

NURHI RADIO DRAMA STORY PLOT

Main Plot (*Abokede and her family story*)

This is the rag to riches story of Abokede, a young woman born to Lukman Alamu, a retired railway worker and his wife Shakira who died whilst having her twenty years ago. Her father married her aunt Wosilat's friend, Iyabo soon after to help him raise her as she had seemed so kind and supportive of him and the child during his bereavement.

Once settled she begins to show her true colours to Abokede and is a hateful and wicked step mother, whilst pretending to all and sundry that she has the girl's best interest at heart. This two-faced behaviour deceives Lukman but not his friend (and local jester/drinker), Baba Wasui who sees through her and sings about her. Though Abokede has dreams of becoming a lawyer, she is unable to pull good grades in secondary school due to the chores and general sabotage from Iyabo. Whilst this happens in plain sight, her father is hoodwinked into not realizing the harm Iyabo is doing to his daughter. After failing her final exams the second time, Iyabo advises Lukman to call it a day with Abokede's education and start her on an apprenticeship towards a trade.

Abokede suffers physical and emotional abuse at the hands of her step-mother who treats her as a maid and interloper in the home, where her own children and her "sister" Tayo are all pampered and waited upon by Abokede. Her torment included starvation for lengthy periods. Abokede learned that it was useless complaining to her father who whilst no doubt loved his first child, believed the best of his wife's intentions in "training" Abokede to become a good and responsible woman. A Hausa couple who are tenants in their house, Umaru and Lami are witnesses to her suffering and are sympathetic, often secretly helping her when they can.

Eventually the physical abuse she was subjected was exposed when her aunt and erstwhile friend of Iyabo's arrived without warning for a visit and found her niece Abokede with a split head. She insists on taking the young woman back with her to Ilorin in spite of the fact that she had financial problems of her own at the time.

In Ilorin Abokede gets a job working as a shop girl at a roadside mobile phone recharge card outlet, whilst still holding onto her dreams of one passing the university entrance exam and getting in to study law. She soon meets Bello, adored and privileged son of the Animashauns, an upwardly mobile young professional in his own right. Against all odds, Bello falls for her and courts her and asks her to marry him. This relationship began after Bello lost a bag containing his overseas travel documents and a large sum of money in foreign currency. Since he was to travel the next day, Bello was understandably distraught when he could not find or remember where he had misplaced despite retracing his steps. One place he forgot was Abokede's shop where he had stopped very briefly to purchase credit that afternoon. Luckily for him she opened his bag, and having found his papers and address went in search of him. Bello is struck by her high level of honesty and really takes note of her. He is even more intrigued when she totally rejects every effort to reward her. His

entire family is equally enamoured with her and it is his mother who adopts her into their fold and encourages a relationship with Bello

When news of Abokede's good fortune gets to Ibadan, Iyabo is crazed by jealousy to plot ways to scuttle the Bello- Abokede engagement. She is of the opinion that Abokede is not deserving of such a catch. As is her custom, she goes to procure a charm or portion from her Babalawo (juju man or native doctor) to scuttle the engagement plans and sway Bello from loving the girl. When the Animashauns visit she goes on to carry out her plans, first by fabricating lies about Abokede and when Bello refuses to buy these, she procures a more potent portion which backfires and turns her mad and confessing to all the evil she's done. Despite all the drama and shocking disclosures, the wedding goes on and Bello couldn't take his wife away fast enough. All is well for the lovers in the end.

Iyabo is exposed for the fraud that she is. It turns out that Tayo is actually her daughter that she had as a teenage school drop-out, a fact she has hidden from everyone except her parents, including Tayo herself and her husband Lukman. We also find out that she it had been who engineered Lukman's first wife's death at childbirth by placing an hex on the woman as she went into labour, because she planned all along to steal her husband Lukman. These are according to her public confession brought on by a charm gone wrong.

SUB PLOT 1 (Wosilat and Dotun's story)

In Ilorin, Wosilat is married to Dotun Okin Baloye who is an unfortunate son of a once wealthy polygamous father but had since fallen on hard times because his father never sent him to school and at his death left very little for his many wives including Dotun's mother and her children. The little the father left has since been exhausted.

Dotun used to work for the ministry of works as a driver but was suddenly laid off and he now lives in his father's house since they can no longer afford to be tenants. Living in his father's house is really not easy because his father had four wives and they all live in that building with all their children. Dotun has two other sisters. The older sister is married and living with her husband somewhere else while the younger sister (Ashake) who is single also lives in the family house as well. So even though it's a big house with many rooms there is a lot of conflict between wives, children, Wosilat, her mother-in-law and her sister-in-law because they have to share facilities (Toilet, bathroom and kitchen and veranda where everyone relaxes when they are not sleeping).

Even in their poverty, Wosilat manages to put food on the table for her two children, her husband, and Abokede with the little she makes from her petty trade. Despite the fact that Wosilat is solely responsible for providing for her family, Dotun still pressurises her for sex all the time. He and Wosilat do not want any more children because they can't afford it but Dotun want to have sex at all times. Wosilat doesn't know how to accept her husband's advances without getting pregnant. They resolve this when she learnt that she doesn't have to deny her husband in order to prevent pregnancy.

In the midst of all this however, Wosilat meets a big-time trader (Alaba), whose shop and distributorship is at the king's market. He becomes her benefactor by giving her goods on credit to sell and pay later and keep the profit. He even offers to give Dotun a job at a small industry for

extracting oil that he has set up. Their family's fortune improve a little from the trading Wosilat does and they began to hope for a better future when they might move to a more private residence. Soon Alaba begins to ask Wosilat for sex. He is well-known to having affairs even with married women. Wosilat refuses his advances and because of this, he stops helping her financially and reneges on his promise to employ her husband. It was very tempting as they had started to save a little and had plans to pay rent somewhere. However, she doesn't succumb to his advances despite his persistence. This is a good show of Wosilat's character. She goes through this for a while. Alaba is very mean and wicked and he makes life difficult for Wosilat when he realised that none of his attempt could work on her. He became very mean even to Dotun. At first Wosilat doesn't tell Dotun about Alaba's advances but when she eventually does, he is livid and plots to beat him up.

Alaba however meets his nemesis when he has sex with a married woman whose husband had already placed a juju called *magun* {literally meaning: 'don't climb'} on her and dies as a result of the charm.

SUB PLOT 2 (The Animashaun's story) or Oyemade's and Folashade's plot

Bello's younger sister Folashade is in love with Oyemade Ojo, an environmental activist in Ilorin. The two have been dating secretly for 4 years and would love to get married but they dare not reveal their relationship and cannot tell their respective parents due to a long-standing enmity between their families.

The Animashauns are a well to do family in Ilorin. There are 3 children, a son and firstborn, Bello and 2 daughters, Folashade and Funmilola. There is another family, the Ojos, also well to do and live in Ilorin. However, for generations the Animashauns and the Ojos never see eye to eye. There is always a feud or competition between these families. The Ojos are a family of lawyers and doctors. They are academicians. The Animashauns however are into businesses and politics. The Ojos have 2 male children. The first son Oyemade is an environmental activist and he is a director with an Environmental protection non-governmental organisation. His brother, Kolawole, is a lawyer. He is a partner in a law firm and his firm also consults for his brother's organisation.

Folashade is a customer relations officer in a bank. She had met Oyemade in the bank one day and without realising who he was agreed to go out with him only to find out later that he was the son of the enemy of her family. They had become friends and over time, fallen in love. They keep their relationship a secret because they know that it will not get any approval from their families. Folashade being close to her brother, Bello, confides in him but swears him to secrecy.

Mr Animashaun, a big business man is pursuing a contract to build a mega shopping mall and entertainment center but the construction of this mall requires the clearing of a large forest reserve. However, being an environmental activist, Oyemade's organisation is firmly against this move and campaigns against the plan by government to use the forest in this way. This causes more animosity between the families, as Bello's father sees this opposition as another example of an Ojo family plot to ruin his. After a lawsuits and much advocacy, Mr Animashaun loses the contract and a considerable sum used to facilitate the contract. When the news of the relationship between Oyemade and Folashade becomes known, all hell breaks loose. But love will win the day in the end.