

## EPISODE 5: SECOND CHANCE

### Characters:

Femi

Zainab

Mimi

Grandma

Dafe

Chacha

### Scene 1

*Zainab's shop, interior, morning*

1. **MUSIC:**        **BRIDGE UP AND FADE**
2. **SFX:**         **SEWING MACHINE WHIRRING**
3. **SFX:**         **DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING**
4. **ZAINAB:**       Morning Femi. You're late today o. Two customers have already come to look for you.
5. **FEMI:**         Zainab my sister; if you see the kind go-slow wey hook me as I dey come you will feel sorry for me.
6. **ZAINAB:**       Then you should have left your house earlier.
7. **FEMI:**         **(PLAYFULLY MOCKING)** *'Then you should have left your house earlier.'* Is it because you live here? It's even starting to do me as if me too I should move in with you in this place. Abi are you looking for roommates?
8. **ZAINAB:**       **(LAUGHING)** Even if I am looking for roommates, is it now you I will ask?
9. **FEMI:**         Yes now; why not? I would be the most *swaggerific* roommate in this Abuja!
10. **ZAINAB:**       **(LAUGHING)**
11. **FEMI:**         Anyway, how was your weekend?
12. **ZAINAB:**       It was fine o, we thank God. Quite busy though; I spent almost the whole of Sunday here in the shop.
13. **FEMI:**         **(SURPRISED)** How come?
14. **ZAINAB:**       I had to finish that Mama Shokoya's rush asoebi job now. She said she wants to collect it soon.
15. **FEMI:**         Oh Zainab, sweet girl. You've forgotten that you're a young woman o! You are too young to just sign your life away to work, work, work, twenty four seven. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. The same thing applies to Jill o!
16. **ZAINAB:**       **(TEASING)** Sorry o; not all of us had special ones to share our Sunday with! So tell me now; what did you and your unmarried wife Ify do on Sunday? Which new romance levels?
17. **FEMI:**         **(CHUCKLING)** Well, we went on a picnic together. We went to one of the

parks and just had lunch there while we talked. It was very nice.

- 18. ZAINAB:** Ho! This one na real romance o! Nollywood style! Why haven't you people married already? I mean, you've been together for so long!
- 19. FEMI:** I know o! But you know it's not easy like that. You know I'm still saving to meet up with the bride price that her people called. Ify knows that I'm ready and willing to marry her in court whenever and if ever she can't wait anymore, only I don't want to offend her people. I'm not like that.
- 20. ZAINAB:** I understand. It's not an easy thing to be in love o.
- 21. FEMI:** If I hear. Where's your own husband now?
- 22. ZAINAB:** Abeg I no get o. **(DOLEFULLY)** Ever since that my experience with Henry ... I don't think I know how to trust men again ...
- 23. FEMI:** **(CONSOLING)** Don't be too hard on yourself; you know you were so young at the time it happened. And you wouldn't be the first young girl to be taken in by a false man, and you definitely won't be the last.
- 24. ZAINAB:** Hmm, yes, I know.
- 25. FEMI:** And besides, now that you're older and wiser, you can focus on the important things in a man before rushing into anything with him. You can take your time getting to know the guy, and make sure that both your goals are in line. You know; things like that.
- 26. ZAINAB:** **(TEASINGLY)** Thank you o, Mr Couple's Counsellor!
- 27. FEMI:** **(LAUGHING)** Well, I actually prefer Mr No Dulling!
- 28. ZAINAB:** **(LAUGHING)**
- 29. FEMI:** **(SERIOUS)** But seriously though, you should keep an open mind, okay? You never know when love will land in your lap.
- 30. SFX:** **BRIDGE MUSIC**

## Scene 2

*Bus-stop, afternoon*

- 31. SFX:** **BUS HORNS HOOTING**
- 32. SFX:** **CROWD MAKING NOISE**
- 33. SFX:** **VOICES GET LOUDER AND ANGRIER**
- 34. SFX:** **CLOTHES TEARING, BUS CREAKING, GLASS BREAKING**
- 35. DAFE:** Heeeeey! *Chineke m!*
- 36. ZAINAB:** **(URGENTLY)** Quick, get up. We have to move quickly before this thing gets more serious! Here; take my hand!
- 37. SFX:** **FOOTSTEPS RUNNING ON MIC**
- 38. ZAINAB:** **(OUT OF BREATH)** Just ... keep running ... there's a place ...

- 39.SFX:**            **CROWD NOISES DYING DOWN**
- 40.ZAINAB:**        Okay; we can stop here. I think we should be safe here. Oh; you're bleeding on your forehead – let me have a look at it.
- 41.DAFE:**            **(SHOCKED)** What ... what just happened?
- 42.ZAINAB:**        **(DISMISSIVELY)** That's how they always do at that bus stop o – any small thing is a cause for riot. **(RELIEVED)** It's just a small cut on your head, thankfully. Very shallow ... nothing too serious ... what's your name? I'm Zainab.
- 43. DAFE:**            **(CONFUSED)** But ... but you could have been killed! Rushing into the mob like that – why did you do that?
- 44. ZAINAB:**        I don't know ... I saw you when you fell, and I saw how unruly the crowd was becoming. I couldn't just leave you there now. They would have trampled you underfoot ... what's wrong?
- 45. DAFE:**            **(AGITATED)** My bag! I've lost my bag! And there were some valuables in it o ... and my wallet was in there too! I have to go back and look for it -
- 46. ZAINAB:**        **(SOOTHING)** Calm down, calm down. I saw when the bag fell. One man was going to pick it up ... but luckily I got to it first. Here it is. The strap has cut though, so you'll just have to manage to hold it.
- 47. SFX:**            **(RUSTLING AS DAFE CHECKS THE CONTENTS OF THE BAG)**
- 48. DAFE:**            It's ... it's all there! Everything is still there! All complete! Wow, I don't know what to say! You must be my guardian angel.
- 49. ZAINAB:**        **(LAUGHING)** Me? An angel? Haha, I'm nothing like that o.
- 50. DAFE:**            You must be; you saved my life AND my belongings. I'm so grateful.
- 51.ZAINAB:**        Please, it was nothing. I'm sure any decent person would have done the same.
- 52.DAFE:**            It's Dafe, by the way.
- 53.ZAINAB:**        Ehn? What's that?
- 54.DAFE:**            My name. It's Dafe.
- 55.ZAINAB:**        Oh! Well, it's very nice to meet you Dafe, though I wish it had been under better circumstances. Won't you walk with me a little? My shop is not far from here, and I can dress your wounds for you there.
- 56.DAFE:**            Ah Zainab, thank you so much, honestly. I don't know how I will ever be able to repay you.
- 57.SFX:**            **BRIDGE MUSIC**

### Scene 3

*Motel room, evening*

- 58. DAFE:**            **(EXCITED)** Hmn, Chacha, it was crazy. Before I even knew what was happening, everybody at the bus stop just started pushing each other! That's how

one person fell down, and it was like that was a signal to all the rest. If you see the speed they used to break the bus windows ehn! People were flying out of windows, running helter-skelter!

- 59. CHACHA:** (CLAPS HANDS) Heey! Dafe that is serious...
- 60. DAFE:** Yes o! Before I knew it me self I was on the ground! One man at my back just pushed me without warning!
- 61. CHACHA:** (SPIRITED) *Chei* Dafe, what terrible luck! I'm happy you're okay o -
- 62. DAFE:** Thank you Chacha.
- 63. CHACHA:** - but that man is lucky I was not the one there! If it was me there I would have pulled that man back and dealt him *shege*! He's not well. That's why I'm always saying you're too *ajebo*. You no even sabi fight.
- 64. DAFE:** (LAUGHING) And who told you that I don't know how to fight? Although I didn't even have to fight – I had a guardian angel watching over me the whole time!
- 65. CHACHA:** Ah ah – which kind of evil spirit is that?
- 66. DAFE:** (LAUGHING) It was a girl – her name is Zainab. You wouldn't believe what she did!
- 67. CHACHA:** (CAUTIOUS) A girl ehn? I dey hear you ...
- 68. DAFE:** Can you imagine – this girl was not part of the mob o! But once she saw me falling down, she rushed in and helped me up, and helped me to run away!
- 69. CHACHA:** Hmm ...
- 70. DAFE:** And then I was now looking for my bag; I was so sure they had stolen it. Do you know this girl had carried the bag for me? And everything was still complete inside o – nothing was missing!
- 71. CHACHA:** (INDIGNANT) There's nothing big there now. It's not a big deal.
- 72. DAFE:** I guess. Still, I was very grateful to her ... (LIVELY) Okay, let's change the subject. How far with breaking away from your mother's *burukutu* joint?
- 73. CHACHA:** Na small by small na. I'm saving up seriously towards it. You know I was serious about opening my own pepper soup joint. And only God knows now, maybe that one can expand and before long I'll have branches.
- 74. DAFE:** I know what you mean. My own focus right now is just to give my daughter a good life, or at least a better life than I had. And I want to start by making her proud and making it big in the music industry.
- 75. CHACHA:** (TEASING) He-ey! Dafe the new Afrobeat King!
- 76. DAFE:** And it's even good that we are using family planning methods. With goals like ours we don't need any ... unwanted distractions derailing us from achieving them!
- 77. CHACHA:** You've come again with your family planning!

- 78.DAFE:** No but seriously. You know my story now. I would have gone to university and studied music and even finished by now had I just started practicing family planning earlier. But at least something good came out of it – my daughter. And now I will never let myself get caught unawares like that again – ever!
- 79.CHACHA:** **(FLIRTATIIOUSLY)** All that one too dey o Dafe, but shey na only talk you want talk this night? Na unto talk you come arrange this motel room, eh?
- 80.DAFE:** **(LAUGHING COYLY)** I think you may be right ...
- 81.SFX:** **BRIDGE MUSIC**

#### Scene 4

*Mama Dosu's bedroom, morning*

- 82.SFX:** **LABORED BREATHING**
- 83.MIMI:** **(WORRIED)** Mama, you've not eaten one drop of this soup since. See, it's still almost full self. Please eat now, eh? Eat. How do you want to get your strength back if you don't eat?
- 84.GRANDMA:** **(LABORED)** My dear ... it's too late to be worrying about ... things like that ...
- 85.MIMI:** Hey! Mama, please don't say that – you're scaring me! Be strong eh, Mama? Ok. You don't the soup...shall I go and make you some pap? Stupid me that's what I should have brought. Let me go quickly to make some. Hold on Mama, I won't be long at all
- 86.SFX:** **FOOTSTEPS WALKING QUICKLY OFF MIC**
- 87.GRANDMA:** **(SHOUTS)** Wait!
- 88.SFX:** **FOOTSTEPS STOP**
- 89.MIMI:** **(WORRIED)** What is it Mama? What's wrong?
- 90.GRANDMA:** **(IN PAIN)** Ayee ... so many things to tell you ... you must know ...
- 91.MIMI:** Mama, I'm here, I'm listening. What is it? What's wrong?
- 92.GRANDMA:** Mimi my granddaughter ... I only hope you can learn to forgive me ... for not telling you this sooner. There are things you must know ... about your true parents.
- 93.MIMI:** **(CONFUSED)** My...my *true* parents? Mama what do you mean?
- 94.GRANDMA:** I cannot go ... have peace...without telling you. Your mother ... the only one you've known, the one you called mummy ... she is not your real mother ...
- 95.MIMI:** Hey! Mama, what are you saying?
- 96.GRANDMA:** My child, I am telling the truth now. I know ... everything. I was there when your real mother left.
- 97.MIMI:** **(EXCLAIMS)** Hey! Real mother...left? Left to where? This can't be true!
- 98.GRANDMA:** Yes ... yes it is. Your father and ... and your real mother had been fighting. It was getting to be very bad ... up until the point where your mother had her twins

- 99.MIMI: Twins ke? Wait ... do you mean ...
- 100.GRANDMA: Yes, my child ... you have a twin sister -
- 101.MIMI: (EXCLAIMS) I can't believe it!
- 102.GRANDMA: When your mother finally got tired ... she said she was going to leave your father. And she said ... she said she would take the twins with her! I ... I couldn't let her take *both* of my grandchildren, so we reached an agreement. She took your sister with her, and she ... left. That was the last we ever saw or heard from her. Your father later married Sacha who brought you up till she died. She didn't have children of her own and she took you like her own child.
- 103.MIMI: (QUIET SHOCK) I can't believe it. So ... all these years calling her mother, and she wasn't ... Mama, are you *sure*? Are these things true?
- 104.GRANDMA: It is true, my child.
- 105.MIMI: (ANGRY) And you knew? You knew all this time and you didn't tell me? Through the death of my father, and the woman I called mother – you couldn't tell me all this? Why Mama?
- 106.GRANDMA: (SORROWFUL) My child, I only hope ... you can forgive me. We all try to do what we think is right ... and seldom do we ever actually *do* the right thing. But ... Mimi my child, *please* ... you must promise me ... one thing ...  
(COUGHS VIOLENTLY)
- 107.MIMI: (WORRIED) What is it Mama?
- 108.GRANDMA: You must ... find your twin sister. No matter what, I want you to find her. Promise me!
- 109.MIMI: Mama I promise. But I will need every bit of information you can remember. Please, I need you to help me!
- 110.GRANDMA: I can't ... remember much ... (COUGHS) All I know ... your mother's name before marriage ... Maryam Gaya
- 111.MIMI: Maryam Gaya?
- 112.GRANDMA: Yes; from Kano. I can't ... remember ... (LAPSES INTO COUGHING FIT)
- 113.MIMI: Sorry Mama, sorry. Here; drink some water. What were you saying Mama? Take a sip now; take the cup from my hand Mama ... (SILENCE) Mama?  
(AGITATED) Mama?! MAMA?? Ah noooo! Mama you cannot do this to me, you can't! You can't tell me all this and then just go! Mama! Mama open your eyes! Somebody help me ooo! Mamaaaaaa!!!
- 114.MUSIC: BRIDGE UP AND FADE