

EPISODE 25: SECOND CHANCE

Characters:

Mimi

Baba

Yankat

Ehi

Dafe

Nkiru

Scene 1

Ehi's apartment, morning

1. **MUSIC:** **BRIDGE UP AND FADE**
2. **EHI:** So Yankat; Inspector Audu says the investigation has been going smoothly.
3. **YANKAT:** **(SOMBER)** I'm glad Ehi. We thank God justice was able to come through in the end.
4. **EHI:** He says the assassins have confessed to the murder of your family, and that they've also fingered Mama Rose as their employer.
5. **YANKAT:** **(SADLY)** Mama Rose – that's the mother of my father's late mistress. So many people dead, so many families ruined ...
6. **EHI:** **(SOOTHING)** It will be okay, dear. The police were able to use the assassins as bait to catch Mama Rose. The law has caught up with her.
7. **YANKAT:** It's only fair, Ehi. Everybody has to pay for their wrongdoings one day.
8. **EHI:** And she'll definitely be paying for hers. The police say they have enough evidence against her to send her to jail for a long time.
9. **YANKAT:** Uncle Nate will be glad to hear that. I filled him in on the situation last night over the phone, and he was grateful that I was okay. I
10. **EHI:** Well, at least everything is over now, and you don't have to hide anymore, Yankat.
11. **YANKAT:** Agreed. It's such a relief to not have to keep looking over my shoulder all the time.

12. **EHI:** And now you can go back to being Franca Pam again, though I don't know how that will affect things between us ...
13. **YANKAT:** I don't know ... I don't even know who Franca is anymore ...
14. **EHI:** **(CONFUSED)** What do you mean?
15. **YANKAT:** I mean, after everything that has happened ... all that Franca has been through, all that she has had to endure ... I feel like I'm now Yankat more than I am Franca.
16. **EHI:** And after what you've been through, you're free to be anyone you like.
17. **YANKAT:** Thanks for understanding, Ehi.
18. **EHI:** **(SUGGESTIVELY)** Besides, whatever you choose to call yourself, whether Franca or Yankat, your last name will be changing soon anyway.
19. **YANKAT:** **(CONFUSED)** What are you talking about, Ehi?
20. **EHI:** What I'm talking about is that I love you, Yankat, and I would love nothing more than to spend the rest of my life loving you, if you will let me.
21. **YANKAT:** **(GETTING EXCITED)** Oh my God, Ehi, are you saying ...?
22. **EHI:** Yankat Franca Pam, will you marry me?
23. **YANKAT:** **(SHOUTING HAPPILY)** Oh Ehi!
24. **EHI:** And I'll completely understand if you want to finish your studies first.
25. **YANKAT:** Oh yes, Ehi! Yes, I will marry you! I'm so happy I can burst! I can't wait to tell Uncle Nate – I'm so sure he will approve of you!
26. **EHI:** **(LAUGHING)** I hope he does!
27. **YANKAT:** Oh Ehi – you've made me happier than I remember being in a long time! And to think a year ago I didn't think I would ever feel this kind of happiness again!
28. **SFX:** **BRIDGE MUSIC**

Scene 2

Dafe's flat. Afternoon

29. **EHI:** (EXCITED) Dafe my man! It's so good to finally see you up and about and out of the hospital!
30. **DAFE:** I have to tell you Ehi; it feels good too! And with so much to look forward to.
31. **EHI:** Yes, that's right! Your wedding is coming up soon! I'm looking forward to the reception at your new place – I'm sure it will be bubbling!
32. **DAFE:** (PLAYFULLY) Of course – no dulling! I can't wait for you to see the new flat. (SIGHS HAPPILY) Look at us, talking about weddings and new places.
33. **EHI:** I know abi? It's so nice to be able to talk about happy things again, in light of all the violence that's been going on.
34. **DAFE:** Come to think of it; how is your new fiancé? Celebrations are in order!
35. **EHI:** (LAUGHING) Yankat is fine o. She's going back to school in Benin. She only has one year left to finish there.
36. **DAFE:** Okay; so you guys are postponing the wedding until she's finished school?
37. **EHI:** Yes; we figured that would be best. But I'll do my best to be going to Benin to see her often.
38. **DAFE:** (LAUGHING) Ah; more grease to your elbows! I hope that won't sha distract from her schooling?
39. **EHI:** No no; we'll be using family planning to make sure we don't have any unexpected surprises.
40. **DAFE:** Yes o, for the peace of mind.
41. **EHI:** Exactly!
42. **DAFE:** By the way, my daughter Gift is going to be coming to live with Zainab and I very soon.
43. **EHI:** (HAPPILY) That's great news! How old is she now even?
44. **DAFE:** She's five now o – already!
45. **EHI:** They grow so quick!

46. **DAFE:** They do o! I'm just so glad that I can finally take her off my parents' hands and provide for her myself.
47. **EHI:** We thank God.
48. **DAFE:** My prayer is just that I will be able to continue to provide for her and any other children Zainab and I may have, in all the areas that they will need providing.
49. **EHI:** My friend; that's the prayer of every good father.
50. **DAFE:** I'm also thinking about doing my GCE finally ...
51. **EHI:** **(HAPPILY)** Good for you Dafe! I'm very happy for you! Why don't you consider taking it further than that though?
52. **DAFE:** I have considered it, and I'm hoping family planning will be able to help me to organize my family so as to save funds towards that end.
53. **EHI:** I'm sure it will, Dafe.
54. **DAFE:** You know; I'm even going to invite a social mobilizer in my community who works with the "Get It Together" people to come and speak about family planning at my wedding!
55. **EHI:** **(EXCITED)** Really? That's a great idea! You're really trying to impact your community, abi?
56. **DAFE:** I'm just trying to do my part o. It would be great if everyone could take advantage of the opportunity that family planning offers.
57. **EHI:** Life is really looking good for you now o!
58. **DAFE:** For us o, my brother! Not just for me.
59. **EHI:** I don't want to bring up the past again, but don't you ever worry about Chacha showing up to spoil things for you again? I mean, she's out of jail now, right?
60. **DAFE:** Yes, but I'm not too worried about her.
61. **EHI:** How come?
62. **DAFE:** Well for one, the only reason I dropped the charges against her was because her mother and the families of those thugs she hired came to beg me seriously on her behalf.

63. **EHI:** **(SHOCKED)** Really?
64. **DAFE:** Yes o! They even brought some of their local chiefs and pastors and imams to come and beg me too!
65. **EHI:** Wow!
66. **DAFE:** Besides, the police issued her a sound warning to stay away from me or else. She better not dare it.
67. **EHI:** **(LAUGHING)** Well it seems like you've thought of everything!
68. **SFX:** **BRIDGE MUSIC**

Scene 3

Ehi's place, afternoon

69. **SFX:** **KNOCK ON DOOR**
70. **YANKAT:** Who is it?
71. **NKIRU:** **(SOMBER)** Yankat it's me. It's NK.
72. **YANKAT:** **(SURPRISED)** Ah, NK!
73. **SFX:** **DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING**
74. **YANKAT:** What a nice surprise, NK! I haven't seen you since ... everything happened. How are you doing? I hope you're okay?
75. **NKIRU:** **(SERIOUS)** I'm fine o, Yankat, to the glory of God. I just wanted to come over and tell you myself how sorry I am.
76. **YANKAT:** No no; there's no need for all that one now, NK.
77. **NKIRU:** No there is need o, Yankat. It's because of my busybody aproko behavior that all this has happened. I just want you to know that I'm so very sorry for everything.
78. **YANKAT:** NK you know I can't hold a grudge against you. All is forgiven. And if we're being truthful, I think I need to ask for your forgiveness also.
79. **NKIRU:** Ah ah; I have nothing against you now, Yankat.

80. **YANKAT:** No, but it's my fault that you were in all that trouble. I brought my family drama into your life.
81. **NKIRU:** None of that was your fault though, I don't blame you.
82. **YANKAT:** So where are you staying now?
83. **NKIRU:** I've been fine o. I'm staying with Keturah for now until I can find another room.
84. **YANKAT:** Ah; and I'm sorry also that I moved out like that without notice -
85. **NKIRU:** **(DISMISSIVELY)** No need for more apologies; I completely understand. You want to go and complete your final year rather than coming back to continue from 200 level again; it makes sense nau.
86. **YANKAT:** Yes o. I hope you weren't treated too badly by those stupid kidnappers sha?
87. **NKIRU:** No o; I hardly even saw them. And when they came it was to abuse me up and down. They said I talk too much o, and that I'm annoying. That's why they didn't want to be in the same room with me.
88. **YANKAT:** But after all that, don't you feel like moving away from here? Maybe going back home?
89. **NKIRU:** **(LAUGHING)** Why? When I've finally become a local champion here in Abuja? All the local tv and radio stations have been lining up to interview me about this whole thing – a whole me!
90. **YANKAT:** **(LAUGHING)** Trust you to see the positive in every situation, Nkiru!
91. **NKIRU:** Yes o! If I'm ever going to make it as an Abuja big girl I better shine my eye and make use of all this popularity, Yankat!
92. **YANKAT:** I kuku trust you Nkiru!
93. **NKIRU:** **(EXCITED)** Please! It's NK, FYI! Fo sho!!!
94. **SFX:** **BRIDGE MUSIC**

Scene 4

Mimi's hospital room, daytime

95. **BAABA:** **(UPSET, IN TEARS)** Mimidoo my daughter, when will you wake up, eh? Look at how skinny you're looking – am I the one that did this to you? Ah, my daughter, my daughter ... you are the spitting image of my mother even, how can anyone doubt it? And you even have the same hairline as Mairo, the same hairline as your father ... **(BEGINS TO SOB)** Mimi my daughter, please, you need to get better! If not for anything else but for my sake! Ah, ya Allah! Rahimullah, for my sake! Ah; my daughter, my daughter!
96. **MIMI:** **(COUGHING FAINTLY AS SHE WAKES)**
97. **BAABA:** **(SHOCKED)** Mimi? Ah; Alhamdulillah! Wait Mimi, don't try to get up, you're still too weak. Lie back down.
98. **MIMI:** **(WEAK AND CONFUSED)** Who ... are you?
99. **BAABA:** I'm Mairo's mother, I came to watch over you. We've all been so worried about you. But praise Allah – you've woken up now!
100. **MIMI:** I heard you ... calling me daughter. Are you my mother? I couldn't help but overhear you before.
101. **BAABA:** **(WEEPING)** My daughter; all truths must come out under the sun! Yes; yes I am your own true birth mother!
102. **MIMI:** **(CONFUSED)** But ... that can't be possible. Then that would mean that Mairo ...
103. **BAABA:** Is your own twin sister, yes! Anybody who has looked at the both of you cannot deny it.
104. **MIMI:** Mother ... my mother! So I've found you! But why? Why did you abandon me?
105. **BAABA:** **(SORROWFUL)** My daughter, I only hope you can find it within your heart to forgive me! The story is such a painful one, and I've not told it to a single soul for years.
106. **MIMI:** You have to tell me mother. You owe me that much.
107. **BAABA:** Of course my daughter – I owe you more than I can ever repay! You see, I had twin daughters for your father – you and Mairo – and we were so happy together. That is until your father became a chief and started worshiping in the traditional sense.

108. **MIMI:** My father ... was a chief?
109. **BAABA:** Yes my daughter, he was, and it turned him into someone else entirely. He began doing all sorts of strange things. Things that did not agree with our religion at all. We began fighting so often; he wanted me to join him in doing these things. But I was raised in the way of the Muslim faith..
110. **MIMI:** So you left him, Baaba? Just like that?
111. **BAABA:** If only it were that simple, my daughter. When I told him I was leaving, he planned with his wicked mother, and they forced me into a trap. They said they would only allow me to leave if ... **(SOBS)** if I left one of my daughters behind with them!
112. **MIMI:** **(PAINED)** Ah! Such wickedness!
113. **BAABA:** There was nothing I could do – I had no choice! I’ve wanted to go back and look for you for so long, but I couldn’t bear to do it. I didn’t know if you would hate me for abandoning you!
114. **MIMI:** I could never hate you mother. You are my mother!
115. **BAABA:** And once Mairo told me about your story and you came yourself to the house that day I knew it was you, but what could I say? I was so scared! And then to hear that you were in the hospital again – I nearly lost my mind! But you are fine now, and I can only praise Allah from the bottom of my heart!
116. **MIMI:** **(CRYING HAPPILY)** Ah mother! Mother! I’m so glad I’ve found you!
117. **BAABA:** My daughter!
118. **MIMI:** So this is what a mother’s love feels like? If only Osato would get better, my joy would be complete.
119. **MUSIC:** **BRIDGE UP AND FADE**