

SECOND CHANCE

EPISODE TWENTY-TWO

Characters

Yankat

Nkiru

Keturah

Ehi

Bondo (Male Voice – Thug)

Scene 1

Nkiru and Yankat’s Rented Room. Late Afternoon.

1. **MUSIC:** **BRIDGE AND FADING**
2. **SFX:** **SOUND OF LIGHT ROAD TRAFFIC NOISE AND HAWKING**
3. **SFX:** **SOUND OF KEY BEING TURNED IN THE LOCK AND A DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING.**
4. **YANKAT:** **(SINGING TUFACE’S “RAINBOW SOFTLY UNDER HER BREATH)** *Ever since I left you, la la la...*
5. **NKIRU:** **(FIRMLY)** Yankat!
6. **SFX:** **SOUND OF LIGHT BEING SWITCHED ON**
7. **YANKAT:** **(STARTLED)** My God! Nkiru? You scared me o! Why are you sitting in the room in the dark like this?
8. **NKIRU:** **(MOCKING)** Ehen, so you were scared eh? Yankat? I wonder why you’re so jumpy, eh?
9. **YANKAT:** **(LAUGHS NERVOUSLY)** Well Nkiru, anyone would be jumpy if they heard their name in a room they thought was empty.

10. **NKIRU:** (UNCONVINCED) Well, if you say so. (PAUSES) So, where are you coming from in such high spirits?
11. **YANKAT:** (PROUDLY) Well, Nkiru, not that it's your business, but it has gotten serious between Ehi and I, so we went for family planning counseling.
12. **NKIRU:** (UNIMPRESSED, SARCASTIC) Is that so?
13. **YANKAT:** (STILL IN A GOOD MOOD) Yes it was wonderful. At first I was really shy, but the nurse was so nice and in the end, we were able to choose the contraceptive pill...
14. **NKIRU:** (SHOCKED) Hmmm see this girl o...
15. **YANKAT:** (SURPRISED) Hehn! Nkiru, what is it? I'm surprised at your reaction o. After all aren't you on the pill as well?
16. **NKIRU:** (JUDGEMENTALLY) And what does that have to do with anything? Am I the one that is so inconsiderate as to be carrying on with a boyfriend, whilst my heartbroken family searches all over for me?
17. **YANKAT:** (SHOCKED) Nkiru, what are you talking about?
18. **NKIRU:** (MOCKS HER) "Nkiru, what are you talking about?" (SHOUTS) Nonsense fake person with your nonsense fake life!
19. **YANKAT:** (CONFUSED) Nkiru, have you run mental? What are you accusing me of now?
20. **NKIRU:** (LAUGHS) Oh Yankat, I know all about you. Or should I call you Franca... That's your real name after all, is it not?
21. **YANKAT:** (FRIGHTENED) Nkiru, where did you hear that name? (STAMMERING) I-I-I d-d-don't know anyone by that name.
22. **SFX:** SOUND OF ENVELOPE PAPER CRINKLING
23. **NKIRU:** Is that so, Yankat abi Franca? Then please, tell me, what is this? Is this not you in this picture?
24. **YANKAT:** (FURIOUS) Nkiru, how dare you! How dare you go through my things! Give me those pictures right now!

25. SFX: **SOUND OF SCUFFLING AS THE TWO GIRLS STRUGGLE FOR THE ENVELOPE**
26. NKIRU: (OUT OF BREATH) Ehn take the pictures if you want! I don't need them again. I've already done the needful!
27. YANKAT: (WORRIED) Nkiru, what do you mean? What have you done? Ehn? Nkiru!
28. NKIRU: I really don't know how you could have put your family through such stress! Thank God I saw their advert in the newspaper with your picture and then...
29. YANKAT: (FRIGHTENED, CUTS IN, SHOUTING) Yehhhhh! NKIRU!!! What advert?! What did you do?
30. NKIRU: Well it was for your own good, Yankat. I called the number in this newspaper advertisement. See, here...
31. SFX: **SOUND OF NEWSPAPER PAGES RIFLING**
32. YANKAT: (DISTRAUGHT) Oh my God! Nkiru you don't know what you've done!
33. NKIRU: See Yankat, there's no need to be so dramatic. I'm sure you weren't planning to hide from your family forever. Now I've called and told them where you are. They're on their way and then you can sort out whatever problem you have with them and move on...
34. YANKAT: (UPSET, CUTS IN, TEARFUL) Nkiru, my family is dead. They were killed by assassins as part of a revenge plot that is too long to explain now. I have only managed to evade them thanks to the assistance of Uncle Nate, a family friend who helped me change my identity and got my admission here and...
35. NKIRU: (SHOCKED, CUTS IN) Ehn!!!! (SHOUTS) ASSA-GINI??? Assassins, keh?
36. YANKAT: (RESIGNED) Yes Nkiru, assassins! Assassins who've been looking for me since and have put adverts in the newspaper on my whereabouts. That's why I've been living in hiding under an assumed identity.

37. **NKIRU:** (WAILS) Yeehhhhh! *Chineke me o!!!!* Yankat!!! You have killed me ooo! Why didn't you tell me?
38. **YANKAT:** (UPSET) Nkiru, are you mad? You are the one that has called assassins on my head and *I* have killed *you*??? You couldn't leave things alone, ehn? Well I hope you're happy now! Busy body!
39. **NKIRU:** (HYSTERICAL) Chei God eeee. *Chineke me o!* Yankat! Yankat, which kind of trouble is this now? (CALMING SLIGHTLY) But it's you they want right, Yankat? After all, I'm a foolish girl and they must know I don't know anything, abi?
40. **YANKAT:** (UNSYMPATHETIC) Well Nkiru, if you're asking me, I doubt they'll let you go scot free. We need to get out of here immediately!
41. **NKIRU:** (AGITATED AND SNAPPING FINGERS AS THOUGH TO WARD OFF CURSES) Cheeeiii!!!! Yankat!!!! ASSASSINS!!!! *Chineke me o...* Please, Yankat, I nor dey for dis one ooo! (FLEES)
42. **MUSIC:** BRIDGE MUSIC

Scene 2

Keturah's salon. Early Evening.

43. **SFX:** SOUND OF RUNNING FOOTSTEPS
44. **NKIRU:** (PANTING, HEAVILY OUT OF BREATH, COMING ON-MIC) God please let Keturah be around.
45. **SFX:** SOUND OF HEAVY, BANGING KNOCKING ON A DOOR
46. **NKIRU:** (SHOUTING) KETURAH!! KE-TU-RAH! KETURAH, please now open if you're there, it's Nkiru!
47. **SFX:** DOOR OPENS ON MIC
48. **KETURAH:** (SUPRISED) Ah ah, Nk. Is it you? When I heard the banging on the door, I thought it was bandits come to steal my earnings for the day. I was hiding!

49. **NKIRU:** **(BREATHLESS)** Hmmm Keturah. Now is not the time for jokes o. *Wahala dey!*
50. **KETURAH:** **(LAUGHS)** See Nkiru, you need to calm down. Is this about the showdown with Yankat? I thought you were going to come and tell me tomorrow about everything.
51. **NKIRU:** **(CALMER)** Look Keturah, there are serious problems o! I shouldn't have called Yankat's people.
52. **KETURAH:** **(INDIGNANT)** And why not? As a mother, I can only imagine what her people are going through worrying about her whereabouts to the point they put adverts in the newspaper...
53. **NKIRU:** **(UPSET, CUTS IN)** No no no! Look Keturah! Her people are dead. Killed by assassins! Assassins that put an advert in the paper so they can locate her and kill her too!
54. **KETURAH:** **(SHOCKED)** APIEGWOOO!!! It's a lie! ASSASSINS!
55. **NKIRU:** **(IMPATIENT)** Yes, that's why she's been using a fake name! Ohhh Keturah, what are we going to do?
56. **KETURAH:** "We" keh! Ah no no no! Nkiru, there is no "we" in this matter o! You didn't mention my name when you called right?
57. **NKIRU:** No of course not, there was no cause to mention your name and... **(INTERRUPTS SELF IN REALIZATION)** Wait o, Keturah, you can't abandon me in this matter.
58. **KETURAH:** **(FRIGHTENED)** Hmmm Nkiru, I'm a mother o and besides I'm too young to die now.
59. **NKIRU:** **(UPSET)** Ah noooo Keturah, you can't just leave me alone o. After all I've done for you in the past?
60. **KETURAH:** Nkiru, please try and understand, eh? It's not personal! You must leave my shop now! I'm no longer interested in the gist!
61. **NKIRU:** **(ANGRY)** No o. I will stay with you. You were the one that said I should call the number before confronting Yankat. If I had spoken to her first as I wanted, we wouldn't be in this mess!

62. **SFX:** **SOUND OF THINGS BEING PACKED HURRIEDLY AND BAGS BEING ZIPPED**
63. **KETURAH:** **(HURRIEDLY)** See Nk, I'm going to my mother's place out of town ehn where I will keep a low profile for a few weeks. Just in case somehow the assassins discover my involvement in this matter...
64. **NKIRU:** **(AFRAID)** But what about me...
65. **KETURAH:** **(IMPATIENT)** Well Nkiru, you're welcome to join me, but I'm ready to leave now! Let's go.
66. **NKIRU:** Go? Just like that? What about my clothes? And I didn't even bring my phone which is still new...
67. **KETURAH:** Look Nkiru, we don't have time for that. Besides, if I were you, I would throw that phone away. Don't you watch films? That's how they trace people o.
68. **NKIRU:** **(BELLIGERENTLY)** Ah I can't leave my new phone behind o. It's a Blackberry and you know all I had to do to get it. At least, we will stop and pick it on the way along with some of my things.
69. **KETURAH:** **(VEHEMENTLY)** Nkiru, I can't follow you to your place o. What if the assassins are already there?! Please let's leave town now.
70. **NKIRU:** **(BEGGING)** Please nau, Keturah! I'm afraid to go by myself.
71. **KETURAH:** Nkiru, I've said my own. Leave those things! Let's just be going. We can get whatever you need later!
72. **NKIRU:** **(WHINING)** Keturah, it's not fair o! What of my cream? And my pills. And the clothes I just bought yesterday?
73. **KETURAH:** Look NK, the best I can do, is wait for you here. But just half an hour maximum and I'm off.
74. **NKIRU:** **(NERVOUSLY, STAMMERS)** O-o-kay K-k-keturah. L-l-let me go and p-p-pack some things. I'll be back soon.
75. **MUSIC:** **BRIDGE MUSIC**

Scene 3

Nkiru and Yankat's Rented Room. Early Evening.

76. SFX: SOUND OF ZIPPING A SUITCASE FOLLOWED BY THE SOUND OF IT BEING PUT ON THE FLOOR AND ROLLED TOWARDS THE DOOR
77. SFX: SOUND OF DOOR OPENING
78. YANKAT: (SCREAMING) YEHH! Oh my God, Ehi, you scared me!
79. EHI: (SURPRISED, TEASING) Haba Yankat. Am I suddenly so frightening to look at? I was just about to knock on the door when you opened it and started screaming!
80. YANKAT: (NERVOUSLY) Ehn yes, well, I'm actually in a hurry. I need to go now. Is there anything, Ehi?
81. EHI: (CONFUSED) I thought you'd planned to stay home and study tonight, Yankat? That's the reason you gave for not being able to come to my place.
82. YANKAT: (IMPATIENT) Yes, well plans change, Ehi. So may I help you? Because I'm in a hurry.
83. EHI: (SURPRISED) Well no. I was actually at the bus stop when I realized I was still holding your suya and I know you planned to eat it for your dinner so I brought it back.
84. SFX: SOUND OF CRINKLING OF PLASTIC BAG AS IT EXCHANGES HANDS
85. YANKAT: (HURRIEDLY) Okay, yes thank you Ehi. I have it now. (PAUSES) Okay then, bye!
86. EHI: (TAKEN ABACK) Yankat, is anything the matter? You're not yourself. (PAUSES) And is that a suitcase you're holding? Where are you going? You didn't tell me you were travelling.
87. YANKAT: (DISTRAUGHT) Hmmm! Look Ehi, I don't have time. I have to go now. (STARTS SOBBING)

88. **EHI:** **(NOT SATISFIED)** What do you mean by that, Yankat? I think I at least deserve an explanation from you!
89. **YANKAT:** **(PULLING HERSELF TOGETHER)** It's a long story Ehi, and there's no time! We seriously have to leave now!!! Your being near me puts you in danger!
90. **EHI:** **(UNRUFFLED)** Yankat dear! I am not going anywhere until you tell me what's happening
91. **YANKAT:** **(SIGHS DEJECTEDLY)** Ehi, I've been in hiding all this time. Assassins are after me and now they've found me, my life is in danger...
92. **EHI:** **(ASTONISHED)** What? Assassins! Yankat, is this some kind of joke? Because I'm not laughing.
93. **YANKAT:** **(SOBBING)** Ehi, it's a long story and now isn't really the time to tell it! I didn't want to get anybody involved with all this but...
94. **EHI:** **(DEFIANTLY)** Look Yankat, I'm not leaving you to face whatever is happening alone. Just give me the brief rundown.
95. **YANKAT:** **(FRUSTRATED)** Ehi, I've already told you! Assassins are after me. They're on the way right now. If they find you here, they could kill you too. **(BREAKING DOWN, WAILING)** Yankat is not even my real name... I had to change my identity after the assassination of my family!
96. **EHI:** Look Yankat, I love you whatever your real name is. We'll get through this together. **(HURT)** You should have confided in me since. Or didn't you trust me?
97. **YANKAT:** Oh Ehi. You know I trust you. I was just so scared.
98. **EHI:** Look let me get your bags. We can go to my place. I just moved and not many people know where I stay. We'll be safe there. Then you can tell me the full story and we we can figure out what to do.
99. **YANKAT:** Oh Ehi, are you sure? I love you so much and I don't want to put you in danger.
100. **MUSIC:** **BRIDGE MUSIC**

Scene 4

Nkiru and Yankat's Rented Room. Evening.

101. NKIRU: (EXHALES DEEPLY, TALKING TO SELF) Chei!!!! Nkiru, what kind of trouble have you entered, eh?
102. SFX: **SOUND OF HURRIED FOOTSTEPS PACING THE ROOM**
103. NKIRU: (BREATHING HEAVILY) Chei where is my charger eh? (PAUSES, UPSET) And see how this Yankat girl has already packed her things and ran away and left me! (URGENTLY) Hehn, I need to hurry!
104. SFX: **SOUND OF BAGS BEING ZIPPED**
105. NKIRU: (SOLILOQUIZES) Hehn Nkiru Callita Okorie! You see where your talk-talk has landed you? (HYSTERICAL) *Mma anyi gwara am na onu maa ga etinye m na nsogbu!* My mother warned me about this oo! Oversabi don finally kill me ooo!!!
106. SFX: **HEAVY BANGING ON THE DOOR**
107. BRANDO: (OFF MIC) *Who dey here?* (PAUSES, AGGRESSIVE) I say who dey here?! Open this door before I blow your head off!
108. NKIRU: (ON MIC, WORRIED, WAILING) *Chim ooo! Efukwanu oooooooooo!! Onu m ara puta go m oooooooooo!!!!* (SHOUTING, NERVOUS) Please sir, nobody is here. We have gone out!
109. SFX: **DOOR BANGS OPEN AGGRESSIVELY**
110. BRANDO: (AGGRESSIVE) *O-ho so you don run finish abi?* Today, I will show you that you can't escape me, Brando, in this life. *Shey na u be Franca?*
111. NKIRU: (FRIGHTENED, STAMMERING) No-oo-nooooo, no sir! I am not Franca ooooo. I don't even know her. I just came to see my friend b-but s-s-since she's not here, l-l-let me start going home.

112. BRANDO: (INTIMIDATINGLY, SHOUTS) Shut up! If I wooze u eeee? Where you think say you dey run gooooooo? (TALKING TO OTHER THUGS) Guys make una tie this girl!!
113. NKIRU: (FUMBLING THROUGH HER BAGS TO BRING OUT HER STUDENTS I.D) No sir. Please.. See my ID card ehn? I am Nkiruka Okorie. Oga abeeg naaaaaaa! Please don't hurt me Mr. Brando!!!!!! *Biko!*
114. BRANDO: (THOUGHTFUL, LOW VOICE) Nkiruka Okorie... That name is familiar o... (SHOUTING, AGGRESSIVE) Come o, are you not the roommate? Are you not the one that called Mama Rose about Franca? You're wasting my time. (BRANDISHING A GUN) Where then is Franca?
115. NKIRU: (WAILING) Ahhhh see gun!!! (PAUSES, PLEADING) Ogaaa Brando! *Biko zieniu ooooooo!* I don't know where she is. See, if I knew, I swear I'd tell you.
116. BRANDO: (MENACING) Guys, see this girl o! (COMMANDING) C'mon tell me where Franca is!
117. NKIRU: (WEEPING, BEGGING) Ahhhh please na Mr. Brando! See, I have ten thousand naira in my account. If you will take me to the ATM, I will give you.
118. THUG: (BECOMING ANGRIER) Hmmm, it's like this girl thinks we're fools! You're going nowhere till you tell us where that girl, Franca is?
119. NKIRU: (SOBBING) Please, I swear. I don't know where she went! I didn't see her when I came here. I swear!!!!
120. THUGS: (AGGRESSIVELY) Then that means you must have warned her we're coming! If not, how did she escape!
121. NKIRU: (UNCONVINCING) I didn't really tell her you were coming. (STAMMERING) That is, I only told her to expect visitors...
122. BRANDO: (CUTTING IN, LOUD) SHUT UP!!! You think I'm playing with you. (PAUSES, TURNS AWAY FROM MIC, COMMANDING) Boys, tie her up! By the time we deal with her,

she will know where Franca is. (**MENANCINGLY, ON-MIC**)
You're coming with us! Useless girl!!!!

- 123. NKIRU:** (**WAILING**) Ahhhh Mr. Brando, you don't want to take me o. I mean, I don't even know this Franca. It's Yankat I even know. I don't know where she went. Please now Mr. Brando...
- 124. SFX:** **WAILING CONTINUES BUT FADES IN THE DISTANCE**
- 125. SFX:** **OFF MIC, A TIRE SCREECHES AS THEY DROVE AWAY**
- 126. MUSIC:** **THEME MUSIC**