

EPISODE 4

Characters

Moses

Yankat

Najib

Mairo

Mimi

Osato

Scene 1

University of Abuja, auditorium

1. **MUSIC:** **BRIDGE UP AND FADE**

2. **SFX:** **SCHOOL AMBIENCE**

3. **YANKAT:** **(GRUMBLES TO HERSELF)** Oh God I'm so tired, since morning. How long does one take to register in this school, gosh? **(TALKS ALOUD)** Please move forward, someone has entered the office. Move please before someone else jumps this queue. Oh God, what are you guys doing?

4. **SFX:** **COMMOTION OF STUDENTS SHOUTING AND LAUGHING**

5. **YANKAT:** **(UPSET)** Mstcheew, fools. Plain fools.

6. **MOSES:** Hello, ermm seems like you've been here for awhile.

7. **YANKAT:** Phew, story of my life.

8. **MOSES:** Sorry, but this is just part of the burden to get an education here. Trust me there's more. Welcome to the club. My name is Moses. Moses Makinde. Whats yours?

9. **YANKAT:** **(TAKEN ABACK, HESITANT)** My name is em... Miss ... Yankat John.

10. **MOSES:** **(CHUCKLES HEARTILY)** Wow, you had to add the 'Miss', even though its kinda obvious. Cool. Ermm the truth is, I saw you a few hours ago standing by that notice board, when I was going to have lunch,

there was a mad queue at the cafeteria, then I eventually had my lunch, and then I headed to a friend's place, I hung there for quite a while, and now I'm going back to my hostel and ta-da! you're still here. Okay, at least you've moved from the notice board.

- 11. YANKAT:** (SIGH) I moved here an hour ago. I am tired of this crazy exercise. Some students are so unruly. They just keep jumping the queue in front, causing stupid arguments there. And in the commotion, others would then join in with style, while we the orderly ones get punished for another one hour or so for that.
- 12. MOSES:** (CHUCKLES) Erm Yankat sorry but are you a john (new) or are you an *ajebutter*?
- 13. YANKAT:** What?
- 14. MOSES:** Better still are you both? Because you've got to be that, not to know how to move a fast one on them too. So you just kept quiet since?
- 15. YANKAT:** Ofcourse not, I spoke up so many times, we almost had a fight. The last time I spoke it was like I was talking to the wind. They ignored me. What's the point sef, I can't get into a fight just to register.
- 16. MOSES:** Well, I feel your pain, but truth must be told. You have to wise up and take charge of yourself and your things here, or people will walk all over you in this school. Even if you're an *ajebutter*, you have to change your *skin* girl. Seriously.
- 17. YANKAT:** (AMUSED) Really? Interesting.....
- 18. MOSES:** Well that's how it is, for real. You have to change your *skin* in this uni. You have to adapt sharply. Here Respect is earned. Strictly. Trust me, I should know I'm in my fourth year.
- 19. YANKAT:** (OVERWHELMED) Oh Moses, I just want to register and get it over with. Thanks for the lecture, but hey it doesn't solve my immediate problem. (BEAT) No offense intended.
- 20. MOSES:** (CHUCKLES) None taken.
- 21. YANKAT:** Why can't we register on line like 21st century people for God sake?

- 22. MOSES:** (CHUCKLES) We are getting there. But for now its Operation Register, which is to solve Yankats immediate problem? Come with me.
- 23. SFX:** FIRM FOOTSTEPS AND HEELED FOOTSTEPS ON MIC
- 24. YANKAT:** Moses wait, where are we going? I can't lose my space on the line o, after all these hours. They won't let me back in.
- 25. MOSES:** Yeah Yankat, good riddance, considering it didn't get you more than ten steps in three hours.
- 26. YANKAT:** (WHISPERS) We are going to the front of the queue? Moses?
- 27. MOSES:** (SPEAKS SHARPLY) Hey my guy, how far? This is my friend, she is in front of you, right?
- 28. GUY:** (NERVOUS) Yea, sure.
- 29. MOSES:** Cool, thanks. (SPEAKS SOFTLY TO YANKAT) Okay Yankat, get in front of him. Now, you go in next.
- 30. YANKAT:** (SURPRISED WHISPERS) Wow Moses, thanks, just like that? And nobody is even complaining.
- 31. MOSES:** (CHUCKLES) Do you want to register or not?
- 32. YANKAT:** Of course, I do. But how did you get him to just let me stay in his front by just talking?
- 33. MOSES:** Hmmm, Yankat, I didn't just come to this school yesterday. And of course once I told him you were in front of him, he knew that it must be the fact.
- 34. YANKAT:** But it's a lie, I wasn't.
- 35. MOSES:** (CHUCKLES) But now you are and that makes it true.
- 36. SFX:** BRIDGE MUSIC

Scene 2

Mimi and Osatos house

37. **SFX:** **DOORBELL CHIMES IN THE AIR**
38. **MIMI:** **(CALLS ON MIC)** Yes, who is there? **(GOING OFF)** I hope that's Yankat o.
39. **YANKAT:** **(OFF MIC)**Yes Mimi, its Yankat o. So sorry I'm late.
40. **SFX:** **DOOR OPENS. CLOSES ON MIC**
41. **MIMI:** **(OFF MIC)** Yankat! Thank God you have finally come. **(COMING ON)** Come in, come in. Make yourself at home. **(ON)** I was wondering who would help me eat all the food I've made. **(LAUGHS)** What took you so long? Or was this place difficult to find?
42. **YANKAT:** **(ON)** Not at all. It was just as you directed, very straight forward. Turn left after the junction, first house and here I am.
43. **MIMI:** Exactly, very easy to find. What would you like to drink? I have juice, minerals....
44. **YANKAT:** Juice is fine, thank you. Very cold juice please if you have. Phew, what a day... I am exhausted.
45. **SFX:** **FOOTSTEPS GOING OFF ONE BEAT AND COMING ON. TRAY PUT ON A STOOL DRAGGED ON. DRINK POURS INTO ONE GLASS**
46. **MIMI:** Here you go Yankat.... Okay shoot, what held you back since?
47. **YANKAT:** Thanks Mimi. Wait first now. Let me enjoy my drink. **(GIGGLES)**
48. **SFX:** **DRINKS, SWALLOWS**
49. **YANKAT:** **(RELISH)** Aaaah. Mehn, I needed that. **(GIGGLES)** Okay now I can face you. I actually came late because I was trying to finish up my registration. You see, I expected to finish all the registration *wahala* in the morning, that's why I made this afternoon's appointment. I am so sorry Mimi, I was stuck there for hours.

50. **MIMI:** Poor you! My students customers are always complaining about how tedious registration is. So how far, hope you were able to finish up.
51. **YANKAT:** Hmmm yes o. It was one guy that sprang out of nowhere and saved the day. He got me into that office in less than fifteen minutes of our talking.
52. **MIMI:** Interesting.. A guy you didn't know. He literally helped a damsel in Distress?
53. **YANKAT:** Oh yes, and I so needed that help. Quite a nice dude. His name is Moses.
54. **MIMI:** **(CLEARS THROAT)** This Moses guy, is he cute? **(LAUGHS)**
55. **YANKAT:** **(SURPRISED)** Cute? How would I know? I was not ermm.....
56. **MIMI:** **(TEASES)** What is that? You talked to a guy for over fifteen minutes and you can't tell if the bobo is fine or not?
57. **YANKAT:** Mimi jeez, I wasn't looking at him that way?
58. **MIMI:** Which other way is there to look at a guy o? Please educate me. I'm married so I guess I am rusty.
59. **YANKAT:** **(SIGH)** Alright, he was okay, I guess. Just okay.
60. **MIMI:** 'Okay' doesn't cut it. But that will do for now. **(TEASES)** So are you planning on hooking up? Or didn't you guys exchange numbers? One never knows when you might need a knight in shining amour again o.
61. **YANKAT:** Stop it Mini. Ok. We exchanged numbers, so? He is just some guy in school.
62. **MIMI:** **(TEASES)** So you exchanged numbers. **(THRILLED)** Great. Oh, this is nice. Love at first sight.
63. **YANKAT:** **(STUNNED)** My God, Mimi. Slow down, I have no such interest whatsoever in either Moses or Pharaoh. Abeg o.
64. **MIMI:** **(LAUGHS)** I hear you, I rest my case. Let me set the table for your

lunch. **(GOING OFF)** I hope you are hungry.

65. **YANKAT:** Okay, thanks. So where is little Charlie?
66. **MIMI:** Oh Osato took him out in the truck on his rounds, which the little guy loves...**(CHUCKLES COMING ON)** but actually, to give me a little break
67. **YANKAT:** **(POUTING)** I was really looking forward to playing with him... **(SAD)** You know, before I used to have my little brothers and my little sister to always play with.
68. **MIMI:** Really? Yankat, what happened to them?
69. **YANKAT:** **(UNEASY)** Ermm.... They died.
70. **MIMI:** Died ke? How? Oh dear. How? Where they ill?
71. **YANKAT:** **(UNEASY)** Yeah, something like that.
72. **MIMI:** What do you mean by ‘something like that’? **(BEAT)** I am sorry. It must be hard for you to talk about it.
73. **YANKAT:** Yes it is. Eh-en Mimi do you have any makeup for my skin tone. Like a good foundation and loose powder.
74. **MIMI:** Sure I have a variety of products. And I have the type for high class people like you... name brands...
75. **YANKAT:** What do you mean high class people like me?
76. **MIMI:** Your difference is clear now. Anyway, I also have a variety of red lipsticks that will suit your colour. Your lunch is served, so let me go and get the cosmetics bag. **(TEASING)** Ah but Yankat, you are not wearing make-up and guys like this Moses are noticing you, then what will happen when you are fully made up? Dem go dey sleep for your *doormot* nah. **(LAUGHS)**
77. **SFX:** **BRIDGE MUSIC**

Scene 3

Mairo and Najibs residence

- 78. SFX:** **DINNER SOUNDS. CROCKERY ON PLATES ETC.**
- 79. NAJIB:** **(RELISH)** Hmmm Mairo, this is delicious. Simply delicious. I'll bet you prepared it yourself because the difference is clear from the one Hassana makes.
- 80. MAIRO:** **(GIGGLES)** Kai Najib! Hassana's Massa da Miyan Taushe is not so bad na, haba!
- 81. NAJIB:** **(STILL EATING)** But tell me I'm right. You cooked this one.
- 82. MAIRO:** **(AMUSED)** Yes you guessed right Najib. I am happy you like it. I hurried back to prepare it especially for you since I'm aware since we were children that it's your favorite thing in the whole wide world.
- 83. NAJIB:** No. You are my favourite thing in the whole wide world. **(BOTH LAUGH PLAYFULLY)** I don't know how you do it? How you are able to organize yourself with your work at your NYSC primary assignment, and come home to cook such a lovely meal, coupled with the fact that you're heavily pregnant yet, you always look so beautiful.
- 84. MAIRO:** **(EMOTIONAL)** Who's beautiful? Oh Najib, you shouldn't tease me. Don't say another word about beauty where I am.
- 85. NAJIB:** Yes ma'am, as I was saying, when I walk through that door and see you plus the way you take care of yourself- you look beautiful, you smell beautiful. Wow, you just take my breath away. Pregnancy makes you look even more special.
- 86. MAIRO:** **(LAUGHING)** Now, you are making me blush with this your sugar-coated mouth. Aww, thank you my love. But what am I doing really? Compared to other women in tighter situations. They even do more than me.
- 87. NAJIB:** No one compares to you. *Shikenan*. You are one in a million. You know, one of the highlights of my day is coming back home to talk with you. With you, we can talk about anything. Seriously, it's so easy to talk to you, because you're always so understanding. I am really lucky.

88. **MAIRO:** Awww. But my love, it's in my interest to be open and easy for you to talk to, because when I am understanding towards you, you reciprocate, and then it makes us closer and our love gets stronger.
89. **NAJIB:** **(FLIRTS)** I don't know if the love between us can increase any more than it is, you might have to work harder.
90. **MAIRO:** Haba Najib, oh dear. Eat your food jor. **(LAUGHS)**
91. **NAJIB:** What?! I can't wait to have you my chubby princess back in my arms properly. All in good time though, when I officially become a father.
92. **MAIRO:** Yes o...Daddy-daddy I can't wait. I have put up the wall paper in the baby's room. Beautiful.
93. **NAJIB:** I wanted to do it myself or have one of my men do it. You shouldn't be stressing yourself with hard work like decorating...Supposing you fall down or something awful like that, what will I say?
94. **MAIRO:** Because of God, Najib, stop acting like I'm sick or an invalid. I just moved a few pieces of baby furniture and papered 4 walls. It's not hard work...besides it was fun doing something for our baby. Go and look at it...it's so pretty.
95. **NAJIB:** Ok. But you must promise not to overdo anything alright, darling? I am glad you will be finishing your NYSC a month before the baby is due. So you can have some time to rest and prepare for delivery.
96. **MAIRO:** I am fine. Though I wish Baaba could come and stay from now till I deliver. I could do with some spoiling from my mother.
97. **NAJIB:** Not only you. I'm looking forward to all the special stuff she cooks for me which no one else can manage to replicate.
98. **MAIRO:** **(CLEARS THROAT)** Errm, excuse me...what are you trying to say? That I don't cook well? I'll have you know that there's nothing Baaba can make that I haven't learned to do and even better sef! Hmnh!
99. **NAJIB:** **(PRETEND SULK WHICH MAKES THEM BOTH LAUGH)** But I

don't want better. I just want it exactly as Baaba makes it! Okay I take it back. You cook very well. Seriously though, you know Baaba can't come now, she will have to take a leave only after the baby is born so she can come and stay for at least a month. Look Mairo, you are no longer Baaba's little girl, you know. You are about to have your own little angel.

100. **MAIRO:** (CHUCKLES) Oh stop, I am still her baby jor.
101. **NAJIB:** Don't worry, I am glad she will be around to help us know what to do. Especially with breastfeeding...
102. **MAIRO:** Yeah and I am glad we've decided to use the LAM family planning method afterwards.
103. **NAJIB:** You still plan to go back for a Master's degree after the baby's birth?
104. **MAIRO:** That's the plan, God willing. Though I'm also thinking I should first try and get the professional accountant's qualification.
105. **NAJIB:** I'm asking because we probably should be considering a longer-term family planning method after the baby is born like the implants or IUD. You would need some ample time to further your career. A sudden pregnancy wouldn't be wise. What do you think?
106. **MAIRO:** Awww my love, we are on the same page. I so love it when we're on the same page. We are such a good team- you and I. I love you, love you, love you. (CHUCKLES)
107. **NAJIB:** (FLIRTATIOUSLY) And Mairo, I love it, when you say you love me like that.
108. **SFX:** BRIDGE MUSIC

Scene 4

Osato and Mimis Residence

109. **SFX:** MIMI SADLY HUMMING A FAMILIAR PRAYER SONG
110. **MIMI:** (WORRIED TO HERSELF) Hmm Osato where are you now?
(PRAYS) Oh God my eyes are on you? Father, remember my family. Touch us with Your healing hands of love. No one will be

sick...hurt, Amen. **(RESUMES SINGING)**

- 111. SFX:** **KEY UNLOCKS. DOOR SWINGS OPEN. SHUT.**
- 112. MIMI:** **(RELIEVED)** Osato you are back, thank God. Where's Charles? Is he alright? He's sleeping. Here, give him to me. **(EMOTIONAL AND STARTS TO SOB)** But what kept you so late? I've been sick with worry. And you didn't even call. Its not fair.
- 113. OSATO:** **(SURPRISED)** Ah sorry o. I didn't think. I was only giving you some space. I went visiting some friends and got into watching football. I thought you and Yankat needed some time to gist and be free.
- 114. MIMI:** **(SIGH)** Really? Yankat left hours ago. I was worried about the baby. Didn't he cry for me? Was he not hungry? What about you? Sorry, I was just disturbed that's all, wondering where you were. You didn't even answer your phone!
- 115. OSATO:** Well I will certainly call next time, so you don't think one lady has carried me away. **(LAUGHS ALONE THEN STOPS)**
Mimi, are you okay? Your eyes seem somehow.
- 116. MIMI:** I am fine, I was **(BURSTS INTO TEARS)**
- 117. OSATO:** **(WORRIED)** Ah-ah Mimi what's the matter? Talk to me...
- 118. MIMI:** **(AMIDST SOBS)** Its my grandmother. They called from Benue today. They said that Grandma is very ill. And she has refused to go to the village hospital, but rather is asking to see me.
- 119. OSATO:** Really. Hmmm. But why would she do that?
- 120. MIMI:** **(HYSTERICAL)** Yes, why is she insisting on seeing me ehn, instead of going to the hospital? Osato I think it's worse than they are saying. Or did she go and the doctors couldn't treat her? I have a bad feeling o
- 121. OSATO:** Please don't cry, my love. Look at me. Don't start to fret now. Get a grip and go first to find out the situation of things. Do not use your mouth to borrow trouble o.

122. **MIMI:** **(SIGH)** Okay, Osato. I've heard you. Hmmmm. All will be well.
123. **OSATO:** Exactly. You should go as soon as possible. I'll go out now to an ATM and get you some cash for your fare so you can leave early tomorrow.
124. **MIMI:** Ah no o. It's too late. Tomorrow morning will be fine. But darling, how are you going to cope while I am gone.
125. **OSATO:** Don't worry yourself about all that. I should actually take time off work and go with to support you.
126. **MIMI:** Ah no o. You stay. I'll let you know how things are when I get there. Ok?
127. **OSATO:** My poor love, don't worry you hear? Grandma will be fine. Especially once she sees you and Charlie boy here, she'll feel her energy return.
128. **MIMI:** Hmmm Osato, I hope so o. If anything happens to Grandma, I don't know what I'd do. She's my last surviving relative.
129. **MUSIC:** **THEME MUSIC UP AND FADE**