread. I get to run commot dia, odawise dem fit even kill me after dem rape me finish.
118. **EFE:** Isoken, your talk don tire me. You nor go eat for my house till you return my money wen I suffer

get. Bring my money back oh, or you nor go chop.  
Nonsense!

119. **ISOKEN:**       **(CRIES HARD)** Iyen Uben! Osanobua help me Oh!

120. **MUSIC:**       **BRIDGE UP FADE UP AND UNDER.**