

## Episode 2

### Characters

*Uncle Nate*

*Franca (Yankat)*

*Dafe*

*Ehi*

*ChaCha*

### **SCENE 1, Market Area, Mid-morning**

1. **SFX:** **MARKET SOUNDS. PEOPLE HAWKING VARIOUS THINGS. TRAFFIC SOUNDS.**
2. **EHI:** **(SHOUTING)** Meat pie, doughnut, fried-chicken, gizzard, small chops, come to Yumyum!
3. **DAFE:** **(UNSURE)** Ehi? Ehi Osagie, is that you?
4. **EHI:** Ikoooo! Dafe Ogaga. See his big head, no change. After all these years.
5. **DAFE:** **(LAUGHS)** My brother, how are you?
6. **EHI:** Well, we thank God.
7. **DAFE:** What are you doing these days.
8. **EHI:** Just hustling, ooo, my brother.
9. **DAFE:** **(SURPRISED)** Hustling ke. Mr First-in-the-class is hustling? What happened now? I would have thought you'd be an Abuja big boy with all your potential.
10. **EHI:** **(DEFENSIVELY)** It's not easy oh. I came to Abuja thinking that there would be work, but it's not been easy.
11. **DAFE:** **(TEASING)** Bros, you're just dulling. If I had that your degree I would be a big man in this city by now.
12. **EHI:** **(AMUSED)** Is it? So what are you doing right now?
13. **DAFE:** Just some land brokerage stuffs. All this land stuffs isn't that close to what you read in the university?

14. **EHI:** I read Geography and Urban Planning, so not really, but bro, see my life, I am shouting like a witch here in this market living from hand to mouth. So honestly if you can hook me up, I will be so grateful.
15. **DAFE:** No shakings na, I will check with my contacts. Let me get your number.
16. **SFX:** **SOUND OF PHONE KEYS BEING HIT.**
17. **DAFE:** Zero, five, seven, five. Got it.
18. **EHI:** So how far now? How is your baby, and Angela. I'm sure you guys must have married by her.
19. **DAFE:** **(DISMISSIVE)** Guy, leave that one abeg.
20. **EHI:** Ahn Ahn. What happened now.
21. **DAFE:** Angela did me bad mehn. She did me bad.
22. **EHI:** What happened.
23. **DAFE:** The baby was not mine oh. The baby was oyinbo.
24. **EHI:** Ikoo! Are you serious?
25. **DAFE:** Imagine my shock when they brought out the baby and it was an oyinbo baby. Come and see how the nurses were pitying me.
26. **EHI:** I'm sorry ohh. Mehn, so what happened.
27. **DAFE:** Angela ran away, left me with the baby and the hospital bills.
28. **EHI:** Wow. So what happened to the baby?
29. **DAFE:** **(PROUDLY)** Gift is now five years old.
30. **EHI:** Man, you're trying oh, I don't know if I can be taking care of another man's child.
31. **DAFE:** I know what you mean, I wanted to give her away but I couldn't bring myself to do it.
32. **EHI:** Is she here with you now?

33. **DAFE:** No she is with my parents. I'm so glad I didn't give her away... she is my pride and joy.
34. **EHI:** That's good sha.
35. **DAFE:** Mehn, but that whole thing with Angela opened my eyes. No more fooling around without condoms oh. Man has to come correct. No dulling.
36. **EHI:** Bros, you don't need to tell me. All these "get it together" adverts are not just for show. Abeg no dulling!
37. **MUSIC:** **BRIDGE UP AND FADE**

**SCENE 2. Igbinedion University, Benin, Evening**

38. **SFX:** **KNOCKING ON DOOR**
39. **FRANCA:** **(CALLS. ON MIC)** Who is there?
40. **UNCLE NATE:** **(OFF MIC)** Franca, it's Uncle Nate. Let me in, please.
41. **FRANCA:** **(SURPRISED)** Uncle Nate?!
42. **SFX:** **FOOTSTEPS AND SOUND OF DOOR OPENING**
43. **FRANCA:** **(WARY, SURPRISED)** Welcome. Please. Come in.
44. **UNCLE NATE:** **(SADLY)** Thank you, my dear.
45. **FRANCA:** **(WARY)** Ah, Uncle Nate? This one that you've come all this way to Okada... What has happened again?
46. **UNCLE NATE:** **(STILL SAD)** Franca. Please come and sit down.
47. **FRANCA:** **(TERRIFIED)** Ha! Uncle you are scaring me. Something bad must have happened. Is it Mum?  
**(RAMBLING)** I'm feeling bad that you had to come all this way to Okada to see me especially as I would have seen you next week when I return to Jos.
48. **UNCLE NATE:** **(VOICE HEAVY)** I know Franca, but I had to see you urgently. It was very important. You see my dear, I have some bad news.
49. **FRANCA:** **(WEAKLY)** Oh no! What happened?

50. **UNCLE NATE:** **(VOICE BREAKS)** Your mother, your brothers and your sister. They were killed.
51. **FRANCA:** **(DISBELIEVING)** What?! No. Noooo. How?
52. **UNCLE NATE:** Franca, they were assassinated. That's the only way I can describe it. They were brutally murdered and then the house was burned down.
53. **FRANCA:** **(CRYING)** But who would do that? Mommy? The children, why would anyone kill them? This is unbelievable. God who? Why? Oh mommy? Gabriel? Martin and Martina? Everyone?
54. **UNCLE NATE:** **(ANGRY)** It is Rose's mother oh.
55. **FRANCA:** Are you serious?
56. **UNCLE NATE:** Very serious, my dear. Mama Rose believes that your mother killed Rose through juju.
57. **FRANCA:** What kind of nonsense is that?
58. **UNCLE NATE:** Rose died from a blood clot in the brain. But Mama Rose thinks its juju from your mother. She is trying to get revenge by wiping out your mother's entire line. She is still out there looking to kill you also
59. **FRANCA:** **(ANGRY)** So why is this woman still free. Why isn't she in jail?
60. **UNCLE NATE:** The security man who overheard the assassins managed to escape. After he came to tell me what happened, he went into hiding because these are dangerous people we are dealing with.
61. **FRANCA:** So are we just going to let that witch get away with it?
62. **UNCLE NATE:** Of course not. I've been working on the case with some of my contacts in the police but they're saying without concrete proof they can't do anything. It's very frustrating.
63. **FRANCA:** This is rubbish. I'm going to Jos to get justice for my family. Mama Rose won't get away with this, I swear.

64. **UNCLE NATE:** What will you do, Franca? Don't go and do something you will regret later.
65. **FRANCA:** **(SOBBING)** It's not fair. Is she just going to walk around free with my family's blood on her hands?
66. **UNCLE NATE:** No, my dear. But we need to plan. Mama Rose is still looking for you. If we're not careful, she'll find you, and then you'll never get the chance to get justice for your family.
67. **FRANCA:** **(WAILS)** What will we do?
68. **UNCLE NATE:** You need to go into hiding first. I'll help you. From then we'll figure out how to get justice.
69. **FRANCA:** **(CALMING DOWN/SNIFFING)** Thank you, Uncle Nate. I know it must be very risky for you to be helping me like this.
70. **MUSIC:** **BRIDGE UP AND FADE**

### **SCENE 3, BUS STOP, Afternoon**

71. **SFX:** **TRAFFIC SOUNDS. HORNS. CONDUCTORS SHOUTING THEIR DESTINATIONS. SOUND OF BRAKES AND BUSES ARRIVING AND DEPARTING.**
72. **CHACHA:** **(CALLING)** Please. Oga mi, I need your help.
73. **DAFE:** **(GUARDED)** Yes? What is it?
74. **CHACHA:** My name is Chacha by the way.
75. **DAFE:** Dafe. **(FLIRTATIOUS)** How can I help you? It's not everyday a beautiful damsel asks me for help.
76. **CHACHA:** **(LAUGHS)** I've been seeing you around here.
77. **DAFE:** **(FLIRTY)** So you like what you see abi?
78. **CHACHA:** **(GIGGLING)** You're a clown. Actually, I realised that you have the same phone as me. My battery died and I need to call someone urgently.
79. **DAFE:** Oh, is that it?

80. **CHACHA:** Yes, das all. I was wondering if I could borrow your battery to make the call. I'll do it right in front of you.
81. **DAFE:** Don't worry. Your face is trustworthy as well as beautiful.
82. **CHACHA:** **(LAUGHS AND CLAPS)** See how you're just washing me.
83. **DAFE:** It's true na.
84. **CHACHA:** So will you help me?
85. **DAFE:** Do you know the person's number?
86. **CHACHA:** Yes.
87. **DAFE:** Instead of switching batteries, just use my phone to call them then.
88. **CHACHA:** **(GRATEFUL)** Oh thank you!
89. **DAFE:** **(JOKINGLY)** That way you can add your number easily to my contacts list after you make the call.
90. **CHACHA:** **(GIGGLES)** We'll see. Maybe.
91. **DAFE:** Which one is maybe? Are we not friends again?
92. **CHACHA:** Hey-hey. **(CLAPS)** I guess we are. I'll add it after.
93. **DAFE:** **(HAPPY)** Ok.
94. **SFX:** **SOUND OF KEYS BEING ENTERED.**
95. **CHACHA:** Hello?
96. **SFX:** **PEOPLE TALKING. INDISTINCT VOICES. BEEP OF A CALL ENDING.**
97. **CHACHA:** **(GRATEFUL)** Thank you so much.
98. **DAFE:** So where are you meeting your friend?
99. **CHACHA:** Mashafa Road.
100. **DAFE:** **(HAPPY)** Wow! That's my neighbourhood. I can direct you to your friend's house if you want.

101. CHACHA: Thank you! Lead the way!! I know a sharp guy like you can't lead me wrong.

102. MUSIC: BRIDGE UP AND FADE OUT

**SCENE 4, FRANCA'S SAFE HOUSE, Afternoon**

103. SFX: **ONE KNOCK, TWO KNOCKS, THREE KNOCKS, ONE KNOCK. (SPECIAL KNOCK AGREED BY FRANCA AND NATE). FOOTSTEPS AND DOOR OPENING.**

104. UNCLE NATE: Good girl, you remembered the special knock, Franca.

105. FRANCA: How can I forget, Uncle Nate. My life depends on my remembering it.

106. UNCLE NATE: How are you, my dear?

107. FRANCA: I'm lonely, bored and depressed, Uncle Nate. Everyday, I listen to the radio hoping to hear that Mama Rose has been arrested, but nothing. So, I think you can add angry to those things.

108. UNCLE NATE: **(SYMPATHETIC)** I know it must be boring here with no one to talk to. I'll pick up some home videos for you to watch before I leave town.

109. FRANCA: Thank you, Uncle Nate, but I don't think I can concentrate on anything apart from Mama Rose.

110. UNCLE NATE: **(FRUSTRATED)** My dear, it has been very fruitless trying to catch her. I have not been able to find the guard who would be the best witness, and try as I might, I can't seem to link her to the crime.

111. FRANCA: **(BITTERLY)** I know you're trying, Uncle Nate. You're my only ally in this world now. Honestly, the thing that somehow pains me now is the fact that no one seems to even care that I am missing. All those friends that my parents used to have, and you're the only one there in our greatest time of need.

112. UNCLE NATE: **(GENTLY)** You know that's not the case, Franca. You know your father was an orphan, and your mother's family disowned her when she married your dad.

113. **FRANCA:** I know that. I don't expect anything from them. But what about the so-called friends.
114. **UNCLE NATE:** Your mother's friends are very worried. They even filed police reports. I want to tell them what's going on but I think it's better the less people know where you are.
115. **FRANCA:** **(TOUCHED)** God bless them. One day, I will be able to thank them.
116. **UNCLE NATE:** Meanwhile, our big problem is Mama Rose. She has been putting adverts in the newspapers and magazines offering a reward for information about your whereabouts.
117. **FRANCA:** **(SHOCKED)** Are you serious?
118. **UNCLE NATE:** It's no joke, Franca. She is trying to leave no stone unturned.
119. **FRANCA:** So why can't they use that to link her to the crime. I don't understand?
120. **UNCLE NATE:** When I saw it, I was happy, I thought we finally had a link. The police went to question her.
121. **FRANCA:** **(EAGER)** And? What happened?
122. **UNCLE NATE:** She told them one cock and bull story that she was a concerned member of your family, worried about the poor missing daughter of her late son-in-law. And That you reminded her of her late daughter.
123. **FRANCA:** God forbid. I don't sleep with married men, and I never will. **(UPSET)** So I am to remain hidden forever now?
124. **UNCLE NATE:** No, I have a solution. It's a temporary one but you might like it. At least it will allow you to leave this house.
125. **FRANCA:** But now that Mama Rose has put my picture in all the newspapers, will I ever have any peace?
126. **UNCLE NATE:** Listen, my dear. I have got you admission in University of Abuja. I don't think your father and mother know anybody in Abuja so hopefully they

will never think to look for you there. I have gotten you a new identity as well. Yankat. Yankat John.

- 127. FRANCA:** **(GRATEFUL)** Uncle Nate, thank you so much. Yankat John, you say? Hmn. Wow. So because of one demented lady I'm to change my identity? Hmn. Well, at least I can go back to school now. Thank you Sir.
- 128. UNCLE NATE:** **(SERIOUSLY)** It's no problem. But listen. Franca Pam is dead. You can't use that name anymore. From now on, you must remember your name is Yankat John.
- 129. MUSIC:** **BRIDGE UP AND FADE UP AND UNDER.**