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**EPISODE 1**

**THE WEAK LINK**

**Tunde Aiyegbusi**

***CHARACTERS***

***LT. COL. ARAGU DUKU***

***CHIEF KINGSLEY BRAMA***

***HRH ORUBADR. ELO NWANDE***

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**SFX:** Theme music up then under....

**FX:** Door opens

**BRAMA:** (Slightly Off) Your Highness Oruba I, am here.

**NWANDE:** (Jocularly) If you are here, then come in

**SFX:** Door shuts

**BRAMA:** (Off-On) I thank you, your Royal Highness

**NWANDE:** Welcome. And how are you today?

**BRAMA:** I am well, I thank God

**NWANDE:** Sit down.

**BRAMA:** Thank you, our father.

**NWANDE:** When Albert told me it was Chief Kingsley Brama who was on the telephone? I thought you were calling from Dubai or Thailand. I can remember you telling me you were about to travel out on business trip? Maybe my memory is failing me.

**BRAMA:** You are right? I was to travel out. But when I discovered that the big men were busy fighting each other to share all the available contracts, then I said let me wait and see whether I could get part of the crumbs.

**NWANDE:** You are a sharp businessman Kingsley.

**BRAMA:** Not sharp, your Highness. Just trying to be realistic. Only a foolish cat will dare to struggle with hyenas over available meat. But if it is patient enough for the big ones to eat their fill, he's not likely to go with empty stomach!

**NWANDE:** (laughs) Sensible. Very very sensible (pause). So, when you said you wanted to see me, I knew you were still around. I hope its nothing serious?

**BRAMA:** Your Highness... It's about my son, Alexander.

**NWANDE:** (surprised) Alexander ... what happened to him?

**BRAMA:** He traveled to the National Military Camp yesterday?

**NWANDE:** National Military Camp? I didn't know he had qualified to go for the National Youth Service?

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**BRAMA:** No. He didn't go for the National Youth service. He has gone for the recruitment exercise into the Army.

**NWANDE:** You want him to join the Army?

**BRAMA:** (with considerable passion) Your Highness, it has always been my ambition to have a son as an officer in the Army.

**NWANDE:** And your son agrees with you?

**BRAMA:** If he did, he has never for once shown his disapproval of the idea.

**NWANDE:** I'm not suggesting that there is anything wrong with joining the Army

**BRAMA:** When I was young I dreamt of joining the Army too. But when I went for enlistment, the recruiting sergeant with a huge Mustache took one look at my legs and spat: 'bandy' and wrote something down in his notebook. It was later when I wanted to know why I wasn't enlisted that I found out that 'bandy' meant I had prominent bow-legs.

**NWANDE:** (Jovially) You see how luck works! That sergeant would never realize what good turn he did for our community here by rejecting you. See now instead of a Sergeant Major or whatever, we have you, a successful businessman. The boss of a group of companies!

**BRAMA:** Somehow, I've never forgotten that ambition. Now that I could not achieve that myself, I want one of our sons to be, not just a soldier, but an officer.

**NWANDE:** Well, there's nothing bad in that?

**BRAMA:** That's why I need your royal backing. Alexander has gone to take the various tests for the entrance to the cadet Academy.

**NWANDE:** That's very good. I wish him luck.

**BRAMA:** I can't see any reason why he shouldn't be admitted. He has got all the qualification they need. He has six A's in his school Certificate...

**NWANDE:** Then there's nothing to fear.

**BRAMA:** Ah, your Highness, nah you dey talk like this? In this country where white can be return to black overnight. You forget say power of man know man still dey strong paparapa!

**NWANDE:** (Bursts out laughing)

**BRAMA:** (now desperately) Alexander is my last hope. I wanted his senior brother

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Onike to go to the Academy. But he let me down. He went to become an architect.

**NWANDE:** What are you complaining about, Kingsley? Are you saying being an architect is nothing?

**BRAMA:** If he had taken my advice and become an officer in the Army, he could have become a military governor, who knows?

**NWANDE:** Is that why you don't appreciate his importance as an architect?

**BRAMA:** Imagine what honour he would have brought to our community if he had become a military governor? All offices in this state... and bar and hospitals and hotels would have had his photographs displayed (suddenly) all dem wey dem make governor, dem get three heads?

**NWANDE:** (amused) if that's why, you want Alexander to go to the Academy, you'd better forget it! If you want him to be a governor...let him go and join a political party!

**BRAMA:** Maybe I'm wrong to want him to be governor. But your Highness, nothing will gladden my heart more than to have Alexander go to the military officer cadet Academy. Please help me. I know you can.

**NWANDE:** How?

**BRAMA:** Our son Lt. Col. Araga Duku is there. It is you elders, your royal highness, who say that one doesn't use bare hands to part twines on the path when there is cutlass in the pouch.

**NWANDE:** But you can approach him yourself. There's none of our sons and daughters in positions of authority who doesn't know you or at least they must have heard of you.

**BRAMA:** Of what importance is Kingsley Brama without the support of your Royal Highness, Dr. Elo Nwande, Oruba, the first? I know that with you behind me, Colonel Duku cannot say 'No' to any request I make.

**NWANDE:** (After consideration) You want me to go with you to see our son Duku?

**BRAMA:** That is the prayer of you royal subject, your highness.

**NWANDE:** Service to you my people is the vow I made at my coronation. And, I hope to keep this vow to the old and the young, man and woman, rich or poor. (pause) So when we get to meet with Duku at the cantonment, what do we want him to do?

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**BRAMA:** I want him to protect the interest of my son when the selection to the cadet Academy is being decided.

**NWANDE:** That's all right, I'll call him and book an appointment. I'll let you know when he expects to see us.

**BRAMA:** (effusive) I know I can always depend on you. You will live long on the throne of your ancestors!

**SFX** BRIDGE. Fade into.

**FX:** DOOR OPENS AND SHUTS - OFF

**DUKU:** (WITH GENUINE RESPECT) Please come right in sirs.

**NWANDE:** (Familiarly) Araga, how are you, my son?

**DUKU:** Very well sir, very well. And you sir,

**NWANDE:** We thank God for His mercies

**DUKU:** (coming to the rescue) Your Highness, you should not have bothered coming here. You should have summoned me to the palace. That's your right and privilege.

**NWANDE:** (Jokingly) Summon an officer of the national Army, a colonel for that matter to my palace! You are asking me to climb the tree beyond its leaves.

**DUKU:** What would you like them to prepare for you, Tea, Coffee or ...?

**NWANDE:** We've had breakfast. And it's too early for anything else. (pause) My son, thank you for accepting to receive us (PAUSE) Araga I need your assistance

**DUKU:** Go ahead, sir.

**NWANDE:** Kingsley... You have your son's school certificate report there?

**BRAMA:** Here it is.

**NWANDE:** Give it to Araga

**SFX:** PAPER RUSTLE

**NWANDE:** Araga... The result you hold in your hand belongs to Alexander, the second son of chief Brama here. As I speak to you, the boy is taking part in the selection exercise for candidates for admission to your military academy.

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**DUKU:** (confirming the statement) Yes, the exercise is on. Yeah

**NWANDE:** Chief Brama here would appreciate nothing better than to see his son admitted for the cadet course.

**DUKU:** Good. The Army could do with young bright boys

**NWANDE:** So we are leaving everything in your hands. You are our own. You'll protect our interests.

**DUKU:** From the results I have before me, the boy is alright. Very alright! Academically, that is, of course, there will be some other considerations like... well, regulation standards: height, vision testing and so on as so forth

**BRAMA:** (Quickly and proudly) Alexander is alright! Should be up to every task.

**DUKU:** In that case, there should be no problem

**NWANDE:** Kingsley, you heard him? He shouldn't have any problems with the physical tests.

**NWANDE:** Araga, thank you. Thank you very much, my son!

**BRAMA:** Thank you, Colonel.

**DUKU:** Can I still hold on to the result slip?

**BRAMA:** Why not?

**DUKU:** Your Highness... next time you need me, just give me a call

**SFX:** BRIDGE Fade out under...

**NWANDE:** Kingsley... Kingsley! Let me get this right. You went to the Colonel's office!

**BRAMA:** Yes, your Highness, I have dined and wined with generals, your Highness. I had to tell this one my mind! Why didn't he do what he promised?

**DUKU:** What did I promise? You were my witness, your Highness? What did I promise? Did I promise to pass his son's physical for him?

**BRAMA:** And I say it again you let me down. Badly! You let your kith and kin down. You are selfish! You want to be a lone star in the firmament!

**DUKU:** (Very angry) Your Highness, it is my high regard for you that emboldened this man to talk to me.

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**NWANDE:** I know! Please calm down, Araga.

**BRAMA:** Your Highness...can I say something?

**NWANDE:** (Coldly) You have said enough, Kingsley

**DUKU:** (Still fuming) Could you believe your Highness that Chief Brama accused me...in my own office and in very loud voice that I didn't lift a finger to help his son? What did he expect me to do? Go and do the physical for him?

**NWANDE:** Araga, my son, you have every reason to be offended. I feel very embarrassed because Kingsley got me involved.

**DUKU:** (relenting) It's true his son got a good result in the school certificate Examinations. So did others. But he failed to pass, the physical, which they passed. Is it my fault that he wasn't among those who completed the mandatory 2.5 kilometers race?

**NWANDE:** Kingsley was wrong and I've told him in no uncertain terms.

**DUKU:** Even, if he was my own son and he failed to meet the vigorous standards demanded for entry to the Academy, that would have been it! If you recruit weaklings into the Army, what kind of fighting force do you expect?

**BRAMA:** (Feeling insulted) with all due respect my son is not a weakling

**NWANDE:** Another word from you, Kingsley! If your son is a tower of strength as you are claiming for him, why did he fail to complete the race? (Suddenly, sharply) Kings

**BRAMA:** Your Highness.

**NWANDE:** The kind of thing you have done ruins chances for others. You are now going to apologies to (officially now) Lt. Col. Araga Duku for abuse of privilege. If he has not got respect for elders, do you think you would come out of that cantonment without visible evidence of his displeasure after your indefensible performance? Now apologies!

**BRAMA:** (Shamefacedly) Colonel... I am not an uncharitable man. That boy's disappointment was too much to bear, please forgive a dispirited and unhappy man.

**NWANDE:** Araga, I may be your monarch. But a monarch is also a human being. Please forgive and forget. By so doing, you'll help to ease a father's pain of disappointment.

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**DUKU:** (Sudden change of mood, now lively) Chief Brama, cheer up! This is not the end of the road for your son. He is still young.

**NWANDE:** Kingsley what did I tell you?

**DUKU:** If he still cherishes a career in the Army... well nothing stops him trying again (PAUSE THEN THEATRICALY) If at first, you don't succeed....

**DURU:** ...Try, try, try again!

**SFX:** Theme music up and under...

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**EPISODE 2**

**STORMY WATERS**

**Tunde Aiyegbusi**

***CHARACTERS***

***LT COM. SUNDAY (SUNNY) OCHE***

***LT COMMANDER BALA AJI***

***COMMANDER (NEWLY PROMOTED) ALIYU KOMA***

***BETTY***

***PETTY OFFICER FELIX OGIRI***

***BARTENDER –***

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**SFX:** Theme music up. Cross fade to sound of small bar room (by Waterside) with waves crashing against concrete

**LT.COMMOCHE:** (Slightly drunk) Felix!

**FELIX:** (equally high) At your command, sir.

**LT.COMM.OCHE:** Looks like your glass needs recharging. Anything left in your bottle?

**FELIX:** Everything don't finish. Your own too don't finish, sir.

**OCHE:** (Self importantly) So what do you do, petty officer?

**FELIX:** Do my duty, sir! (shouts) Service! Service! (no answer) service girl... service girl!

**BARTENDER:** (OFF) Ah dey come, Oga Felix.

**FELIX:** Come here at once, you bloodiful nonsense girl. You def? You no hear my voice.

**BARTENDER:** (Coming on) Ah dey serve other customers.

**FELIX:** (Unnecessarily harsh on the girl) you dey do wetin? You dey serve other customers? You dey craze! You see a whole Lt. Commander for Navy come manage drink for dis your ramshackle place... you no giam proper respect ..... Abi you wan tell me say you no know Oga Lt. Commander Sunday Oche.

**BARTENDER:** (Cowed) wetin make ah bring, oga?

**FELIX:** Showing disrespect to officer and rank of the navy! You little rat, you know ah fit order make dem demolish dis place?

**BARTENDER:** Ah beg, oga Felix

**FELIX:** Ah fit lock up your madam

**BARTENDER:** Ah know. Ah beg ah dey beg.

**FELIX:** Because a whole Lt. Commander come drink for your bar you wan take eye commonise am like the smugglers and pick pockets wey dey come drink

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here (loud blast of voice) Go get two beers quick if you no wan make ah get my boys to deal with you.

**BARTENDER:** (going fearfully) Ah beg no deal with me! Ah dey run go bring am.

**FELIX:** If you wan try me: try! Then you go know say nobody for this Navy Barracks fit try with Petty Officer Ogiri and no pay for am.

**SFX:** Sound of snoring.

**FELIX:** Oga ...Oga!

**OCHE:** (roused from dozing) Ehin.. Ehin, ...

**FELIX:** Oga ... but make you no let dis matter worry your mind too much. Drink your beer. God dey.

**OCHE:** It's true! God dey! (laugh wryly). Igbidi! He got himself promoted to commodore! But he thinks I am nothing. I don't deserve anything! Commodore Igbidi! Some people will like to believe they are God.

**FELIX:** (Taking advantage of the democracy of the beer parlour) Oga Oche .... Wetin you do that man? He just dey do anything e like. See the kind people e go promote ... why?. ...why? Ah no understand.

**OCHE:** (Bitterly) Kenneth Igbidi ... one day will be one day.

**FELIX:** Oga, dis matter of your promotion don pass sore. E don become ulcer. Wetin you do am? You kill him pickin or you follow him wife?

**BARTENDER:** Oga dis nah de beers.

**FELIX:** So you wan make ah come open dem, enh?

**BARTENDER:** How ah fit talk dat. Ah dey craze?

**SFX:** BEER TOPS BEING REMOVED

**AJI.** (OFF) Ah! There you are!

**FELIX:** (conspiratorially) Oga Uche, I don go be dat! Na commander Aji deh

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come. Na spy e come spy for commodore Igbidi. (going Off) I don go be dat o!

**AJI:** (coming On) Sunny! Sunny! So this is where you are holed up! I've searched every where for you! What's happening?

**OCHE:** (drunk and tired) happening like how? I'm trying to relax.

**AJI:** There are better places for an officer of your rank to relax, Sunny. Not among this lot. And that one I saw sneaking off... Petty officer Ogiri!

**OCHE:** He was keeping me company.

**AJI:** That one is no company to anyone. Not to talk of an officer like you. He's just a bloody sucker. It still baffles me his types is still kept in the Navy.

**OCHE:** So why am I being looked for? They don't look for me over promotion! Can't be left in peace to spend my free time as I consider appropriate? I've left Igbidi alone. Why can't he leave me alone, eh?

**AJI:** Now that you mention the commodore...

**OCHE:** I don't care what he calls himself!

**AJI:** This is not a matter of what he calls himself. Don't tell me you haven't gone to congratulate him?

**OCHE:** Why? What for? Give me one good reason why I should, Aji?

**AJI:** I can give you ten. But for now, one will serve. Whether you and I like him or not, Kenneth Igbidi is our most superior officer in this Barracks. He always was and has now become even more superior.

**OCHE:** So?

**AJI:** So whether we like it or not his word is law.

**OCHE:** Aji whether you are his agent or not I don't give a damn. Go and ask him what I have done to him. Ask him whether he has caught me in bed with his wife or whether I had killed his son.

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**AJI:** You are fighting an imaginary foe. Look inwards Sunny.

**OCHE:** (bewildered; he gives up) That's what I'm doing. Have some beer? Or something? On me.

**AJI:** Nope! Thank you (pause) Sunny, you heard Aliyu Koma was promoted Commander.

**OCHE:** (Grunts painfully, without interest) I heard. So?

**AJI:** We his colleagues and friends are having a small party in his honour tomorrow nights at the mess.

**OCHE:** So Aliyu Koma is now a commander courtesy of Kenneth Igibidi. And you people are holding a party for him. Right? Well, how does that become an assignment for Sunday Oche?

**AJI:** Because Aliyu Koma is your friend, Because he has proved his loyalty to you over and over. Even now he is more loyal to you than you are to yourself.

**OCHE:** (Bitterly) Koma was not even on the same course with us. A commander! That's the limit!

**AJI:** Of command relationship, maybe. Not of friendship. Remember when you were away on a course a few years ago. It was Aliyu who rushed your wife to the hospital in the middle of the night. He personally donated blood and paid for the one from the blood bank when it was certain the delivery was going to be by caesarian operation.

**OCHE:** (trance like) Aliyu Koma.. A commander (Bursts into bitter laughter)

**AJI:** That's not the kind of person you should grudge ... for any reason.  
(business like) The party is eightish ... I'll pick you up at a quarter to eight.

**OCHE:** (LISTLESSLY) Don't bother Aji. I'll find my way.

**SFX:** BRIDGE Crossfade to party scene and music,

**OCHE:** (drunk) Hold it! Hold it! I want to say something! I want to raise a toast!

**SFX:** Music and party breaks abruptly

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**OCHE:** (drunk) The toast is to my friend, Aliyu. May your sun continue to shine! May commodore Igbidi live forever so that his boys and himself can reach the skies. Even if nobody loves Sunday Oche, God loves me (going Off) I am going home to bed.

**SFX;** (pause/FADE IN) OCHE'S HOME. SOUND OF COMMOTION BOXES FALLING OFF SUPPORT TO THE FLOOR, BETTY'S VOICE ALTERNATES BETWEEN CONTEMPT FOR HER HUSBAND AND SELF-PITY FOR HER POSITION.

**BETTY:** (raising her voice) You! You call yourself an officer! Go look yourself for mirror, nah so your mates dey look.

**OCHE:** Betty ah don't warn you! If you talk another foolish talk dis night your eye go see pepper, I swear!

**BETTY:** Wetin you fit do? Enh, tell me, Lt. Commander. Wetin you fit do? Oho! Nah me you fit come halla for him head, de people wey dey do you, why you no fit face dem? Yeye officer!

**OCHE:** I am warning you for the last time if you provoke me enh, ah fit kill you!

**BETTY:** Nah woman you fit kill. De people wey dey torture you, you no fit kill dem? Kill me. Go take gun. Kill me (Betty yells suddenly) Nah my hand you dey twist so? (wildly) Oya now kill me! Noto you say... you wan kill me? Go on kill me! Abi you don forget where you keep your gun? Why you lock the children for room? You no want make de children come see de yanmayanma wey awful drink don turn you, you go lock dem for room.

**OCHE:** (Maniacal) shut up, witch!

**BETTY:** Why you lock dem room? Why you no wan make dem come watch dem papa deh do free cinema!

**OCHE:** I say shut up! Order you shut up!

**BETTY:** You no get shame at all. Dem promote small boy wey you fit train, pass over your head, you go drink for him party so dey nah by force dem take bundle you home.

**OCHE:** Who told you that? Who told you that lie?

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**BETTY:** Noto crawl you crawl enter house like or tortoise! Navy dey craze wey dem go promote you for commander? (Hisses)

**SFX:** SUDDEN SOUNDS OF REAPEATED SLAP

**BETTY:** (Determinedly Calmly) You slap me, Sunday Oche! Nah my head you dey rain slap so; noto coconut! Nah dis night ah go pack commot for your house, you crase man! Nah me be the Navy wey no fit promote you?

**OCHE:** Pack! Pack! Who dey beg you, Gerrout and disappear!

**BETTY:** Nah you go disappear! Nah all your people go disappear (pause) Sunday Oche... your shame don begin proper! My four children dey for your neck. If anything happen to dem, nah then you go know say Khaki nobi leather.

**OCHE:** (drowsily) you never commot? E no go better for anybody wey say make you no go!

**BETTY:** (hurling spirited abuse-going OFF) people come see o.... Ogogoro Master!!

**SFX:** Pause-fade in BRIDGE. Fade into

**STD:** DOOR OPENS AND BANGS SHUT

**OCHE:** (OFF discernible effect if hangover) Yes? Who?

**KOMA:** (Flatly) Aliyu. Commander Koma.

**OCHE:** (OFF unimpressed) yes ... what is it?

**KOMA:** (urgency in hot voice) Sunny, open the door.

**OCHE:** (sulkly) O.K.

**STD:** pause. KEY TURNS IN LOCK. DOOR OPENS

**KOMA:** (righteous anger) Sunny, where is Betty

**STD:** DOOR CLOSES

**OCHE:** (hedging) what do you mean, where is Betty? Do I come early in the

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morning to ask you in your quarters where is your wife? Is this part of your added responsibility as a brand new commander of the Navy?

**KOMA:** You can't provoke me, Sunday Oche... in spite of all the rubbish you said at any party! (paused) why are you trying to destroy yourself... your career... everything?!

**OCHE:** Aliyu for God's sake, come deh go! I have a headache.

**KOMA:** Afterall, Igbidi didn't promote himself. You are my friend, Sunny. Tell me, if you have under your command, an officer who had been carrying on the way you have....

**OCHE:** (aggressively) How have...?

**KOMA:** You have a lose tongue, for example. You don't respect your uniform. And see what you did to your wife in the night! Would you recommend such an officer for promotion? (pause) I don't expect an immediate answer. But think about it, (sympathetically) my friend, you are sinking and, we need a rescue strategy. And we're taking the first step right now. From this morning.

**OCHE:** YAWNS LOUD

**KOMA:** Get up man. You sent Betty out. You are following me out to bring her back. And you're going to promise me on your honour, that you'll never raise your hand against her ever.

**OCHE:** (protesting) But... But...

**KOMA:** And after that you are going to find the right words to make up to the commodore for all the foolish things you said openly at the mess last night.

**OCHE:** I did what?

**SFX:** Theme music up and under....

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**EPISODE 3**

**RED ALERT**  
**Solomon Ayagere**

***CHARACTERS***

***TRAFFIC CONTROLLER***

***ASSISTANT TRAFFIC CONTROLLER***

***WARRANT OFFICER BELLO***

***SECRETARY TO CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF (CAS)***

***PRESS OFFICER***

***GROUP CAPTIAN ISAH***

***COMMANDER KALIO***

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<b>SFX:</b>	Theme music up, then under.....
<b>SFX:</b>	Up theme music. Mix to sound of airport control tower and under....
<b>TRAFFIC CONTROLLER:</b>	Visibility is so poor today.
<b>ASST. CONTROLLER:</b>	Yes indeed. A very bad weather for flights.
<b>TRAFFIC CONTROLLER:</b>	And the traffic promises to be heavy.
<b>ASST CONTROLLER:</b>	Let us just pray that nothing serious happens.
<b>SFX:</b>	(Bring up aircraft sound)
<b>CONTROLLER:</b>	That looks like an in-bound air-craft.
<b>SFX:</b> <b>CONTROLLER:</b>	Muffled sounds mixed with Morse code Can you make out that code?
<b>ASST CONTROLLER:</b>	No. It's a strange code. Not any of our signal
<b>SFX:</b>	Aircraft sound gets louder and menacing . hold.
<b>CONTROLLER:</b>	(Raising voice) Roger, roger your call signal not clear. Identify yourself over. (Pause)
<b>CONTROLLER:</b>	Roger...O-1-2-3-3-5-1-2 speaking. Identify yourself.
<b>ASST CONTROLLER:</b>	The air craft is moving out of radar focus. Our radar range has becomes so limited.
<b>CONTROLLER:</b>	Lack of maintenance! But I didn't imagine it was this bad. Call the Airforce.
<b>SFX:</b>	Sound of Radio
<b>ASST CONTROLLER:</b>	Hello! Hello! 0133512 calling 2B2 ...calling 2B2 come in 2B2 over!
<b>BELLO:</b>	(Radio Response): This is 2B2...what is your message? Over.
<b>ASST. CONTROLLER:</b>	2B2, this is domestic Tower. Strange looking aircraft tattooed with

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sundry graffiti just over flown this airport. No authorized registration marks. Refused to give call signal. You may wish to interrogate and intercept. Over.

**BELLO:** (Radio Voice): (laughter) interrogate, yes but intercept? ..well, messenger received. Alerting all military control towers. There is a stranger aircraft in our airspace...

**SFX:** (Aircraft sound).

**TRAFFIC CONTROLLER:** 2B2..2B2 ... This is 0-1-3-3-5-1-2 again. Please come in.

**BELLO:** (Radio Voice): Come in with your message

**TRAFFIC CONTROLLER:** Aircraft is back on radar.

**WARRANT OFFICER BELLO:** Good. Stay with it. Describe size, position. Attitude.

**TRAFFIC CONTROLLER:** Aircraft is helicopter size, zippelin shaped. Position-east of Zenda airport; altitude.....

**WARRANT OFFICER:** Yes, yes, altitude.....

**TRAFFIC CONTROLLER:** Altitude, one thousand feet above sea level. Aircraft has dish at tail, possibly a satellite dish (suddenly) it is yawing to, the left and ..... oh dear. It has gone out of view.

**WARRANT OFFICER BELLO:** This is the duty officer at control tower 104. Emergency. Calling all military control towers. Standby to interrogate and intercept helicopter size, zipelin shaped aircraft, tattooed with sundry graffiti and dish at tail. Aircraft last seen east of Zenda airport. (FADE INTO.....)

**SFX:** Bridge Music. Mix to several telephones ringing at the same time and picked up intermittently. Hold murder.

**SEC to CAS:** Hello, Hello. This is the office of the Chief of Air Staff. Can I help you?...sorry, he is on another line with CDS. Could you ring back please. Yes we Know. He has already spoken.

**SFX:** Receiver is dropped. Another is picked up.

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**SEC TO CAS:** Hello, Hello.... With commander in chief... No-oh Okay. Please ring back.

**SFX:** Receiver is dropped

**KALIO:** Hello, 2B2, This is Commander Kalio come in 2B

**W.O.(Radio):** This is 2B2, commander. There is still no trace of the aircraft, Sir. No trace over (pause)

**KALIO:** No trace of aircraft! Message received over.

**SFX:** (Fade in) Telephone Ringing.

**SFX:** (Receiver picked up).

**SEC TO CAS:** Hello. This is the office of the Chief of Air staff. Can I help you? You are the Airport correspondent of the .... You.. you want to know if any official statement has been issued on the mystery plane. Please hold on for the press officer. (Pause)

**PRESS OFFICER:** Hell...o Niyi. How is the Airport beat? Great. No. official statement has been made yet. Investigations are still going on. Er... well yes I confirm that an unauthorized plane/ helicopter/what ever, did enter Nigerian airspace. No, I don't think you would be correct to say the aircraft simply entered and left our airspace unchallenged. Look Niyi, why don't you hold your fire until tomorrow when the minister's weekly press briefing takes place...you can't wait!...oho!...Ehen! that's what I am saying. Even in a democracy there are national security interest! ... Thank you. Chao....say that again ... you will have every detail you desire, assure you! Chao!.

**SFX:** phones begin to ring in background

**SFX:** receiver is dropped.

**SEC TO CAS:** y o my.....will these phones ever stop ringing?

**SFX:** Phone picked up)

**SEC TO CAS:** ello! Yes... The Chief of Air Staff? He has just left for Abuja. He

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has been ness gracious!

**CAPT ISAH:** Which was not included in the report of warrant officer. Bello.

**SFX:** (Knock on door)

**GROUPCAPT.** Yes, come in

**SFX:** (Door Opens) and closes

**GROUPCAPT:** Aha! Warrant Officer Bello. You were the duty officer at control tower 104 at 1400hs. Yesterday?

**WARRANTOFFICER BELLO:** Yes, Sir.

**CAPTISA:** Why didn't you include in your report that the mysterious aircraft was yawing to the left, as indicated in the report of the Traffic controller?

**WARRANTOFFICER:** I am sorry, Sir.

**GROUPCAPT:** Do you know the implication of an aircraft yawing?

**WARRANTOFFICER BELLO:** No Sir.

**GROUP CAPT ISA:** How long have you been in the Airforce?

**WARRANTOFFICER BELLO:** Twelve years Sir.

**GROUP CAPT ISA:** When we say an aircraft is yawing it means that aircraft is drifting. It means that it has a rudderproblem, that its control mechanism is faulty. And once it loses control, it is bound to crash. Which means the aircraft in question may have crashed some distance South of Zenda airport.

**WARRANTOFFICER BELLO.** I didn't know that, Sir. I'm sorry, Sir.

**GROUPCAPT.:** (pause) Alright, you may go.

**SFX:** DOOR OPENS AND SHUTS

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**COMMANDER KALIO:** That is what we in logistics have been saying. Our training programmes are in shambles. Our equipment are in shambles. Our weaponry are in shambles. Our transportation fleet are in shambles. If there were no journals to keep us abreast of developments in the military scene, we ourselves would have been in shambles.

**GROUP CAPT:** And indeed some of us are. The poor chap apparently felt that once he had alerted all the military control towers of the incident, his job was done.

**COMMANDER KALIO:** Now we know better.

**GROUP CAPT ISA:** We have to find that aircraft. It is the only way we can redeem our image. And we have six hours to do it.

**COMMANDER KALIO:** Six hours? With what do we do that group Capt. Sir?

**GROUP CAPT. ISA:** By whatever means. Commander Kalio, you are the logistics expert.

**COMMANDER KALIO:** Do you realise that we have only two ill-equipped search and rescue units in the whole of the Airforce?

**GROUP CAPT:** Of course I do.

**COMMANDER KALIO:** And that none of their helicopters is functioning?

**GROUP CAPT. ISA:** I though you were an optimist, Commander Kalio. I said by whatever means. Commandeer one if you must.

**COMMANDER KALIO:** “Commandeer one” did you say? Sir, the military are no longer in power? We now have a political regime. Sir. We cannot commandeer anything. We can only appeal for the co-operation of civil aviation.

**GROUP CAPT** Then do it, Commander Kalio. I have instructed Squadron Leader Ben Kparaga to get ready to join the operation.

**COMMANDER KALIO:** Wait a minute. Sir, I’m just thinking. You know, considering your hypothesis, Sir, . . . if the aircraft entered from the east of Zenda airport and yawed left uncontrollably it would probably crash some distance South of the airport. Isn’t that somewhere in the Creeks?

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**GROUPCAPT. ISA:** Let us look at the map.

**SFX:** Wide sheet rustling

**GROUPCAPT. ISA:** You are right, Commander Kalio.

**COMMANDERKALIO:** So the area to search is around Kolo Creek.

**GROUPCAPT. ISA:** O.K. please pass that on to Squadron leader Ben Kparaga. (Bridge music)

**SFX:** (Telephone Ringing).

**GROUPCAPT. ISA:** Hello, yes, Group Captain Isa speaking. Squadrom Leader Kparaga. Good. How is the operation going?... mission accomplished! Great!!... it was a combined operation.... I see.... Navy patrol got there first and were interrogating the pilot when you got there... what is the precise spot?... Two nautical miles from Kolo Creek helipad.... The aircraft just missed the flow station near by Wow! A colossal oil spillage would have resulted! Who was the pilot .... Some American multi- millionaire with an addiction to flying... He describes his aircraft as the product of a flight of fancy and Yankee ingenuity. Ha ha ha. But are you sure he is not a spy or security risk of sorts?... Not likely... and the Navy agrees with you on this? O.K. return to base I am sending a signal to the Chief of Air Staff straight away. Commander Kalio and I will come and see the aircraft ourselves later. Well done.

**SFX:** Receiver is dropped. Door opens suddenly .

**GROUPCAPT. ISAH:** Commander Kalio! I was just about to call you! Mission accomplished. Just as we planned it. This calls for celebration.

**COMMANDERKALIO:** Congratulations! What if it were an enemy plane and had vanished without trace?

**GROUPCAPT ISAH:** And you know something? I hear the Senate is thinking of doubling the millennium budget of the military. Maybe we can now have a professionally competent, combat ready and effective armed forces. I must send a signal to CAS right away!

**COMMANDERKALIO:** What elates me in all this is the co-operation that produced the result: from the military, the Civilian population, the legislature

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and the Government.

**GROUP CAPT ISAH:** It shows that as a nation, divided we fall united we stand. Even the president of the market women's Association, Madam SARATU, telephoned the CAS. To find out what was happening! Elating!

**SFX:** Theme music up and under..

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**EPISODE 4**

**MILITARY ZONE, KEEPOFF!**

**Frank AIG-Imoukhuede**

***CHARACTERS***

***IGNATIUS***

***CHRISTIAN***

***COMMANDER KENNETH IGBIDI***

***OLUFI***

***BISI***

***ADISA***

***HUSSEINI***

***MAIGUARD***

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**SFX:** Theme music up, then fade out...

**SFX:** Door opens suddenly and shut (off)

**IGBIDI:** My dear Christian! You look harassed!

**CHRISTIAN:** (coming on breathless) Phew! You should have seen the chaos on the way here. Eight lanes where one was meant, all because big man wan show bigmanism. He had an escort car and even an outrider.

**IGNATIUS:** The military again!

**CHRISTIAN:** Sorry to disappoint you. This oppressor was a civilian. One of those business tycoons. His convoy was trying to bulldoze its way against the traffic. It became a face-me-I-face-you confusion. He sat there helpless as motorists and okada riders rained abuses on him.

**DUKU:** Well, your scapegoat is not guilty this time, Christian! Not everyone who breaks the traffic rules with impunity is military. Not everyone who orders the public about with immediate effect is military.

**IGNATIUS:** But you will admit sha, Lt Col Duku, that the mindset is a carry-over by a people suffering from a hangover.

**CHRISTIAN:** Democracy definitely has a lot to delete from our memories and our attitudes. Without thinking we re-live the military past with near nostalgia as if we badly miss being ordered about without the right to protest, as if we long for the brutality of the past.

**SFX:** SOUND OF APPROACHING SIREN.

**CHRISTIAN:** There you are, another of our lapses into the past.

**DUKU:** Even in this quiet neighbourhood?

**CHRISTIAN:** You know, Araga, when you came in, I thought the siren crazy yobo who had earlier arrived was you. I was going to say: "Col.Duku what is the emergency"?

**DUKU:** Good thing you didn't. I wouldn't have taken it in good humour. I was in a foul mood.

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**CHRISTIAN:** Everyone who went through that traffic was.

**DUKU:** My bad mood was worsened by the encounter with a stupid maiguard outside.

**IGNATIUS:** My mind didn't go to any of you old boys. I am used to my neighbour's craze for sirens.

**CHRISTIAN:** You mean we should expect to bear many more sirens before this old boys' get together is over!

**IGNATIUS:** It is daily bread here, we are served sirens, morning, noon and night.

**DUKU:** Can't you stop it?

**IGNATIUS:** (Resignedly) Me? Araga, Ever since my neighbour had his party and closed the street to traffic, I have learnt to mind my business.

**DUKU:** Closed the road to other residents?

**IGNATIUS:** I had a brush with him. A real hot exchange! In the end I still had to wait till 2 a.m. before I could enter this house.

**CHRISTIAN:** Was that patience or timidity?

**IGNATIUS:** It was discretion. It is foolhardy for a man to dispute right of way with an approaching express train. The whole place was brimming with uniformed men protecting their bosses.

**DUKU:** Oh! He is a top military brass?

**CHRISTIAN:** (laugh derisively) or even a contractor!

**SFX:** APPROACHING SIREN.

**IGNATIUS:** Here goes! See what I mean?

**SFX:** BRING UP SIREN SOUNDS LOUD AND NEAR GATES SQUEAK AS THEY SWING OPEN, CAR STOPS.

**MUAZU:** Welcome, master.

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**SFX:** Car engine is switched off. Car door opens.

**OLUFI:** Welcome what? Who parked his car there?

**MUAZU:** (A little confused) for that place sir?

**OLUFI:** No. For your nose! I say who parked that bloody car there?

**MUAZU:** (with a stammer) Na – one man so.

**OLUFI:** And you allowed him?

**MUAZU:** I try tell am, he jus' bluff me.

**OLUFI:** Bluff?

**MUAZU:** He just take eye commonise me so,... Enter opposite house.

**OLUFI:** What! And you allowed him? Go straight there. (shouting) you hear? Go and call the bloody man to come and park well. (pause) what are you still doing there? I said with immediate effect. And double up.

**MUAZU:** (slightly off) yessah.

**SFX:** (PAUSE) (Sound of Door bell off)

**IGNATIUS:** Who's that now?

**CHRISTIAN:** It could be Ekanem. He rang this morning to assure me he would attend this old boys' meeting. Let me go and let him in.

**SFX:** (PAUSE) DOOR OPENS (OFF)

**CHRISTIAN:** (calling OFF) It's the maiguard from the house opposite Araga he wants to see you.

**DUKU:** (going OFF) Hey, that's the drunken maiguard who told me not to park on the street. (PAUSE- coming on) you again? What do you want?

**MUAZU:** My oga! He wan see you.

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**DUKU:** Tell him I am coming.

**CHRISTIAN:** You hear weting he say?

**MUAZU:** My oga, he say maza maza with double up.

**DUKU:** (with surprise, then amusement) me? Ignatuis, your neighbour is a daring man. I am really dying to meet him.

**CHRISTIAN:** Me too (going off) Ignatuis, you'd better join us.

**DUKU:** (PAUSE-coming on) I hear you want to see me.

**OLUFI:** Yes

**DUKU:** For what?

**OLUFI:** Are you blind?

**DUKU:** What did you say?

**OLUFI:** Oh! You're deaf? But you can see. So you must have seen the sign!

**DUKU:** (Trying to control his anger) which sign?

**OLUFI:** So you are also illiterate? Didn't you see 'military zone, keep off'?

**DUKU:** You mean that sign?

**OLUFI:** And when you were told you just ignored my order.

**DUKU:** For obvious reasons.

**BISI:** (OFF) Darling, what's the matter? I can hear your voice from here. What's the matter?

**OLUFI:** It is this bloody –

**CHRISTIAN:** (laughing) civilian? What a joke.

**DUKU:** (laughing) You heard him. I am a bloody civilian.

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**OLUFI:** (to wife) See where he parked his car.

**BISI:** (OFF) And he is laughing! Didn't you people see the signs?

**CHRISTIAN:** (Projecting) which signs madam? Is this a military zone?

**BISI:** (OFF- clapping her hands) Ehe! Instead of apologising. They are making sakara. (calling out) Adisa! Hussein! Come out o, Muazu.

**MUAZU:** (slightly OFF) Yes, madam?

**BISI:** (OFF) Go and call them from inside. (To Duku and Christian) you people will talk true today!

**CHRISTIAN:** (to Ignatus) Ignaticoco; Abi the devil is pushing this husband and his wife? You'd better warn your neighbours before things get rough for them.

**BISI:** (OFF-Scandalized) Ehn! Rough? Rough for whom? He can read. Can't he?

**DUKU:** Am I blocking your drive way?

**OLUFI:** Are you illiterate?

**BISI:** (OFF) You don't have eyes? (calling out) Adisa! Hussein !!!

**ADISA & HUSSEINI:** Madam!

**DUKU:** (Ominously) What are you trying to do? I warn you, don't touch my tyre.

**OLUFI:** I will... and wait to see you do your worst. Bisi. Call Hussein and Adisa out.

**SFX:** SOUND OF AIR ESCAPING FROM TYRE

**OLUFI:** (Desperately) Bisi, where are those boys? You will soon see pepper.

**IGNATIUS:** Patience, Duku don't act precipitately.

**ADISA:** (coming ON) urgently) We done come. Na weting?

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**OLUFI:** This is not a time to salute me, Husseini. I did not call you out here for salute. Just show this bloody civilian

**HUSSEINI:** (In confusion) Bloody who ...?

**OLUFI:** (still at sea) Adisa, you are staring goggled-eyed and opening your mouth! Walk this bogeh off and push his car from the front of my house.

**ADISA:** (incredulously) This car?

**HUSSEINI:** (equally stunned) This man?

**ADISA:** Oga, you have pulled leopard by the rail.

**HUSSEINI:** (To Igbidi) Oga, we are sorry, Sir.

**OLUFI:** Sorry what? Sorry for yourself. Just push this car away from here.

**ADISA:** (loud whisper) Husseini, this is proper rugba rugba.

**HUSSEINI:** (loud whisper), If to say I know I for stay jeje for Naval base.

**DUKU:** By the way, Husseini, what are you doing here?

**HUSSEINI:** I was just passing on my way to the post office.

**DUKU:** And your friend?

**ADISA:** Ehn, sah. Excuse me sah, I am pressed by nature.

**OLUFI:** (still at sea) what is the matter with you boys?

**DUKU:** (To Olufi) By the way, sir, are you military?

**BISI:** (OFF) of course he is.

**DUKU:** Name?

**LUFU:** Olufi, Biodun Olufi! So”!

**DUKU:** What service?

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**BISI:** (OFF) Headquarters, of course

**DUKU:** Sir, I am addressing you. Which service?

**OLUFI:** (with hesitation) M.O.D.

**DUKU:** I said which service.

**OLUFI:** Accounts Department, M.O.D.

**DUKU:** And rank?

**OLUFI:** Accounts officer, Principal Accounts Officer

**DUKU:** And you called me a bloody civilian?

**OLUFI:** Slip of the tongue, sir.

**DUKU:** (strident laugh) There you are, Christian. And the closest he is to military status is working in the Defense Headquarters.

**BISI:** (OFF) Darling, what is it? You have suddenly gone cold.

**OLUFI:** Dear, things are happening like I am in a dream, I can't understand the situation any more.

**IGNATIUS:** Because this time you picked a wrong target for your aggression.

**BISI:** (coming on) are you also military sir?

**CHRISTIAN:** What do you mean 'also'. Your husband is not military is he? (laughs)  
This is Lt Col. Araga Duku .

**BISI:** O ti o!

**IGNATIUS:** Does it really matter? Is the target of aggression the issue or the act itself?

**BISI:** Col, I am on my knees. Please let by-gone be by-gone.

**DUKU:** (To Hussein) Hussein!

**HUSSEINI:** Sir?

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**DUKU:** Had it been someone else you encountered here today, what would you have done to him?

**HUSSEINI:** Ehn – nothing sir,

**DUKU:** We'll see about that!

**HUSSEINI:** Yes Sir.

**DUKU:** Where do you think you are going?

**HUSSEINI:** (slightly off) Back to the Cantonment sir.

**ADISA:** (slightly off) Immediately sir.

**DUKU:** Oh no, first you've got to demilitarize this zone, and this street.

**HUSSEINI:** Sir?

**DUKU:** All those sign boards

**HUSEINI:** Yes sir?

**DUKU:** Set to work. Start dismantling their signs at once.

**HUSSEINI } & ADISA** Yes Sir.

**CHRISTIAN:** After we uproot those signs, the real problem really is how do we demilitarized the psyche? Debriefing is a different kettle of fish!

**DUKU:** Madam, I hear you have a siren in your car just like your husband.

**BISI:** It is just a flashing light.

**DUKU:** Please remove it, immediately. It is unauthorized and illegal ... like your military zone sign.

**BISI:** It won't happen again, sir. We are very sorry, me and Biodun.

**DUKU:** What about the tyre you deflated.

**OLUFI:** No problem at all. Hussein and Adisa will see to it.

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**CHRISTIAN:** Which Hussein? Which Adisa?

**OLUFI:** Where are they? Muazu where is Hussein?

**MUAZU:** Dem two vamoose as oga back turn.

**BISI:** Don't worry, Col. Duku just bring out your jack and extra tyre and go back to your meeting.

**IGNATIUS:** (Laughing) Olufi, are you leaving everything to your wife?

**BISI:** He is going to bring the vulcaniser. Dear, are you still waiting?

**OLUFI:** I am going... I am going!

**SFX:** CAR STARTS AND TAKES WITH SIREN STILL BLARING.

**DUKU:** Hey! Stop!!

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**EPISODE 5**

**DAY OF THE MESSIAH**

**Ihria Enakimio**

***CHARACTERS***

***LT. COL DUKU***

***MAJOR OTUH AKUTO***

***MAJOR ADAPU KADIYE***

***SQUADRON LEADER BEN KPARAGA***

***COMMISSIONER OF POLICE***

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**SFX:** Theme music. Fade into

**DUKU:** (fade in) – (laughter) You’re absolutely right sir. We started out planning for WASA but it has turned out much bigger...yes sir! All the services, sir? I’m glad to hear that, sir...CGS...positive sir?

**SFX:** Knock on door (OFF)

**DUKU:** (urgent loud whisper) come in ! come in Akuto....(into phone) Sir?...I know....they better settle down to the business of governance...

**SFX:** Door shuts (off)

**DUKU:** ....(to Akuto-whisper) General Wamu...sit down, sit down (into phone)... We need them sir.... The yam is in their hands and so is the knife, sir...thank you very much, sir. We hope you will be able to attend sir...bye sir.

**SFX:** Phone receiver dropped.

**DUKU:** That was General Wamu...

**AKUTO:** From Abuja?

**DUKU:** From the center of power! Abuja! CDS and CGS have individually and collectively made representations to the Chairman Senate Committee on Defence.

**AKUTO:** What is he saying, Sir?

**DUKU:** He hasn’t confirmed anything yet. I guess they are too busy with their own internal wrangling...

**AKUTO:** Is he interested in becoming the Senate President? They keep changing those chairs... like musical chairs.

**DUKU:** They can change as often as they like, but let them take care of the military! It’s important that government is represented at our ceremony. To imagine that all it would probably have taken just a few months ago would have been an internal memo.

**AKUTO:** You said probably, sir.

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**DUKU:** (laughs) well, I didn't want to lie. We probably stand a better chance of getting remedy under these civilians than we did under our own people.

**AKUTO:** The word is 'definitely', sir. The CGS and CDS would not have found as much time for us as they do now. They would have been busy ruling, sir.

**DUKU:** You are right. How are arrangements at your end?

**AKUTO:** To cut cost sir, we have decided to use the parade ground for the ceremony.

**DUKU:** isn't it too close to the fence... the road?

**AKUTO:** It could be an advantage. Let the civil populace watch a free show. Let them know we are people too. That we love the same things they do, feel the same pain. That blood flows in our veins too!

**DUKU:** You are right.

**AKUTO:** Captain Idrissu and the Engineering Corp are working on providing tarpaulin covers for the stands. They are also building a large stage for the performances.

**DUKU:** Good. Things are under control then.

**AKUTO:** Other logistics, sir...Menu-menu things, sir....

**DUKU:** I thought we handed that over to the Navy, to Mrs Igbidi?

**AKUTO:** Ah! Commander Igbidi has refused o. He says he won't award a contract to his own wife.

**DUKU:** I am proud of him. Let's show example to these civilians!

**AKUTO:** There's now a committee - officers wives...

**DUKU:** Phew! How many millions will they require?

**AKUTO:** (fake seriousness)...Twenty Million for nama, twelve million for fish and forty million for chicken...then yam...

**DUKU:** (laughs) I'm impressed!

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**AKUTO:** As far as menu is concerned, sir it's all –systems –go! The budget remains as approved sir.

**DUKU:** Good. How about security

**AKUTO:** Major Adapu Kadiye and Squadron Leader Ben Kparaga are handling that... including traffic, sir.

**DUKU:** Have the Police been contacted?

**AKUTO:** I didn't ask but I guess...

**DUKU:** Please, confirm! We'll need their co-operation. They handle the civil populace better. Everything must work perfectly. We must impress not only the military but also especially the National Assembly.

**AKUTO:** We are on top of it, sir.

**DUKU:** You should be! We have a most important day ahead. You call it day of the messiah!

**AKUTO:** (laughs) That's true, sir, the day of the messiah!

**DUKU:** Our welfare depends on it!

**SFX:** BRIDGE fade out.

**KADIYE:** (fade in)... fellow officers and men... as far as I am concerned, the event we are holding is a military affair and must be handled like a military operation. Is that clear?

**VOICES:** Very clear, sir.

**KADIYE:** I have appointed Lieutenant Okoye to oversee the area between the Police Station and Independence Square. Every vehicle coming through there must be thoroughly scrutinized. We don't want any miscreant coming through there. Lieutenant, you can have as many men as you deem fit, a section, a platoon if you like but tight security. RSM, you will be directly at the cantonment gate because from the General Post Office on Market Road until you get here....that's where all these crazy danfo drivers run recklessly ...we have our petty officer Ogiri, Staff Sergeant Dogo under the command of Captain Yunusa. The Air force is already covering the

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area between airport up to Independence Square. Squadron Leader Ben Kparaga here, and myself will be all over the place... Ben, you want to say something?

**KPARAGA:** (clears throat) As Major Kadiye has said, this is a military operation. If you look at the map on the board you can see that the whole town is covered. This is because of the very important people who will witness this ceremony. All the service chiefs are expected here. This is not a coincidence. The gains we expect shall be spread to all the services. We are expecting the messiah and everyone must do their duty efficiently. Nobody must fail. To fail is the end of a career in the new military. Do you understand?

**VOICES:** Yes sir!

**KADIYE:** At 06.00 hours tomorrow, all of you here will meet on the parade ground from where we shall set out to tour this town as if we are visiting it for the first time. Is that clear?

**VOICES:** Very clear.

**KADIYE:** Dismiss.

**SFX:** Noise of small crowd and moving furniture. Fade out under....

**KADIYE:** Ben, where are you going from here?

**KPARAGA:** I have to go and report back to Group Captain Isah. Do you know whether they have confirmed the attendance of the Committee Chairman?

**KADIYE:** (derisively) those ones? I don't think so. The Senate is busy...

**KPARAGA:** ...Buzzing, you mean.

**KADIYE:** But CDS and CGS have agreed to come.

**KPARAGA:** What of the Minister?

**KADIYE:** Ben, you'll be asking for the C-in-C next.

**KPARAGA:** Why not? He's our commander in chief!

**KADIYE:** But he's a civilian. As far as I'm concerned this is a military affair!

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**KPARAGA:** Still, he's one of us in his capacity as C-in-C. If he tells the committee chairman what to do...

**KADIYE:** There you are! And I thought you knew these things more than myself! The C-in-C can't tell Senate what to do! Why do you think they are fighting each other?

**KPARAGA:** No one can dictate to the other! It's better. Two heads are better than one!

**SFX:** Car door opens

**KPARAGA:** A.K.40 I have to hit the road.

**AKUTO:** (off) Ben! Major Kadiye!

**KPARAGA:** Who is that?

**KADIYE:** It's Major Otuh Akuto, what's up now?

**AKUTO:** (coming on) I almost missed you! Security Committee meeting is over?

**KADIYE:** We have just finished.

**AKUTO:** How is it coming?

**KPARAGA:** You mean 'going'? It is all mapped out. Air tight! No unwanted fly can break what we have set up.

**AKUTO:** Good! I'm sure you have contacted the Commissioner of Police?

**KADIYE:** (laughing) We have contacted the Police, OPC, APC, Egbesu Boys and also the Bakassi Boys. We are airtight, man!

**AKUTO:** (embarrassed) Well...Colonel Duku thinks you should contact the Commissioner of Police.

**KADIYE:** What is the police going to do that we can't handle?

**KPARAGA:** Even the police call on us when they can't cope.

**AKUTO:** This is different, there is the civil population to contend with. Don't forget we are virtually in the heart of town.

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**KADIYE:** We know. We are fully aware.

**AKUTO:** That's why Colonel Duku wants the civil force to contend with the civil populace. Their ways are not our ways...

**KPARAGA:** ...And our ways are not their ways.

**AKUTO:** Precisely! That's why Colonel Duku wants your committee to liaise with the Commissioner of Police.

**KADIYE:** (reluctantly) Okay, we will inform him. Ben, please remember o.

**SFX:** Car takes off, mix to bridge, crossfade to sound of marching. Hold under.

**AKUTO:** (happily)sir, just take a look at Major Adapu Kadiye. Sir he's in his elements! Like a General in battle!

**DUKU:** In his own way, he is a good soldier. Hopefully with the new shape of things he will be able to set all his biases, grievances aside and concentrate on true soldiering and reach his true potential.

**AKUTO:** Amen!

**DUKU:** You mean, it is hard to teach an old dog new tricks?

**AKUTO:** It is possible, sir.

**DUKU:** Absolutely. (slight pause) How did Shakespeare put it? It is well...it is well...it is

**AKUTO:** (helping out) All well that ends well

**DUKU:** All the Service Chiefs will be here in...(alarmed) in less than an hour! Major let's move around and ensure that all is truly well.

**AKUTO:** Yes sir!

**SFX:** Fade in sound of helicopter passing overhead, parade ground under...

**DUKU:** Police helicopter! Good Major Kadiye and Squadron Leader Kparaga have done an excellent job getting the police out to control traffic!

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**AKUTO:** (slightly off) I believe they have sir.

**DUKU:** Get going Major!

**AKUTO:** (slightly off) Immediately, Sir!

**SFX:** Fade out parade ground. Crossfade to telephone ringing.

**SFX:** Receiver is picked up.

**CP:** (very agitated) Yep!...Yes! Yes! Yes! This is the Commissioner of Police...what? Inspector Gani, what's wrong with you? You mean you can't recognize my voice? Tell me what is happening ..at Independence Square?.....Army cantonment parade ground! Traffic...so therefore?.....Go in there, clear that road...use tear gas, anything but clear that road immediately. Look...look....look my friend....what? Do you know how many people are stranded at the airport in Abuja just because of the situation here? All the Service Chiefs, Senate Committee Chairman, Minister of Defense.....Look you people are playing with your job o. You better clear that road now before these tribal groups claim credit for what they know nothing about.

**SFX:** Receiver is dropped with a bang.

**SFX:** Bridge crossfade to parade ground and under...

**AKUTO:** What happened, sir? You're looking very depressed.

**DUKU:** (coming on) I'm very depressed, Major Akuto!

**AKUTO:** You know how it is, sir with very important people. Sir, don't worry, they'll eventually show up, sir.

**DUKU:** (coldly) No! They wont.

**AKUTO:** Sir.

**DUKU:** I've just called Abuja. All our expected guests have returned to their normal business.

**AKUTO:** Why?

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**DUKU:** Security report. Security has informed them that the town is in chaos. All the roads are closed to traffic and they can't guarantee security.

**AKUTO:** What do they mean all the roads!

**DUKU:** All the roads. I called the Commissioner of Police. I thought I ordered you people to get them involved.

**AKUTO:** You did sir, and I duly informed Major Kadiye.

**DUKU:** The police know nothing about it!

**AKUTO:** (exasperated) What?

**KADIYE:** (coming on happily) Ah! I have been looking all over the place for you sir! (pause). Is there something wrong, sir? (pause) Don't tell me they changed their minds? The messiah is not coming, sir (pause-angry) But why? Everything was in place! Security is tight! They can't have any reason not to have.

**DUKU:** Shut up, Major!

**KADIYE:** (not believing) It had to do with security, sir/

**DUKU:** Did Major Akuto give you my orders to contact the police?

**KADIYE:** He did, sir.

**DUKU:** Did you? (pause) Against my orders, You closed the town to our expected guests! You shall pay for it, you and your committee!

**SFX:** Theme music and under....

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**EPISODE 6**

**OLD HABITS, NEW ACTORS.**

**TUNDE AIYEBUSI.**

***CHARACTERS***

***ABBEY THOMAS***

***CLIFFORD MATU***

***AKUNNE PAKI***

***LADY JOURNALIST***

***KASALI***

***MISS OKENLA***

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**SFX:** THEME MUSIC FADE INTO. TELEPHONE RINGS

**SFX:** THE RECEIVER IS LIFTED

**CHAIRMAN:** (Self importantly). Hallo...Hallo...Yes, this is the Chairman's office ..... Darling ... why I could hardly recognize your wise. Where are you speaking from?. No, I am yet to see the Treasurer. He must have arrived in the office by now... of course the cheque will be ready today... As soon as I drop this phone now I'll summon him to bring the cheque for signature... There will be no delay darling. Come around noon...Are you doubting me? You forget I am the number one citizen in this local government?. Darling listen to me. You get that cheque today or my name is not Abbey Thomas..... See you then.

**SFX:** TELEPHONE RECEIVER IS REPLACED.

**CHAIRMAN:** What kind of Chairman do I call myself, if my own wife the first lady of the Local government, can be held to ransom just by anybody. It's time I put a stop to this affront to my executive authority.

**SFX:** SOUND OF RECEIVER LIFTED AND TELEPHONE BEING DIALLED.

**CHAIRMAN:** (Sharply) Mr. Matu? .. (curtly) morning. I called earlier. No response from your end... Never mind. I want you in my office with all the cheques awaiting my signature.

**SFX:** TELEPHONE RECEIVER IS REPLACED.

**CHAIRMAN:** I need to put the seal of my authority on this my regime. I must leave no one in doubt about that.

**SFX:** KNOCK ON DOOR

**CHAIRMAN:** (imperiously) Yes?

**SFX:** DOOR OPEN GINGERLY

**KASALI:** (Slightly off with exaggerated deference) Morning sah!

**CHAIRMAN:** Yes, Kasali.... What are you still doing here? You should be at the site by now

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**KASALI:**

Yes sah. That is so sah. But the Technical supervisor will not release the Pay-loader to go with us sah.

**CHAIRMAN:**

Did you tell him you are from me?

**KASALI:**

He said he could not release a vehicle that cost millions of taxpayer's Naira to any contractor to undertake private job without due authority.

**CHAIRMAN:**

(enraged) Due authority be damned! I am the due authority here. Kasali, go straight back to whoever told you that. Tell him your are from the chairman. Tell him that I say the low loader should be fuelled, assigned a driver and should be ready to go to the site.

**KASALI:**

Yes Sah.

**CHAIRMAN:**

Tell him I want my instructions carried out with immediate effect or he should start looking for another job.

**VOICE:**

Yes sir.

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**MATU:** (OFF to ON) May I come in sir.

**CHAIRMAN:** Come in Mr. Matu. And shut the door behind you.

**SFX:** DOOR IS CLOSED

**MATU:** (politely) Morning Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN:** Good morning Mr. Matu.

**MATU:** Here are the cheques you requested for.

**CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Matu, I will be less than candid, if I tell you that I'm satisfied with pace at which we work here.

**MATU:** How sir?

**CHAIRMAN:** What I promised the masses who voted for me ....er for our great party was a new way of doing things, of serving them. And that means we have to deliver services with dispatch. As the treasurer of the Local Government, I expect you to work in tandem with me....hand in hand ....at the same pace. off) Honourable Chairman, dir, I represent the People's Sentinel.

**CHAIRMAN:** (expansively) You're welcome. You represent the people sentinel, I represent the people's mandate! So we are together.

**SFX:** GENERAL LAUGHTER.

**LADY JOURNALIST:** (Slightly Off) sir, there is this information making the rounds, of a crisis in your administration.

**CHAIRMAN:** crisis? Nothing like that, may be rumours,. Fabrications. Nothing like that. We work together like a team. Like a family.

**LADY JOURNALIST:** (slightly off, ) Is it true or not you sacked the Treasurer over.....

**CHAIRMAN:** (Quickly) oh that! My dear lady.....to succeed, we have to work like a team. Someone who is not a team player will delay corporate progress. You see, as a Chairman, the buck stops at my table.

**LADY JOURNALIST:** (slightly off, insistent ) Agreed. But was he sacked or not and why?

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**CHAIRMAN:** For goodness sake, an individual has no right to deprive the electorate, the voters who chose the chairman the dividends of democratic dispensation. Do I made myself clear?

**LADY JOURNALIST:** (slightly off) Why was he sacked?

**CHAIRMAN:** As the Executive Chairman of this Local Government, the constitution vests in me the power to hire and fire. And besides, my dear lady, these things, these developments look strange now because we are in the learning phase.

**LADY JOURNALIST:** Is it true that he was sacked because he refused to sign a cheque for millions of Naira issued in favour of your wife for a phoney project.

**CHAIRMAN:** (maddened by the disclosure) You... who sent you? How much were you paid?

**LADY JOURNALIST:** I beg your pardon?

**CHAIRMAN:** You stupid woman! How much were you paid (shouting) You assassin! You whore! Wait for me! I'll teach you to insult your betters!.

**SFX:** SOUND OF COMMOTION

**CHAIRMAN:** (slightly off) You think you can insult me and get away with it. Take that for your insolence ! you bitch !

**SFX:** Hard Slap

**LADY JOURNALIST:** (screamed) You slapped me!

**CHAIRMAN:** (realizing the tragedy) You have no right to slander me.

**LADY JOURNALIST:** You will pay dearly for this, Mr. Chairman! You will pay dearly for it!

**SFX:** BRIDGE FADE UNDER

**MISS OKENLA:** What you have done Mr. Thomas is criminal assault against an ordinary citizen. it is condemnable, and from a public officer like you, a Chairman of a Local government, it is reprehensible.

**CHAIRMAN:** I know...I know... please don't rob it in Miss Okenla. It was due to

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provocation! I have come here to see what your Civil Liberties Advancement Group can do to help. I am told the lady had been here to report.

**MISS OKENLA:** I wonder what you expect from us.

**CHAIRMAN:** Madam...I'm in trouble...My political life is at risk. My detractors are waiting....please what can you do! Can't you prevail on the lady to drop the matter?...I'll do whatever is necessary.

**MISS OKENLA:** What are you asking us to do, Mr. Thomas is to negate the very purpose of our organization existence. We set out to protect the rights of the civil populace.

**CHAIRMAN:** (desperate) O,k. o.k. But I've owned up, haven't I? All I' am begging you to do is to treat this matter like a family affair.

**MISS OKENLA:** You slapped the lady in public in the course of doing her legitimate duty.. what's more; you invited her?

**CHAIRMAN:** It's human to make mistakes, Miss Okenla.

**MISS OKENLA:** I'm afraid, I can't promise you anything. We exist to protect the rights of our people from executive lawlessness and intimidation be it from the military or its civil varieties

**CHAIRMAN:** A moment's weakness, madam that's what is was.

**MISS OKENLA:** You knew what you were doing? You know why you tried to silence the innocent lady in such an inhuman, brutal and uncivilized manner! Don't give me that crap about a moment of weakness.

**CHAIRMAN:** please..... Please.... I'd do everything to make up for my folly?

**MISS OKENLA:** (Mischievously) Good! Good, Mr. Chairman. We will help the lady you brutalized determine the limits of a Chairman's powers in a court of competent jurisdiction.

**SFX:** THEME MUSIC UP AND UNDER

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**EPISODE 7:**

**NO MOLESS**

**Frank AIG-Imoukhuede**

***CHARACTERS***

*NO MOLESS - DRIVER OF "DANFO" BUS NO MOLESS NO1*

*SMALL BOY - HIS BUS BOY*

*MOTORIST - MILITARY OFFICER IN MUFTI INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT WITH HIM*

*SHA JE - A PASSENGER*

*FEMALE PASSENGER*

*POLICE CORPORAL*

*R.S.M*

*LIEUTENANT BOT - THE CANTONMENT ADJUTANT*

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**SMALL BOY:** Wetin concern No Moless with molestation? Dem never born officer wey go collect egunje from this vehicle.

**SHA JE:** That na Shakara!

**NO MOLESS:** Yasin!. Olopa or yellow fever never collect one Naira from me since I start driving this bus.

**SHA JE:** And dem never arrest you?

**NO MOLESS:** Who born dog? You no see my bus? Look am well. Wetin dem write for him front? headache?

**CORPORAL:** Oya, enter. I go join you for front. Oga will follow us for his car.

**NO MOLESS:** What about my passengers?

**CORPORAL:** That is your headache.

**SHA JE:** (worried) No Moless?

**NO MOLESS:** (Damp) more Blessing.

**SHA JE:** I think na here me I go drop.

**NO MOLESS:** No problem.

**SHA JE:** (whisper) Trust! They will find out for cantonment that it is what the eye is looking for that it will see

**NO MOLESS:** (confidentially) small boy he be like say Yawa won gas o. make you find chance double cross go cantonment go organise.

**SMALL BOY:** (going off) Baba! You go meet me deh wait.

**MOTORIST:** (OFF) Officer, why are we not moving?

**CORPORAL:** He said the bus has refused to start. But he is joking. Oya start it.

**NO MOLESS:** (faking difficulty in starting the vehicle) see. He no start.

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**SFX:** Car door opens OFF. Pause. Then sound of bus driver door being yanked open)

**NO MOLESS:** Oga no spoil my door o. Mister man, na wetin? Two rope, warn am o Oga no hold me like that. I fit come down by myself. Mister man, I won you o. You are playing with fire.

**SFX:** Danafo starts and takes off. Cross fade to Danafo arriving).

**NO MOLESS:** (laugh) Una don enter am. Na cantonment we dey so. (Suddenly, shouting)R.S.M! R.S.M!! Dem wan kill me o. na armed robbers. Dem wan snarch my bus. Help! Theif! (To corporal under his breath) Too Rope, done  
warm you before. You and your friend, na guard room, so –sei. Before they remember say you still dey inside, me I for, done settle every body. Ah! RSM thank allah! Dem follow me so-tay reach even inside the cantonment. Dem no fear, dem be Ogbologbo one of them be fake police. See am hold am: No let am go!

**SMALLBOY:** (slightly off) Officer, is true. I was in the bus. Sometime the other one hold gun.

**R.S.M:** (Coming on) is that so? Fly follow dead body enter grave! (laughs) for this barrack? Couple, Oya you hold the fake policeman me I will take care of this his accomplice. Hey you this –Awuzubilah! Captraum Balm! Roger!! You this dan garawa. You want to put san’san’ for my gari?! Allham dulilahi! Allah & be praised! I nearly committed assault – on a superior officer, you this gajere, you will talk today. I am sorry, sir, very sorry.

**MOTORIST:** No fuss. No fuss, Dan Nas where is your Adjutant’s Office.

**RSM:** Right in front us, Sir. He will be happy to see you, sir. (pause) Here we’re, sir.

**STD:** Knock on door

**BOT:** (OFF-Sharply) yes?!

**RSM:** Captain Roger to see Adjutant, sir

**STD:** Door opens suddenly

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**BOT:** (Slightly off) Ah! Captain Roger

**MOTORIST:** Bot! You are the adjutant!

**BOT:** Yes, sir.

**MOTORIST:** Bot Pam Bot

**BOT:** The same Bot, sir.

**CORPORAL:** (slightly off) God don catch Monkey!

**RSM:** Corporal, what did you say?

**CORPORAL:** It is this area Boy, sir. He never expected this type of reception for us at the cantonment. Now he is the one in hot water. No Moless, indeed.

**RSM:** No what?

**CORPORAL:** That is his name, sir.

**R.S.M:** You are No Moless, Ko?

**CORPORAL:** He also calls his bus No Moless.

**R.S.M:** You no get any other name for your town?

**CORPORAL:** No license, no particular No insurance.

**R.S.M:** (Catching on) and so no moless, ba? Corny-corny man!

**CORPORAL:** The cantonments name is his immunity against arrest. He even arries the scorpion symbol of the Marine commando on the body of his bus.

**R.S.M.** Is that so? Who give you permission to use scorpion?

**NO MOLESS:** (solemn) No body, sir. But I am not the only one.

**R.S.M:** So you get company? This is your final way o.

**BOT:** (Slightly OFF) R.S.M.

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**R.S.M:** Yes, Sir

**BOT:** (coming on) Captain Roger has briefed me on this fellow's effrontery and misdemeanor.

**R.S.M:** Then I will present his case formally for further action tomorrow. Oya, No Moless, march forward. Go answer your name for grand room...Lef.. lef.. lef!

**MOTORIST:** What's going to happen to Him? Bot: The R.S.M. is a stickler for rules. When he is through, we will hand him over to the police for his traffic offences.

**SFX:** Theme music up and under.....

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**EPISODE 8**

**“ALIAS AK 40”**

**Tunde Aiyegbusi**

***CHARACTERS***

***SQUADRON LEADER BEN KPARAGA***

***MAJOR ADAPU KADIYE ALIAS AK 40***

***POLICE DPO***

***1<sup>ST</sup> CORPRAL SAM***

***2<sup>ND</sup> CORPORAL COSMAS***

***LT. COL. ARAGADUKU***

***RASCO***

***TYSON***

***RSM***

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**SFX:** Theme music up, then under

**SFX:** Theme music cross fade to NIGHT SOUNDS. BRING UP LIGHT  
TRAFFIC SOUND IN THE BACKGROUND

**COSMAS:** Corporal Sam, this nah beautiful night

**SAM:** Wetin beautiful for night? How night wey armed robber dey move  
inside like rat be beautiful? You self, Cosmas. The only night wey  
beautiful na de night wey I dey sleep for my bed.

**COSMAS:** Alone or with madam for your side?

**SAM:** Nah you sabi! Nah me say make you no marry! Look you!

**SFX:** CAR APPROACHES FAST AND COMES TO A STOP WITH  
**BRAKES** SQUEALING

**COSMAS:** Haba, oga! You wan tell me say you no see the torchlight.

**KPARAGA:** BREATHES OUTLOUDLY

**COSMAS:** (Trying to joke) I see say oga don jolly for night. How life, Sir?

**KPARAGA:** (Impatiently) can I go?

**COSMAS:** (Turning officious) Your particulars, sir.

**KPARAGA:** Well... well...

**COSMAS:** Driving license?

**KPARAGA:** I don't think I have it here.

**COSMAS:** O.K Your insurance paper

**KPARAGA:** It's not here

**COSMAS:** Oga, dis one nah wah – o!

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**SAM:** Wetin be the number of your car self?

**KPARAGA:** Look, I don't ... Can't remember!

**COSMAS:** Oga how you fit dey drive moto... dis kind fine moto and you not fit remember him number?

**KPARAGA:** The car isn't mine. I borrowed it from a friend. A fellow officer in the Navy. My good friend.

**COSMAS:** (Doubtfully) you be officer?

**KPARAGA:** Sure! Sure! Squadron leader Ben Kparaga of the Airforce.

**COSMAS:** I see. Can I see your identity card, Sir?

**KPARAGA:** (After a pause) Blast! That one isn't on me either!

**COSMAS:** You no fit produce I.D? How we go do am now?

**KPARAGA:** (Pompously) Are you people doubting me?

**COSMAS:** Wetin anybody talk now? The thing be if you fit produce your I. D and we know say you be officer true true, ehen, we fit know what to do. But as you be minus everything so ... ah no know how anybody fit do am. Corporal over to you.

**SAM:** We have detain the vehicle and take the driver to station.

**KPARAGA:** Detain who? You must be crazy? Did you hear what I said? I am Squadron Leader Ben Kparaga! How dare you suggest detaining me.

**COSMAS:** Oga, nah correct thing Corpral talk. When we take you reach station, if DPO decide to release you that nah him own power. We no get power to release any suspect.

**KPARAGA:** Suspect? Don't insult me?

**COSMAS:** I no insult you. No be dis city you de live? How many people... big men... we catch who go tell us say dem be dis, dem be dat. Later investigation go come prove say dem be proper thief.

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**KPARAGA:** (boasting) You insist on taking me to your station. O. K go ahead. You will regret it. I am assuring you. You'll know I am not an inconsequential citizen of this country.

**SAM:** (Teasing) Oga no vex. Nah de duty government say make we do, nah him we dey carry out.

**KPARAGA:** (Spitting the word out) Duty... And a fine way you are going about it too! Lousy lot!

**SFX:** BRIDGE. Fade out

**STD:** SOUND OF SNORING (OFF)

**RASCO:** (Insolently) Oga, ah beg no take all the space. Noto your house you dey.

**KPARAGA:** (Under intense humiliation) Are you talking to me? You criminal!

**RASCO:** Ah be criminal. Ah gree! You nko? Shey, dis police cell na your bedroom?

**TYSON:** Rasco, E do. Make you let oga rest small.

**KPARAGA:** Look here, you touch me again with that leprous hand, and I'll beat you to a pulp.

**RASCO:** Make you no carry your offering pass mosque o. Tyson, warn am o, If you touch me, de map wey ah go take blade make for your face, when your wife see you, she no go fit recognize you.

**TYSON:** (Restraining Rasco) Rasco! ... Rasco! E don do!

**RASCO:** (Slight pause) Hey, oga ... Yanga man, wetin you steal self?

**KPARAGA:** Man, warn ...

**TYSON:** My name na Tyson,

**KPARAGA:** Tyson warn this your friend. I don't want to commit murder.

**TYSON:** Oga, no mind Rasco. (pause) You don get somebody wey go bail you? Ah fit help you.

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**KPARAGA:** Thank you very much. I don't need bail. I only need to get a not to a friend in the military cantonment ...

**TYSON:** ... On the way to Prisons Barracks?

**KPARAGA:** I just need to get a not to a friend there. And I'll be out of here. Can you help?

**TYSON:** Ah nah small thing! But you need small money. My contact dey come for morning. Ah go giam the note. No worry.

**SFX:** BRIDGE. Fade into.

**KADIYE:** (Raving mad) This note is from squadron leader Ben. Kparaga. (calls) RSM! Musa!

**RSM:** (Coming on) Yes, sir! What seems to be the problem, Sir?

**KADIYE:** The police on Airport Road are holding an officer and a gentleman in their cell... since last night! Ever heard something as crazy as that?

**RSM:** (Off to on) which officer, Sir?

**KADIYE:** Squadron Leader Ben Kparaga. A whole Squadron Leader, Sgt. Musa!

**RSM:** (Calmly) what did he do sir?

**KADIYE:** (Exploding) Whatever! Whatever! They don't have to keep him in a cell ... over night, oh my God! Even to keep you an RSM like that is unacceptable to me.

**RSM:** But Sir.

**KADIYE:** Sergeant Musa, round up some troops and get ready a landrover!

**RSM:** (Trying to caution him) Sir... Major Kadiye... Sir... If Colonel...

**KADIYE:** You heard me, Sergeant Musa. Get the vehicle and the men ready. Those policemen need to be taught the lesson of their lives!

**SFX:** Bridge. Cross fade to SOUND OF A JEEP OR FAIRLY HEAVY VEHICLE ARRIVING AND STOPPING. DOORS OPEN.

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**KADIYE:** (Barking order) Spread out! Get everywhere covered.

**DPO:** (Off to one/confidently) officer, what's the meaning of this?

**KADIYE:** I want you to produce the DPO. Now!

**DPO:** I am the DPO. And who are you?

**KADIYE:** Major Kadiye

**DPO:** Can I help you?

**KADIYE:** You are keeping an officer in your cell. One squadron leader Ben Kparaga. Why? Why?

**DPO:** If there is anybody in any of the cells, my men must have genuine reason for keeping such a person.

**KADIYE:** I don't think you heard me. I said I want the squadron leader out of your cell. I want him out. Now!

**DPO:** Now, Major?

**KADIYE:** It is an order.

**DPO:** I don't take orders from you, Major I know who I take orders from.

**KADIYE:** I'll repeat just once more, Mr. DPO. I want that officer out. Squadron Leader Ben Kparaga. I want him out. OUT!

**DPO:** (coolly) you have your orders Major, I have mine.

**KADIYE:** I'm dead serious.

**DPO:** You're telling me, major.

**KADIYE:** Do you know who you are talking to?

**DPO:** An officer of our force, I hope. The uniform looks genuine.

**KADIYE:** (stung by the insinuation) What!

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**DPO:** I don't have to know you to do my job.

**KADIYE:** Look around you. These men aren't here for picnic you know.

**DPO:** (daringly) Really?

**KADIYE:** DPO, I am warning you, if you don't release that officer now, I'll ...!

**DPO:** (Quickly) You'll order your troops to shoot us all dead? And raze the police station to the ground?

**KADIYE:** You don't bluff with me, mister.

**DPO:** (with dignity, correcting him)" Police Officer, Major. I gave you the respects due to your rank. You can't deny me mine.

**KADIYE:** You don't know me that's why you are fooling with me. Nobody dares and gets away with me. You know how dearly a puff adder is?... That's me.

**DPO:** (with superior bearing) That's... is interesting; major.

**KADIYE:** I'm not here to 'interest' you, blast it! Look here, I don't tolerate indiscipline! (pause! Go ahead man. I order you to release that officer ... to me.

**DPO:** You say he's an officer? ... We're still to have proof of that claim.

**KADIYE:** It is not a claim. He is Squadron Leader Ben Kparaga.

**DPO:** I have your word for it Major. We in the police force go by evidence of things seen. Anyone is free to call himself Emperor of Africa.

**KADIYE:** How can anyone call himself Emperor of Africa?

**DPO:** You see? That man you want me to release to you has committed an offence punishable under the civil law of this country. And only a court of competent jurisdiction, presided over by a prescribed legal officer can determine his fate. Whether he is released or not cannot be determined by you or me. Or are you telling me, major, that you are that legal officer.

**KADIYE:** All I am telling you is release the officer in your custody. What has law got to do with that? I have come to effect the officer's release and I don't intend to go without him. Mark you I am not called AK 40 for nothing!

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**DPO:** (Cutting out his jokes) I'm afraid you will have to go without him ... Major I happen to know your commanding officer, Lt. Colonel Araga Duku. I'd be interested to know how he reacts to report of this your invasion of our premises.

**KADIYE:** Invasion! Is that what you're going to tell him? How can my discussion with you be called an invasion? (suffering sudden loss of confidence) so ... so you won't release him? You refuse, eh?

**DPO:** (TRIUMPHANTLY) If you had come, Major, like any citizen to seek your friend's bail ... my men would probably co-operate.

**KADIYE:** (smarting from loss of face) I hope you feel happy locking up a fellow officer with common criminals. Just pray you never run fowl of me or my boys some day! (BARKS OUT ORDER) Boys, back in the vehicle!

**SFX:** Vehicle doors open and shut. Vehicle moves off rapidly. BRIDGE. FADE INTO...

**STD:** KNOCK ON DOOR

**DUKU:** (Sharply) come in!

**STD:** DOOR OPENS

**KADIYE:** (Slightly off) You sent for me, Sir

**DUKU:** I ORDERED that you should report in my office. Would you mind closing that door behind you Major Kadiye.

**KADIYE:** (Slightly off) Yes Sir.

**STD:** Door shuts

**DUKU:** Major Kadiye, would you like to tell me in as few words as possible what you went to do at the Police Station.

**KADIYE:** (coming on) It was a sort of rescue mission, Colonel sir.

**DUKU:** Rescue mission?

**KADIYE:** I got a frantic report about a fellow officer's freedom. So I tried to do the best I could as fellow officer.

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**DUKU:** How?

**KADIYE:** (concerned) How? ... How Sir?

**DUKU:** (Sarcastic) As a fellow officer I didn't expect you'd go on this rescue mission with bare knuckles.

**KADIYE:** No. No, sir, Not exactly.

**DUKU:** Not exactly. I want to know exactly how you set out to carry out the task you set for yourself.

**KADIYE:** We sir ... in the heat of the moment ... knowing that the officer's freedom and possibly his life could be threatened ...

**DUKU:** (THUNDERING). You mobilized troops! On whose orders? I want to know!

**KADIYE:** It was impetuous of me, I'll admit, Colonel, Sir.

**DUKU:** Impetuosity be damned! How many times have you been warned against trying to derail lawful procedures.

**KADIYE:** (contrite) Sir ... When policemen lock up an officer.

**DUKU:** (Sneers) Then?

**KADIYE:** And that brother officer seeks help ... immediate, crucial help ... what is one to do?

**DUKU:** The police force has its own assignment. The Army has its own. And there are constitutional processes!

**KADIYE:** Sir, what becomes of esprit de corps?

**DUDU:** Does esprit de corps demands you go with troops to harass policemen doing their duty? Your case has gone to the Disciplinary Committee.

**KADIYE:** Disciplinary Committee Sir !

**DUKU:** The police chief has taken your mater upstairs! I'm sure they'll know how to deal with it, I cannot go on condoning acts of indiscipline that can tarnish the image of the Army! You're on you own major Kadiye!

**SFX:** Theme music up and under.

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**EPISODE 9**

**WAGES**

**Ihria Enakimio**

***CHARACTERS***

***LT. COL. ARAGADUKU***

***MAJOR ADAPU KADIYE (ALIAS AK. 40)***

***SQUADRON LEADER BEN KPARAGA***

***CHIEF KINGSLEY BRAMA***

***HON. DR. (MRS.) AUGUSTINE ODEH***

***CHIEF ATILA***

***MAJOR OTUH***

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**SFX:** Theme music up and under ..

**SFX:** Theme music up and out ...

**STD:** Knock on Door

**BRAMA :** Come in, come in, officer

**STD:** Door opens.

**BRAMA:** Air Vice Marshal Ben Kparaga

**BEN:** (Laughs) Squadron Leader, sir. Reporting for duty, Sir!

**BRAMA:** You deserve to be Air Vice Marshal. If I had the power I would make you Air Vice Marshal.

**BEN:** Thank you, Sir. This is my friend ... Major Adapu Kadiye.

**BEN:** (interest soars) Ah, yes! The one they call AK 40, I have heard of him

**KADIYE:** I hope nothing bad, sir

**BRAMA:** The man everyone loves to fear? Nothing bad at all. I'm so. Pleased to meet you. Please sit down.

**BEN:** Chief, I have something that you will like. Infact as soon as it landed I said "yes... this must be for chief" You must come and See it, Chief. Smart, E-Class Mercedes, Chief!

**BRAMA:** (unenthusiastic) Tokunbo

**BEN:** As good as new. I swear on my mother's grave if the owner Drove it all, not more than two times.

**BRAMA:** (laughs) Ben Kparaga! Why don't you ride it yourself? Why sell it.

**BEN:** (alarmed) Ah! In this new dispensation, Sir. I thought you said you'll make me Air Vice Marshal? If they see with E-class the Only Marshal I will get is Court Marshal (all laugh).

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**BRAMA:** That is the irony of life, my friend! Did people not kill Jesus? Is it not the same people who are shouting now “in the name of Jesus”? I tell you it is all rubbish. We can see what civilians are doing now.

**KADIYE:** You are one of those crying for democracy!

**BRAMA:** But, of course! I’m a businessman, major. A businessman always looks at the bread to know where the butter is, but I must still know who my friends are.

**KADIYE:** (laughs) You are a true politician, sir

**BEN:** We trust you, sir, sir? ... er .. (class throat) the E-class, sir.

**BRAMA:** That’s true, the car.

**BEN:** It’s worth at least seven, sir. But my friend needs cash urgently because he has to return to Germany. If we can get even four, sir.

**BRAMA:** Four million?

**BEN:** (hesitates) ... uhm ... may be I can persuade him to take three point five.

**BRAMA:** Don’t worry, just give me some time.

**BEN:** How much time?

**BRAMA:** A little time

**BEN:** It’s alright. A.K. 40, make we fly.

**BRAMA:** And please, this is an open invitation, Major. You may visit me at home any evening. Believe me you’re a man after my heart. I believe we share certain things in common. Please visit, okay? Promise?

**KADIYE:** Alright, Chief

**ATILA:** Kingsley Brama?

**ODEH:** (alarmed) Doctor of philanthropy! Chief, I better leave before he gets here. I don’t think I can cope.

**ATILA:** Ah! King Brama ...!

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**BRAMA:** (off-on) My Chief. But I'm not a king yet. Simply Chief! Chief Kingsley Brama. Honourable Augustina! You're here. I was wondering why there is so much security outside. A beauty like you needs security.

**ATILA:** Security

**BRAMA:** Tight security! They almost didn't let me in.

**ATILA:** Those boys are sometimes overzealous! Their job is not to prevent my friends... the friends of our great party from seeing me.

**BRAMA:** You see? "Friends of our party"! so I'm now only friends of your party.

**ATILA:** (subduing laughter) I said "our" party. You know what I mean.

**BRAMA:** I know what you mean.

**ATILA:** I can see there is something annoying you, Chief.

**BRAMA:** I'm not hiding it. The party has treated me most shabbily. I am not going to play the ostrich and bury my head in the sand.

**ATILA:** I am doing something about it, Chief. Chairman is aware. And he has spoken to Mr. President. You have to give us time.

**BRAMA:** Our party has become my worst investment. Even when ministerial appointments came and went I didn't grumble. Then diplomatic missions came and went, fiam! Nothing, even ordinary contract that every Tom, Dick and Harry is getting... Nothing-nothing! Instead all I'm hearing is anti-corruption bill. Why didn't you people tell me that before the election? What kind of democracy is that? Is that how it is done?

**ATILA:** Please, Chief, we still have some years to go ...

**BRAMA:** That's what you think. Do you know who is waiting in the corner to say "fellow countrymen"?

**ODEH:** Impossible!

**BRAMA:** Why won't you say that? What do you know about politics. A neophyte like you.

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**ODEH:** May be I'm not an expert at politricks, chief. But I'm not ignorant about decent politics. This is a new era and we should all think like progressives. The very thought you expressed just now is treasonable.

**BRAMA:** Come on shut up! See your mouth like "Treasonable" How much of your money went into your election? Today you call yourself 'honourable'. How honourable is 'honourable'?

**ATILA:** (calming) Lady and gentlemen ....

**ODEH:** I know I'm a lady. I don't know about the 'gentleman'. Let me go before he slaps me ...

**ATILA:** Please wait, honourable. I can assure you ...

**BRAMA:** Leave her. Let her go! People who don't even know how the party was formed are now beating their chests. Pray you don't wake up one morning and find yourself back on the floor where you started!

**ODEH:** (slightly off) Meaning what? Are you planning a coup?

**BRAMA:** Why are you afraid of coup? Haven't you heard of impeachment?

**ODEH:** (Slightly off) Impeachment? What a laugh? (going off) please see me to my car, Chief Atila.

**ATILA:** Most certainly. Please help yourself to some brandy, Chief Brama.

**BRAMA:** (Yelling after them) Let me give you a pidgin proverb, Honourable Doctor Mrs. Augustina Odeh. "Na de oyibo wey make pencil, na him make erazer"!

**ODEH:** (off) so who is pencil, who is erazer?

**BRAMA:** (triumphantly) How can you understand? I am the oyibo. I made the pencil and I can make the erazer.

**SFX:** BRIDGE mix to applause

**DUKU:** (off) Yes! Major Kadiye, your hand is up!

**KADIYE:** Sir, I am glad, sir that you have said we are good soldiers

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**DUKU:** (off) Very good soldiers!

**KADIYE:** My question is, Sir, are we not citizens of this country? Why is it that most civilians don't want us to participate?

**DUKU:** (slightly off) ... in what? **KADIYE:** (hesitates) ... the democracy, sir

**DUKU:** How? Don't you vote? Or may be there is something else you're not saying, Major Adapu Kadiye!

**SFX:** General laughter and hee-haws mingled with shouts of "A.K. 40".

**DUKU:** No one ... absolutely no one can stop you from participating in a democracy as long as you stick to your constitutional role. And our role as soldiers is what?

**CHORUS:** "... To defend this nation with all our might. Even at the risk of our lives!"

**DUKU:** Taking over government is not part of it! Soldiers must do the work of soldiers and leave politics to politicians. One of our former Chiefs of Army Staff, General Salisu Ibrahim (rtd.) said this as far back as 1993. He said ... "any military organization that intends to remain professional and relevant to its calling has no business meddling in the political affairs of its country ... unless the military learns to keep its hands off politics in this country, our political development would continue to be at its rudiments for the next 50 years". To that the role we want to play in our great country. Set the nation back 50 years?

**CHORUS:** N-o-o-o!

**DUKU:** Major Kadiye?

**KADIYE:** No, sir. We shall be professionals, sir. Sorry, sir.

**DUKU:** Nothing to be sorry about, Major. You have just exercised your right to speak. That is democracy. We are good soldiers. Very good soldiers. We can be even better soldiers!

**SFX:** Loud applause, cat calls. Mix to BRIDGE

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**STD:** Receiver is lifted, intercom is dialed

**DUKU:** Major Otuh Akuto!... Tell him to come at once

**KADIYE:** Sir?

**DUKU:** He knows already. You're under surveillance for weeks

**STD:** Knock on door

**DUKU:** (sharply) Yes!

**AKUTO:** Afternoon, sir

**DUKU:** Sit down, Major, continue Adapu

**KADIYE:** I have said everything, sir. What I don't understand is why he chose me

**DUKU:** Easy. Are you not the one they call A.K. 40? The man with a mission to right the wrongs against his tribe? Your profile fits the bill. You will continue your meetings with him.

**KADIYE:** (surprised) sir?

**DUKU:** You have my approval. Now you must get Major Akuto involved. For logistic reasons. You understand, Major!

**KADIYE:** Yes, sir

**DUKU:** That will be all officers dismissed!

**SFX:** BRIDGE

**ODEH:** (coming on excited) Engineer Atila! Engineer!

**ATILA:** (playfully) Call me 'chief'....

**ODEH:** This is serious, Chief. Rumour just reached the house that Chief Brama and his friend, Dr. Ebiye have been picked up by state security

**ATILA:** Picked up for what? Are we back to military? Did he do 419?

**ODEH:** Ah! I think this is more serious than that. Remember the day he was

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boasting about making erazer?

**ATILA:** You think...? No, no! He is not that crazy. Lets go to party chair and verify. If the rumour is true he will know. Let's go!

**SFX:** BRIDGE. Mix to mess atmosphere

**KADIYE:** I have been thinking, Major Akuto suppose I had not gone to C.O. by myself, even you would have just watched me roast!

**AKUTO:** What did you expect me to do?

**KADIYE:** We were under surveillance!

**AKUTO:** You and Kparaga. By the way, what kind of name is that? Ha! Talk of the devil.

**BEN:** (coming on- boisterous) Good evening, sirs!

**KADIYE:** Ben, I don't think you have met Major Otuh Akuto formally

**BEN:** It's a pleasure

**AKUTO:** Good evening, Ben

**BEN:** Actually, I came over to invite A.K. 40 to our mess. But nothing spoil. We can celebrate here.

**KADIYE:** What are we celebrating?

**BEN:** I have got a buyer for my friend's car

**KADIYE:** (curious) Who? Not our friend, I hope?

**BEN:** (excited) No. His friend Dr. Ebiye

**AKUTO:** (shocked) What? Dr. Ebiye!

**KADIYE:** When did you see him? Where?

**BEN:** I saw him this morning. Why? Did I say something wrong?

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**KADIYE:** (calmly) Have you seen him this evening?

**BEN:** (curious) N-o-o! should I have? I'm supposed to pick up the money tomorrow! What's the matter?

**AKUTO:** (slight pause) Sorry, Ben, You won't be picking up any money

**KADIYE:** Chief Brama and Dr. Ebiye were both picked up by security this afternoon.

**BEN:** Ehn! He was serious about doing that thing? Good Lord! But why didn't you guys wait till I got my money? Three point five! I may even have kept the car too

**AKUTO:** Thief!

**KADIYE:** If you had collected 'three point five' from any of them, you'd probably be with them right now. But they're lucky. They will only be tried by a civil count.

**AKUTO:** You're right. They won't be shot. They will be hanged

**BEN:** Hanged? Some kind died na yeye die!

**AKUTO:** Well... the wages of sin!

**SFX:** Theme music up and under

**SFX:** Theme music up and out.

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**EPISODE 10**

**AFLIGHT OF FANCY**

**Ihria Enakimio**

***CHARACTERS***

***SQUADRON LEADER BEN KPARAGA***

***WING COMMANDER KALIO***

***GROUP CAPTAIN B.K. ISAH***

***MAJOR ADAPU KADIYE***

***FL. LT. JUDE***

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**SFX:** Theme music up and under ...

**SFX:** Bring up theme music to busy joint ...

**BEN:** (coming ON) Have you been waiting long ...?

**KADIYE:** ... I can see you sailors don't keep time ...

**BEN:** (coaxing) Sorry ... sorry... sorry, A.K. 40! I'm truly sorry....

**KADIYE:** (calmly) No need! I have had two beers already. Just be prepared to Pay!

**BEN:** Small thing. This is my joint now. Even if I don't have coins no baggar will stop me from getting what I want. (to someone off) hey ewu! Nkwobi and beer. On the double you know what will happen? (To someone OFF) Hey! Ewu! Two Nkwobi ... and beer. On the double!

**KADIYE:** I know 'Isi-ewu'. Which one is 'Nkwobi'?

**BEN:** The junior brother of Isi-ewu

**KADIYE:** Don't be so cheap! A whole Squadron Leader! Why the junior brother? Let them bring the senior brother!

**BEN:** No problems Hey! Ewu! Change that to two 'Head. Ewu!

**KADIYE:** Ben, what are we celebrating?

**BEN:** Not yet. This is rehearsal, A.K. 40 ... If you succeed!

**KADIYE:** In doing what?

**BEN:** (matter of fact) I have to go to America, A.K. 40!

**KADIYE:** Good for you. Go now. (Bottles against glass. Pouring) (UNDER...)

**SFX:** (off-slightly on) sound of bottles. Drinks being popped open. Bottle against glass. Pouring (under.....)

**BEN:** Who would have believed that a civilian regime would be better for the military than a Military Government?

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**KADIYE:** How? It was almost my turn to become a State Governor. You know what that means? Banish poverty!

**BEN:** And the whole nation will be cursing you! You know me, A.K. 40!... I had given up on the Airforce. Especially after they promoted Kalio and left me behind. I just decided to stay and mark time. No sweat, no struggle, no frustration. Just mind my own business and make what I can make. It was easy. All our aircraft were grounded, anyway. I'm not like Kalio who wants to become a one-man air force!

**KADIYE:** So you want to withdraw from service and go to America!

**BEN:** No-o. the new civilian government wants to revive the airforce. Under a new arrangement, the Americans have agreed to support with training. So long as the country is under a democracy.

**KADIYE:** I know that

**BEN:** Well, they have started compiling names of officers who will go to America for training.

**KADIYE:** You're interested!

**BEN:** Who won't be? But I suspect if I don't push they may send Wing Commander Kalio. You know he does AFAMACO! And he reads all these magazines about the Airforces of the world!

**KADIYE:** So?

**BEN:** Group Captain Isah is very impressed with him.

**KADIYE:** I see, And he's the one who will recommend!

**BEN:** ..... That is why we must take the matter from the top!

**KADIYE:** How?

**BEN:** Brigadier Baku! He is your friend..., your brother, ... from your home town. And he and Air commodore Jolebi are paddy!

**KADIYE:** I see. Small thing!

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**BEN:** God will bless you!

**KADIYE:** I will tell Brigadier Baku but .... hm! whether he will agree...

**BEN:** ...he will agree. He will agree! Hey! Ewu! Replace this beer now. These bottles are leaking.

**SFX:** BRIDGE, fade to Jet fighter arrives and taxis to a halt (off)

**JUDE:** (Coming ON) Wing Commander Kalio is back! He's the only one who can still fly those things these days!

**BEN:** Jude..have you ever heard of Kamikaze,

**JUDE:** No, Sir... I mean, Yes, Sir! The suicide squad, sir

**Ben:** In any case I should be out of the country soon. Well I don't belong to that squad.

**JUDE:** (Excited) You're travelling, Sir? I hope you're not quitting, sir?

**BEN:** Why would I do that? My best days as a pilot are ahead of me! I may not pretend to be a one-man airforce but I'm a good pilot.

**JUDE:** We know that, sir. But you have not flown for a long time, sir.

**BEN:** The air force has itself to blame! I refuse to be a suffer-head. I wasn't trained to fly dead aircraft..... !

**SFX:** Phone rings

**SFX:** Receiver is picked up

**BEN:** Yes? Ah! A.k. 40! Its so good to hear from you. Where are you calling from? ... G-r-e-a-t! when did you... (excited) we don't pass that one... "He has seen commodore"?! (Yells) Yo-o-o! ... okay ... I understand. I'll wait... God will bless you... I will give you my mother!...(laughs) she's too old...(mock serious) Ah! She's all I can spare!.. Thank you my friend... Yeah... Bye.

**SFX:** Receiver is dropped.

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**BEN:** (Yelling) Y-o-! yo! ... y-o-o-o! I would have got to America and some people will still be struggling with dead alpha jets.. and MIGS and other dinosaurs!

**SFX:** (Door opens)

**KALIO:** (OFF) There seems to be something to celebrate (coming ON) what's up, Ben?

**STD:** Door shuts

**JUDE:** Welcome, Sir.

**BEN:** (laughing) Welcome, "sir"! There is ...! There is, Wing Commander, Kalio!

**KALIO:** (Slight pause-suspicious) well! ...somebody had a baby?

**BEN:** For whom?

**KALIO:** You won the lottery!

**BEN:** (teasing) You are getting really close... v-e-r-y close.

**KALIO:** Tell me about it.

**BEN:** (Dodging) I will... I will ... (laughing)

**JUDE:** You have a letter, Sir.

**KALIO:** Thank you. This handwriting looks familiar.

**SFX:** Envelope torn open . Paper rustle as letter is opened

**KALIO:** (pause - pleasant surprise) You see!... You see! (reading) "Boy, I am in!" kparaga! ... remember my friend .. Greg?

**BEN:** What happened to him?

**KALIO:** He's found his way into the US Airforce - the elite service!

**BEN:** Really? which means he's no longer one of us! He's automatically an American now.

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**KALIO:** Not necessarily.

**BEN:** You think America will allow a man like that to return to Nigeria? To fly air Beetle? Impossible!

**KALIO:** Americans hardly fly F16s anymore. They dashed those ones to Israel. We are still flying Puma helicopters, Doniers and Alpha jets. One of these days they'll send Greg back to us to train us!

**BEN:** Yeah! To train you, I don't intend to wait for that.

**KALIO:** How do you mean?

**SFX:** Phone rings.

**SFX:** Receiver is picked up.

**KALIO:** Yes!...sir? ... Squadron Leader Kpanaga? ... its yours, Ben.

**BEN:** (exaggerated gratitude) Thank you! .....Squadron leader Ben Kparaga, sir, ... sir? ... I am coming right away, sir ..Yes, sir!

**STD:** Receiver is dropped.

**KALIO:** What does Group Captain Isah, want?

**BEN:** (Triumphantly) I don't know... (on second thought) But may be it has to do with some trip to America.

**KALIO:** (Damp) Oh! ...is it... the training thing?

**BEN:** (overjoyed) You know about it? Maybe, (under his breathe) Jude! The man wan die of jealousy! (going-off) I will be right back Wing Commander, Sir!

**SFX:** Door opens

**KALIO:** (Slight pause –Damp) Yeah!

**SFX:** Door shuts

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**JUDE:** (slight pause) Sir? .. will you be going for the training also?

**KALIO:** Training? ...oh! I don't know... God's time is the best.

**JUDE:** It's true, Sir!

**SFX:** BRIDGE. Cross fade to telephone rings

**SFX:** Receiver is picked up.

**ISAH:** Group Captain Isah! ... Yes ... that was my order! Draft three men there to help!... with immediate effect!

**STD:** Receiver is dropped.

**ISAH:** Scally-wag!

**STD:** Knock on door.

**ISAH:** Yep!

**BEN:** Good afternoon, sir,

**ISAH:** (Sharply) Yes?

**BEN:** I'm Squadron Leader Ben Kparaga, Sir.

**ISAH:** (angry) I know that! What have you to say?

**BEN:** You asked me to come, Sir.

**ISAH:** (irritable) I know that... I know that! But what have you to say?

**BEN:** (Confused) About what, Sir?

**ISAH:** Do you think I called you here because I love your face?

**BEN:** No, sir.

**ISAH:** The military has to be re-organized, re-oriented, debriefed, revolutionized to stay on course for its constitutional duties. What did I say?

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**BEN:** The military has to be rationalized, re-orientated.

**ISAH:** Who is Major Adapu Kadiye?

**BEN:** (shocked) sir?

**ISAH:** I mean ... is he a Pilot? ... Engineer.. is he in the airforce?

**BEN:** (Slowly) No, sir.

**ISAH:** But you invited him to meddle in matters concerning the airforce!

**BEN:** Sir?

**ISAH:** Never mind. Brigadier Baku will look after his own. (slight pause-deliberately) Squadron Leader Kparaga, whose duties unify the military? Is it Brigadier, air commodore... or...

**BEN:** Commander-in-Chief, Sir.

**ISAH:** And before that?

**BEN:** C.G.S., Sir!

**ISAH:** Let me ask you, when was the last time you were airborne ... I mean flying from the cockpit?

**BEN:** January last year, Sir, ... most of the aircraft are grounded, Sir.

**ISAH:** Most!

**BEN:** (pause) yes, sir.

**ISAH:** Once upon a time, Kparaga, you had great promise. You displayed brilliance. You seemed ready to take on the world. We all thought you had a dream. If you did, you lost it some where along the way. What happened?

**BEN:** (sighs) sir... well.. you could say I woke up, sir,

**ISAH:** Wake up to what?

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**BEN:** May I speak my mind, sir

**ISAH:** Go ahead!

**BEN:** My dream... well, sir... I still have a dream, sir. That's why I would like to go on the training programme, sir.

**ISAH:** Then how shall I reward officers who have shown consistency, dedication? I could show you your file Kparaga. Over the years you became truant, the airforce could not feel the impact of your presence. You were on your own. You had bailed out in a parachute and now you're headed into a wind. That could blow you away into the sea. Today, if I was to recommend you for anything it would be dismissal. Luckily for you I don't have to do that. Unfortunately for you I can't wash away your sins either. And now with your own hands you have again drawn wrath. You channeled your illicit mission through the Army to the airforce!

**BEN:** I'm sorry, sir.

**ISAH:** We shall decide what to do with you for influence peddling ....for attempting to corrupt your superior officers.

**BEN:** (pause) I'm sorry, sir

**ISAH:** You should be. You must retrace your steps, Ben Kparaga. You used to be a good pilot. You can still be. You're young. Retrace your steps. Merit has once again become the key for progress. You should know . Kalio used to be your mate. Now he is your superior officer.

**BEN:** (pause) is he the one, Sir?

**ISAH:** The one who what?

**BEN:** The one who is being recommended.

**ISAH:** (slight pause) what did you think?

**BEN:** (quietly) He's from your town, Sir.

**ISAH:** Does he deserve to be recommended?

**BEN:** Well....

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**ISAH:**

The records speak clearly. Not only is he your senior, he has consistently trained and shown initiative. The airforce has no doubt that he will do the nation proud in America or anywhere else he may go. We shall deal with the small matter of your indiscretion latter. You're dismissed, officer!

**SFX:**

Theme music up and under.

**SFX:**

Theme music up and out.

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**EPISODE 11**

**YOURNAMEISJUDAS**

**Frank Aig-Imoukhuede**

***CHARACTERS***

***AMODU DOGO***

***JULIUS MOMO***

***MAJOR DAN SEIGHA***

***ADE ADEOYE***

***JAMIU***

***COMMISSIONER OF POLICE***

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**SFX:** Theme music up then under...

**SFX:** Theme music. Fade into hubbub of activities of a small crowd. A car arrived and parks off. Car door opens and shuts.

**MOMO:** Look, Dogo! See who's coming this way!

**DOGO:** Major Seigha, I wonder what he's doing here at the Pensions Office! Good morning sir!

**SEIGHA:** (Coming On) aah! Warrant Officer Dogo!

**DOGO:** Retired, sir!

**SEIGHA:** That's merely a matter of records. For me you'll always be the Army's number ONE in unarmed combat!

**DOGO:** Thank you sir. You don't seem to remember W.O Momo

**SEIGHA:** What! I'm awfully sorry, Momo. Is it really you?

**MOMO:** It's me, sir. The life of a retired soldier is not rosy, Sir.

**SEIGHA:** That's sad to hear. The military must always give its bet men their due as long as they live! Ah! The great Amodu Dogo. It's such a pleasure to see you again after all these years. For me you're still the pride of our division. And you earned those medals of honour and distinguished service you won both here and in peace keeping!

**DOGO:** Life after retirement is difficult Sir.

**SEIGHA:** You've come to pick up your pension, I'm sure.

**DOGO:** I wish we could just 'pick' it up. But it's not that simple.

**SEIGHA:** What does that mean?

**DOGO:** Some of the people you see here have been here for three days! And they still have no cheering news to tell. See the man with white beard looking like the end of the world, in ordinary times he is chatty and lively. Now he's glum and irritable.

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**MOMO:** And he has been living on borrowed money to sustain himself. Still, no hope he'll get paid his pension soon. If at all

**SEIGHA:** What's his name?

**DOGO:** Ismail, a very good friend. He is from Wudil near Kano. He needs the money for his daughter's marriage.

**MOMO:** And Steve, the man in bowler hat literally crossed many rivers to get here. He has become so irritable and short-tempered as most of the other stranded colleagues.

**MAJORSEIGHA:** And you? Are you also under financial pressure?

**DOGO:** I can manager.

**MOMO:** Me too.

**DOGO:** I am here not so much for the pension as the opportunity the trips offers for reunion. After all, it's just N2, 500 a month.

**SEIGHA:** That's no chicken feed.

**DOGO:** You think so, sir? Transport money to and fro is about N2,000 and what is the balance left? Only N500.00. Collecting my pension every month was not worth the hassle, so I let it accumulate and collect once a year.

**SEIGHA:** That makes economic sense.

**DOGO:** He's the pensions officer's accomplice. Their car was loaded with files and documents. We even found a Ghana-must-go in the boot filled with money. Five hundred thousand Naira!

**JAMIU:** (Slightly) It is not my car sir, It is my O/C's. I was only obeying orders.

**SEIGHA:** Mr. Adeoye, please come out of your hiding. You have a lot of explaining to do. Dogo? What is the matter? Why are you staring at him like that?

**DOGO:** You mean this is the man who is behind all these problems? The man who refused us the use of his car to take Ismail to the hospital? Who told me to go jump in the lagoon?

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**SEIGHA:** You know him?

**DOGO:** This thing? Don't you remember late corporal Adeyemi's sister?

**SEIGHA:** The sister of your friend who died on peace keeping mission?

**DOGO:** That is her son. The one the officers and men of your company contributed money to keep in the polytechnic.

**SEIGHA:** The boy you borrowed money from me to pay his fees?

**DOGO:** That's him!

**SEIGHA:** What a way to pay back! What ingratitude! Mr. Adeoye! Your name is Judas!

**SFX:** Theme music up and under....

**MOMO:** But not all of us can wait. And not all of us have children who can help.

**DOGO:** You see, they have become impatient again.

**CHORUS:** All we are saying, paying our pension!

**SEIGHA:** But we can't have that here? Dogo, Momo, I need your help to douse this fire.

**DOGO:** This is beyond us sir, The assistance you need is at higher level.

**SEIGHA:** But why? What has happened to our reputation? Why are the men so unruly?

**DOGO:** Anger and hunger don't promote discipline sir, for three weeks some of those men have camped outside on makeshift sheds.

**SEIGHA:** You mean our ex-service men have been sleeping inside those polythene sacks outside?

**DOGO:** For three weeks they have been dribbled till they have reached the end of their patience. The problem behind it all is behind that door with 'No Visitor allowed Sign on it.

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**SEIGHA:** (Going Off) Then we must get to the bottom of it.

**STD FX:** (Pause) Knock on door. Door opens ad shuts

**ADEOYE:** (Pause) Who was it, Jamiu?

**JAMIU:** (Coming on) One senior army officer

**ADEOYE:** Can't he read: No visitors allowed. After 2 pm?

**JAMIU:** (To Adeoye) He looked very angry.

**ADEOYE:** (Let him fume).

**SEIGHA:** (In anger) What! He banged the door in my face.

**DOGO:** Didn't I say? That's how it has been all the time we tried to get in.

**SEIGHA:** Then I'll go and report at Headquarters (Going off) You and Momo try and keep things under control

**SFX:** BRIDGE crossfade to car arrived and stops, car door opens and shuts

**MOMO:** (Coming on) Welcome back sir.

**SEIGHA:** Thank you! At last we are getting somewhere. The Chief of army staff is showing a special interest in the case. I am happy you have kept things under control. Where's warrant officer Amodu Dogo? Where is Ismail? Why are you silent.... Morose?

**MOMO:** Amodu Dogo is fine, Major. But Ismail is another matter.

**SEIGHA:** What do you mean?

**MOMO:** He is now past tense. Dead!

**SEIGHA:** Dead! I left here only an hour ago. What do you mean dead?

**MOMO:** Now you understand why things are going to explode. They are thinking of blowing the pace apart.

**SEIGHA:** (Alarmed) No! No! No! Then we must act fast. Let's go back to that office!

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**ADEOYE:** (Fade out)  
Jamiu, I heard someone shouting. See who it is

**STD:** (PAUSE) Door opens and closes quickly)

**JAMIU:** (Urgent coming on) It is that officer again. He's coming here

**ADEOYE:** The busy body!

**JAMIU:** The special investigation they sent from Headquarters!

**ADEOYE:** You think I don't know? Why do you think I have been doing all these?  
Don't let him in yet.

**JAMIU:** What shall we do with all these documents?

**ADEOYE:** We will drop them through the window into the back. Then you go round  
to the other side and get rid of them while I keep him busy in here. Here is  
my car key (TINGLE OF KEYS) I think you can drive?

**JAMIU:** Yes, Oga.

**STDFX:** (Sound of files, trays and papers being moved and shifted about.

**ADEOYE:** Jamiu, let him in as you go out. And don't forget to park the car in a safe  
place.

**JAMIU:** (going off) Very safe place. Trust me!

**STDFX:** Door opens

**JAMIU:** (Off) Ah! Officer sir, Welcome sir,

**ADEOYE:** (A little obsequious) Ah, Major! Welcome sir, its very god to see you sir,

**SEIGHA:** (Coming On) I have been waiting for nearly half an hour!

**ADEOYE:** Sorry Sir, I have been very busy, sir. We didn't see you sir,

**SEIGHA:** Did you get my messages?

**ADEOYE:** We have been dealing with the backlog sir, We have processed over 5000

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files and still have about two hundred more to go. We have been sleeping in the office. The pace has been hectic and killing.

**SEIGHA:** The ex-service men out there don't think so.

**ADEOYE:** (with resentment) Our work should be appreciated. Not denigrated and abused, sir.

**SFX:** Telephone rings

**STD:** Receiver picked up

**ADEOYE:** Yes? Yes, sir! (to Major).... It is for you, Major Seigha. From the office of the Adjutant general ... (into phone) Hold on for him sir,

**SEIGHA:** (Talking the call) Sir? .... Things have calmed down a little and are more or less under control... Pardon?..... I am in contract with the units and formations. Units C is not the cause of delay. The colonel said he has signed all the approvals for payment. I think I have found the causes of the bottleneck... No problem sir, I'll keep you informed sir,

**STD FX:** Receiver dropped

**ADEOYE:** I heard what you said, sir. This is not the cause of delay. We have tried and are still trying.

**SEIGHA:** (With irritation) Cut out that crap my friend. I sent you from the office of the Head of Pensions. You sent back that you were too busy. Then I called in person. You banged the door in my face. Didn't they tell you who it was?

**ADEOYE:** They did.

**STD FX:** (Urgent knocking on door)

**MOMO:** (Off) Major, Major, Amodu is back from the mortuary, sir,

**STD FX:** Door opens

**MOMO:** (Slightly off)

**SEIGHA:** Tell him to hold one

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**MOMO:** (Slightly off) That is not possible, sir, The men are shouting that Ismail must be avenged.

**SEIGHA:** Will that bring him back?

**MOMO:** No, sir, But Ismail was a popular man, sir. The combination of anger and frustration was too much for him. He had waited two weeks sleeping outside in the shed. So when they told us to go home and return in the months. He rushed in anger at the Pension Officer, stopped suddenly in his track, clutching at his chest. We couldn't revive him. And they are saying it was not by natural means that he died.

**SEIGHA:** What?

**MOMO:** They say the Pension Officer killed him with juju. And won't get away with it.

**CHORUS:** (Fade in war chant under...) He won't escape o  
Wo fi, Barawo  
He won't escape

**STD FX:** Commotion moving furniture etc

**SEIGHA:** Why are you hiding, Mr. Adeoye?

**ADEOYE:** (Slightly off) Please Major, don't let them get at me. I beg you in the name of God!

**DOGO:** (Coming on- agitated) Where is the crook? Wey the barawo? (Rustling of papers) Look Major, here is the real payment voucher. And this is the bogus one. It contains fictitious names. I have heard of ghost workers. But ghost ex-workers, Oga!

**SEIGHA:** Where did you find them?

**DOGO:** With this man Oga... Jamiu get inside.

**SEIGHA:** That's the man who left this office a moment ago.

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**EPISODE 12**

**AYE, AYE, SIR!**  
**Solomon Ayagere**

***CHARACTERS***

***AYAH***

***ARAY***

***OGIRI***

***MRS IGBIDI***

***CORDELIA***

***COMMANDER IGBIDI***

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**SFX:** Theme music up, then under

**SFX:** Bring up theme music, mix to bar atmosphere with heavy disco music in the background. Hold for a few seconds. Music stops abruptly.

**CROWD:** Oooh: N E E P A..... Nonsense, etc (followed by) O.K. take dis one: (Solo & Chorus) Ayaya, Ayaya Dem go see o!  
One day, one day Dem two go jam Hold under for...

**AYAH:** Aray, is this joint always this rowdy?

**ARAY:** You bet it is. That is what makes the place jump, Ayah. The rowdier the better you might say.

**AYAH:** Oh dear. Wish they knew what damage they are doing to their ear drums.

**ARAY:** Well, if the place is too rowdy for your liking we could retire to a quieter place down the road, and wait for AHOY to arrive.

**AYAH:** Who is Ahoy?

**ARAY:** The one we are waiting for. The supreme egret. Alias AHOY. The great fixer.

**AYAY:** Oh the Navy man?

**ARAY:** Petty Officer Ogiri to his colleagues, but to us, the great Ahoy That man loves his uniform. Never wears anything else on off duty. Always as stork- white as egret.

**AYAH:** I see. Well, how do we know when he arrives, if we move away form here?

**ARAY:** By the noise, that greets his arrival. You can hear it miles off.  
Let'go.....

**CROWD:** (Deafening cat calls, yodels, loud bangs, metal and bottle rapping, clanging and beating) Ayaya, Ayaya Dem go see O  
One day, one day Dem two go jam The Greet AHOI!!

**AYAH:** Talk of the .....d.....

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**ARAY:** (Calling out louder) The great Ahoi

**OGIRI:** (Slightly OFF - responding with equal eclat), Gad dem! Aray!... you are here already.

**ARAY:** Oh yes o

**OGIRI:** (Slightly Off) Okay, okay. Okay

**CROWD:** (Goes quiet)

**OGIRI:** (Slightly Off) sit down, sit down.

**SFX:** (Sitting chairs are drawn etc)

**ARAY:** Man Ahoi. This is the gentleman I talked to you about He has a consignment of goods worth millions of naira which has been lying at the wharf for over six months.

**OGIRI:** (ON) Gad dem!

**AYAH:** You've got to help me officer. I am losing thousands of naira everyday those goods lie idle at the wharf.

**ARAY:** I told him that with you his problem is over.

**AYAH:** I will settle handsomely if you can be of help officer.

**OGIRI:** If I can be of help? Gaad dem: Man, what is wrong with my uniform? Is it not well starched? Well ironed? Why can't I fix it? But I shall be on board ship tomorrow. Will next Friday be too late?

**AYAH:** You flatter me, officer. It is like giving a pauper a king's meal and asking whether it will fill him.

**OGIRI:** Next week Friday then. I shall be waiting for you at the wharf, at the crack of dawn.

**AYAH/ARAH:** (With eclat) the great Ahoi!

**OGIRI:** That's me.

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**SFX:** Bridge Music

**SFX:** (OFF) knock on door

**MRS. IGBIDI:** (OFF) Is anybody in? House o! Cordelia:.....Cordieeee:

**CORDELIA:** (Almost choking with cough) Yes, who is dat?

**MRS. IGBIDI:** (OFF) It is me O, Mrs Igbidi

**CORDELIA:** (GOING OFF/ Still coughing) Ah, I dey come o

**SFX:** (Slight pause - Door opens)

**CORDELIA:** Sorry o, Madam, Na dis yeye stove wey want kill me, and my yeye man no gree buy another stove.

**SFX:** (Door closes)

**MRSIGBIDI:** (ON) Stop making such uncomplimentary remarks about your husband.

**CORDELIA:** Madam, I know my man. No be say he no fit buy another stove. Na indisplin dey worry am. After all Gborie husband no be petty ofa?

**MRS. IGBIDI:** He is

**MRS COEDELIA:** Oh ho. Go look de stove wey dem dey use. And come see our own stove. No no. wait make I go bring am.

**MRS OCHE:** That wont be necessary, Cordelia.

**CORDELIA:** But for your husband wey arrange with pay-master to dey remove money from my husband salary to give me every month, de boge no for give me and my children chop money sef. Dat na displin? Oho! And na me una deh blame when I spark for am!

**MRSIGBIDI:** Try a little tenderness Cordelia, try a little love. May be that will make him a more responsible husband, and a more disciplined officer.

**CORDELIA:** Thin?

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**MRS. IGBIDI:** Try. See what I brought for you.  
**CORDELIA:** Wetin be dis?

**MRS IGBIDI:** A special invitation card.

**CORDELIA:** Invitation card.

**MRS. IGBIDI:** To attend the launching of operation Triple Agenda next Friday

**CORDELIA:** Wetin be dat?

**MRS. IGBIDI:** Operation Triple Agenda is a programme that is designed to empower women, alleviate poverty and give free H.I.V. treatment to every husband and wife from our area.

**CORDELIA:** (Excited) H.e.e. u! good good things dey come to our area at last.

**MRS IGBIDI:** Yes, thanks to Hon, Dr, Mrs Augustina Odey, the firy lady representing our constituency in the House of Representatives.

**CORDELIA:** Oh..oh...oh. I remember am. De woman wey we go campaign for during the election not so?

**MRS. IGBIDI:** Yes she is offering an opportunity of a life time to our people and I want your husband to benefit. All specially invited husband and wife who attend. Have a chance to get micro-credit of N250,000.

**CORDELIA:** N250,000 credit.

**MRS. IGBIDI:** Yes, you can start some small scale business with that, make some tidy profit and stop bothering your husband about petty things like cooking stove.

**CORDELIA:** You mean me sef I go get wetin deh bring money! We must to come, Madam. I promise.

**MRS. IGBIDI:** Alright. (going OFF) see you next Friday at the launching.

**CORDELIA:** (Excited) Yes, man. Bye, Madam!

**SFX:** Bridge Music

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**STD:** (knock on door)

**CORDELIA:** Who is dat?

**OGIRI:** (OFF) open the door!

**CORDELIA:** (going OFF) I dey come, my dear

**STD:** (Slight PAUSE) (Door opens)

**CORDELIA:** Welcome, my dear

**STD:** (Door closes)

**OGIRI:** (Surprised) since when did I become your dear?

**CORDELIA:** Ah, ah since wey you marry me.

**OGIRI:** Is this a joke or something?

**CORDELIA:** Joke? Ah ah am I not your wife again? Look at me well, well. I be Cordelia. Cordelia Ogiri (Mrs).

**OGIRI:** You are sick

**CORDELIA:** No. not to sickness dey worry me, Na tender love. Your chop dey for table. Make I warm an?

**OGIRI:** Did I suggest to you that I feel like eating ?

**CORDELIA:** O.K. make I put water, make you baf.

**OGIRI:** Am I smelling?

**CORDELIA:** Not at all. But eat something now, I beg.

**OGIRI:** I am not hungry.

**CORDELIA:** Aziba kpo le; O.K.....o(Pause) Commander Igbidi him wife come O. she say make I give you dis card. Na special invitation for me and you to attend launching next Friday.

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**OGIRI:** (off-handedly) Next Friday? Sorry!

**CORDELIA:** I take God beg you. I don't promise and say we must come. And promise na debt.

**OGIRI:** You made the promise . you go and fulfil it. I have my own promises to fulfil. And as you say: a promise is a debt.

**CORDELIA:** You know wetin we go lose if we no go?

**OGIRI:** Do you know what failure to fulfill my own promise means?

**CORDELIA:** Thousand upon thousand naira na im we go lose, plus other good good things.

**OGIRI:** (Contemptuously) Thousands? Gaad –dem-Chicken-feed. We are talking about millions, and you are talking about thousands.

**CORDELIA:** (Pleading) Look, every of our town man and woman wey important go dey for dis launching. No disgrace us I beg. Make dem count us among de better people for Ozi community I beg. Make we no chase burukutu millions  
I beg. Make.....

**OGIRI:** (Getting hysterical) sharrap and get out of my way! Gaad dem it.

**CORDELIA:** Una dey hear am, good people? Dat na de man wey dem say make I tender love.

**OGIRI:** Count yourself lucky you're an officers wife, otherwise can you talk to a navy officer like, this? Or I give you a black eye?

**CORDELIA:** You lie. You no fit, you call yourself officer, wetin commander Igbidi go call himself?

**OGIRI:** Let go of me, woman.

**STD:** (Struggling and panting sounds; banging; commotion; and things being thrown; children crying in the background).

**CORDELIA:** (Panting) You no dey go anywhere. Name and you today.

**STD:** (Door flings open/OFF)

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**COMMANDER IGBIDI:** (coming ON) What is happening here? (pause) petty officer Ogiri .....!  
by Jove: and you are in uniform:

**OGIRI:** Aye, aye, Sir, just returning sir.

**COMMANDER:** Just returned from work and straight into rough play eh?

**OGIRI:** Commander Sir, it is this woman.

**COMMANDER:** Cordelia. ....

**CORDELIA:** Just look the time now, Commander. Look time wey he dey take return. Still yet I give an water, he no gree baf: I give an chop he no gree chop, and Commander, I give am invitation card, special invitation card wey your madam bring to make our life better he no gree take.

**COMMANDER:** Ogiri? Is that what all this is about?

**OGIRI:** Nay, nay sir.

**CORDELIA:** Na true. E say him get million wey him dey expect

**COMMANDER:** Millions?

**OGIRI:** Nay, nay sir.

**COMMANDER:** So you will attend Hon, Dr, Mrs Augustina Odeh's launching?

**OGIRI:** Aye, Aye sir.

**COMMANDER:** You have made a mess of your Navy career, Ogiri. Your uniform appears to be the only thing left of your attachment to the Navy. It is up to you to make something of civilian life when you disengage from the Navy/ Compulsorily, which is.....months hence?

**OGIRI:** (Shocked) sir?

**COMMANDER:** I was just driving past when I was attracted by the noise from your quarters.

**OGIRI:** That will not happen again. Commander.

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**COMMANDER:** I have heard that before, do you know where you're going from here, Petty Officer Ogiri? The Guard room.

**CORDELIA:** Ah!

**COMMANDER:** Now march....left...left....left

**SFX:** Theme Music up then under....**SFX:** Theme music up and out.

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**EPISODE 13**

**I WISH**  
**Ihria Enakimio**

***CHARACTERS***

***MAJOR (DR) ADOJE AROLO***

***OMAH AROLO (HIS BROTHER)***

***MRS. MINI AROLO***

***MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL***

***MAJOR OTUH. AKUTO***

***LT. COL. DUKU***

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**SFX:** Theme music up and out under... Telephone rings

**STD:** Receiver is picked up

**WIN:** Churchill here... an Army officer? This is a bank. Not the barracks! Doesn't he have a name? Major... Aroli! Ah! The Doctor. Please send him in.

**STD:** (slight pause) knock on door

**WIN:** Please come in, Doctor.

**STD:** Door opens

**WIN:** (Excitedly) Ah! Ah!

**STD:** Door shuts

**ADOJE:** (Coming on) Winston Churchill

**WIN:** It's always so good to see you. See how great you look in uniform! (ADOJE laughs) You know I used to watch you in those days... when you were in school. You never seemed to put your overalls do have known you were bound for the uniform.

**ADOJE:** Well, I need my overalls.

**STD:** Receiver picked up, intercom is dialed...

**WIN:** Anna, please bring two cups of tea... or is it coffee?

**ADOJE:** (hesitates) well,... coffee. And make it strong. Some how you don't sound like good news. I get the feeling you are about to break some hard news.

**WIN:** (into phone) make that one tea, one coffee. Strong and ... yes, black! (to Adoje) Black, not so?

**ADOJE:** Black

**STD:** Receiver is dropped

**ADOJE:** Drop the bomb, Winston. I can take it, when the Canadian government sent us packing before the end of our training...

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**WIN:** ...because of Nigeria's pariah status! You people caused it!

**ADOJE:** All of us? Did I have anything to do with it?

**WIN:** Well, it takes only one finger to stain the rest with oil.

**STD:** Door opens. Sound of tea things

**WIN:** Thank you, Anna

**STD:** Door shuts, sound of tea cups

**ADOJE:** The point is, it was a hard blow. But I'm here. I just need a break. A more secure one.

**WIN:** The Army is secure. You are a good officer

**ADOJE:** I was a good doctor before becoming a good officer!

**WIN:** Yes. But you're already a major, Have you considered all the privileges, all the benefits you will lose by quitting now?

**ADOJE:** The dream has died, Winston. The army was going to provide me career opportunities that any other employment could not guarantee. Canada promised a great beginning. Then boom. The whole world rejected us.

**WIN:** Sad!

**ADOJE:** Now is when to leave the Army, Winston. When I'm still young enough to struggle for myself. My commission effectively ends at the end of next month. So tell me, what is the bank saying?

**WIN:** Your feasibility report is brilliant. Good hospitals are scarce. So are good doctors. We cross checked!

**ADOJE:** Then what?

**WIN:** Collateral! You have no collateral and the bank wants to be sure it can recover its money.

**ADOJE:** But the project is viable. There is about one doctor to a thousand people, one good hospital in whole cities. How can it fail?

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**WIN:** We obey orders. You're a soldier, you understand what order are. I'm sure you remember the failed bank tribunals.

**ADOJE:** (SIGH)

**WIN:** What beats me, Adoje, is... how can an army officer, a whole major have nothing. Even some sergeant, can secure the loan that is eluding you!

**ADOJE:** Well, ... all soldiers are not equal. Only a few have bathed in the spoils of office. And now civil rule is back...

**WIN:** (emphatic)... for good!

**ADOJIE:** (Slight pause) so, I can't get the loan.

**WIN:** The wages of honesty! What a nation! I really I'm sorry, Adoje. But my hands are tied. (pause) oh! How's your wife? What's she saying about your decision?

**ADOJE:** Oh, Mini understands. We have pulled resources together so she can start a day care centre and nursery school. The officers' wives are very supportive.

**WIN:** Good. Then there's hope.

**ADEOJE:** (quietly) Yeah. I guess I must learn to live off my wife from now on.

**WIN:** Just for a while (slight pause) I'm sorry, Adoje!

**SFX:** BRIDGE. Mix to sounds of frying and a distant cock-row. Hold kitchen sounds briefly. Bring up intermittently.

**ADOJE:** (Quietly) Good Morning, Mini

**MINI:** Ha! You scared me. I didn't hear your coming.

**ADOJE:** I'm sorry. I didn't mean to scare you. You woke up early.

**MINI:** I have not been sleeping well

**ADOJE:** I noticed. But you shouldn't do that. It will be al right by the Grace of God.

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**MINI:** (pause) It's going on six. You better go and have your bath. Remember you have an operation scheduled for this morning.

**ADOJE:** Yeah. When's your own appointment.

**MINI:** Eleven-thirty. The association is meeting at nine-thirty and they are going to decide how far they will go with me. You won't believe it they already treat me as if I'm no longer an officer's wife.

**ADOJE:** Because you are not going to be at the meeting

**MINI:** Well...

**ADOJE:** No. I don't think so. It's only fair that you are absent, so they can vote freely.

**MINI:** (slight pause) Well, I hope you're right,

**STD:** (slightly off) sound of keys on door.

**ADOJE:** What was that? (slight pause) some one is trying to open our door from outside.

**MINI:** It must be your brother.

**ADOJE:** Omah? Where can he be coming from at this time?

**STD:** (Slightly off) door opens and shuts.

**ADOJE:** Which means he didn't sleep in this house.

**MINI:** Does he ever?

**ADOJE:** When did that start?

**STD:** (Slightly off) door is locked with keys

**MINI:** You have been very pre-occupied, Adoje. Mentally... Physically... You come in each night and crash like a little boy. Every night I make his dinner. In the morning I feed it to the dogs.

**ADOJE:** (Calls) Omah!

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**OMAH:** (coming on) I heard you the first time, Broda, Good morning.

**ADOJE:** Where are you coming from at this time of night?

**OMAH:** It's morning, broda

**ADOJE:** Where are you coming from?

**OMAH:** I went to a party

**ADOJE:** All night?

**OMAH:** It was late and I didn't want to disturb (going off) please, if you don't mind. Brother I need some sleep. I have been up all night.

**ADOJE:** Stop right there, Omah I'm not through with you yet, Do you know what this is?

**STD:** Sound of dish being opened

**OMAH:** (Slightly off) No., what is it?

**ADOJE:** It was supposed to be your dinner.

**OMAH:** Pounded yam! Ah! And I love pounded yam O.

**ADOJE:** And now it has to be thrown away.

**OMAH:** (Innocently) That's true, it must be bad by now.

**ADOJE:** (Angry) of course its bad by now. And that's how all the dinners made for you get thrown away. If you don't care about the woman who sweats to prepare them, how about my money that's being wasted?

**OMAH:** Ah! Sorry O. Please Madam, don't waste Brother's money again O. And from today please stop preparing dinner for me.

**STD:** Slap

**OMAH:** Why did you do that?

**STD:** slap

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**OMAH:** Broda, don't try it again O. Don't...

**STD:** slap

**MINI:** Please Adoje... Please

**ADOJE:** If you as much as open that mounth again, Omah....

**MINI:** Please calm down, Adoje...

**OMAH:** Nooo! Let him kill. Why should he calm down after you set him up to do it. See my mouth, see blood.

**ADOJE:** Shut your mouth, Omah.

**OMAH:** Iwon't shut my ...

**STD:** Slap

**ADOJE:** I said shut your mouth and you will obey Omah.

**OMAH:** I don't blame you, You need me to prove to yourself that you are a soldier. I don't blame you. I blame myself that I have stayed with a sinking ship!

**ADOJE:** What did you say?

**MINI:** Adoje, please ignore him... please

**OMAH:** (slightly off) Everyone knows you are a failed officer. Look at your mates. Is it with their younger brothers they prove strength. Your mates strive to be State Governors, Sole Administrators... they build houses for their parents. All you do is try strength with me. Because I live in your house.

**ADOJE:** ... Well, if you don't like it you may move out.

**OMAH:** (slightly off) I will move out. Today -Today! I will move out before you kill me. I'm moving out! And what of you? You will soon move out too. I will see where you will go then. When ordinary hut you don't even have (going off). Officer my foot!

**MINI:** (Anxious, urgent) Adoje! Adoje! Adoje! Please don't touch him. Please! Please!

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**ADOJE:** (Quietly, hurt) It's okay, it's okay. I won't touch him. After all, he is not very far from the truth. I'm moving out, aint I? And ... I'm a failed officer. Am I not?

**MINI:** No, Adoje. You may be moving out. But you are a good officer. And a very good doctor. Please go and get ready. You have a major operation to perform this moving. Somebody's life depends on you!

**SFX:** BRIDGE

**SFX:** BRIDGE, fade out.

**DUKU:** Please, sit down gentlemen

**ADEOJE/AKUTO:** Thank you, sir!

**DUKU:** Major Akuto, I called you here to be my witness

**AKUTO:** (Surprises) witness, Sir?

**DUKU:** I know that you and doctor here are good friends isn't that true, major Arolo?

**ADOJE:** It's true, sir.

**DUKU:** Good friends?

**ADOJE:** Good friend, sir.

**DUKU:** But you think the army is not good but you will leave your good friend behind!

**ADOJE:** Ah! The Army is good, sir.

**DUKU:** Then why are you leaving?

**ADOJE:** Well, sir ... (hesitates) you see, sir ... what I'm trying to say, sir is ...

**DUKU:** Don't say anything. I have a proposition for you. I don't know what plans you have made for your future but you have a great future in the Army. You have such good record here.

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**ATUKO:** I told him so myself, sir.

**DUKU:** Where did you see his records, major?

**ATUKO:** (Caught) what I mean is everyone speaks so highly of Major Arolo. As a soldier.

**DUKU:** But the man is angry because of one small set back. Is that a good soldier? Does a good officer abandon the battle field because he lost a few men?

**ATUKO:** No, Sir.

**DUKU:** But you say the doctor is a good officer. He's not a good officer. He hasn't received enough training. (pause). Look at these form... major Arolo and tell me what you think.

**STD:** Rustle of paper...

**DUKU:** Do you understand them?

**ATUKO:** They are for a specialist course in surgery in the United States, sir.

**DUKU:** We have democracy again, gentlemen, the world is willing to forgive us. All they are saying is "sin no more" We won't. And we are sending some of our men to the United States for this course.

**AKUTO:** (Controlling excitement) Major Adoje!

**DUKU:** You still have plenty to offer the Army, doctor, I can arrange to withdraw your papers so that you can remain in services .. if you wish.

**AKUTO:** (excited) he wishes, sir ... Tell him you wish!

**DUKU:** It's the only way you can be sent on that course, major (pause) Do you wish ... Major Arolo?

**ADOJE:** (slight pause – quietly) Yes, sir ... I wish!

**DUKU:** Then it's done. Go and fill the forms Major Atuko, you are my witness!

**SFX:** theme music up and under...

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**EPISODE 14**

**A MISSION ACCOMPLISHED**  
**Tunde Aiyegbusi**

***CHARACTERS***

***LT. COLARAGADUKU***

***MAJOR OTUHAKUTO***

***LANDLORD***

***COUNCIL OFFICIAL***

***PAPAMONDAY***

***REBECCA***

***SGT IDRISU***

**SFX:** Theme Music up and under .....

**SFX:** Bring up theme music, mix to SOUND OF FIRE BRIGADE VEHICLES WITH ALARMS SCREAMING, ESTABLISH BRIEFLY AND FADE IN THE BACKGROUND.

**STD:** Telephone rings, receiver lifted

**LT. COL. DUKU:** Hello....

**MAJOR AKUTO:** This is Major Akuto.

**AKUTO:** Morning Sir, I have already sent my boys to find out sir. Something outside the barracks perimeter walls sir. Over. I will personally go over and assess the situation Sir.

**STD:** Receiver dropped.

**LT. COL. DUKU:** A model officer, major Akuto always dependable!

**STD:** Knock on Door.

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**LT.COL.DUKU:** Yes.... What do you want Sergeant Idrissu

**SERGEANT:** Sir, Major Kadiye nah him say you wan see me sah!

**LT.COL.DUKU:** (Harshly) He just told you?

**SERGEANT:** Sah, nah this morning after general parade he tell me.

**DUKU:** (Relenting) O.K you will go to my house, take my car to the service garage near the post office. Tell the mechanic to work on it.

**SERGEANT:** Yes sir,

**LTCOLDUKU:** Here is the key.

**STD:** SOUNDS OF BUNCH OF KEY JANGUNG

**LTCOLDUKU:** And tell the man. I want the vehicle back latest 6pm.

**SERGEANT:** Yes sir.

**MAJORAKUTO:** (Off to On) Morning sir.

**LTCOLDUKU:** Yes, Major.....What's is the situation?

**MAJORAKUTO:** Those fire brigade vehicle were summoned to help with a pipe burst at a point between Independence Avenue and the water work

**LTCOLDUKU:** Independence Avenue....that's close.

**MAJORAKUTO:** That's true Sir. And a huge body of water from to burst pipe is making its way in this directions.

**LTCOLDUKU:** Really.

**MAJORAKUTO:** And as to be expected sir. The rumour mill has been busy churning all manners of stories of disasters and calamities.

**LTCOLDUKU:** How serious do you think it is?

**MAJORAKUTO:** Can't say with certainty now, but I've sent two of my serious officers to go

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and have a detailed appraisal.

**LTCOLDUKU:** Thank you, Major. Did you say the body of water is making its way down the independence avenue.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Can't be too sure sir. But if initial report of the volume of water being leaked by the pipe as true.. there's going to be need for urgent rescue effort.. but I think the civil agencies should be in position to cope.

**LTCOLDUKU:** All the same.. let me have the detailed assessment as soon as it is ready. We can't afford to treat such a situation with levity, can we?

**MAJORAKUTO:** Certainly not sir.

**LTCOLDUKU:** You may go major.

**MAJORAKUTO:** You want the door left open, sir?

**LTCOLDUKU:** That's right. Goodbye.

**SFX:** BRIDGE CROSSFADE TO SOUND OF TYPEWRITERS IN THE BACKGROUND MIXED WITH PROGRAMME FROM ONE OF THE FM MUSIC STATIONS

**COUNCIL OFFICIAL:** (OFF TO ON) Are you the man looking for the supervisory councillor for works? **LANDLORD:**(Anxiously) I wasn't looking for him. I was looking for someone in the works department who can help us.

**COUNCIL OFFICIAL:** You'll need an appointment to see the Supervisory Council or for works. People don't just walk into the council to see him.

**LANDLORD:** (getting angry) You didn't listen to me, did you? I told you I came rushing here for help. For anybody in the works department of the local government to help.

**COUNCIL OFFICIAL:** Help to do what?

**LANDLORD:** Didn't you hear of the burst water pipe and the massive water threatening to drown some areas. The estate where I have my house is in the path of this flood. We need urgent help.

**COUNCIL OFFICIAL:** You are a landlord. If you need help, you need to produce the evidence that you are up to date with your tenements rate. Then you produce

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receipt of your development levy, plus proof of contribution to poverty alleviation realization fund.

**LANDLORD:** Are you alright? I rushed here to the local government to seek immediate assistance to avert danger to our lives and property. And all I get from you is this drivel.

**OFFICIAL OF COUNCIL:** I am just trying to help.

**LANDLORD:** (speaking at the top of his voice) In a matter of hours or less, lives could be lost and millions worth of property perished. Can't someone send these tractors and earth-movers you have parked here to help divert the course of the water to less vulnerable parts of this city.

**COUNCIL OFFICIAL:** I'm not in a position to authorise that! Besides these tractors you see here have been hired out. Anyone touching them or taking them out is breaching a contract? If the people who have paid for them come, what do you want anyone to tell them.

**LANDLORD:** We are talking about human lives: do you understand?

**COUNCIL OFFICIAL:** What do you expect me to do? Maybe you should try the fire brigade or the civil defence. Oh I forgot, why don't you try the states Ministry of Works, maybe they haven't hired their own equipment out.

**LANDLORD:** Are you really human? Is this how you people justify your existence.

**COUNCIL OFFICIAL:** (astonished) Why are you trying to put the blame on the council? We didn't cause the pipe to burst?

**LANDLORD:** You wait. Someone is going to pay dearly for this!....

**SFX:** BRIDGE. Fade out

**SERDEANT:** (kicking shoe heels) welcome sir!

**MAJORAKUTO:** Sgt, is the Colonel in the Office

**SERGEANT:** He just come in now.

**STD:** KNOCK ON DOOR

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**LTCOLDUKU:** (OFF) Yes? Come on in!

**STD:** DOOR OPENS

**LTCOLDUKU:** Come in, Major Akuto

**MAJORAKUTO:** Thank you sir.

**SFX:** DOOR CLOSES

**MAJORAKUTO:** The report is ready sir

**MAJORDUKU:** Sir down. So how bad?

**MAJORAKUTO:** The risk of serious flooding is real sir. Especially for the low-lying areas on the path of flow of the escaped water.

**LTCOLDUKU:** (Sharply) I see.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Unless sir the flood water can be diverted in time the two estates lying behind our cantonment towards the TV/Radio complex will be completely swallowed up. Submerged.

**LTCOLDUKU:** How do you assess the capability of the civil agencies to cope?

**MAJORAKUTO:** Sir this emergency will translate into national tragedy of an unacceptable scale of no prompt action is taken.

**LTCOLDUKU:** Really? That bad?

**MAJORAKUTO:** Right now, the body of water is on relatively flat ground. But once it rolls into where topography will aid its flow towards there body threatened estates, we should expect casualties. And the way I see it I cant see those agencies coping ... even if they put their minds to it.

**LTCOLDUKU:** So what do you suggest? Mobilize our men and seek support from the corps of engineers?

**MAJORAKUTO:** A stitch in time, sir,

**LTCOLDUKU:** Saves mine. Now who said that? Never mind. So major, what this means is that we have a task before us. A mission to accomplish.

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**MAJORAKUTO:** That's right, sir.

**LTCOLDUKU:** Soldiers in war.. and peace.

**MAJORAKUTO:** From my assessment of the problem sir...

**LTCOLDUKU:** Yes .. go on.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Well need to attack.. on two fronts.

**LTCOLDUKU:** (Teasing) we'll contain the threat.. from two approaches.. never mind, lets have your plan.

**MAJORAKUTO:** We aim at diverting the water flow from built up areas, at the same time weaken the force of its flow and let it spread itself in area where it can do the least damage.

**LTCOLDUKU:** That makes eminent sense to me

**MAJORAKUTO:** And of course, the success of our effort will depend to a great extent on our ability to stem further flow from the damaged pipe.

**LTCOLDUKU:** In anticipation of your effort, I had already got in touch with our colleagues in the corps of engineers. Their commander has already placed them on alert. Major Akuto, this is a very very important assignment.

**MAJORAKUTO:** I am aware of that, sir.

**LTCOLDUKU:** You've never failed me on any assignments

**MAJORAKUTO:** I'll do my best, Colonel.

**LTCOLDUKU:** The fate of many depends on you and your men.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Expect us to give our very best, sir.

**LTCOLDUKU:** I trust you, Major Akuto. I know you'll lead your men to accomplish the task in the best tradition of the nations army! One other thing, Major!

**MAJORAKUTO:** Yes sir?

**LTCOLDUKU:** I expect total cooperation with whatever civilian authorities may be

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involved in efforts to contain this disaster. Good luck!

**MAJORAKUTO:** Thank you sir.

**SFX:** BRIDGE. FADE TO NIGHT SOUNDS MIXED EXECITED CROWD CHATTER ADD SOUNDS OF OBJECTS, WOODEN AND METALLIC BEING MOVED ON CONCRETE SURFACE. KEEP THE SOUND OF COMMOTION AT THE BACK GROUND OF THIS SCENE

**WOMAN:** (Almost distraught) Papa Monday, if you no wan pack commot dis place nah you sabbi, me and my pickins nah go we dey go so. You wan make we all come drown for dis place, noto so. God no go hear dat kind prayer.

**PAPAMONDAY:** Rebecca, you head correct so? Who tell you say ah wan die for water. Noto since morning ah dey go find money borrow make we take hire lorry pack we load.

**REBECCA:** Nah money you go dey find so tey the water go come trap me for dis estate. Water pipe don burst since dis morning. Everybody don talk am say nah here for dis estate de water dey come, even radio don talk am.

**PAPAMONDAY:** No make me vex o, Rebecca you wan make ah leave everything wey ah don work for, for dis life for water to come carry commot?

**REBECCA:** Me ah don tell you say nah go ah dey go so. If you think say na your bed and mattress go pain pass your life, remain here. Sometime de water don message you the time e go come flood the estate.

**SFX:** BRING UP BACKGROUND NOISE

**PAPAMONDAY:** (lamenting) How ah go come do am now.

**SFX:** SOUND OF VEHICLE ARRIVING OFF

**PAPAMONDAY:** Which moto dey come so. Abi de water don rech us so?

**REBECCA:** (Wailing) you see wetin you don cause now. papa Monday, you don kill us o.

**SFX:** CAR ARRIVES AND STOP, TWO DOORS OPEN.

**PAPAMONDAY:** (Excitedly) nah soldiers, dem be

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**REBECCA:** Thank God, abi dem come carry us commot!!

**MAJOR AKUTO:** (Through loud hailes) Hello... Hello! Please come round everyone!

**SFX:** BRING UP EXCITED CROWD NOISE, THEN HOLD UNDER AKUTO'S SPEECH.

**MAJORAKUTO:** (Megaphone): Good evening all. I have brought you good news. There is no need to panic or pack anywhere tonight or tomorrow or any other day. The danger is over.

**SFX:** SOUND OF CHEERING CROWD

**PAPAMONDAY:** (Incredulous) Oga, soldier, wetin you talk so, sir?

**MAJORAKUTO:** (Megaphone): Ah talk say de water wey wan come don stop we don stop am. The pipe wey burst we don repair am! So make everybody no fear anything again

**REBECCA:** You mean, me and my pickin fit go sleep for house? And water no go come bury we?

**MAJORAKUTO:** (megaphone) Nothing go happen to una, make una pack una load enter back for una house.

**STD:** DEFEANING CHEERS.

**PAPAMONDAY:** Rebecca, if ah tell you say something tell me before say before the water reach here something go stop am; you for believe me?

**REBECCA:** Go siddon, nah you be soldiers people wey stop am?

**SFX:** Theme Music up and under.....

**SFX:** Theme music up and out.....

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**EPISODE 15**  
**THE INSURANCE**  
**Frank Aig-Imoukhuede**

**CHARACTERS**

***MAJOR OTU AKUTO***

***LIEUTENANT JOHNSON***

***STAFF SERGEANT***

***PRIVATE LUCKY***

***PRIVATE NDARAKE***

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**SFX:** Theme music. Mix to morning sounds cockcrow, water running from tap, gangling, bucket etc.

**NDARAKE:** Lucky, I no fit sleep at all. I just dey dream of enemy soldiers. This coming border patrol duty dey make me fear o.

**LUCKY:** You be woman?

**NDARAKE:** This kine' war, na die.

**LUCKY:** When you enlist you think na picnic?

**NDARAKE:** See!

**STD:** Rustling of paper

**LUCKY:** What is that?

**NDARAKA:** Na newspaper wey I cut. (Reading) three killed in border skirmish. That is last month. (Further rustling of paper) And this one na last week another skirmish at the border. Insurgents kill people. Army to send reinforcement.

**LUCKY:** So what?

**NDARAKA:** The day of reckoning done come and my mama don old.

**LUCKY:** (Impatiently) So?

**NDARAKE:** Na me only remain of all the pickin she born. My papa done go long time. Na me alone she get. If enemy shop my hand commot, wetin go remain?

**LUCKY:** So that is why your body is shaking? You too fear.

**NDARAKE:** So fear no catch you?

**LUCKY:** Whosai? Me I done prepare o. Like they say to be forewarned is to be forearmed. Mr. I done get my insurance.

**NDARAKE:** Na from which company? Which company dey insure soldier?

**LUCKY:** I tell you company? I am talking of African Insurance

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**NDARAKE:** Abasi!

**SFX:** BRIDGE. Mix to small crowd of men under.

**AKUTO:** Attack. Attack. Attack. That's our best insurance. Yes, ... Sergeant!

**SERGEANT:** (Slightly off) I hear the rebels are good at hit and run tactics.

**AKUTO:** We will counter with envelopment. The standard Hannibal strategy.

**LT. JOHNSON:** (Slightly off) That was ages ago, sir!

**AKUTO:** Yes 216 B. C

**LT. JOHNSON:** (Slightly off) This is 21<sup>st</sup> Century AD And modern welfare.

**AKUTO:** Strategies have not changed. Only weaponry and equipment. Nothing else is new under the sky in war. Hannibal used a weak centre and strong flanks. And he won. Won against mighty Rome. The Romans attacked the weak centre which withdrew in ... what do you call it?

**SERGEANT:** Tactical retreat!

**AKUTO:** Yes then Hannibal ordered the centre to move forward and attack and the flanks to close in guess what happened; victory for Carthage.

**SERGEANT:** But that, was a foreign army?

**AKUTO:** No! An African Army. Shows that good soldiering has no colour. Once an army is well-trained, disciplined and well-equipped.

**SERGEANT:** Your mean an African can win a war?

**AKUTO:** Powel was an African-American and he led the army of the United States.

**SERGEANT:** So we could have succeeded against apartheid our own way?

**AKUTA:** With juju? Don't make me laugh. (general laughter) The soldiers Greatest asset in war and his insurance for victory are diligence, discipline and professional training. I expect full professionalism from my officers and

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**CHORUS:** men in this campaign. Is that clear?  
Yes, sir.

**AKUTO:** Then I'll see you at Philippi.

**SFX:** (General hubbub and scraping of chairs fade out to BRIDGE. Fade out.)

**LUCKY:** I done take the man go meet major.

**NDARAKE:** Wonderful. And the way e dey behave. Like say him and juju na born enemies.

**LUCKY:** All na shakara. See

**NDARAKE:** See wetin?

**LUCKY:** Wetin I bring commot so?

**NDARAKE:** Na handkerchief.

**LUCKY:** And the colour?

**NDARAKE:** Red

**LUCKY:** And this one?

**NDARAKE:** Na white handkerchief.

**LUCKY:** There you are.

**NDARAKE:** So what? See wetin me too bring out my handkerchief even clean pass your own.

**LUCKY:** (Laughs) Handkerchief different from handkerchief. Your own na common handkerchief, the white one, you take it to wipe your face when battle hot,... fiam!

**NDARAKE:** Fiam what?

**LUCKY:** Yes done land for your bedroom dey enjoy kule while the battle dey rage

**NDARAKE:** (excited) Like dissappeararing juju? You lean against tree or wall and

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disappear. Ehn – Henh? Wonderful.

**LUCKY:** The red one, you hold am up, wave am as you dey say incantation and all the bullet will be flying left and right pass your body. Not one scratch for your body.

**NDARAKE:** (impressed) where you get am? From Ijebu?

**LUCKY:** Na from Bendel!

**NDARAKE:** Ehn-Henh! And you say major Akilo get him own?

**LUCKY:** Of course?

**NDARAKE:** He collected it with his own hand?

**LUCKY:** Of course, you know major he too pretend. I sure say the handkerchief dey him pocket as we dey speak so. So, Ndarake, it is your turn.

**NDARAKE:** So you get my own for here?

**LUCKY:** The taste of pudding is the eating. Na wetin the medicineman tell me. When you come back safe and sound, then you can thank me better. But if you want the handkerchief you go part deposit.

**NDARAKE:** You no ‘gree book me down?

**LUCKY:** for this matter?

**NDARAKE:** But we be friend: After all I go square you back later.

**LUCKY:** Suppose the client come yamutu?

**NDARAKE:** Oho. So efficiency of the charm is not guarranteed?

**LUCKY:** (Wriggling out of the trap) I just dey play with you. Then man ask for small deposit. Five hundred balance to be paid after return from battle. I doe use all my cash pay for my own deposit.

**NDARAKE:** Na all I get be this. Two hundred. Make you take this one deposit. When we come back from war, I go give you the balance (FADE).

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**PAUSE**

**SFX:** (Pause fade in sounds from the battle field. Booms of artillery guns in the distance, interspersed by small arms fired.)

**LT. JOHNSON** (with alarm) Lucky, what are you doing?

**LUCKY:** Nothing Sir.

**SFX:** (Machine gun fire close)

**LT. JOHNSON:** You keep, muttering to yourself! Lucky, are you crazy?

**LUCKY:** No Sir.

**LT. JOHNSON:** Then why are you waving your handkerchief at the enemy? You want to attract attention?

**LUCKY:** No. To dodge the bullet, sir.

**LT. JOHNSON:** Christ me! Are you suicidal or a fifth columnist?

**LUCKY:** No sir, I am not a communist, sir.

**SFX:** More machine gun fire.

**NDARAKE:** (Whisper) Lucky, you hear wetin Lieutenant Johnson talk?

**LUCKY:** That na him own. That last rush you no see how the major dey dash like it is a welcome party. He be like someone who dey dear?

**NDARAKE:** No. But he no wave, handkerchief.

**LUCKY:** Na different insurance he get. I sure say major wear insurance for in waist!.

**NDARAKE:** Na belt I see for him waist.

**LUCKY:** And under the belt nko?

**NDARAKE:** Abasi do!

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**SFX:** Sound of cuckoo.

**SERGEANT:** Silence thee. I think they are coming. Sh! Sh! Listen  
**SFX:** Sound of cuckoo.

**SERGEANT:** (Loud whisper) A sniper will soon pick you up if you continue waving that handkerchief, idiot! Your name may be lucky but you are playing with death. And if you try to form fool again, no court martial you go face after this war, you hear?

**LUCKY:** I hear sir.

**LT. JOHNSON:** (coming on) Sergeant, what is the message from the commander?

**SERGEANT:** He says hold fire until the enemy gets close, Then follow pre-arranged orders, Hold position and maintain total silence.

**LT. JOHNSON:** Get to your positions. When I raise my hand, fire at will.

**SFX:** (Mixed small arms fire punctuated by cries of the wounded and crashing of feet through the the undergrowth (CROSSFADE to ...) (FADE OUT).

**SFX:** Bush sounds.

**AKUTO:** Well done, men I am proud of you. Johnson how did your section fare?

**LT. JOHNSON:** No fatality sir. But they got Lucky sir?

**AKUTO:** Lucky?

**LT. JOHNSON:** He was waving a handkerchief at the enemy.

**AKUTO:** Was he crazy?

**LT. JOHNSON:** He got creased on the head. He is in the casualty ward.

**AKUTO:** Then we must visit him to cheer him up.

**SFX:** BRIDGE. Fade out)

**AKUTO:** Lucky, I have been hearing a lot of stories about handkerchiefs. What do you think of mine?

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**LUCKY:** (Laughing) That's is another chapter, Ogoni

**NDARAKE:** So an dummy you wan sell me?

**LUCKY:** Major, na true I go see the medicineman. I get handkerchief and onde

**AKUTO:** Which is that.

**LUCKY:** Charm for waist. I get the handkerchief and onde for you but fear no let me bring the juju man come see you for cantonment.

**AKUTO:** Fear?

**LUCKY:** Supposing they search him for gate and found human spare parts inside him Bag.

**NDARAKE:** The handkerchief of invisibility! He no fit use that one to disappear?

**LUCKY:** Den he go let me?

**AKUTO:** I thought you had your own handkerchiefs?

**NDARAKE:** So all the story you dey tell me about Major's shakara na cock and bull story?

**LUCKY:** Excuse me, sir, will you have agreed to go with me to the man's house? I know say I blow small lie, but I no do am to spoil major's name.

**AKUTO:** Well, Ndarake, you have heard from the horse's mouth and also learnt a little lesson.

**NDARAKE:** What about my two hundred naira?

**LUCKY:** You see now. If to say I die for dey ask of that one again?

**AKUTO:** That is why we came to congratulate you. As for your money, Ndarake, have patience. Dem go soon discharge Lucky!

**SFX:** Theme music up and under ...

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**EPISODE 16**

**SUPERIOR ORDER**

**Tunde Aiyegbusi**

***CHARACTERS***

***MR OKODO-A LAND DEVELOPER***

***LT.COL ARAGADUKU***

***MAJOR ADAPU KADIYE ALIAS AK 40***

***MR AMUSA- A CONTRACTOR***

***SENTRY***

***CORPORAL.***

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**SFX:** Theme music up and under.

**SFX:** Theme music up. Crossfade to car drive in and stop with a door opening -pause.

**OKODO:** (OFF) Amusa!

**AMUSA:** Welcome Mr. Okodo.

**OKODO:** (coming on) Is this how you waste my money, Mr Amusa? Here is a mountain of blocks. The sharp sands are over there. Hasn't the trailer load of cement been delivered yet?

**AMUSA:** The company don deliver them the worker don padlock the cement for store.

**OKODO:** Then what's the meaning of this? Why are your men not working? Why?

**AMUSA:** Not them fault, Mr. Okodo. Not them fault at all.

**OKODO:** What do you mean it is not their fault? Whose fault?

**AMUSA:** Oga, de thing wey happen dis morning as we wan start work surprise me!

**OKODO:** What happened?

**AMUSA:** As ah just dey change to my work cloth, some soldiers just come with bulala. They order us make we comot for site.

**OKODO:** Soldiers on my site? What for? What were they looking for?

**AMUSA:** Ah no know. They just give me surprise.

**OKODO:** Were they drunk? Because if they weren't they would know that the boundary of their cantonment didn't extend to my plot of land.

**AMUSA:** Ah wan talk but the man wey take them come, nah one Major Kadiye, ah read him name for him uniform...the man order the soldiers make them bulala my mouth if ah talk 'fin'

**OKODO:** (confidently) This land belongs to me. I have absolute right over it. No

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Amusa! Major or Brigadier, even General can contest its ownership with me.

**AMUSA:** Yes, Mr. Okodo.

**OKODO:** Get your men back to work. I want to see who or what will disturb them.

**AMUSA:** (refusing politely) Mr. Okodo, ah no fit. Ah no fit at all at all. Dat Major don warn me say if anybody go work for this place na gun e go take blow the person head commot.

**OKODO:** Is he mad? Are you criminals that he can ask to be shot? Call your men...we can't afford to lose a whole day, we're behind schedule already.

**AMUSA:** (bluntly) Ah no fit. Even if ah call the men nobody go answer me! Dat Major fit shoot we true true.

**OKODO:** What do you say is the man's name?

**AMUSA:** Nah officer, Nah Major Kadiye.

**OKODO:** O.K. I'm going to the cantonment right now. I'm going to warn him to keep off my property.

**AMUSA:** Mr. Okodo... Take care o make you no make am vex! Make you just talk to am gently, gently.

**OKODO:** Why? I'll talk to him any way I like. He asks for it and he's going to get it.

**SFX:** Bridge. Crossfade to car approaching.

**SENTRY:** (with authority) stop!

**SFX:** Car comes to a halt with engine running.

**SENTRY:** You!... you no wan stop before? Next time you dey make approach for cantonment, you go slow down.

**OKODO:** I intended to.

**SENTRY:** Nah who you wan see?

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**OKODO:** Major...Major Kadi...something

**SENTRY:** Eh, mister man...nah AK 40 you dey call Major Kadi something? If you let am hear you ...e go warm for you! The man's name nah Major Kadiye, Major Adapu Kadiye. Enter go park your moto for dat place. Nah dat white building for right be him office.

**OKODO:** Thank you very much.

**SFX:** Car moves off. Crossfade to car arrives and stops.

**OKODO:** Good Morning Corporal.

**CORP:** Good morning, ah fit help you?

**OKODO:** I understand this is Major Kadiye's office.

**CORP:** Yes what's the matter.?

**OKODO:** I want to see him

**CORP:** About wetin?

**OKODO:** On a certain matter.

**CORP:** Major know say you dey come?

**OKODO:** No

**CORP:** Ah! He don give orders say no visitors. He no wan see anybody.

**OKODO:** I have got to see him.

**CORP:** (surprised by his effrontery) Hahe! Hah by force?

**OKODO:** (insistently) I've got to see him. It's very very important.

**CORP:** Whether e important or not. Dat no be my concern. My last orders nah no visitors. So oga make you come dey go..

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**OKODO:** (raising his voice) if he is in the office then I must see him.

**CORP:** (shouting to impress) you deaf! Ah say make you come dey go!

**SFX:** Door Opens with a rattle.

**KADIYE:** Corporal, what's happening?

**CORP:** Nah dis man, Major. He say e wan see you. Ah tell am say your orders nah 'no visitors' but the man say e must to see you.

**KADIYE:** So who are you Mr.man?

**OKODO:** You are Major Kadiye?

**OKODO:** (unfazed) My name is Okodo. I am the one responsible for the development going on down the street on the side if the cantonment.

**KADIYE:** So you are that fellow?

**OKODO:** I don't know what you mean by that, Major. I was told it was you who came to the site with your soldiers to force my workers to stop work.

**KADIYE:** (pompously) You didn't believe your informer?

**OKODO:** I have come to know why?

**KADIYE:** If you don't know why, don't expect me to tell you.

**OKODO:** You must have a compelling reason for coming to disrupt activities... legitimate activities on my site. I wouldn't like to believe that you just took a fancy to any site

**KADIYE:** You don't expect me to answer that.

**OKODO:** That's why I am here, Major. I demand an explanation.

**KADIYE:** In your own interest et out of here.

**OKODO:** Why? I want to know what I've done wrong to invite this illegal trespass of my land and disruption of legitimate activities of my workers.

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**KADIYE:** Legitimate activities, my foot!

**OKODO:** (emboldened) oh yes. Everything I am doing at that site is legitimate. I have my certificate of occupancy for that land. The structure I'm putting up is an approval plan.. these are documents that can be reduced and verified.

**KADIYE:** Have you considered the security implication?

**OKODO:** Which security implication?

**KADIYE:** You see! I don't expect you to know!

**OKODO:** Which security implication! I'm developing a private land not on Army land so what security are you talking about?

**KADIYE:** I don't expect you to understand

**OKODO:** I want to understand Major. Go ahead, educate me.

**KADIYE:** Do you really expect me to discuss such sensitive matters with you, a bloody civilian?

**OKODO:** It is in your interest, Major because I am not amused by what happened this morning and I intend to do something about it.

**KADIYE:** Are you threatening me?

**OKODO:** You cannot trample on my rights and expect me to thank you for it.

**KADIYE:** In your own interest, keep away from that place.

**OKODO:** On the contrary, Major, I am ordering my workers back on site tomorrow and may I let you know that I intend to fight for my rights.

**KADIYE:** It is not nice to try my resolve, Mr. Man.

**OKODO:** In case you have forgotten Major Kadiye, this is a democratic era. You cannot do as you please. There is the rule of law and I intend to take advantage if it to protect my rights.

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**KADIYE:** We shall see (barks orders at the Corporal) Corporal Julius!

**JULIUS:** Sir!

**KADIYE:** Take two soldiers. Post them to man the gate to that place... I mean the site we secured in the morning.

**JULIUS:** Yes sir!

**KADIYE:** Now, be off with you.(pause) are those clear to you too, sir?

**OKODO:** These are illegal orders, Major and you know it?

**KADIYE:** You seem intoxicated with these your fancy ideas! Tell me what can be more illegal than putting up a structure that can compromise secret security.

**OKODO:** Dreaming up phoney reasons for illegal action action won't help you and I will prove it in a court of law.

**KADIYE:** You want to prove stubborn! Hasn't somebody told you yet that it is the stubborn monkey in the colony that gets the bullet!

**OKODO:** Get this straight, I'm not scared one bit.

**KADIYE:** (threatening) Look me in the eye straight I'll give you enough to make you scream !

**OKODO:** (very confidently) You think so? We shall see.

**SFX:** BRIDGE. Fade out.

**LT. COLDUKU:** (fuming) Is this Kadiye cursed? Only someone with a curse on his head go on looking foe his own down fall. And let no one come putting the blame on Colonel Duku because short of destroying the very essence discipline completely. I don't see how else I can help this doomed man.

**AKUTO:** (sensing the Col's agitation) You sent for me, Colonel?

**DUKU:** Major Akuto !

**AKUTO:** Sir!

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**DUKU:** Is there anything the matter with me? I give you permission to be frank.

**AKUTO:** (embarrassed) Sir...why something the matter sir?

**DUKU:** When will I ever be able to travel out of this cantonment without having to nurse the fear of what will happen in my absence?

**AKUTO:** What happened sir?

**DUKU:** Read that.

**SFX:** Rustle of paper.

**DUKU:** That's the court order slapped on me in my absence and its Major Kadiye I have to thank for it.

**SFX:** Knock on door.

**KADIYE:** Major Kadiye.

**DUKU:** (curtly) Come in.

**SFX:** Door opens.

**DUKU:** A fine name you are going the army, Major Adapu Kadiye.

**KADIYE:** (saluting) Good day Colonel!

**SFX:** Door closes.

**DUKU:** Good day. Do you wish me anything good. Major Kadiye?

**KADIYE:** I'm surprised to hear that Colonel.

**DUKU:** (exasperated) if only you would give me an explanation for your illegal occupation of someone's landed property.

**KADIYE:** May I make a correction sir? I didn't order men to just occupy the land. I only took a preventive measure.

**DUKU:** Major Akuto, are you listening?

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**AKUTO:** Attentively sir.

**DUKU:** Yes, Major Kadiye, you were taking preventive measures.

**KADIYE:** In the interest of...to protect our...lives...to prevent a breach of security in this cantonment....that construction had to be halted sir.

**DUKU:** Had to be?

**KADIYE:** Colonel, look out of that window. Anybody on the third floor of that house will see everything going within this cantonment.

**DUKU:** So as usual, you marched your men and occupied someone's property.

**KADIYE:** That man was full of himself....contemptuous of the military.

**DUKU:** Have you seen his approved building plan?

**KADIYE:** No sir.

**DUKU:** But you concluded that the house has a third floor! And without authorization you colonized the man's land !

**SFX:** Rustle of paper.

**DUKU:** That is the court injunction ordering the military out of the land. And to keep off indefinitely ! note, it is the military that the court is sanctioning, not you. You must be feeling proud of yourself !

**KADIYE:** (tactlessly) So that why the man was boasting well, this is only a court order, with the men there, lets see how the court will enforce its order.

**AKUTO:** (shocked) Major Kadiye!

**DUKU:** That in plain language, Major Kadiye is insubordination.

**AKUTO:** We are sorry sir, I apologize on Major Kadiye's behalf.

**DUKU:** Major Kadiye, you will go right now vacate the sentry and all the security items on that man's land. That's is the first step.

**KADIYE:** Yes sir.

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**DUKU:** Major Kadiye, when will you grasp the fact that you can't go on as before. Your uniform doesn't confer on you the arbitrary power you seem to love to wield. Do I make myself clear?

**KADIYE:** Yes sir.

**DUKU:** Major Kadiye,... is that... clear?

**KADIYE:** (very respectfully) very clear Sir.

**DUKU:** Very well. Go right now and see that my orders are carried out.

**KADIYE:** At once sir.

**SFX:** Theme music up and under....

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**EPOSODE 17**

**THE TENDER TRAP**  
**Frank AIG-Imoukhuede**

***CHARACTERS***

***MAJOR OTUH***

***AKUTO***

***MAJOR BADE***

***Lt. Col. ARAGA DUKU***

***PRIVATE AKPAN***

***CHAIRMAN ABBE THOMAS***

***SUSAN WRIGHT***

**SFX:** Theme music up, then under

**SFX:** Fade up theme music and out.

**SUSAN:** Six times I went to his quarters and each time I was told he was out.

**CHAIRMAN:** What about his office?

**SUSAN:** Ah that? It's like the kingdom of heaven. You know you have to pass through the eye of a needle! The man is simply unavailable. They say he doesn't play with his job.

**CHIARMAN:** Unavailable? Is he wood? Even wood catches fire. I did not say he will be easy meat. But as they say! No venture, no success.

**SUSAN:** Hm! All right I will try again.

**CHAIRMAN:** (Trying to brace her up) A- Susie-Susie! Don't worry dem never born man pikin who can withstand your charms. Just flash your smile at him; if the gap does not get him, then those dimples in your checks will. In no time, A-Susie-Susie, you will be cooking Obokun fish for him and he will

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be eating out of your hands. Just like that (snaps his fingers).

**SUSAN:** (Coy but flattered) Chairman, you have come again o.

**CHAIRMAN:** It is not flattery if man pickin fine, make man say so .

**SUSAN:** All right. Give me your compliment card.

**CHAIRMAN:** My card? No problem. Only make sure you don't lose it. You never know where complimentary cards turn up, these days. They go and catch some area boys and find my there then they say one local government chairman, Abe Thomas is among.

**SFX:** BRIDGE

**STD:** Doors open and shuts.

**MAJORBADE:** (OFF-ON) Hm! Akuto the pretender!

**MAJORAKUTO:** Steve Bade. Is that the way to great people?

**MAJORBADE:** You are really a green snake under the grass.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Depends on how green the grass is.

**MAJORBADE:** My friend stop pretending,. Chairman Otuh Akuto! It is good to be chairman of the Tenders and contracts committee o. I hear its been heavy traffic in your office since the notice inviting tenders went up.

**MAJORAKUTO:** It's been hectic, Bade. All sorts and manners of contractors

**MAJORBADE:** And all sorts of dames. Just watch it. This path is familiar. A few smart guys have got: away with it in the past. But watch out for the tender trap, if you excuse the pun.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Are you trying to be mischievous?

**MAJORBADE:** If I may be frank with you, the pun is intended as a warning.

**MAJORAKUTO:** And taken in good faith, Bade. But trust me. You know I don't mix business with pleasure.

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**MAJORBADE:** I just dey warn about overdo. (conspiratorially) and what is the babe's name? Somehow her face is vaguely familiar.

**MAJORAKUTO:** What Babe.

**MAJORBADE:** There he goes again! Pretending! The babe out there.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Babe? (raising his voice)? Akpan.

**AKPAN:** (OFF) Yes Sir?

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**STD:** Door opens and shuts

**MAJORAKUTO:** Is there a woman out there?

**AKPAN:** (slightly coming ON) Yes Sir. She's been waiting for over an hour, sir.

**MAJORAKUTO:** She has an appointment?

**AKPAN:** No Sir.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Then let her wait until I have finished with the Major.

**AKPAN:** Yes Sir.

**STD:** Door opens shuts

**MAJORBADE:** Door opens and shuts (laughing) Otuh Akuto Baba! So you want me to leave before attending to your visitor.

**MAJORAKUTO:** You're not serious.? All right let Akpan bring her in.

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**MAJORBADE:** Don't bother. I don't want to inconvenience you and your visitor, I guess you'll want some privacy. One thing though I'd say for you. You pick them young and tender. And your pick is dassy (ON-OFF) see you later in the mess.

**STD:** Door opens

**MAJORBADE:** (slightly OFF) Excuse me madam. Major Akuto will see you now.

**SUSAN:** (OFF) Thank you, sir,

**STD:** (Slight pause). Door shuts.

**SUSAN:** (Coming ON) good day, Sir.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Please sit. (slight pause clearing his throat) Em. What can I do for you, miss?

**SUSAN:** I hope you are not annoyed sir. For barging in on you like this

**MAJORAKUTO:** No problem.

**SUSAN:** Sir, it is about supplies sir

**MAJORAKUTO:** Supplies ?

**SUSAN:** Yes. Foodstuff, stationery, stores and so on. Even uniforms.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Pardon?

**SUSAN:** Army uniforms?

**MAJORAKUTO:** What about them?

**SUSAN:** I can supply them. You are in charge of contracts and tenders.

**MAJORAKUTO:** No. I am the Chairman of the Committee.

**SUSAN:** It is the same thing. You have influence, sir, and the final say.

**MAJORAKUTO:** And we have a procedure.

**SUSAN:** I thought you would help. In fact, I was assured you would.

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**MAJORAKUTO:** Assured? Who assured you?

**SUSAN:** Council Chairman. Chief Abe Thomas.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Abbe who?

**SUSAN:** Thomas, the Local Government Chairman.

**MAJORAKUTO:** He told you that?

**SUSAN:** He gave me his card for you. Here it is sir.

**MAJORAKUTO:** (slight pause) You will need more than a card to succeed in this matter.

**SUSAN:** (Not understanding) That's no problem. Was I born yesterday?

**MAJORAKUTO:** What's that got to do with it?

**SUSAN:** (still not understanding) I am not a small child.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Madam, when I said you need more than a complimentary card to succeed I meant the procedures. Are you familiar with the procedure?

**SUSAN:** (Laughs coyly) know what you mean, Sir.

**MAJORAKUTO:** You have the list of items that we require?

**SUSAN:** No.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Have you submitted a tender?

**SUSAN:** No Sir.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Are you a registered contractor?

**SUSAN:** Not yet, Sir.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Well, madam, until you are familiar with the tenders procedure and  
have completed with our rules and regulations there is nothing we can do at this end.

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**SUSAN:** (pause) Thank you, Sir here is my card, Sir. And what shall I tell chairman, sir.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Chairman? Well, tell him what I said. Tell him anything!

**STD:** (Slightly pause) Door opens and shuts.

**MAJORAKUTO:** (reading to himself) "Susan Wright. Suppliers and general contractors.

**BRIDGE:** Mix to atmosphere of mess.

**SFX:**

**Lt. COLDUKU:** Another beer, Major Akuto?

**MAJORAKUTO:** Thanks, Sir.

**Lt. COLDUKU:** I have read your report over and over. I found it refreshing especially the aspect on cantonment welfare and discipline. The army needs discipline and professionalism more than ever before and the starting point as you have observed in your report is the brainstorming it will serve as the center piece of my address at the coming W.A.S.A. you know, we need to mix some serious stuff with all those cultural displays by the men and their families.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Thank you, Sir.

**CHAIRMAN:** (Hailing from a distance) Ah, commandant.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Who is he?

**LT. COL. DUKU:** The Local Government Chairman.

**MAJORAKUTO:** The ubiquitous Abbe Thomas.

**LT. COL. DUKU:** You know him?

**MAJORAKUTO:** I don't sir. In fact I heard of him only this morning, and not in a very complimentary context. Seems, he wants to subvert and influence our Tender and contract (Rather studiedly) process. Ill excuse you both,

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Sir.

**LT. COL. DUKU:** (Reacting quickly) That's not necessary, major I have no business with him-other than that the Cantonment is within his political territory. Besides he wants his council given a role during our coming WASA.

**MAJOR AKUTO:** That would be given him leverage to exploit and manipulate.

**LT. COL. DUKU:** Do you object to something that will improve civil –Military relations?

**MAJOR AKUTO:** No, sir.

**LT. COL. DUKU:** You think we should ignore our opportunities?

**CHAIRMAN:** (Pause-OFF-ON) Lt. Colonel Duku, I throw salute, sir.

**LT. COL. DUKU:** Chairman, greetings. Let me introduce one of my able deputies in the cantonment administration.

**CHAIRMAN:** You mean Major Otuh Akuto?

**LT. COL. DUKU:** So you know each other?

**CHAIRMAN:** More or less. Isn't that so, major?

**MAJOR AKUTO:** I don't know what you mean by that I don't recall that we have met. I heard of you only this morning and we are meeting for the very first time.

**CHAIRMAN** (laughing) it is better late than never. (in aside to the Major) by the way, have you seen her?

**MAJOR AKUTO:** (with self-control to the Lt. Colonel) well Sir, permission to fall out, Sir.

**CHAIRMAN:** (Pause) Col. Duku! Is there something the matter with the man?

**LT. COL. DUKU:** Perhaps I should ask you what you have done to him.

**CHAIRMAN:** Nothing!

**SFX:** Bring up mess atmosphere then under....

**MAJOR BADE:** (OFF-ON) Otuh Akuto Babao! What's the hurry? She won't run away.

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**MAJORAKUTO:** Bade aren't you done for the day with pulling my leg?

**MAJORBADE:** Same gap in teeth, same dimples. You think I can't recognise the face of the girl I saw only this morning in your office?

**MAJORAKUTO:** Look, Bade, I told you there's nothing between us.

**MAJORBADE:** Next you'd be saying she's not the one I saw outside just now waiting for you in a car?

**MAJORAKUTO:** (puzzled) waiting? Outside?

**MAJORBADE:** In the parks.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Susan Wright again?

**MAJORBADE:** Susan Wright. Is that her name? JESUS Christ! Susana Wright! That little girl of yesterday. I said her face looked familiar.

**MAJORAKUTO:** You know her?

**MAJORBADE:** Susana Wright? What are you saying? You remember the classmate I told you was killed in the students riots twelve years ago?

**MAJORAKUTO:** Ken Wright?

**MAJORBADE:** That's his kid sister.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Are you sure?

**MAJORBADE:** She was a tiny tot then. But has the face of her mother. She should be about fifteen or sixteen now.

**MAJORAKUTO:** What happened to the family?

**MAJORBADE:** They moved from our neighbourhood and I lost touch with them.

**MAJORAKUTO:** And now she has become a human bait!

**MAJORBADE:** Ah, time for a little prick of conscience, eh?

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**MAJORAKUTO:** You still don't believe me. I don't deny that Susan is attractive and tempting. But so far my hands are clean.

**MAJORBADE.** Then who's she waiting for outside?

**MAJORAKUTO:** The person to ask is approaching us

**MAJORBADE:** The chairman?

**MAJORAKUTO:** Chairman Abbe Thomas sent her to my office..

**CHAIRMAN:** (coming ON) good evening Major Bade. Please excuse us for a second. I have something important to discuss with your colleague.

**MAJORBADE:** (going OFF) Oh! You're quite excused!

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. (slight pause) Major Akuto, don't you like Susan?

**MAJORAKUTO:** Why did you send her?

**CHAIRMAN:** She needed assistance.

**MAJORAKUTO:** Is that how you run the Local government?

**CHAIRMAN:** What's wrong in sending a friend in need to someone in a position to help?

**MAJORAKUTO:** So its still business as usual. In spite of the anti-corruption bill.

**CHAIRMAN:** You call that corruption?

**MAJORAKUTO:** Is influence peddling not corruption?

**CHAIRMAN:** Ah-aah! Why am I influential if I can't use my influence to benefit my friends? Major did money pass between us. Did I give any kick back? Has she complained to you? Are you different from other people?

**MAJORAKUTO:** You want to know?

**CHAIRMAN:** Are you incapable?

**MAJORAKUTO:** (pause/ livid almost speechless) Just keep off my path! As far as I am concerned, another try by you to use any bait on me will get you into soup. Hot soup!

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**SFX:** Theme music up and under.....

**SFX:** Theme music up and out.

## **EPISODE 18**

### **FOLLOW YOUR LEADER**

**Tunde Aiyegbosi**

#### ***CHARACTERS***

***CORPORAL BINJI***

***PRIVATE TOBI***

***PRIVATE KUMA***

***PRIVATE JOHNNY***

**SFX:** Theme music up. Mix to NIGHTSOUNDS, ESTABLISH LONG ENOUGH TO CREATE SERIE ATMOSPHERE; OF LONELINESS; OF ISOLATION

**KUMA:** Private Tobi, how dis night come dark so, ah no even fit see de bayonet for top of my rifle.

**TOBI:** No worry Kuma; small time moon go come out we go fit see.

**KUMA:** Ah no like am as everywhere just dark like dis! Nah for dis kind darkness all dis bloodyfool armed thugs dey attack government installation.

**TOBI:** No tell me say fear don day catch you, private Kuma. Noto soldier, you be? Soldier no day fear.

**KUMA:** Nah true you talk, Tobi but you yourself know say those people plenty pass us, and dem get arm proper.

**TOBI:** (instithing cowage in him ) You Kuma, you get proper training. Army don train you how you go handle weapon well, and with thatrifle wey dey

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for your hand, you strong pass one hundred of those ragamufin.

**KUMA:** (unconvinced) even then ...

**TOBI:** Those people, dem dey operate like thief, armed robber. dem dey take cunny attack and loot government property. Tell me how dem different from armed robbers?

**KUMA:** Me ah just wan make dis moon appear quick, quick (boasting) me ah just wan see far, das all! If ah see the enemy, with dis my rifle ah fit bullet any number wey go make mistake come face me.

**TOBI:** Even as e dark, no need to fear. Ah don detail private kata and private Pere for patrol duty outside the security fence.

**KUMA:** (Sarcastic) which patrol kata and Pere dey patrol? People wey corporal Binji don hijack go town.

**TOBI:** (alarmed) E no possible!

**KUMA:** Wetin no possible? Nah de first time corporal dey do dat kind thing? Everytime the man wan go enjoy for town, nah private kata dey be him driver and Pere be him orderly.

**TOBI:** You mean, the man wey suppose to be our leader don abandon this installation wey government say make army come guard, go town go make enjoyment?

**KUMA:** (laughs) As big man concerned!

**TOBI:** (remonstrating) private Kuma, no take serious matter joke. Suppose we come get emergency now? who go fit deal with am? Who go give command?

**KUMA:** Dat one no worry Corporal Binji. Him know say you dey here Anytime ah go complain for am about any problem, you know wetin he dey tell me? "go meet private Tobi" and true, true you always fit solve de problem.

**TOBI:** Dat nah rubbish and nonsense. Noto me Army put in charge of dis operation. Me nah common private ah be. If something come go wrong with dis operation, noto me dem go hold. Na him.

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**KUMA:** Ah no think Coporal Binji care de wey e dey behave.

**TOBI:** (Bitterly) How corporal come do dis kind thing wonder me. You mean he wan tell me say him no know say the life of all the ten of us dey for him hand?

**KUMA:** Me, ah no warn die like common fowl. If ah go die, ah wan die with riffle for my hand.

**TOBI:** Private Kuma, good soldier no dey talk of dying.

**KUMA:** (Sneering) Tell me my brother, private Tobi; wetin good soldier dey talk about?

**TOBI:** About how he go win one battle and go fight the next.

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**KUMA:** (Burst out laughing loud)

**SFX:** SUDDEN SHARP SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS ON DRY FOLIAGE  
APPROACH FAST

**TOBI:** (Tense, sharp voice) who goes there!

**JOHNNY:** (Slightly OFF) friend! Private Tobi! Nah me Johnny!

**SFX:** 2" OF HEAVY SILENCE

**TOBI:** (Apprehensive) Anything?

**JOHNNY:** (coming ON registering disapproval) who dey laugh like dat just now? I say who dey laugh like dat just now?

**TOBI:** Nah your brother Kuma, Private Johnny.

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**JOHNNY:** (still angry) nah from where I mount guard for the pillar behind the shed ah hear the laughter, which kind nonsense be dat? You no know you fit give our position to the enemy.

**KUMA:** (sneering) which laugh fit give position to enemy?

**JOHNNY:** Which kind nonsense laugh be dat? Wetin dey make you laugh for dis kind bush with all dis crazy men with all kinds weapons planning how dem fit attack us.

**KUMA:** Now. The truth dey come out small, small. Nah fear dey catch you, noto my laugh. (insultingly) if fear catch you so much why you no beg the corporal wey be your paddy make him send you go sick bay for town.

**JOHNNY:** (Maddened) nah me you day call coward, Private Kuma? Tobi you nah my witness, nah for your very before, dis monkey call me coward.

**KUMA:** (Equally mad) Nah me you dey call monkey? You wey him mouth be like crocodile mouth.

**SFX:** SOUND OF GUN BEGIN COCKED

**JOHNNY:** Kuma, if nah your papa born you talk nonsense again and see if ah go fire your skull.

**TOBI:** So, you two, the gun wey army give you make una take fight the criminal saboteur, nah him una wan take scatter each other head, Johnny, quick give me dat gun!

**JOHNNY:** Why?

**TOBI:** (Quietly, persuasively) Johnny, nah me Tobi dey talk to you. Give me that gun.

**SFX:** SOUND OF WOODEN OBJECT BEING NOISLY HANDLED

**TOBI:** Thank you. (much relieved) You see the thing ah dey talk? If Johnny no give me him rifle now, ah for no blame am. Noto the same rank we be? And the man wey Army put for we leader abandon him duty and him soldiers, go dey mess up for town.

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**KUMA:** Tobi make you be careful wetin you deh talk for the corporal back o. The man get friend around o .

**TOBI:** I don't bloody care. Anything ah talk for him back, ah fit talk am for him face.

**SFX:** SOUND OF JEEP ARRIVING AND COMING TO A HALT WITH BRAKES SCREECHING VEHICLES DOORS OPEN AND CLOSE.

**BINJI:** (in drunken state off to ON) Boys... go and join your mates. If anybody talk something. Let me hear. Yes let me hear. I am in charge here, Am I not? I say I, Corporal Binji am still in charge, am I not? Answer me! Whats the matter with you?

**JONNY & KUMA:** Nah you dey for command, Corporal.

**BINJI:** Thank you. That's all, no palaver about it. So you may go! Dis... miss!.

**KUMA:** (pause OFF-ON) E get as e be for Corporal today!

**TOBI:** (ON) you see am so!.

**BINJI:** (OFF hollering) Private Tobi.

**TOBI:** (Promptly ) Yes, Corporal!

**BINJI:** (SINGING DRUNKENLY FADE IN ) Ah dey tell you Army duty no joke o Ah dey tell you Army duty no good o Dem go send you inside bush guard duty So ah dey tell you Army duty no joke o.

**SFX:** SOUND OF CPL BINJI CLAPPING, APPOLAUDING HIS SINGING.

**TOBI:** (OFF-ON disdainfully) Ah don come coporal.

**BINJI:** So private Tobi, you are here. And I am here.

**TOBI:** (Perplexed) wetin you talk, Corporal?

**BINJI:** You Private Tobi, I know you think I be lousy leader eh! You think I am no

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good eh!

**TOBI:** (Defensively) Corporal Binji.

**BINJI:** That is my name Corporal nah my rank. And you are a Private.. Private.. common Private. You be small boy! Whether you like it or not? Am in charge if you backbite me from Jerusalem to Jericho.. dat no go change anything!

**TOBI:** Me ah back bite....?

**BINJI:** You be small boy, who dey decieve you say you be soldier. Because you dey carry gun you think say dat one don make you soldier? ;;; you .. if you hear bullet fly, you fit stay? (imitating the sound) Gbaugbau! ... Gboom! Gboooooom! But nah lie! Ah no go let you run go hide under your mama wrapper! (laughs aproarously at his own joke) suddenly) Private Alima tobi !

**TOBI:** (Assuming it is proper order) yes! Corporal!

**BINJI:** Who dey call you? Ah beg leave me make ah hear word Eh....where you dey go?

**TOBI:** Na you say make ah go

**BINJI:** Go where? Bloody fool! You think you fit badmouth me, eh! You haven't heard.. ugh ...ugh ... that walls have ears. Thank your stars that this is common guard duty... if nah war front, you fit bad mouth your SUPERIOR officer? (hiccups) damn fool, if nah warfront, for battle proper .. ah for just blow your head commot... Gbauuam!

**SFX:** SOUND OF RAPID GUNFIRE

**BINJI:** (momentarily coming out of stupor) Eh? Eh? What's that?

**TOBI:** (Instinctively taking command) This is it boys: Return fire! (urgently) Corporal.. Corporal.. take cover Sir.

**BINJI:** (Unsteadily) my gun! My gun! Damn it ...where is my gun!

**SFX:** SOUND OF SMALL ARM FIRE BEING EXCHANGED MIXED WITH SOUND OF ALARM AND OCCASIONAL SCREAM OR SHOUT OF

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DISTRESS FROM A SMALL CROWD. ESTABLISH FOR 90" to 120"  
THEN FADE OUT PAUSE.

**SFX:** SOUND OF SCATTERED MOANS OF PAIN.

**TOBI:** Bastards! Why dem run commot? Noto goods dem wan loot?

**JOHNNY:** (coming ON panting )Tobi...Tobi, nah small e remain. De nearly over power us. If noto for the power wey you and Kuma direct to dat top of fence! Ah think you get dem leader. Nah dat time dem pick race!

**TOBI:** You no see the rifle some of then leave behind. (suddenly) wey Corporal? Wey Corproal? (shouts) Corporal Binji?

**KUMA:** Tobi... Dem don kill Pere.. don kill Ben.. Raguna..

**TOBI:** Kuma why you dey cry? You no be soldier?

**KUMA:** Dem bastards don take Corporal and two soldiers. Ah see dem with my eyes.

**TOBI:** (Alarmed) what? Dem carry dem go? Where dem pass?

**KUMA:** Nah dat way.

**JOHNNY:** Tobi, wetin we fit do now, Dem fit kill dem.

**TOBI:** Johnny, Kuma take your guns. How we go dey here, dem ruffians go take over commander and friends which kind soldiers we be then? come on, we go pursue them.

**SFX:** BRIDGE. Fade to

**BINJI:** (Corporal Binji moans in pain)

**KUMA:** (self congratulatory mood) we don save them! We don save them! Tobi, we don save them

**TOBI:** Johnny, dat nah good show!

**JOHNNY:** Tobi, nah you do am! Nah your courage save them. Your gun just dey pluck dem head like man dey pluck papaw for him tree.

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**BINJI:** (SUDDEN LOUD SHRIEK)

**TOBI:** Sorry, Corporal. Ah don send for ambulance. Dem go soon come,

**KUMA:** Corporal, how the leg be?

**BINJI:** (Shame facedly ) my leg? Wetin be my leg? What about these four boys wey those ruffians kill. E no go better for people wey put guns for those criminal hands!

**TOBI:** Johnny, you take charge wen ah take the dead and the injured go hospital

**BINJI:** (in tears) Tobi, you are right, boy I'm no use, those boys... I killed them.

**KUMA:** Corporal! How you kill dem when we see say nah those armed ruffians killed them?

**BINJI:** Nah me supposed to be leader (moaning from pain) No deceive me... ah be useless leader. Tobi.. why did you risk your life to save me from those criminals?

**TOBI:** Corporal BINJI, nah my duty

**BINJI:** Why you no let dem kill me, cut me to pieces and throw me into the water to feed crocodiles

**TOBI:** Kuma and Johnny: Ha! Corporal what kind talk be dat?

**BINJI:** You boys for no save me! You for no rescue me. Ah don fail you. Ah don fail army!

**JOHNNY:** Corporal, we drive dem back! We defeat them!

**BINJI:** Na una beat them. Without your leader!

**KUMA:** You be our leader, Corporal! You be our leader

**BINJI:** You know, who be your leader! Private Tobi... dat nah your leader.

**SFX:** SOUND OF A AMBULANCE APPROACHING

**TOBI:** Corporal, ambulance don' come.

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**SFX:** Theme music up and under...

**EPISODE 19**  
**ESPRIT DE CORPS**  
**Ihria Enakimio**

***CHARACTERS***

***RUFUS AKERE***

***SIMON PETER***

***ANGELOUS***

***JAKO***

***MAIDO***

***OFFICER***

***LT. COL. DUKU***

**SFX:** Theme music up and out

**STD:** Sound of bottle on glass. Pouring of liquid

**ANGEL:** Jako, I beg pass me the matches

**STD:** Match is struck

**ANGEL:** (Singing Fela) Ordinary water for man to drinki, nko o ...

**JAKO:** (joins him) E no dey ...

**ANGEL:** "E dey ...

**JAKO:** "NEPA

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**SAIDO:** "E No Dey ..

**STD:** Sudden knock on door.

**ANGEL** (sharply) Yes! Advance to be recognised.

**STD:** Door opens.

**JAKO:** (Surprised) Simon-Peter, ah-aah! Wetin happen to you like dis? Trailer jam you?

**ANGEL:** You get accident?

**SIMON:** (coming on) this one pass accident, Angelicus. Thank God say I meet una two.

**ANGEL:** Wetin happen?

**SIMON:** Na one man send him people to beat me like dis.

**ANGEL:** (angry) for what? Why anybody go beat you like dis?

**JAKO:** Wetin you do dem?

**SIMON:** Nothing o. The man just show me say him get people.

**ANGEL:** Naim dem beat you like dis, Simon-Peter?

**SIMON:** Thank God say I no die. But dem say dem go come back tomorrow. If I never pay the man dat time, I don't die be dat.

**JAKO:** You deh owe the man, Simon-Peter?

**SIMON:** I gree say I deh owe. Everybody deh owe. Nobody wey no fit owe. Even Nigeria deh owe somebody!

**JAKO:** How much?

**SIMON:** Seven-five!

**ANGEL:** Even so, nahin dem go beat yo like dis? Why you no call police?

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**SIMON:** (alarmed) Police? Ah! Whether de people wey beat me sef whether na police, me I know? If I fit go call police, why I no kuku pay the man the seven-five? Na im cheap pass! Not to talk of the “come today, come tomorrow”.

**ANGEL:** (Pause – suspicious) Look Simon-Peter, make I no tell you lie... if na the seven-five you wan borrow, you catch ground o. As we two dey here so, shi-shi no dey o. People think say soldier get money. Every lizard dey lie belle for ground, but some of dem get stomach trouble o.

**SIMON:** Me sef I know.

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**ANGEL:** So ...?

**SIMON:** But una no go let me make dem kill me because I owe.

**JAKO:** Then wetin you want make we do? You wan come follow us stay for barrack?

**SIMON:** (pause) No.

**ANGEL:** Then?

**SIMON:** I just deh beg make una come help me warn the man make him and him people lef me. No be only me one deh owe.

**JAKO:** Which time you sef go pay the man?

**SIMON:** I go pay.

**JAKO:** When?

**SIMON:** Make I see the money first now. No be when I get money I go pay?

**ANGEL:** But you deh own seven-fiver. But you deh carry woman about. If you

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catch Aids seven-five no de cure am o.

**SIMON:** I take God beg you, Angelicus, no disgrace me, I beg. I don boast for the man say if E think say him ge people me sef I get. If E get police, myself I get Army...

**JAKO:** Why you go tell am dat kine thing?

**SIMON:** (Vehemently) Because I get. I go get una make I say Ino get no anybody? But ... well... God dey. Na God deh drive fly for cow wey no get tail.

**JAKO:** Dis na new era, Simon-Peter. Soldier no deh do that Kine thing again. If everybody wey get somebody for army send soldier enter street, no be war be dat? We no fit follow you go beat your enemy.

**SIMON:** No be beat. I no say make una beat am. Afterall na me owe the man ...

**ANGEL:** Thank God ... you know.

**SIMON:** But make una help me warn am make dem no touch me again.

**ANGEL:** Who be de man sef?

**SIMON:** Dat man wey live for number forty-four.

**ANGEL:** On that your street?

**SIMON:** Yes. I promise to help am buy Tokunbo Teevee for wharf. But dem thief the money for my hand.

**JAKO:** (exclaims) You! Wetin the thief hold. Na Bazooka?

**ANGEL:** Just talk say you chop the money, Simon-Peter!

**SIMON:** But I don gree say I go pay back. Na something cause something. No be say I mean to chop the money. (pause) Please Na beg I beg !

**ANGEL:** (Sigh) wetin you think, Jako ...?

**JAKO:** Make Simon-Peter carry in case go police.

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**SIMON:** Make dem lock me say I deh owe? Dis beat never past seven-five?

**ANGEL:** We no go beat anybody for you o. We go just try come follow you beg am das all.

**SIMON:** God will bless you in Jesus Name!

**JAKO:** Com on, shut up! You know Jesus?

**SIMON:** Ah, me too I don born again – Once this one commot my head, I swear , na me and church!

**ANGEL:** Some gin still dey. You go shack?

**SIMON:** Small

**STD:** Bottle on glass. Large pouring, Mix to

**SFX:** BRIDGE mix to street sounds.

**SIMON:** Why una no wear uniform now?

**ANGEL:** Why we get to wear uniform? We come to beg, not to do war.

**JAKO:** (laughing) May be we for wear camo and carry grenade and AK47. You no even happy say we come!

**SIMON:** No be so! You know we civilian! Na when we see uniform we deh shake. Nobody deh fear mufti. (Pause) Na here.

**JAKO:** The man dey so?

**SIMON:** E dey

**ANGEL:** Wey him name?

**SIMON:** Rufus. Rufus Akere

**JAKO:** Akere? Like ... “frog”! Na frog we deh call Akere.

**STD:** Knock on door

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**RUFUS:** (Off) Yes?

**STD:** Door open

**RUFUS:** (slightly off) Yes?

**ANGEL:** Hello. You must be Rufus. Rufus Akere

**RUFUS:** Do I know you? (Alarmed) Ehn! Simon-Peter! Oh! You brought Area-boys to come and ... (shout) Oleh! Oleh! Armed Robber!

**JAKO:** Mister man, shup up! Stop that!! We're not armed robbers and we have not ...

**RUFUS:** (yelling) Oleh! Armed Robbers! They're attacking me-o Neighbours, make una come – o.

**ANGEL:** We're soldiers. Not armed robber!

**RUFUS:** (Yelling over louder) Oleh! Armed Robbers ....

**JAKO:** Look, mister-man, behave yourself. Shut up!

**STD:** (Laughs) make you shout well-well! You think say na only you know soldier! Shout we-well! (suddenly) ah! Angelious, look! See who deh come. Him people. The people wey beat me yesterday.

**MAIDO:** (Coming on) Hey! What is going on here?

**RUFUS:** (Yelling even louder). Dem wan kill me o. Maido dem wan kill me o. the man wey thief my money wan kill me-o ... Oleh! Armed robber!

**MAIDO:** Wellington, you grab the tall one. I will handle the thick one.

**SFX/STD:** "Bar room" Brawl? Commotion grunts. Mix to sound of approaching siren. Light van to a halt. Two shots are fired.

**OFFICER:** Any bagger wey move is a dead bagger. Hands up all of you. (Pause) You want to do armed robbery in day light! In this area?

**MAIDO:** Officer, thank God you've come. We met these two ...

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**OFFICER:** Come-on, shut up unless I speak to you.

**MAIDO:** You don't understand ..

**OFFICER:** I said shut up!

**MAIDO:** Listen, We are Navy Officers. Two of us ...

**OFFICER:** Not only Navy. Is Airforce!

**STD:** General laughter from "Policemen".

**OFFICER:** I catch you during armed robbery and now you even want to commit impersonation.

**MAIDO:** I can prove it. Here is my I.D...

**OFFICER:** If you move that hand to your pocket I will fire your head. We are from Operation Katapult, let me tell you. You know how David killed Goliath? With Katapult. We are Goliath killers. You shake body again, you don't see heaven be dat! Idiot! If you're Navy you'll prove it in police station. How about these ones? Are you also Navy or Army?

**JAKO:** (under his breathe) I knew we should not have come.

**OFFICER:** Wetin you talk? (Pause) You get sense to keep quiet. Armed robber! As I'm looking at all of you, move to the van. In single file. Anybody shake body, tata... tata... tata! Tatata! (laughs) Wey all dis Television people sef? When we deh work like this you can't see them. Only to abuse us! Oya! Single file, move!

**SFX:** BRIDGE

**ANGEL:** Jako, we get to be out of here o.

**JAKO:** How?

**ANGEL:** Major Kadiye na your friend now. You know he doesn't take nonsense. I'm sure if he heard that police are holding his men he'll storm this place.

**JAKO:** (Alarmed) Ah! If A.K. 40 storm this place, then Lt. Colonel Duku hears about it where shall we be?

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**ANGEL:** We have to do something and get out of here.

**MAIDO:** Let's talk to the Inspector who brought us. He should know about Esprit de Corps now. We are different from police but we are all forces! Hey, Officer.

**OFFICER:** (coming on) Yes? Are you guys Okay?

**JAKO:** How can we be okay? How can you people ... detain us here?....

**OFFICER:** Can you compare here to where we put the civilians?

**ANGEL:** Where are they?

**OFFICER:** In the cell. We are going to charge them, And you may be required to give evidence. Have you written your statements?

**JAKO:** What statement?

**OFFICER:** (Calls out) Sergie! Why una never give the officers Statement form? Common, double! Bring their form.

**OFFICER:** I hope you have pens?

**STD:** (Slight Pause) Rustle of paper.

**ANGEL:** (Angry) Everybody hand me your forms.

**STD:** More paper rustle. Then tearing of paper.

**ANGEL:** No one is writing any statement. If you like go ad tell your DPO.

**OFFICER:** (Going off) No problem! We have called your bases. Your C. O. will soon be here. Well see what they'll say.

**JAKO:** What? We are in soup!

**ANGEL:** Is it more than guard room?

**JAKO:** All because of that useless Simon-Peter!

**MAIDO:** Una own good o. so its only guardroom!

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**SFX:** A car and a jeep arrive and park. Doors open and shut

**JAKO:** Angelicus, see who is here.

**ANGEL:** Lieutenant Colonel Duku came himself! We're dead!

**OFFICER:** (Off, coming on) Welcome, Sir. My DPO personally instructed me to wait for you. Your boys are here.

**DUKU:** You didn't put them in your cell?

**OFFICER:** (Laughing) No, sir. Esprit de corps, sir,

**DUKU:** That's not what Esprit de corps is about. It is not for protecting criminals.

**STD:** SAIDO, JAKO, "WELLINGTON" and MAIDO SALUTE AT ONCE "Good afternoon, Sir".

**DUKU:** You boys are a disgrace to the military! Jako! Angelcus! (THEY ANSWER) Didn't we discuss this at last month's durbar?... That the military should not meddle in civil matters!? Now you will become the first living examples of consequences of breaking such a simple code.

**OFFICER:** The DPO authorized me to release your boys to you, sir, Commander Igbidi has also sent for his boys.

**DUKU:** That's alright. Thank you.

**OFFICER:** But they have to do one thing for us, sir.

**DUKU:** what is that?

**OFFICER:** They have refused to fill out our statement forms Sir. But there is a civil case in the matter, sir, and we need their statements.

**DUKU:** Is it true? You boys refused to fill out the ...?

**JAKO and ALL:** No, sir.

**DUKU:** Of course, not! Get them the forms Inspector. Quickly! Military police is waiting for them. You boys better have a good story because you may just have ended

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your military careers abruptly. Then you'll be free to face the civil courts for public disturbance, ...

**OFFICER:** ... affray, conduct likely to cause bodily harm and .. it's all there on the charge sheet, sir.

**STD:** Rustle of paper

**OFFICER:** Here are fresh forms, sir.

**DUKU:** Hand it to them. Now write out your statements.

**SFX:** Theme music up and under.

## **EPISODE 20**

### **"THE RIGHT STUFF"**

**Tunde Aiyegbusi**

#### ***CHARACTERS***

***LT. COL DUKU***

***CAPTAIN. TANDI***

***ADORA – TANDI'S WIFE***

***UNCLE BOYAH – TANDI'S UNCLE***

**SFX:** Theme music up and under

**SFX:** Theme music up and cross fade to phone ringing....

**STD:** Receiver is picked up

**DUKU:** This is Lt. Col Duku... Yes?... Captain who?... Tandi? but Sergeant you know I'm expecting him.. send him in right away... Thank you.

**STD:** RECEIVER IS DROPPED. (Pause) Quick knock on door. Door opens

**CAPT. TANDI:** (off) Morning Sir.

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**DUKU:** (affably) I sent for you Clement. Come in... come in. how have you been spending your leave? I hope you haven't spent the whole time communicating with your girl-friends back in Liberia.

**CAPT. TANDI:** Oh no sir, I can assure you I left no trace behind over there.

**LT. COL. DUKU:** (jocularly) I have your word for it.

**CAPT. TANDI:** I went to Liberia sir, on a call of duty. And duty over, I am back to base awaiting new challenges.

**LT. COL. DUKU:** It does appear, Capt Tandi, that yours is a classic case OF WISH FULFILMENT.

**CAPT. TANDI:** How, sir?

**LT. COL. DUKU:** (in measured tones) if I had my way, Capt. Tandi. I'd keep you out of this. But you yourself know what the military is. (pause). By the way, have you got copies of photographs taken at the reception given for you at your triumphant return from Liberia?

**CAPT. TANDI:** I can't remember getting one, sir. It doesn't matter anyway

**LT. COL. DUKU:** What do you mean. It doesn't matter. You returned to this country a hero, man. That feat you and your small band of courageous men pulled through is the stuff of which legends are made. I must find out what happened to those photographs. They are the types of pictures you look at in your old age and nod with pride that you too gave something to life.

**CAPT. TANDI:** Thank you Colonel.**LT. COL. DUKU:** (suddenly changes the subject) How is your family?

**CAPT. TANDI:** Everyone is fine, sir.

**LT. COL. DUKU:** They must be happy having you back with them especially the young boy who was born while you were away. He must be a big boy now

**CAPT. TANDI:** He is a big, sturdy lad. Rather too clever for his age (proudly) and a warrior too.

**LT. COL. DUKU:** Like father like son. (Directly) captain Tandi... how would you feel if you find yourself called up to take up duty in another environment like Liberia?

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**CAPT. TANDI:**

How would I feel Colonel? When duty calls, duty calls.

**LT. COL. DUKU:**

Thanks for making my task easier. Here is the signal that has just arrived from the Defence Headquarters. Here have a look.

**SFX:**

RUSTLE OF PAPER BEING UNFOLDED AND STRAIGHTENED

**LT. COL. DUKU:**

We are required to contribute a Platoon of men to join a team of peace enforcers in KARATOTA.

**CAPT. TANDI:**

(bewildered) Karakota?

**LT. COL. DUKU:**

KARATOTA is an island state in the South Atlantic. Apparently, the local politicians think there's something glamorous about civil war. Now that they've created a bloody mess, the world community is being urged

to clean up the mess.

**CAPT. TANDI:**

When will people ever learn that war has no dividend except loss, with the horrific pictures from the conflict in Liberia flashed round the world,

one would have thought...

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**LT. COL. DUKU:** You've said it all. Men never learn. So we are to send a platoon. And I can't find a more worthy, gallant officer to lead our men than you.

**CAPT. TANDI:** Thank you sir,

**LT. COL. DUKU:** But I do realize that your period of leave is not over. And everything considered, you do need to have adequate time to re-orientate yourself. As you yourself found out in Liberia, war is no picnic

**CAPT. TANDI:** KARAKOTA?

**LT. COL. DUKU:** It's there on the world map. A red microdot on that expanse of blue between the two continents.

**CAPT. TANDI:** When is call-up time?

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**LT.COL.DUKU:** (Relieved) You don't mind going?

**CAPT.TANDI:** Colonel Duku, you are a good man. It is perfectly within your rights to order me to go .. but you've broken it to me like a gentleman.

**LT.COL.DUKU:** (Pleased) well, I'd like to believe that beneath every soldiers uniform, a human heart beats, (Pause) I leave you to select the men you want. And let me have the list within forty eight hours.

**CAPT.TANDI:** Right Colonel.

**LT.DOL.DUKU:** Defence headquarters will need to forward the names to the united nation Peace Keeping Force Command.

**CAPT.TANDI:** I do understand, sir

**LT.COL.DUKU:** (with emotion) captain, you don't consider this an imposition? Honestly?

**CAPT.TANDI:** Absolutely, its an honour to be called to serve.

**SFX:** BRIDGE, MIX TO CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL MUSIC FORMS THE BACKGROUND OF THE ENSUING SCENE.

**ADORA:** (concern in her voice) Clement, you are yet to touch your food. Its getting cold.

**CAPT.TANDI:** I'll eat. Don't worry, Adora.

**ADORA:** What's the matter. You haven't been your cheerful self since you come back from meeting Col. Duku. Anything the matter?

**CAPT.TANDI:** No, nothing at all.

**ADORA:** (skeptical) Nothing! I wasn't married to an officer just yesterday! Captain Clement Tandi, I know it when you are trying to hide something from me.

**TANDI:** Really?

**ADORA:** A hero of the battle you are Clement. And very proud of one at that too. But as dissembling husband, you make a miserable job of it. (suddenly) what's going on? Why did Col Duku send for you?

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**TANDI:** What's so strange with your commanding officer, your boss sending for you?

**ADORA:** Your're on leave. Special, official leave.

**TANDI:** So? That doesn't mean I'm on retirement. Even on retirement, you're still on the call-up list.

**ADORA:** I see. So they are calling you up?

**TANDI:** (making light of it) Adora, you and your fertile imagination?

**ADORA:** (Passionately) Clement, you're never lied to me. Tell me the truth.

**TANDI:** Very well, Adora. The truth is that we can no longer undertake that trip to your sister in Abidjan. You have to call the Kolawoles and tell them not to expect the children we were to leave with them.

**ADORA:** (Insistent) why do you do have to cancel our plans to travel?

**TANDI:** (matter of fact) Because duty calls.

**ADORA:** Meaning, exactly what?

**TANDI:** There is a call-up order for my unit. The nation needs my services.

**ADORA:** Why must it be you again? How much time have you spent with us; with your family since you came back from Liberia?

**TANDI:** You should be grateful I come back. Many of my colleagues weren't so lucky.

**ADORA:** Why are you pushing your luck too far? Clement why are you daring fate?

**TANDI:** Adora, I know how you feel

**ADORA:** You don't! if you did, you wouldn't want to abandon your family.

**TANDI:** Abandon you? Abandon you, Adora? I thought you understood me? I though you knew the man you were marrying?

**ADORA:** (Pleading) Clement, my dear, please don't let the adulation of your exploits in Liberia get into your head.

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**TANDI:** I expect you to know me better than that. I had a duty to perform. And that was that.

**ADORA:** Don't let them exploit the fame of your achievement to scheme your destruction. Why must it be you? Why must they pick on you so soon after your return? Are there no other captains left in the Army?

**TANDI:** I wish you would understand. To me soldering is not a job, a meal ticket. It is my life. At risks to our lives, we brought some measure of peace to Liberia. And now, God willing, me and my men will do the same for them in KARAKOTA

**ADORA:** (Shocked) Karakota! Wher's that?

**TANDI:** It's an Island state ravaged by civil war. Its in the Atlantic Ocean. Our troops will be under United Nations command

**ADORA:** (Sarcastically) oh, now? Understand, local hero goes to bestride the world stage!

**TANDI:** (Flash of temper) You don't have to be sarcastic!

**ADORA:** (Bitchily) A dead hero isn't of any use to anybody! Certainly not to me or our children.

**TANDI:** (unkindly) If you have decided not to be reasonable, you can please yourself.

**ADORA:** Clement ..... what are you running from? What?

**TANDI:** (Harshly) stop that! Stop it Adora! I don't want to hear anymore of that nonsense!

**ADORA:** (Sulking) Clement, this matter isn't going to end under this roof. I 'll ask the whole world to ask you why you are bent on making a widow of me and orphans of your children! Yes I will (SOBS).

**SFX:** BRIDGE. FADE INTO....

**TANDI:** (Spiritedly) No... no ,, no Uncle Boyah a thousand times no!

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**BOYAH:** (appealing passionately) Clement, wont you even listen to what I have to say. Haha!?

**TANDI:** It's because I know what you are going to say. Adora has been to you, I could sense that.

**BOYAH:** If she has been to me, what's wrong with that? Am I a stranger to you both?

**TANDI:** I have explained why I have to go but she chose to be unreasonable.

**BOYAH:** No, not unreasonable. But concerned, any reasonable wife will feel concerned. After all man is not a bird that hardly settles on a branch before it flies off again. And even they have their nests.

**TANDI:** Uncle Boyah, I have indicated my willingness to go; to lead my men.

**BOYAH:** Clement, you helped me to start this my transport business. Now, thank God the business has expanded and stabilized. I am getting on in years. And there's no better person I want to hand over the business to than you. Come and take it over.

**TANDI:** Uncle.. uncle Boyah!

**BOYAH:** Run it as you think fit. I will make you the Managing Director. Leave the Army. Let this people of Karakota or whatever they call themselves slaughter each other to their hearts content..

**TANDI:** Uncle.. there's only one life for me... and that's the military.

**BOYAH:** (Amazed) Clement,... what is all this? You were not born a soldier.

**TANDI:** That's true, Uncle. But since I enlisted in the Army, have found a calling.

**BOYAH:** So, what you are telling me is that I cannot dissuade you.

**TANDI:** I'm sorry uncle. You know I defer to you on most issues. But on this, No.

**SFX:** BRIDGE. FADE INTO...

**BOYAH:** Adora, my wife, there's nothing I didn't do to change your husbands mind, he wouldn't bulge.

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**ADORA:** Uncle Boyah, you are my witness that I did my best to prevail on him not to go. Is he wiser than his superiors who asked him to take special leave?

**BOYAH:** Isn't it the same people who have recalled him. These soldier people, you never can understand how they operate.

**ADORA:** Those who recalled him must be those who hate his guts. Does Clement think his seniors were happy he got all that adulation?

**BOYAH:** His mind is made up. He left me in no doubt about that.

**ADORA:** Uncle... I am worried ... and very anxious because I don't want what happens to obstinate people to happen to him.

**BOYAH:** Nothing bad will happen to him. Since the choice he as made is his wish, it is the duty of us all who love him to wish him well.

**SFX:** BRIDGE. FADE TO CANTONMENT ATMOSPHERE: SOUND OF MILITARY BAND PLAYING, OFF.

**SFX:** KNOCK ON DOOR

**LT. COL. DUKU:** Come in Captain Tandi

**STD:** DOOR OPENS.

**LT. COL. DUKU:** From the window I saw your car drive in.

**TANDI:** Morning Colonel.

**DUKU:** Morning, sit down

**TANDI:** Thank you sir,

**DUKU:** Well?

**TANDI:** I am ready for the task, sir!

**DUKU:** Jolly good, captain Tandi! Jolly good!

~~**SFX:** Theme music up and under.~~

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**SFX:** Theme music up and out.

**EPISODE 21**

**THE SOLUTION**

**Tunde Aiyegbusi**

***CHARACTERS***

***LT COL ARAGA DUKU***

***MAJOR OTUH AKUTO***

***R.S.M MUSA***

***MR. AJADU***

***MR. DANIEL***

***DR. JORIFE***

***DANFO DRIVER***

***VOICE 1***

***VOICE 2***

**SFX:** Theme music up, cross-fades to light street sounds and commotion of a rowdy crowd

**DANFODRIVER:** (wailing out of fear) Ah beg oga no kill me ! The child no die!

**VOICE1:** How you know say e no die? You be doctor? You dey fool!

**SFX:** SOUND OF BODY BEING SLAPPED

**DANFODRIVER:** Nah my brake fail! True to God! Nah my brake fail!

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**SFX:** AMBULANCE ARRIVES AND STOPS. VEHICLE DOORS OPEN HURRIEDLY UNDER...

**SFX:** SOUND OF REPEATED SLAPS ON BODY, DANFO DRIVER SCREAMS.

**VOICE 1:** Good! Soldier don bring ambulance from cantonment.

**SFX:** AMBULANCE STARTS AND DEPARTS

**R.S.M:** (Authoritative voice) Hey! Stop it! Stop it all of you. Lead the driver!

**VOICE 1:** Oga RSM, e go run commot!

**RSM:** Run for where? For dis place wey ah dey? Nah lie!

**VOICE 1:** Somebody bring matches make we burn him yeye moto.

**RSM:** (restraining) who talk dat? Who wan burn moto? If you burn de moto, na dat go save the pick in wey don go hospital?

**DANFODRIVER:** Ah don die today o. Ah beg no kill me!

**RSM:** (threatening) Anybody wey touch dis driver again, ah go lock am for guardroom. Nah you be police? Driver Oya...follow me, my men will take you to police station .

**DANFODRIVER:** You do well oga. Thank you.

**RSM:** No thank me, stupid man! Make you wait. Your wahala just dey start. Make you just pray make that pickin no die.

**DANFODRIVER:** The pickin no go die. God no go let am die.

**RSM:** Shey nah because we dey let you drive your Danfo pass our Cantonment gate nah him come be license to jam all our people. Na soldier pickin you jam so!

**DANFODRIVER:** (still frightened; in tears) Ah no go pass here again. I swear!

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**RSM:** Who dey talk your own? You! you don commot dis trouble you dey?  
(pause) Any Danfo wey pass this cantonment gate after today, nah seize ah go order  
soldiers to seize am. (with flourish) from today go, the front of cantonment na “No road to  
Commercial vehicle!

**SFX:** BRIDGE. Cross fade to QUIET CHATTER OF A FEW PEOPLE under...

**AJADU:** Ladies and gentlemen before we bring this meeting to a close permit me  
this observation: I am not too happy that many of our fellow house-owners  
and residents do not consider it important enough to attend this meeting.  
That road, unilaterally closed to commercial traffic by the military is  
adversely affecting all of us. I though it is to be expected that all concerned residents

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would have called this struggle their own. I wouldn't like a situation where a decision of the Estates Community will be perceived as that of the president alone.

**VOICE 2:** Mr. Ajadu? I have an idea!

**AJADU:** Yes sir, can we be privileged to hear of it?

**VOICE 2:** Instead of taking this problem to the Local Government, why don't we just go straight to the military cantonment?

**AJADU:** (quietly) Sir, would you like to undertake that mission for the Association?

**VOICE 2:** (Declining) Me? No...no...no I Would not like any soldier to force me to frog-jump or roll in the mud! Not in this my old age!

**SFX:** General laughter

**AJADU:** Do they still do that? In these days of civilian dispensation?

**VOICE 2:** I, for one, wouldn't like to find out!

**AJADU:** In that case, our original plan stands, the secretary will now read out resolution. Mr. Daniel please!

**MR. DANIEL:** (clears throat) The New life House Owners Association meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> day of August, in the year of our Lord 2000. It resolved unanimously to mandate the Chairman of the Association to meet with the chairman or officials of the local government and appraise them of the hardship

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closure of  
view to  
people, goods

caused the entire community of New life Estate by the arbitrary  
the cantonment by pass to commercial vehicles. This is with a  
removing the said obstacle to the free flow of traffic, of  
and services from the Township to the Estate.

**AJADU:** Thank you, Mr. Daniel. Any comments? (pause) I take it there's none.  
That will be the end of the meeting. Thank you, one and all...

**SFX:** BRIDGE. Fade out.

**DR JORIBE:** Mr Ajadu, I do sympathize with the problems caused by this road closure.  
It is a problem. I think the Local government should be able to solve it.

**AJADU:** So we thought, Dr. Joripe. But it is the council officials who directed us to  
contact you here at the Ministry of Works and Environment.

**DR JORIBE:** How long was it since this new closure was effected?

**AJADU:** Almost a month to the day when a reckless Danfo driver knocked down  
a young boy at the cantonment gate. It was an unfortunate incident. But  
is it right that we innocent people should be punished for the  
irresponsibility of a single, illiterate motor driver?

**DR JORIBE:** Well, ... but Mr. Ajadu the reaction was something to be expected, given  
the circumstances of the matter?

**AJADU:** As I said earlier, Dr. Joripe, we do appreciate that fact. But two wrongs do  
not make a right? If an accident occurs in the front of my house, would I  
be in a position to close the road to the traffic?

**DR JORIBE:** Now, now, Mr. Ajadu, let us be realistic....

**AJADU:** Is it because the road passes in front of their cantonment? Is it because  
they are the military?

**DR. JORIBE:** Sir, if you want my Ministry to intervene in this matter, I will not advise  
a confrontational approach

**AJADU:** (Surprise) Confrontational, Dr. Joripe? Who is being confrontational? If  
we had wanted to be confrontational, we knew what to do, we could  
have gone to court. Oh yes! This is a democratic era. Or are you  
suggesting, we have no right to protest against the violation of our right  
as citizens?

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**DR JORIBE:** Did I suggest anything like that?

**AJADU:** Nobody has a right to close that road... when your Ministry not carrying repair works on it, after all, that road belongs to all citizens of this country, not the military alone,

**DR JORIBE:** That's true, Mr. Ajadu

**AJADU:** We pay taxes. We pay development levies.

**DR JORIBE :** I do understand.

**AJADU:** Even the driver who caused the whole problem was caught and handed over to the police. So why the arbitrary closure of this road.

**DR JORIBE:** I'll look into it.

**AJADU:** Why should anybody want to add to our sufferings. Since that road was closed to commercial traffic, only a few of the residents of our estates who own cars can use it. All the other vehicles have to make a detour over marshy tracks. And of course at increased fares.

**DR JORIBE:** The Ministry will handle the problem to your satisfaction.

**AJADU:** It isn't fair to haul more burdens on us. No light, no water. No security. And now this impediment to our freedom of movement. (with emphasis)  
Dr Joribe, our members expect positive results and urgently too from your intervention in this matter.

**DR JORIBE:** Mr. Ajadu.

**AJADU:** Yes, Dr. Joribe.

**DR JORIBE:** Tell your members, I will take this your matter up with the boss of the Military Cantonment. And you can depend on it

**AJADU:** Can we, Dr. Joribe?

**DR. JORIBE:** I give you my word of honour.

**SFX:** BRIDGE. Fade out

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**SFX:** Knock on door

**DUKU:** Come in!

**SFX:** DOOR OPENS

**DUKU:** Major Akuto!

**AKUTO:** Morning sir!

**DUKU:** Good morning. How are you today?

**AKUTO:** Fine sir.

**DUKU:** Sit down? I understand the condition of that boy knocked down by that Danfo vehicle is improving.

**AKUTO:** Yes sir. I was at the hospital to see him yesterday. He is much, much improved.

**DUKU:** On the petition of the Estate Community forwarded through the Works Ministry ..

**AKUTO:** Yes sir?

**DUKU:** I met the Director from the Ministry in my office yesterday.

**AKUTO:** I can't remember exactly ... in which paper ... But I'm almost certain I read about the community's grievances in one of the papers.

**DUKU:** Really? Why for Goodness sake do they have to involve the media when the matter is being given urgent attention here.

**AKUTO:** There are deep rooted animosities, sir. Now everybody wants to score a cheap point against the military.

**DUKU:** That may be so. But I believe they are just reacting to the inconvenience caused by that decision to close the road. By Jove, I do understand the circumstances that compelled such a drastic action.

**AKUTO:** The RSM told me the reaction of our men would have been violent.... if ~~something like that had not been done. That calmed their nerves and~~

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saved the situation.

**DUKU:** But the road should have since been reopened. We could not prevent a whole community from using a public road indefinitely. So I have invited the Chairman of the House owners and Residents Association. We need to settle this matter today. He is in the next room.

**SFX:** Receiver is lifted and intercom dialed.

**DUKU:** (Slight pause) Sergeant, send in the gentleman.

**SFX:** Receiver is dropped.

**SFX:** DOOR OPENS.

**DUKU:** (Expansively) Chairman! Please come in. Sorry to have kept you waiting.

**AJADU:** (Slightly OFF) it is alright, colonel.

**SFX:** DOOR SHUTS

**DUKU:** Please sit down.

**AJADU:** Thank you

**DUKU:** Chairman, this is major Akuto. Major meet Mr. Ajadu, the chairman of the protesting Association. Major Akuto has been given the task of removing every source of friction in our relationship, Mr. Ajadu.

**AJADU:** I am pleased to hear that, Colonel.

**DUKU:** Over to you Major.

**AKUTO:** Well sir.. first of all.. I thought any decision reached should be fair to all. We need co-operation and collaboration in this matter that affects all of us.

**AJADU:** Absolutely

**AKUTO:** We cannot prevent civilian transport from plying this road because it happens to pass by our cantonment gate.

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**DUKU:** No; it will constitute an illegality.

**AKUTO:** Conversely, we cannot allow our soldiers and dependants in this estate to be mauled down by these senseless, criminal drivers.

**AJADU:** No.

**AKUTO:** So what do we do?

**DUKU:** (Laughing) Are you asking us Major Akuto? This is your show. You are the president of this tribunal !!

**AKUTO:** The solution I worked out is this. The ministry has agreed to construct speed breakers on the approaches to the cantonment gate from either direction with immediate effect. Additionally, there will be a traffic island with a Traffic warden to control traffic, especially during the peak traffic hours. After the Ministry completes its job, there should be no other reason to keep the road closed.

**AJADU:** Thank you Major, you have solved the problem. Totally.

**AKUTO:** We expect your association of course to pressurize the civil authorities to hurry up!

**AJADU:** Definitely!

**AKUTO:** After all these precaution woe betide the driver who drives through here again in a reckless manner. We shall make sure of that...

**DUKU:** ...with the full co-operation of the police, of course! Are you satisfied, Mr. Chairman?

**AJADU:** Satisfied, Colonel? More than satisfied! Nobody can ask for a better solution.

**DUKU:** I am happy to hear that.(Joking) Chairman, if there's any problem in future, please feel free to come to me. Directly!

**AJADU:** (facetiously) Colonel, it's not my prayer to come back to this cantonment ever!

**AKUTO:** Why Mr. Ajadi? Not even if the Colonel invites you to a party in his house?

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**AJADU:** (thinks) well... that's a different matter?

**SFX:** GENERAL LAUGHTER FADE TO

**SFX:** Theme music up, then under

**EPISODE 22**

**THE FIAT OF THE MATTER**

**Ihria Enakhimio**

***CHARACTERS***

***PROF OPUTEME***

***LT COL. AKUTO***

***CAPT. U. DUATE***

**SFX:** Theme music up, then under.....

**SFX:** Theme Music up mix to traffic sounds. Car pulls to a halt, engine running.

**PROF:** (Slight Off) where are you off to, officer?

**AKUTO:** Cantonment, Sir.

**PROF:** (Slight off) Hop in.

**SFX:** Car door open and shuts. Car take off (INTERIM)

**AKUTO:** I'm grateful, Sir...and surprised.

**PROF:** Why?

**AKUTO:** Civilians don't give a ride to soldiers.

**PROF:** Soldiers don't give a ride to ride to civilians either.

**AKUTO:** It's true.

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**PROF:** Love begets love. You're not friendly to us and we don't trust you.

**AKUTO:** We know.

**PROF:** You can't blame us, you could say you've taught us to be afraid of you. If you're afraid of some one, you can't trust that someone.

**AKUTO:** (Slight pause) Sir, are you Professor Oputeme?

**PROF:** You know me?

**AKUTO:** Every military man knows you. You're one of these human rights activists (laughs). You gave our boss hell!

**PROF:** He gave me hell too. I have scares to show for it. You don't seem offended. Whose side are you on?

**AKUTO:** I'm a soldier, sir. (changing the subject) I see a tennis racket at the back. Can you play? Or do you decorate the car with it? Some people do.

**PROF:** I'm not one of them!

**AKUTO:** (Playfully) Then you must come and get a whipping in our comts one of these days, Sir, Then perhaps you will get to know us better.

**PROF:** (Semi-series) Whipping, ehn? Like, Bulala fiam!

**AKUTO:** Nope! Not Bulala fiam! like "forty love...game"! fiam

**PROF:** You think so? You're that good, ehn?

**AKUTO:** Come and find out, sir. We have a very standard court at the cantonment.

**PROF:** (Contemplating) you know... I think you could be a nice guy. I am tempted to accept your challenge...

**AKUTO:** Tomorrow then! Five O'clock ?

**PROF:** (Laugh) said like a soldier! With military precision. "With immediate effect! (laughs) but..... let's see...to mo....r.r.ow...?"

**AKUTO:** I'll expect you. Too solid hours of good tennis then we'll unwind at the

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officers mess. How about it?

**PROF:** Okay

**AKUTO:** You can drop me here at the gate. I'll walk the rest of the way.

**SFX:** Car slows to a halt. Door opens and shuts

**AKUTO:** (Slightly off) you've been very kind, sir. To tell you the truth, sir, I am one of your fans (going off) you should have been a soldier!

**PROF:** No, thank you! (slight pause) surprise! Surprise! An officer and a gentleman!

**SFX:** Car takes off, mix to Bridge.

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**SFX:** CROSSFADE laughter to mess atmosphere.

**SFX:** Sounds of glass and pouring.

**AKUTO:** I wonder what keeping Capt. B!

**PROF:** Captain? You said .....

**AKUTO:** (Laughs) its only a nickname. In ECOMOG we called him Captain B. "B" for Bulldozer, He had a way of Bulldozing his way into matters. And his initials fit- Benjamin Uduate. It took a while before he realised that Captain B stood for Captain Bulldozer.

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**PROF:** You served in ECOMOG .....

**AKUTO:** ...In LIBERIA!

**CAPT:** (OFF/Angry) Salute, Sergeant! Salute! (pause) so I have to tell you before you salute a superior officer? Bagger!

**AKUTO:** I think I hear Captain B outside!

**PROF:** The bulldozer, eh?

**AKUTO:** Reminds me of how we first met. I was returning from parade ground when we first met. Captain B was a staff sergeant then. Suddenly I heard someone calling.....

**SFX:** Keep atmosphere of open air (playground with a few voices in background)

**CAPT:** (fade in to slightly off) Hey, you! ...Okpolo! ...Frog! Come here!

**AKUTO:** (Slightly off) who, Sir? Me, Sir?

**CAPT:** (Coming on) My God! What is the Army coming to? I called you and you said "who? Me? Are you better than a frog?"

**AKUTO:** I'm sorry, staff!

**SFX:** Slap

**CAPT:** (outrage) say "Sir!" sir! Sorry "Sir"!

**AKUTO:** Sorry, sir?

**SFX:** Cut atmosphere of open air

**PROF:** (Bewildered) you mean he slapped you!

**AKUTO:** I saw stars!

**PROF:** Was he supposed to do that?

**AKUTO:** People don't always do what they're supposed to do.

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**PROF:** But he was only a staff sergeant! What was your rank then?

**AKUTO:** Oh! I was just a sergeant. I know why you're asking. Because I have a university degree! I didn't present, the degree certificate when I was being recruited. I wanted a career in the army but they weren't recruiting cadet officers.

**PROF:** (Sneering) you need power that badly, eh?

**AKUTO:** I like the army, Prof. The quest for political power wasn't always our drive, Sir...Ah! here comes Captain "B".

**PROF:** A storm in a tea cup! Little fellow! But I don't get it. From Captain to lieutenant. Why was he demoted? Did he... do "something" in ECOMOG?

**AKUTO:** (laughs) you have a suspicious mind! Captain was merely a field rank. Infact he's just been promoted to lieutenant I've told you we have good reputation of foreign missions.

**PROF:** Well, charity ought to begin at home.

**AKUTO:** We'll get there!

**CAPT:** (Slightly off) Hey! Sergeant! Carry that chair over to major Akuto's table. Can't you see I want to sit down? (coming on) Good evening, sirs!

**AKUTO:** Captain 'B'! this is professor Oputeme....

**CAPT:** —o..o..oh!

**AKUTO:** I though you said...

**CAPT:** (not certain) I know him. I know him. The Oputemes are from my town... you're the ...what did our former oga use to call you people... you're one of the NADECO people!

**PROF:** (laughs) everybody was a NADECO to your Oga! Its good to meet you Captain!

**CAPT:** Lieutenant! Lt. Benjamin Uduate. Don't mind Oga Major! He is not comfortable with being my superior officer because I used to be his Oga. But such is life. His own family sent him to university. It is the army that is

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bringing me up.

**PROF:** He tells me you gave him one of our daughters! You gave our daughter to a stranger.

**CAPT:** Major is no longer a stranger. o. He's now a son! .. This table is dry!(calls) Okpolo! Frog!

**AKUTO:** (to Prof) He used to call me that too! Okpolo...

**CAPT:** (to Prof) I like the look on their faces when I call them that, (calls) Okpolo, serve beer on this table with immediate effect!

**PROF:** (Continually) do you still.. Slap them?

**CAPT:** (laughs) no-o! these days? We are now in a democracy. Everybody is now claiming human rice... human beans..! the army is not like before.. but... how did you know that? Major Otu you've been telling the professor stories about ECOMOG.

**AKUTO:** Not yet! I wanted you to do it yourself. Prof. Doesn't believe that we deserve the praise we get from foreign missions.

**SFX:** (Sound of bottles and corks being popped under)

**PROF:** Why should I. Charity begins at home....

**CAPT:** ...Yes but outside the country we don't see ourselves as Ibo, Yoruba or Hausa. We are all Nigerians. You see this young officer here, I used to slap him those days....

**PROF:** ...because of his tribe...?

**CAPT:** ....and he was speaking too much grammar! Even when he salutes a superior officer, it was with superior grammar!

**PROF:** (laughs) and now he's your superior...

**CAPT:** It's his right...

**AKUTO:** Actually, it was lieutenant's recommendation that did it!

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**PROF:** You recommended him for promotion and gave him one of our daughters to the bargain!

**CAPT:** It's a long story. Major Akuto proved to be more than a good soldier but a humanitarian. You should visit the village, Prof. and hear what our people say of him. He's our son now.

**PROF:** And it was Liberia that changed everything?

**CAPT:** Initially I didn't even want him in my platoon. He didn't look like a soldier to me. He ought to have been a school teacher somewhere. Always telling the others soldiers about foreign armies, American generals and so on... Collin Powell, George Paton, Montgomery and some ancient fellow he called Cannibal (All laugh)... so one day I called him and said (FADE INTO...)

**SFX:** Forest atmosphere

**CAPT:** (Slightly off) Hey! Okpolo! if you want to be a teacher you should go back to Nigerian. We came here to fight war not to listen to story of Cannibals!

**AKUTO:** (Slightly off) sorry, Sir,

**CAPT:** Clifford Orji is also a cannibal but he knows nothing about war.

**AKUTO:** The name is Hannibal, Sir,

**CAPT:** Hannibal? Hannibal... cannibal what is the difference? Just get out before I wire your face for you, infact, ... look take a large bag, go and get some supplies from Gokana. Tell Captain Aliu that we need some drinking water, cigarettes, canned foods. Mostly water!

**AKUTO:** Should I take the Jeep, Sir?

**CAPT:** (Scandalised) What!?!

**AKUTO:** I'm sorry, Sir.

**CAPT:** Gokana is less than five miles.

**AKUTO:** Is...is ...someone going with me, Sir?

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**CAPT:** (Sarcastic) Yes...

**AKUTO:** Thank...

**CAPT:** Me! I'm going with you.

**AKUTO:** Sorry Sir,

**CAPT:** Come on get out! Are you a baby that you need an escort.. just to carry water? (yelling) sergeant! Before I open my eyes.. (FADE). (pause-on) he didn't wait for me to finish.

**AKUTO:** Ah! Me wait? To collect some slaps? I ran! (all laugh)

**CAPT:** The Almighty God is faithful, you know, it was that wicked errand that saved our lives.

**PROF:** How?

**CAPT:** Hm? We had almost been surrounded by rebels- tell him, major!

**AKUTO:** We hadn't encountered any aggression for sometime but something call it instinct, ...or curiosity... I made a detour about a mile outside our camp. That brought me close to where an ECOMOG section had chosen to camp. They were signals people but I didn't think they had a chance to signal anything. Only one man was still alive when I got there: He was lucky because the rebels took him for dead. From the little information I got from him I knew the rebels were headed towards our camp.

**CAPT:** I just heard the signal .....

**AKUTO:** (Radio Voice) This is Hannibal reporting for duty, Sir. Hannibal is on duty,  
sir. You can leave by half past four, sir! Half past four, sir.

**CAPT:** (curiosity) "Hannibal...Hannibal!" I was furious! Where did that frog find a radio? What was he doing with a radio?. I was sure I would send him for court martial! ...suddenly it dawned on me. I remembered one story he was telling about Hannibal and his strategies!... the rebels were about to attack us! From the flanks, our escape route was south! The battle was fierce! But we were up to it.

**PROF:** Did you come back to join them, major?

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**CAPT:** No-no! he ran all the remaining miles to Gokana carrying the wounded man. From Gokana they sent reinforcement.

**PROF:** Wonderful!

**CAPT:** I had been mean to him. We are of different tribes, yet Sergeant Akuto didn't remember all that. Just that we were on the same side.. from the same country. He could have escaped and saved himself. But he proved he was a good and true soldier.

**PROF:** (Right) now I understand! When the sierra leonean president came here to pay respects to Brigadier General Kobe I though it was merely a political move. Now I can understand.

**AKUTO:** The society, the system will affect performance of the individual or the group whether they are civilian or military. We are all products of our society! Luckily we are back in a democracy. Now discrepancies will be sorted out through debate and wise counsel. Not by fiat. Not through the supreme wisdom or madness of one man.

**PROF:** That's the beauty of democracy isn't it ?

**CAPT:** That is the beauty of it, (yellow) hey! Okpolo! Bring cold beer for everybody! My major want shack me today.

**AKUTO:** What? Did I say that? Drunkenness is an offence, Lieutenant!

**CAPT:** It is true, sir. We shall stop before we get drunk, sir.

**SFX:** Theme music up and under.....

**SFX:** Theme music up and out.

## **EPISODE 23**

### **LAWFUL DUTY**

**Frank Aig-Imoukhede**

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***CHARACTERS***

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*PRIVATE ONLE*

*PRIVATE LUCAS*

*POLICE INSPECTOR DIALA*

*PROVOST MARSHAL*

**SFX:** Theme Music up then under.....

**SFX:** Theme Music mix to (1) Night sounds (inclusive (2) sound of metal, grating as of padlock against gate)

**LUCAS:** Sule, did you hear that?

**SULE:** Hear what?

**LUCAS:** The metal grating. Like a padlock being forced or disturbed.

**SULE:** Lucas, it is not good for someone on guard duty to be hearing things. It could lead to accidental discharge.

**LUCAS:** Accidental discharge? Don't curse me I beg. I tell you I heard something.

**SFX:** Sound of metal grating

**LUCAS:** There it goes again! Listen.

**SULE:** Na true O.

**LUCAS:** If na steal dem come steal I sorry for them, Nothing dey until tomorrow where goods, clear for wharf. So if na thief dem come thief, na laour loss!

**SULE:** Then what are they doing there?

**SFX:** Distant sounds of loud whisper.

**LUCAS:** Wait. I can hear people moving about. You go and check that way (going Off) I will go this way. (pause off suddenly halt there! I say halt! Gunshot

**SFX:** (OFF) Yell (in pain).

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**SFX:**

**SULE:** (coming On) did you get him?

**LUCAS:** I don't know. But I heard 'Ye!' where is your torch. Shine it here.

**SULE:** True-true. This na blood. Let's follow the trail. Yes... yes.. (pause) The trail has ended.

**LUCAS:** Which mean to say he has escaped?

**SULE:** But the warehouse is safe and that for me is All correct! Let's go back.

**SFX:** Pause. Fade in siren of police patrol car (to slightly off)

**SULE:** This guard duty, today na another thing. So so siren. I have heard two police siren in this area already. Listen

**SFX:** Fade in siren (from slightly off-on) car engine and siren go off. Car door opens and shuts.

**INSPECTOR:** Thank God you're here, officer, I am Inspector Diala.

**PROVOST:** (Coming On)Thank you Inspector. But why am I here? Homicide is not for military police!

**INSPECTOR:** It's true, provost, the problem is that warehouse over there, there are armed guards manning the place and they are soldiers. We didn't want to start any untidy situation so I called my superior officer who called yours.

**PROVOST:** What appears to be the problem.

**INSPECTOR:** Look at this, Provost.

**PROVOST:** Uh! Nasty!

**INSPECTOR:** We suspect ritual murder. They took out the victims, eyes, ears and ....

**PROVOST:** They removed his.....! Good Lord! So what have our men got to do with it?

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**INSPECTOR:** That's what we what to find out.

**PROVOST:** Well, there's only one way of doing that, lets go to them. You say they're over at the warehouse over there?

**INSPECTOR:** Yes.

**PROVOST:** Then lets go.

**INSPECTOR:** (Going off) Sergeant, you people stay here and keep an eye on the Corpse.

**LUCAS:** (PAUSE) Look, Sule! Some people are coming this way.

**SULE:** Let them. Any one who form fools with me this way.

**LUCAS:** Its like they are in uniform. Police uniform.

**SULE:** Halt who goes there?

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**INSPECTOR:** We are Police.

**SULE:** And we are soldiers on guard duty. What can we do for you?

**PROVOST:** We want you to follow us. We want to show you something.

**SULE:** ( Laughing) Follow you?

**LUCAS:** (laughing) you want us to leave our duty? Are you our relief?

**PROVOST:** No.

**SULE:** Then....(suddenly realizing specializes) ah-aah...

**LUCAS:** (also realizing) is Provost Marshal!

**PROVOST:** Whats your name? Private?

**SULE:** ... My name is Lucas.

**PROVOST:** Come with us to where the patrol car is.

**SULE:** Alright, sir.

**PROVOST:** (PAUSE) did anything suspicious happens here during the night?

**SULE:** Yes, Sir, and we took care of it.

**INSPECTOR:** You did?

**SULE:** Ask Lucas.

**LUCAS:** Some fellows tried to break into the warehouse. We released one shot and they took off.

**PROVOST:** How many of them?

**SULE:** We couldn't tell, sir.

**INSPECTOR:** But you got one of them.

**LUCAS:** One of them ... well, one of them shouted but I thinescaped.

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**INSPECTOR:** Well, I don't think so.

**LUCAS:** Aha! You found him. Sule, I told you I heard him well.

**INSPECTOR:** it's a wonder he had the strength to yell at all.

**LUCAS:** That was before he ran.....

**INSPECTOR:** It's a wonder he had the strength to yell at all.

**LUCAS:** That was before he ran....

**INSPECTOR:** Without his eyes and his ears!.. here we are. Take a look. He also left his body behind.

**SULE:** (shocked) what!

**LUCAS:** What is this?

**INSPECTOR:** Did you do it?

**LUCAS:** They've plucked out his .....What do you mean did we do it?

**INSPECTOR:** Who did this?

**SULE:** How should we know? Do we look like people who would do this?

**INSPECTOR:** Do they write ritual murderer on peoples' faces?

**PRIVATE HANMUL:** To god who made me. I fired only one bullet. Inspector. You mean I will kill a person, remove its vital organs and leave his body on my door step for the whole world to see? Does that make any sense?

**PROVOST:** (under his breath) if you ask me, Inspector, I think the man is telling the truth. Something doesn't get here. I saw a trail of blood as we were coming here, why don't we try and track it. Sule, you and Lucas will remain with the patrol team. We're coming, let two of your men follow us.

**INSPECTOR:** (PAUSE-OFF-ON) How they managed it I don't know. The blood trail. Keeps playing some hide and seek. See another trail starts here. You follow

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it to the other side of the culvert.. (going off) I want to check behind that clump of bush.

**PROVOST:** (Loudly) Inspector Diala! Please come and see. There's a man here on the ground. I think he is unconscious.

**INSPECTOR:** (Coming on) If he is the one the private...(pause)This looks like a bullet wound. He must be the one the private claims he shot! Lets go for a vehicle to take him to hospital. He's still breathing. You two stay here with him. Lets go.

**PROVOST:** (Slight pause) The others must have fled and left him behind.

**INSPECTOR:** That may be true. But unless we find the exhibits, the missing body parts we still need to interrogate your men.

**PROVOST:** I have order to bring them to the cantonment.

**INSPECTOR:** Oh! They are safe with you. We sent for you. But please make sure we have access to them.

**PROVOST:** Definitely! They are going into custody till all this is over.

**INSPECTOR:** Thank you. Its so good that we are beginning to co-operate.

**PROVOST:** (laughs) Its good!

**INSPECTOR:** (Laughs) Its democratic!

**SFX:** BRIDGE

**INSPECTOR:** The doctor says you're now okay.

**OJOGE:** I'm not Okay o. I,m not okay at all!

**INSPECTOR:** That is very good. You will never be okay. How can you be okay when you go about killing people and selling their organs? You say your name is Ojoge Onikoko.

**OJOGE:** Yes, Sir.

**INSEPECTOR:** We found your bag and the human organs. So you know you and you

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alone will die for it. They will hang you by the neck , and you will be dangling on the rope, till your neck will break and your tongue will stick out like this... then you will die. Painfully. Only you.

**OJOGE:** Is not only me one-o.

**INSPECTOR:** It's only you.

**OJOGE:** But what of Baba who send us?

**INSPECTOR:** Which Baba?

**OJOGE:** Baba Olosa

**INSPECTOR:** What is the name of the man you killed?

**OJOGE:** I didn't kill him, sir, we steal it from accident victim, sir. We go and deposit the body. We don't know some people are there. Then someone shoot me.

**INSPECTOR:** I see. You will take us to your friends who helped you to steal the body. Then you will take us to Baba Olosa. Dress up. Lets go.

**SFX:** BRIDGE. Fade out.

**SFX:** Knock on door

**PROVOST:** Come in, come in, Inspector. I already saw you coming! Infact, I have told them to bring those privates from the guardroom.

**INSPECTOR:** (coming on) Thank you very much.

**PROVOST:** You want to interrogate them here or...

**SFX:** Knock on door

**PROVOST:** Come in! Come in both of you!

**INSPECTOR:** Oh, there won't be any need to interrogate them anymore. At day break yesterday we discovered the bag containing the human parts. We confronted our man and he confessed . He led us to their receiver and other accomplices.

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**LUCAS:** (slightly off) You see, now.. that bloody fool wanted to put us in trouble for nothing.

**SULE:** You see now, Inspector, we didn't lie. We were doing our lawful duty.

**PROVOST:** Sule, shut up! Shut up both of you. You may be free of Ritual murder but lawful duty... keeping guard in non military premises.. we're checking that.

**SULE:** Sir? But we've been doing so for years.

**PROVOST:** The military has started distancing itself from such extra-regimental duties. Police work is police work. Military is military!

**INSPECTOR:** (laughs) That's democratic.

**PROVOST:** That's common sense, who wants to be doing another man's job?

**SULE:** But, sir?

**PROVOST:** Yes?!

**SULE:** What about those soldiers guarding the Radio and TV stations? .. NITEL, NEPA.

**PROVOST:** (sharply) are they still there?

**SULE:** (dumb founded) ah..a.ah!

**INSPECTOR:** I just came to thank you.. for co-operation .

**PROVOST:** Ah! Anytime!

**INSPECTOR:** (going off) I must run, officer .

**SULE:** Well, we thank God the matter is over. Thank you, sir,

**LUCAS:** Thank you, sir.

**PROVOST:** For what? The civilians have finished their investigation. You're free.

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**SULE & LUCAS:** Thank you sir.

**PROVOST:** It is now time for us to investigate our own!

**SULE:** Is that ...?

**LUCAS:** .....back to guardroom, Sir?

**PROVOST:** Clever. Very clever!

**SFX:** Theme Music up and under

**SFX:** Theme music up and out.

**PROVOST:** Come in, come in, Inspector. I already saw you coming! Infact, I have told them to bring those privates from the guardroom.

**INSPECTOR:** (coming on) Thank you very much.

**PROVOST:** You want to interrogate them here or...

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**SULE:** You see now, Inspector, we didn't lie. We were doing our lawful duty.

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**SULE & LUCAS:** Thank you sir.

**PROVOST:** It is now time for us to investigate our own!

**SULE:** Is that ...?

**LUCAS:** ....back to guardroom, Sir?

**PROVOST:** Clever. Very clever!

**SFX:** Theme Music up and under

**SFX:** Theme music up and out.

**EPISODE 24**

**AMATTER TO SETTLE**

**Frank AIG-Imoukhuede**

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***CHARACTERS***

***CAPTAIN OWOSIMBO***

***WASIU***

***OLAOLU***

***OKURININJEJE***

***OFFICER***

***POLICE SERGEANT***

***LT.COL DUKU***

**SFX:** Theme music up then under...

**SFX:** Thud of bundles of paper currency on table, hold under.

**WASIU:** When I saw you enter with two Ghana- must-go, I said to myself, this is a man of his words. A man of action and integrity. The type of man the Obalende family likes to do business with.

**OWOSIMBO:** thanks for the compliment (pause). There you are.

**WASIU:** (counting) two, five, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty five, thirty bundles each of twenty five thousand Naira. 30 times 2500 equal a seven fifty thousand Naira, as agreed. Captain, you are good to do business with.

**OWOSIMBO:** Now my receipt.

**WASIU:** Before you talk, Captain the receipt book is here. Just see (writing) Received from Captain Owolabi Owosimbo for one plot of Obalende family land, the sum of seven hundred and fifty thousand Naira only. (scratching sound of pen on paper and tearing of receipt). Here you are.

**OWOSIMBO:** Thank you, Wasiu. I have to go. I have a busy day ahead.

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**WASIU:** Ah, Captain, there's one little matter you forgot. What about the little something for the Omo Onile?

**OWOSIMBO:** Wasiu!

**WASIU:** It is true. Appreciation breed reciprocation. I sweated to convince the Omo Onile. You know the spoilers among them. I even took care of them out of my own pocket. I was sure that you are an appreciative man.

**OWOSIMBO:** Wasiu, your mouth is too sweet. Take this for the Omo Oniles.

**WASIU:** Five thousand Naira! You see a man of caliber, a man of action, more blessing sir ! You have really showed your true colour.

**OWOSIMBO:** So, since you say that appreciation should breed reciprocation please make sure there is no K-leg o.

**WASIU:** Captain, trust me.

**OWOSIMBO:** No mago mago.

**WASIU:** You see just to reassure you, I have the documents here. See , the deed, the conveyance, the stamp but eduro ni joo

**OWOSIMBO:** What does that mean>

**WASIU:** The world is full of mischievous people even in my family but remember that in land matter occupation is three quarters of possession.

**OWOSIMBO:** Don't worry. I have already mobilized some workers. They will put up a perimeter wall first thing tomorrow morning.

**WASIU:** Great Captain. Man of action!

**SFX:** BRIDGE. Fade out.

**SFX:** Angry banging on the door.

**WASIU:** (OFF) Who is that? You wan by force entry in broad day light? (off-on) who is trying to break down my door?

**SFX:** ~~Key turns in lock and door opens~~

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**WASIU:** Captain it is you.

**OWOSIMBO:** (angrily) what nonsense is that?

**WASIU:** Nonsense Ke. What is the matter?

**OWOSIMBO:** Some members of your family beat up my workers and drove them away from the site.

**WASIU:** Didn't I warn you?

**OWOSIMBO:** You did say that I should take possession and I am trying to do that! But they will see. From now on we shall meet force with force.

**WASIU:** Heh Captain, you don't need to force. Just put military zone sign and no one will dare go there.

**OWOSIMBO:** That's true. Why didn't I think of that? (off-on) from now on any spoiler who shows his face again on the site will see.

**SFX:** BRIDGE mix to quiet suburb with light traffic in background. Car arrives and stops (off)

**OKUNRINJEJE:** Olaolu, look. What is that man doing there? He stopped that car and is

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gazing at this land.

**OLAOLU:** He probably wants to ease himself.

**SFX:** Car door opens and shuts (off)

**OKUNRINJEJE:** He has come out. He is walking this way (pause)

**OWOSIMBO:** (off-on) Excuse me.

**OLAOLU:** Yes.?

**OWOSIMBO:** Are you the omo oniles?

**OKUNRINJEJE:** Are you looking for land to buy?

**OWOSIMBO:** God saved you, you are not the omo oniles.

**OLAOLU:** Anything wrong? You'd better be warned against '419'. I hear they are already swooping like wolves on this land.

**OWOSIMBO:** They don't know anything but I will show them.

**OKUNRINJEJE:** Excuse me, mister man.

**OWOSIMBO:** Captain.

**OKUNRINJEJE:** My name is Okunrinje not captain and this is my brother Olaolu. What about you sir?

**OWOSIMBO:** Capyain Owolabi Owosimbo.

**OKUNRINJEJE:** We are from the family of Olowoyosikun.

**OLAOLU:** (whisper) Okunrinje careful o. it is possible Wasiu sold the land to.

**OWOSIMBO:** Hey! What's going on?

**OKUNRINJEJE:** My brother is wondering if it is you that Wasiu sold land to.

**OWOSIMBO:** Yes. I am. What about it?

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**OKURINJEJE:** O! pity ! they have sold you a dummy.

**OWOSIMBO:** Sold who what?

**OLAOLU:** This land belongs to the Olowoyosikun family.

**OWOSIMBO:** No. it belongs to the Obalende family. I bought it from them.

**OKUNRINJEJE:** O pity.

**OWOSIMBO:** If you don't that pity rubbish , you will see piti piti.

**OLAOLU:** Don't be annoyed, Captain. Actually this land does not belong to the Obalende family.

**OWOSIMBO:** They showed me proof of ownership including the deed of conveyance and the registration.

**OLAOLU:** Did they show you the court judgement?

**OWOSIMBO:** What court judgement?

**OLALOU:** The court's judgement was given three weeks ago.

**OWOSIMBO:** I say I saw the deed of conveyance with my two eyes.

**OKUNRINJEJE:** Then see copy of the judgement with your two eyes Olalou show him.

**OLAOLU:** Captain this is it.

**OWOSIMBO:** Heh. Is it my concern? Look I am tired of this rigmarole. I was not part of your court case and I am not part of this judgement.

**OKUNRINJEJE:** You think so?

**OWOSIMBO:** Go and settle the matter between you and don't let me see your foot within the metres of this land. Otherwise.....

**SFX:** BRIDGE mix to same quiet suburb as in last scene.

**OLAOLU:** (coming on) What palaver is this? See! They have put up a sign board.

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**OKUNRINJEJE:** 'Military Zone' So he wants to drive us out of our own land?

**OLAOLU:** Take it easy. Look at the soldier guarding the place.

**OKUNRINJEJE:** So what?

**OLAOLU:** He is carrying a gun.

**OKUNRINJEJE:** But there is a lawful court order and judgement.

**OLAOLU:** Eh, Okunrinjeje don't go (calls) Okunrinjeje!

**OKUNRINJEJE:** (pause-off-on) good day officer.

**OFFICER:** Hun, Huh, can I help you?

**OKUNRINJEJE:** What right have you to be here?

**OFFICER:** Are you alright? I should ask you that.

**OKUNRINJEJE:** You are trespassing on our land.

**OFFICER:** No. The land belongs to Captain Owosimba.

**OKUNRINJEJE:** That's a lie. He is a trespasser.

**OFFICER:** Are you abusing my oga? You call him a liar.

**OKURINJEJE:** And so.

**SFX:** Slap!

**OKURINJEJE:** Ye pa ! Olaolu my right eye cannot see again.

**OLAOLU:** (slight –off) I told you not to go near him. (going off) Just run. The others are rushing towards you. Okunrinjeje, run, run.

**SFX:** Bridge. Fade out.

**OLAOLU:** Sergeant, they would have killed us! If you don't act swiftly there will be blood shed o.

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**SERGEANT:** I don't know why simple land dispute always degenerates into violence when the courts are there.

**OLAOLU:** We went to court.

**SERGEANT:** That's good.

**OKUNRINJEJE:** And the court has given judgement.

**SERGEANT:** Even better.

**OLAOLU:** But he refused to accept the courts judgement.

**SERGEANT:** Then he's asking for trouble. He gave you this black eyes? That is assault occasioning bodily harm. That is a serious felony.

**OKUNRINJEJE:** The Captain didn't do it. But he was the one who gave the orders.

**SERGEANT:** Did you say Captain?

**OKUNRINJEJE:** Yes, Captain Owosimbo.

**SERGEANT:** Why didn't you say all along.?

**OLAOLU:** Say what.?

**SERGEANT:** That it is a case against a military officer?

**OLAOLU:** What difference does it make?

**SERGEANT:** Ah! That puts a different completion on the case. I'll have to refer it to my superior officer (On-Off) Excuse me, a moment.

**OKUNRINJEJE:** Why has she left us to refer the matter to authority above. You mean it is only a D.P.O that can deal with the problem of the Captain. Ah she is back.

**SERGEANT:** (coming on) Just as I thought. Gentlemen, you see, this matter is delicate. I have indented the case in our register. I am sorry. I can't do beyond that for now. You will have to report the matter to the Captain's superior officer at the cantonment.

**OLAOLU:** Sergeant you mean that's all you can do?

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**OKURINJEJE:** O pity! Olaolu...

**SERGEANT:** ...Please have patience

**OKUNRINJEJE:** Sergeant, look at my eye. It is patience that will kill people in the country. O pity.

**OLAOLU:** We have no other choice. Is that not so, Sergeant?

**SERGEANT:** (Embarrassed) Em in the circumstance. (fade into)

**SFX:** General sounds around parade ground.

**OLAOLU:** (worried) Okunrinjeje, Okunrinjeje, why are you shaking?

**OKURINJEJE:** (agitated) why will I not be shaking? My last encounter with military it was gbosa ! in my eye. Why will not be afraid?

**OLAOLU:** But that is past tense.

**OKUNRINJEJE:** Not at all. The pain is still present tense and my eye balck and swollen. That time there was only one soldier. See how many they are inside this place. Nearly two hundred. It is not everyday that go and face the lion in his own den. Olaolu, this is a dangerous assignment.

**OLAOLU:** Just have no fear.

**OKUNRINJEJE:** All this talk about democracy and the rule of law is not boju boju? It is proper hide and seek. Do you how many orders the courts have given which have been ignored by order from above? Abi those judges whose complaints appear in newspapers are lying?

**OLAOLU:** (restraining him) that was before Okunrinjeje. Be patient until we see this Lt.Col Duku. Lets go.

**SFX:** Crossfade parade noise to

**DUKU:** (fade in ) Look Captain Owosimbo you have no excuse to occupy that plot of land.

**OWOSIMBO:** I have evidence and proof of ownership, sir.

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**DUKU:** You heard what the other side said. It is their land and that's what the court ruled.

**OWOSIMBO:** But I have a receipt sir.

**DUKU:** Look, Captain. I sent them out of my office because I did not want to rebuke you in their presence. This is no longer an army of anything-can-happen. This army will subordinate itself to the rule of law. The court's judgement must be respected and if you are not satisfied you go to the higher court.

**OWOSIMBO:** But my money, sir.

**DUKU:** The matter is simple. You have no authority to declare that piece of land a military zone. Have you? Does the land belong to the army?

**OWASIMBO:** No sir, it belong to me, sir. But couldn't one use what one has to protect one's property?

**DUKU:** The options before you are clear. One, obey the court judgement and vacate the land. Then, two take the vendors to court to recover your money or three, face a disciplinary military panel. Is that clear?

**OWOSIMBO:** (pause) very clear, sir.

**DUKU:** By the way, I hope you'd also do something to repair the damage done to military image.

**OWOSIMBO:** By me. Sir?

**DUKU:** That assault by the boy acting on your orders, for example

**DUKU:** (pause) I'll settle the injured man, sir.

**DUKU:** (feign astonishment) settle?

**OWOSIMBO:** (confused) Ah! Not as in...what I mean, sir I will apologize and if he insists, give him a little something for treatment, sir.

**DUKU:** Hu! I see. That's different!

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**SFX:**

Theme music up and under...

**EPISODE 25**

**CHAIN OF COMMAND**

**Ihria Enakimio**

***CHARACTERS***

***ADAPU KADIYE***

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*UNCLE LADI*

*MAJOR AKUTO*

*LT.COL DUKU*

*OKADAMAN*

*SENTRY/OFFICER*

*VOICE (SGT.SANGO)*

**SFX:** Theme music up and under...

**SFX:** Theme music up and under street sounds, a motor cycle approaches...

**SENTRY:** (slightly off) Hey! Okada, stop! Where you think you deh go?

**SFX:** Okada halts.

**OKADAMAN:** Oga I beg come down before the officer draw bulala!

**LADI:** E no fit. Officer, we are going to see Major Kadiye

**SENTRY:** Oh! So therefore! Major tell you to ride Okada enter cantonment?

**OKADAMAN:** Oga, please come down. I no dey for Army trouble, I beg.

**LADI:** here, take money.

**SFX:** Motorcycle leaves.

**LADI:ss** (calming down) officer, please...I know you're saying the correct thing.  
But there is an emergency. I have to see my...officer, Please look  
behind me... you, I think that's him going over there. Please call him to identify  
me...

**SENTRY:** (slight pause) Okay! You run after him or do you expect me to start shouting  
my officer's name.

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**LADI:** Thank you very much. (going off calling) Hey! Officer! Officer! Kadiye! Kadiye!

**KADIYE:** Ah aah! Who am I seeing? Uncle Ladi. What are you doing here? Where's your luggage?

**LADI:** Luggage? Did I have time to pack luggage? A woman who is running from fire does not remember to hold her breast.

**KADIYE:** (laughing) Uncle Ladi! Women still fascinate you...

**LADI:** This is not a laughing matter, Adapu. Our home is on fire. The entire clan is on fire.

**KADIYE:** Our people still set bush fire? In this day and age?

**LADI:** We have been invaded, Adapu. Have you not heard?

**KADIYE:** What do you mean invaded?

**LADI:** Invaded! War! Strangers have taken over our land.

**KADIYE:** (Quietly) this is my house, lets go in and sit down. I don't seem to be hearing you properly.

**SFX:** Keys on door, door opens.

**KADIYE:** Come in come in and sit down. Do you need some water t drink?

**LADI:** Please. I ran for almost three hours across the bush path, through Ayuta's farm, then straight across express till I got to the junction where I took a lorry coming this way.

**SFX:** Bottle against glass. Pouring.

**LADI:** Thank you. Drinks.

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**KADIYE:** I hope no one has been killed.

**LADI:** Ah many people have been killed. You know Idocha...

**KADIYE:** Yes.

**LADI:** He is dead. They made him watch while they raped his wife...then they killed him.

**KADIYE:** ...what that old woman?

**LADI:** Remember Ochu?

**KADIYE:** The school teacher?

**LADI:** He is dead too. So is Yaou, Kachi and the elderly Cathecist, Samson. They dragged him out of his house and hanged him.

**KADIYE:** Who are these people?

**LADI:** We don't know, we are not sure.

**KADIYE:** They are not bandits?

**LADI:** They didn't steal. They killed, they maimed, they raped the women. They want us out of our land. We are ready to fight back, Adapu. You know...modern fight is no longer by hand or shrine. That is why we are

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lucky to have people like you who have the knowledge to mobilize...

**KADIYE:** You don't have to preach to me uncle Ladi. I am a soldier. When a man makes war with me, I don't shake his hands, I shoot him. They want war, they will have it, lets go and see my C.O.

**LADI:** Is he one of us?

**KADIYE:** No. But he is a goods soldier. He knows what a soldier should do when he is invaded. I didn't train all these years just to go to sleep when there is war in my backyard. I have always said it that if our people had not been marginalized all these years, all this nonsense would have stopped since. Come lets go.

**SFX:** Door shuts. Key rattle and turn in lock. A car approaches and stops, engine running.

**AKUTO:** (slightly off) A.K 40! (laughing) the way you are walking you like a man headed for battle. Where's your car?

**KADIYE:** (tersely) my car has gone for service. I want to see the C.O.

**AKUTO:** C.O. I don't think he has returned.

**KADIYE:** Did he leave the cantonment?

**AKUTO:** I saw him in town...on Airport road,...near the High Court about half an hour ago.

**KADIYE:** Gaddem it!

**AKUTO:** What seems to be the problem?

**KADIYE:** War, Major Otuh

**AKUTO:** War? (laughs) I thought so. Is it OPC, APC or Bakkassi?

**KADIYE:** I'm serious Major Otuh. This is my uncle... Ladi from my home town.

**AKUTO:** Good afternoon, sir,

**LADI:** (sombre) Good afternoon, sir.

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**KADIYE:** Oni town has been wiped out.

**AKUTO:** Ah aah: You are serious! Wiped out by whom?

**KADIYE:** Soldiers from across the border.

**AKUTO:** That is serious! Inside Nigerian territory! Which of the borders?

**LADI:** They came at the break of dawn. About two hundred of them.

**AKUTO:** You mean a whole battalion! And there is no signal from Hq? That is full invasion. If its true the C-in -C will react. We should get ready to kit up.

**KADIYE:** I am ready to kit up now!

**AKUTO:** (cautious) The situation is serious but not that very serious

**KADIYE:** Not that serious? They have wiped out our men, raped all the women.

**AKUTO:** How come it is not....

**SFX:** Rustle of papers.

**AKUTO:** Wait a minute; it's in the papers! "BORDER SKIRMISHES AT DAWN"

**KADIYE:** Border skirmishes, You see what the hostile press is doing now? "border skirmishes" and the story is in one tiny corner!

**AKUTO:** Even skirmish is serious enough! But according to this newspaper the invader, have gone...

**KADIYE:** ...and we wont wait for them to return because they will.

**AKUTO:** But they are gone.

**KADIYE:** We shall pursue.

**KADIYE:** We shall pursue them into their holes and roast them!

**AKUTO:** (not believing his ears) even across the border... if they are across the border?

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**KADIYE:** (vehemently) Why not? They crossed the border into my home, didn't they?

**AKUTO:** That would be declaring war on another country! Only the C-in-C can do that... with clearance from the national assembly.

**KADIYE:** (shocked) You mean, my roof is burning and I should wait for these bloody civilians to be speaking grammar, abusing themselves and impeaching each other till they kill all my people.

**AKUTO:** That's the way democracy works.

**KADIYE:** Well, that is their own.

**AKUTO:** It works in the rest of the world-why not here? Look, A.K. 40, hop into the car lets go to C.O Duku's office.

**KADIYE:** But you say he is not in...

**AKUTO:** Maybe he's back. We must follow the chain of command at all times. Matters like this one is too serious to take personally. Hop in.

**SFX:** BRIDGE and out.

**SFX:** Door opens and shuts.

**KADIYE:** Gaddem it.

**AKUTO:** Calm, down, A.K 40! There is no emergency. Just wait patiently for C.O to return. Then maybe he will give you a pass to go and access the situation.

**KADIYE:** Look, Otuh, I really can't for Lt.Col Duku. I'm the most senior officer in the cantonment right now and a soldier must use initiative (calls out) hey! Sergeant Sango!

**VOICE:** (OFF) Yes, sir.

**LADI:** That name sounds like one of us.

**KADIYE:** Sergeant, go round the cantonment, get our people. Tell them to kit up and assemble on parade ground. All of them. That's an order!

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**AKUTO:** (alarmed) Major Kadiye, you can't be serious!

**KADIYE:** Watch me, (going off) Uncle, follow me.

**AKUTO:** (to himself) Is he alright? This is ridiculous! (to AK) kadiye, I know how you feel. But don't do anything you will regret!

**KADIYE:** (OFF) I know what I will regret. I will regret it if I wait here while my people are getting killed.

**SFX:** Bring up street sounds

**SENTRY:** (slightly off) Hey you, you better not park that car there. Just keep moving. Ah! I think you are lucky, sir this is Lt. Col Duku coming, sir.

**AKUTO:** (relief) Good

**SFX:** A light van (Jeep) arrives and stops.

**SENTRY AND AKUTO:** Good afternoon sir.

**DUKU:** (slightly off) Major Akuto, how are you? I thought I saw you in town. What are you doing at the gate?

**AKUTO:** I was just leaving a message that I should be informed as soon as you return, sir.

**DUKU:** (slightly off) something urgent? I mean... well....

**AKUTO:** No problem, sir... I mean... well...

**DUKU:** (slightly off) Looks serious, come in! come!

**SFX:** Jeep door opens and shuts, vehicle drives off. Mix to two/three heavy trucks arrive and park noisily. Subdued murmurs of small crowd.

**KADIYE:** (slightly off), Company,... I want you all to remember that what we are about to go through is no more than all the drills you have ever had. This is what all the training you have ever had has been preparing you for. This anxiety you feel right now is the thrill of our profession. Something every true soldier must learn to cherish and it comes from love of the home land.

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**SFX:** Jeep arrives fast and comes to a screeching halt. Doors fly open and shut.

**DUKU:** (coming on terse) What is going on here Major?

**KADIYE:** (deflated) Good afternoon sir.

**DUKU:** What are these men doing here, Major? Who ordered these trucks out?

**KADIYE:** I did, sir, I had come to ask your permission, sir as the most senior officer around sir....

**DUKU:** What was the emergency that you could not wait for me? Where are taking these men And the vehicles?

**KADIYE:** Routine drill, sir that's what I told them.

**DUKU:** And these guns they are carrying, the magazines are empty I hope.

**KADIYE:** Sir,?

**DUKU:** Should I fire one round into your head to check?

**KADIYE:** You don't understand sir,

**DUKU:** (furious) No! You don't understand! You are at the gates of a court martial but you don't understand! And let me make myself abundantly clear at all of you officers and men here....I have a mind to place all of you under arrest. But I won't because you will all plead you are obeying orders. But there are good orders and there are bad orders. There are lawful orders and unlawful orders. The orders you are obeying right now are unlawful orders. But I know who to hold responsible for that, (pause) A good soldier must obey lawful orders. His duty is to serve his nation, and protect the fatherland. There are strict procedures in the execution of such duties. Only a disciplined army win wars. Discipline begin with following prescribed procedures. Our country is back on track with the rest of the world and no soldier under my command will contribute to derailing that! Is that clear?

**CHORUS:** Yes sir.

**DUKU:** is that abundantly clear?

**CHORUS:** Yes,, sir!!

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**DUKU:** ~~Only the C-in-C may declare war! Not you, not me, not even the Chief of Staff, not even the Minister of Defence! Most certainly not Major Adapu Kadiye. (slight pause) who may declare war?~~

**CHORUS:** Only the Commander in chief, sir!

**DUKU:** Even he must get the blessing of the National Assembly.

**CHORUS:** Even the commander in chief must get the blessing of the National Assembly, sir!!

**DUKU:** That is the only acceptable chain of command. You either shape in or ship out! Major Kadiye!

**KADIYE:** Yes sir.

**DUKU:** You will record the names of all the officers and men in this company and







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**EPISODE 26**

**THE HERO**

**Ihria Enakimio**

***CHARACTERS***

***2<sup>ND</sup> LT. TEMBI ORKIN***

***UNCLE JUTEH***

***MAMA***

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**SFX:** Theme music . Crossfade to car arrives and parks car door opens and shuts.

**UNCLE:** He is here, sister. Your son is here.

**MAMA:** In crutches!!

**UNCLE:** He's beginning to walk straight. I'm sure in a few days he'll throw those sticks away. (Calling) The officer! Second Lieutenant Tembi Orkin! My brother should have lived to see you!

**ORKIN:** (OFF-ON/laughing) Uncle Juteh! By God's grace you're alive to see me.

**UNCLE:** The uniform fits you but those crutches!

**ORKIN:** In another two weeks I won't be needing them.

**UNCLE:** I said it!

**ORKIN:** Good evening, mama.

**MAMA:** (Somber)Welcome.

**ORKIN:** You sound dull but you look well.

**MAMA:** Well, enough! God continues to spare my life. Hopefully he will give me joy along with it.

**UNCLE:** He has given you joy, sister. Things could have been worse. People have lost whole families in car accidents. We lost a son. One son is alive, Tembi is alive!

**MAMA:** .... In the army! In a world full of troubles and wars!

**ORKIN:** I have survived so far. Where's your faith, Mama? You and papa brought us up to have implicit faith in God!

**MAMA:** I have faith ... I have faith! But I'm not getting any younger. I didn't dream that I would put my own son in the ground. I had faith that my two sons will be with me when I finally close my eyes. But your brother has left me.

**JUTEH:** It's okay, sister. Tuko has been buried. Let the dead rest. Let's pray for his soul. God knows best!

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**ORKIN:** Excuse me, Uncle Juteh  
**UNCLE:** (pause) Yes?

**ORKIN:** Uncle Juteh you have to help me persuade Mama to leave this place. As long as she continues to stay in Tuko's house, so long will memories cling. Tuko died two months ago but it's like yesterday to Mama.

**UNCLE:** You want me to persuade her to ...

**ORKIN:** ... come to my place. My quarters are ...

**UNCLE:** .... Don't even suggest it! Do you know what your mother would like? Do you want to hear what her heart truly desires?

**ORKIN:** Tell me.

**UNCLE:** (angry) Are you a child? You want to pretend to me that you can't hear what she's saying.

**ORKIN:** What's she saying, Uncle?

**UNCLE:** (hesitates) Doesn't she sound to you like someone who has lost everything?

**ORKIN:** I won't be surprised if she believes that. She always held on to Tuko as if her life depended on him.

**UNCLE:** Which is to say you believe she loved Tuko more than yourself?

**ORKIN:** Well?

**UNCLE:** If I didn't know better I'd say you're fool. But may be it's that injection I they give you soldiers in the barracks..!

**ORKIN:** (laughs wryly) What injection! You believe that Uncle?

**UNCLE:** What can I think when you show such irrational devotion to a job so fraught with danger!

**ORKIN:** You mean the army! Is that what all this is about?

**UNCLE:** Listen, Tembi ... (calls out) Sister! ... get them to prepare something for us. Your son and I have some man-to-man talk!

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**MAMA:** (OFF) They will send your drinks to the balcony while we get food ready.

**UNCLE:** Thank you!

**ORKIN:** I'm a soldier, Uncle Juteh!

**UNCLE:** ... We know!

**ORKIN:** ... My father was still alive when I signed on ...

**UNCLE:** ... That was why you were able to sign on. Your mother would never have allowed it.

**ORKIN:** So? But I'm there now. I'm now a second Lieutenant. In the new dispensation and with the opportunities that are springing up, the sky is the limit for me.

**UNCLE:** ... In the army!

**ORKIN:** In the Army!

**UNCLE:** Good! All that is very positive, but is that all there is to life.

**ORKIN:** The army is my life

**UNCLE:** (Vehemently) How can the army be your life?

**MAMA:** (OFF) What is the matter – o?

**UNCLE:** Nothing, sister! (Almost in a whisper) how can the army be your life? You have given more than one life already. You have only just returned from a thankless join in Liberia... fighting a war that didn't concern us.

**ORKIN:** I know nothing else. I joined the service immediately I graduated from the University. I have done nothing else. All my officers trust and respect me. They know I am good at the job.

**UNCLE:** But the glorious days of the Army are over, son. If it was a couple of years ago ... before democracy took the front seat we would have said "may be there is hope that someday he could be a State Governor or something" What is left now? "Left-right, left, left!" Is that how your want to live your life?

**ORKIN:** (laughs)

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**UNCLE:** (Confused) what is funny?

**ORKIN:** You are contradicting yourself, Uncle Jute!

**UNCLE:** (Confused) How?

**ORKIN:** You said mama was always opposed to my joining the army. Didn't she consider the hope then that I could become a state governor and become rich?

**UNCLE:** Don't try and be clever about this...

**ORKIN:** The truth is, uncle Jute, I didn't joint the army in the hope for a political appointment! The chance of getting a political appointment has always been slim ... like the proverbial passing through the eye of a needle. How many soldiers are in the army Uncle Jute? How many political posts could there be? Enough to go around? N-o-o!

**UNCLE:** (Matter-of-fact) Sister wants you out of the Army!

**ORKIN:** Did she tell you that? I'm sure she didn't say that!

**UNCLE:** What d' you want to do Tuko's business, - and the property he left behind?

**ORKIN:** I'm not a businessman. I'm a soldier. I know nothing about business.

**UNCLE:** Well, it's yours now. You should consider yourself lucky ...

**ORKIN:** ... That my brother is dead?

**UNCLE:** That you are alive. You were both in the same vehicle that claimed his life.

**ORKIN:** Well, thank God I survived...

**UNCLE:** Your brother didn't. But what he left behind should not vanish with him.  
(Pause) Tuko was not married. He has no child. You mother has no other child left. Just you. It is right and proper that you take over where brother left off. Is that to much to ask?

**ORKIN:** (sighs). Do I have to leave the Army?

**UNCLE:** How else can you do it?

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**ORKIN:** (sighs) I will think about it.

**UNCLE:** Think about it, ... Quickly ... Because that is all your mother is thinking about. She had only two of you. Now she feels childless because her only surviving son is in a business where he can lose his life any minute.

**ORKIN:** How can I explain to mama how wrong she is?

**UNCLE:** You can't! Don't even try.

**ORKIN:** The army is not about dying, Uncle Juteh . It is about living. Imagine where we would be if we had no army. Any small over ambitious nation would just walk in here and enslave us. We would have lost Bakassi by now. Our kith and kin enslaved by strangers! Besides, anyone can die, Uncle Juteh. Tuko didn't join the army. But he's gone.

**UNCLE:** (pause) you said you'll think about quitting...

**ORKIN:** I said I'd think about what you said ...

**UNCLE:** What's the difference? Think about it, Tembi. But don't hope to convince your mother with that argument. It won't work.

**SFX:** BRIDGE fade out

**UNCLE:** Sister, you have to hurry up. You know these soldiers, they worship time... 0063 hrs, 004 hrs ... They will soon be here.

**MAMA:** I am hurrying. I'm hurrying ...!

**UNCLE:** (Under his breathe) Women and Time! They always have one problem or the other with time. Its either they have too much or they can't find it at all! (Laughs to himself) I shouldn't he saying such things. Not even to myself. This born-again status is not easy to maintain o!

**MAMA:** (Calmly) who is born-again

**UNCLE:** ah aah! Who is born again

**MAMA:** You said you're born again.

**UNCLE:** (curious) Is that all you heard?

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**MAMA:** (suddenly aggressive) Ah! Leave me! I'm not a soldier. If they don't know how to treat a woman then they can go back to their barracks.

**UNCLE:** Today is Tembi's day, sister! The whole country ... no, the whole world will be watching our son receiving honours for bravery in battle.

**MAMA:** (uncertain) unu hu ... Well, ... Tembi was always brave. Just like his father.

**UNCLE:** That was why you married him

**MAMA:** Bravely I love ... yes! Stubbornness is another thing. Tembi is stubborn.

**UNCLE:** So was his father. So are you! You defied the family and married him, didn't you?

**MAMA:** (pause) Do I look fine?

**UNCLE:** Very fine, sister, Where are you ear rings? You must look prim and proper on you son's day of glory! You are the mother of a hero!

**MAMA:** (Quietly) yes. Pause) Too many things are happening to me. It's as if my life was coming to an end.

**UNCLE:** Stop talking about death, sister.. You've discussed nothing else since Tuko left.

**MAMA:** I'm hardly out of grieving and suddenly I'm being showered with joy ... Pride!

**UNCLE:** You look warm and healthy today. You're happy.

**MAMA:** What mother wouldn't be?

**UNCLE:** Your son will stand before the world! The President of the nation will declare him a hero and decorate him with the medal of bravery and a grateful nation will applaud.

**MAMA:** My son!

**UNCLE:** He has washed his hands well. Today he shall shake hands with kings.

**SFX:** Sound of siren approaching

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**UNCLE:** They're here. I told you, you won't be ready when they arrive.

**MAMA:** Where's the powder, for goodness sake

**UNCLE:** Do you need it?

**MAMA:** You know I have an oily face.

**UNCLE:** You're happy. Let you face shine.

**MAMA:** (laughs) Bush boy. The shine of oil is different from the shine of freshness ... ah! Here it is.

**SFX:** Vehicle drives in, siren blaring and stops. (OFF)

**UNCLE:** It's them.

**MAMA:** Is Tembi with them?

**UNCLE:** No.

**MAMA:** Why didn't he come with them?

**UNCLE:** How can he come with them when he is the centre of the entire ceremony? Come. Let's go and meet them outside.

**SFX:** BRIDGE. Fade out.

**STD:** Door opens and shuts.

**UNCLE:** (Sighs/coming ON) It's been a long day, hasn't it?

**MAMA:** I'm exhausted. I will sleep well tonight.

**UNCLE:** Good for you!

**MAMA:** Tembi! Such a secretive boy! He didn't tell us he was going to be promoted.

**UNCLE:** May be he didn't know. They're very tight lipped in the military. They keep matters close to heart.

**MAMA:** I'm not sure I truly recognised how like father Tembi looks ...

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**UNCLE:** Come on, Sister! You always said he looked like ...

**MAMA:** ... N-o-o! Not this intensely.

**UNCLE:** His father never wore an army uniform.

**MAMA:** ... inspite of that! He stood so tall and clean. I wonder what the President was telling him. There was a smile playing on his face. But he didn't laugh only the President was laughing.

**UNCLE:** It is respect, Sister. A sign of respect. It might have been rude to laugh in front of his Commander-in-Chief.

**SFX:** A car pulls up, parks and witches off (OFF)

**MAMA:** (going off) We have a guest .. I think. (off) it's him. (OFF-ON) The hero has returned home. Tembi is here.

**UNCLE:** Sister, can I ask you a question?

**MAMA:** (Suspicious) Yes?

**UNCLE:** (Slightly OFF) Will you go and stay with him now.

**MAMA:** (resolutely) In the barracks? Nope!

**STD:** Door opens

**ORKIN:** a Ah! Mama!

**MAMA:** My son.

**UNCLE:** (OFF-ON) Tembi! We are so proud of you. You looked so powerful. We are all proud of you.

**ORKIN:** Thank you. I'm proud that you were both able to come.

**UNCLE:** (urgently – conspiratorial) Tembi, come! Come I want to ask you something privately ... sorry, sister.

**MAMA:** (Slightly OFF) Oh – ooh! Gossip as much as you like!

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**UNCLE:** Tembi, please don't ask her to come with you just yet. That will still take some time anyway.

**ORKIN:** Thanks. But that's okay. I'm going away for sometime.

**UNCLE:** (happily) They're sending you overseas!

**ORKIN:** No. To Bakassi.

**UNCLE:** (Shocked) But ... there is a crisis in ...!

**SFX:** Them music and under ...

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