

BEHIND THE GLASS

Written by

The Mansu

*Based on Akin Akingbogun's Too Impaired to Deal
(Dreams from Yesterday)*

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Sc.1.1 INT. SS1 CLASSROOM - LAGELU GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL. DAY Sc.1.1

TOKUNBO (22), in full 'NYSC' regalia, sits alone, marking examination scripts. Earphones in his ears, he hums to 'The Mansu's Pretty Smile'. His phone chimes. A text from Jered.

001 JERED (TEXT)

Yo Toks! Free pepper soup for
corpers at Mama Sade's. Boys are
outside. See you later?

He scoffs and shakes his head.

002 TOKUNBO

(mumbling)

These guys.

Phone in his hand, an alarm reads BUMETANIDE 3:00 PM. A crease forms on his forehead. He silences the alarm, retrieves a prescription bottle from his pocket, pops a pill, and swallows it.

He resumes marking the scripts. His phone rings. This time it is a call from his fiancée, IRE (with a heart shape emoji). A quick smile forms across his face as a female's voice pierces through.

003 IRE (V.O.)

Hey lover.

INTERCUT WITH:

Sc.1.2 INT. FASHION HOUSE - DAY. Sc.1.2

IRE (21), casually dressed, sits on a small couch, waiting. A small bottle of juice and some biscuits rest on the table beside her. Different colourful dresses are displayed around the shop. Her engagement ring shines brightly as she holds a bridal magazine. She smiles as she hears Tokunbo's voice.

004 TOKUNBO (V.O.)

Hi beautiful.

005 IRE

It's 3 o'clock.

BACK TO:

Sc.1.3 INT. SS1 CLASSROOM. DAY Sc.1.3

Tokunbo chuckles as he glances at his watch. It's 3.05pm.

006 TOKUNBO

You missed that by a few minutes
babe.

(CONTINUED)

007 IRE (V.O.)
Did i now? Guess I'm not needed
then.

Tokunbo laughs.

008 TOKUNBO
Oh stop it. Are you at your
tailor's yet?

009 IRE (V.O.)
Err, my stylist...yes, i am.

010 TOKUNBO
Oh okay...is it ready ?

011 IRE (V.O.)
Kind of...just a few adjustments.

BACK TO:

Sc.1.4 INT. FASHION HOUSE. DAY

Sc.1.4

Ire flips through the magazine, glancing at different bridal
dress styles.

012 TOKUNBO (V.O.)
Oh okay...how are you?

013 IRE
I'm alright... Officially counting
down the days until you're home.

014 TOKUNBO (V.O.)
Awwn... or you come join me here in
Lagelu. We can set up a nice
country home you know.

015 IRE
Lage what? Olatokunbo please. I'm
not rolling that way,before you
start having ideas.

Tokunbo chuckles.

Ire sets the magazine aside and walks to the rack of
dresses, examining each dress with a smile.

016 IRE (CONT'D)
Anyway, I'm stuck here with
parents' drama and it's draining
me.

017 TOKUNBO (V.O.)
(scoffs)
What is it this time?

(CONTINUED)

018 IRE

It's same old same. Everybody wants something...my mum wants this, your dad wants that...babe, we are going to have a circus and I hate it.

019 TOKUNBO (V.O.)

You know what? It's really 'THEIR' party, so let's just relax and...and have fun with it.

020 IRE

Errr, It's OUR wedding! And it's once in a lifetime for us.

Ire rolls her eyes and makes faces at the phone. She returns to the table and nibbles on some biscuits.

021 TOKUNBO (V.O.)

I hear you, but what is more important to me is to come home to MRS. AJAYI.

022 IRE

Awww...Mrs. GREGGS-AJAYI please.

They both laugh.

023 IRE (CONT'D)

Any plans for the weekend?

BACK TO:

Sc.1.5 INT. SS1 CLASSROOM. DAY

Sc.1.5

Tokunbo pushes aside a stack of graded papers, pulling another stack closer.

024 TOKUNBO

Err, nothing really. Complete marking these scripts and maybe...i don't know

(shrugging)

Hang out with the boys later. You know, nothing serious.

He marks a few more papers, glancing occasionally at his phone.

025 IRE (V.O.)

(sarcastic)

The boys...

026 TOKUNBO

Come on Ire.

027 IRE (V.O.)

I didn't say anything

(CONTINUED)

028 TOKUNBO

This place is a really dead town
and those boys, they make it
bearable.

BACK TO:

Sc.1.6 INT. FASHION HOUSE. DAY

Sc.1.6

The stylist walks in with a dress, and Ire leans in to greet
her. Still holding the phone, they share a hug.

029 IRE

Don't get me wrong babe, i like it
for you. It's just surprising you
know. For someone who barely went
out in Uni. Was it once a year?

030 TOKUNBO (V.O.)

It's not the same...but, I think
you'll really like them when you
meet them. They're cool, they'll
grow on you.

031 IRE

Hmm hmmm...Anyway, I have to go now

032 TOKUNBO (V.O.)

And where are you rushing to, Mrs.
Greggs-Ajayi?

She laughs.

033 IRE

For one, we do need to officially
seal that name.

034 TOKUNBO (O.S.)

Fair.

Ire mouths "sorry" to the stylist who straightens a dress on
a hanger.

035 IRE

(urgent)

And my dress is here.

036 TOKUNBO (V.O.)

Hmm... Can't wait to see you in it.

037 IRE

Okay, gotta go now. Bye. I love
you.

038 TOKUNBO (V.O.)

Me too.

(CONTINUED)

039 IRE
Hmm hmmm...nope

040 TOKUNBO (V.O.)
(laughing)
I love you too babe.

041 IRE
Better, go have fun love. Talk to
you later.

BACK TO:

Sc.1.7 INT. SS1 CLASSROOM. DAY

Sc.1.7

TOKUNBO rolls his eyes.

He shakes his head, chuckling as he drops the phone.

042 TOKUNBO
I'm a finished man. Guess i'm a
lucky one too.

FLASHBACK TO:

Sc.2 FLASHBACK - INT. AJAYI'S DINING ROOM. NIGHT

Sc.2

The air in the room is bubbly. The dining table is filled with exotic drinks and platters of food. It is a feast. Mr. AJAYI (36), his wife MRS. AJAYI (32), their two sons ADEMIDE (10) and YOUNG TOKUNBO (7) and a family friend UNCLE KOLA (40) and WIFE (35) all sit round the dining table. Plates and serving spoons are exchanging hands amidst the chatter as 'Ebenezer Obey's Count Your Blessings' gently fills the room.

Uncle Kola picks up a bottle - PASTIS on its label. He raises it over the table.

He turns towards Mr. Ajayi as he uncorks the bottle. He is loud.

043 UNCLE KOLA
Tonight, our joy knows no bounds,
as we gather to celebrate a legal
luminary, the youngest silk in the
history of our country. Barrister
David Babatunde Ajayi...S - A - N!

The room is filled with scattered claps.

044 UNCLE KOLA (CONT'D)
Before we begin, let's cleanse our
palates.

The bottle pops.

(CONTINUED)

045 UNCLE KOLA (CONT'D)

My friend, you are one very lucky man i must say. To see your dream come to life as you have envisioned it and to share this auspicious moment with your loved ones. Congratulations.

He pours a small portion of the drink in his cup and passes the bottle to Mr. Ajayi.

046 MR. AJAYI

None of these would be possible without the support of every single person on this table. Thank you.

Mr. Ajayi pours himself a glass and passes to Mrs. Ajayi.

The bottle is passed round till all the adults get a serving of the drink.

As soon as the bottle lands the table, Young Tokunbo quickly reaches for it. Mr. Ajayi whose mouth is full manages to mumble.

047 MR. AJAYI (CONT'D)

Young man, you can't have that!

Young Tokunbo's hands retreat. He looks at his mum. She ignores him.

048 MRS. AJAYI

(to Ademide)

Ademide, help your brother with some lemonade.

Ademide pours some lemonade into a small glass cup in front of Young Tokunbo. Young Tokunbo frowns.

A butler (M) enters the room with practised grace, a bottle of champagne cradled in one hand and a towel draped over his other arm. His posture is impeccable, every movement precise.

Behind him, MARIA (20), the family maid, follows closely, balancing a large plate with perfectly roasted chicken in her hands.

Maria kneels halfway as she drops the plate of chicken by Mrs. Ajayi.

049 MRS. AJAYI (CONT'D)

(to Maria)

Maria lo mu obe wa - 'Maria, go bring a knife'.

Maria exits the dining room.

(CONTINUED)

The butler begins his round, expertly pouring champagne into the adults' champagne glasses, the liquid bubbling up with a joyous fizz.

Young Tokunbo's gaze is fixed on Mr. Kola and his wife as they receive their glasses with excitement. They share a joyous clink and their faces lighten up. Young Tokunbo waits.

The butler fills Mr and Mrs. Ajayi's cups too.

The butler walks by Young Tokunbo who raises his cup, almost in the butler's face. The butler collects the glass and pours him more lemonade instead. Young Tokunbo shoves the cup aside, some of the drink spill.

Maria returns with the knife. She drops it by the plate of chicken.

050 MRS. AJAYI (CONT'D)
(to Young Tokunbo)
Olatokunbo!

051 YOUNG TOKUNBO
But why does everyone else get what they want and i don't? The lemon drink is horrible!

052 MR. AJAYI
(stern)
Maybe you'll prefer an early night then.

Uncle Kola butts in.

053 UNCLE KOLA
(laughing)
Easy...easy everyone. The young lad is only learning to eat with his elders.

He turns towards Young Tokunbo.

054 UNCLE KOLA (CONT'D)
Don't worry boy, be patient. There will come a time when you will have so much to drink, and so little desire to indulge. Besides, a decade isn't that long a time, you'll be eighteen before you know it.

055 MR. AJAYI
More like a dozen you mean, he still has a few months to seven.

056 UNCLE KOLA
Comme ci, comme ça. Mr. lawyer.

(CONTINUED)

Uncle Kola busts into a laughter. Everyone joins in, except Young Tokunbo.

Maria and the Butler exit the dining room.

057 UNCLE KOLA (CONT'D)

But the years go by so quickly. Was it not just yesterday we were all scrambling around for his delivery?

Reminiscing, a wide smile forms across Mrs. Ajayi's face.

058 MRS. AJAYI

You're right Uncle Kola.
Ah, he showed us pepper.
(turning towards Young Tokunbo)
But he's a sweet boy too.

Mrs. Ajayi runs her hand over Young Tokunbo's head, and then Ademide. Ademide smiles but Young Tokunbo shrugs instead.

Uncle Kola raises his champagne glass, pointing it towards Ademide and Young Tokunbo.

059 UNCLE KOLA

Alright then, cheers to these young ones who will remind us of our youth when we may have long forgotten wonderful nights like this!

The room erupts with cheers as everyone except Young Tokunbo clinks their glasses in the air.

MOMENTS LATER - -

Different bottles of alcohol, some half empty, others completely drained, are scattered around plates and cutlery on the dining table. Young Tokunbo watches the adults as they continue to refill their glasses, chatting and laughing away. As Uncle Kola empties the content of a Champagne bottle, Mr. Ajayi pops Red wine open. With a lingering frown on his face, Young Tokunbo storms out of the room.

END FLASHBACK

Sc.3 **EXT. STREET NEAR THE BEER PARLOUR. DAY**

Sc.3

The sun casts a golden glow on the untarred road as it sets. Tokunbo walks slowly along the dusty road. MAMA BODE, a lady in her mid 30s stops in her tracks as she sees Tokunbo. They exchange greetings.

060 MAMA BODE

E kaa san Oluko. In mo pe eyin na
manwa si odo wa ni iyayin.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MAMA BODE (CONT'D)
- (Translation: Good afternoon
Teacher. I didn't realize you also
come around here.)

061 TOKUNBO
Moni kin jade ni - (Translation: I
just thought to take a walk.)

062 MAMA BODE
Abi oh, ni gba te ti pari savisi
bayi. Ede ku orire ijade na o -
(Translation: That's right. Since
you are done with your service.
Congratulations on your passing
out).

063 TOKUNBO
Eshe - (Translation: Thank you.)

064 MAMA BODE
In so fun Bode pe mo ri Oluko re.
Ke si mo gbagbe wa ni Lagelu oh -
(Translation: I'll tell Bode i saw
his teacher. And don't forget us in
Lagelu Village)

065 TOKUNBO
(laughing)
Ko buru. E bami ki - (Translation:
Not a problem, my regards to him.)

They exchange brief, warm smiles before she continues on her way.

As she leaves, Tokunbo's smile fades. He slows his pace and comes to a stop. He looks back over his shoulder and then looks towards the beer parlour.

066 TOKUNBO (CONT'D)
Do i really want to be out though?

Tokunbo rolls his eyes and then suddenly blows raspberries. His phone chimes.

INSERT - PHONE SCREEN

A text from IRE (heart shape emoji) appears on the screen -

067 IRE (TEXT)
LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'RE BACK HOME
DARLING. ENJOY YOURSELF. I LOVE
YOU.

Tokunbo's fingers type out a message.

(CONTINUED)

068 TOKUNBO (TEXT)
SURE BABE. SPEAK WITH YOU SOON.
XOXO

He pauses, then deletes 'XOXO' and types -

069 TOKUNBO (TEXT) (CONT'D)
I LOVE YOU MORE.

Tokunbo smiles, satisfied, he hits send before slipping the phone back in his pocket.

He shrugs as he continues walking towards the beer parlour.

Sc.4 EXT. BEER PARLOUR. DAY

Sc.4

The makeshift benches are filled with grown men, chattering loudly, as 'Ebenezer Obey's Alowo ma jaiye' is playing from the small speaker in the corner of the bar. SADE (14), a little busty for her slim body, is picking used bowls from across different tables.

DANJUMA's (25) dark skin stands out in the crowd, contrasting with his crisp white t-shirt he has on. He is on one of the benches, a table in front of him has an NYSC cap next to a bottle. He drinks beer from a glass cup and wipes his mouth with his other hand.

On the other side of the bench is JERED (22), exhaling rings of smoke from the vape in between his fingers.

Danjuma pours himself a foamy glassful as he tilts the glass cup to fill it to the brim and rolls the empty glass bottle on its side, next to the five other bottles under the bench.

070 DANJUMA
(shaking his head)
Tokunbo? That one resemble person
wey dey gree for anybody? With him
coconut head.

071 JERED
Strong one oh.
(grinning)
But e no go bad to see am loosen up
sometime sha.

Sade walks in with two bowls of peppersoup and drops them on the table between Danjuma and Jered. She does not smile.

072 DANJUMA
You're always frowning. Ah ah.

073 JERED
(chuckling)
Na you dey look Uche face bro.

(CONTINUED)

074 SADE
(saucy)
Oga Abeg oh.

She eyes them both, then mumbles as she walks away.

075 SADE (CONT'D)
Won mo fe jo pa mi - (Translation:
They talk too much).

Tokunbo walks in and spots Danjuma and Jered, drinking and chatting inaudibly. He approaches them.

076 JERED
Mr. Toks! You made it.

077 TOKUNBO
Yeah.

078 DANJUMA
Oko Iyawo!

079 TOKUNBO
Mallam D. How now?

The trio exchange handshakes as Tokunbo sits.

080 DANJUMA
Who be Mallam? You no dey hear
word.

Tokunbo chuckles.

'Nasboi's Small money' fills the bar. Jered is excited as he sings along.

081 JERED
Bro...
(singing along)
When i get small money me sef go
jaiye oh...

Danjuma quickly gulps the beer in his mouth as he excitedly joins Jered's singing.

082 DANJUMA
(excited)
When i get small money me sef go
dorime oh...

Jered joyfully pours himself another glass. Danjuma rushes the drink in his cup and reaches for the half bottle in front of Jered. He gulps down the content really fast and lets out a loud burp.

He then throws a couple fists in the air in tune with the music. They all burst out into a loud laughter.

(CONTINUED)

Tokunbo watches as Danjuma rolls an empty bottle under the bench - 7 bottles, they clink on each other.

083 TOKUNBO
You guys are crazy!

Sade returns to their table. She smiles at Tokunbo familiarly.

084 SADE
(blushing)
Good afternoon sir.

085 TOKUNBO
Afternoon Sade. I will have the usual please.

086 DANJUMA
Haba bro. The usual bawo?

087 SADE
(to Tokunbo, smiling)
Something else? Peppersoup is free today.

088 TOKUNBO
Naah, it's okay, thank you.
Just the usual.

088r DANJUMA
(mimicking Sade) Shomtin else?

Sade rolls her eyes at Danjuma.

089 DANJUMA
You wan dey eye man wey dey quarter to marry. Small girl like you. My friend go and bring something...

Sade hisses as she walks away.

090 TOKUNBO
Guy, take it easy now.

091 DANJUMA
Abeggii, person wey suppose dey write Junior WAEC.

092 JERED
Abi Common Entrance.

Danjuma and Jered share a high five and bust into a laughter.

093 TOKUNBO
I honestly don't know how I manage with you guys.

094 DANJUMA
You dey complain?

(CONTINUED)

095 TOKUNBO
Ah, i fit?

They all laugh.

Sade returns with a tray, a steaming bowl of pepper soup, lemon in a glass, an extra on the tray and a bottled water. She carefully places the tray in front of Tokunbo, smiles sheepishly at him then leaves. Danjuma scoffs as she walks away.

Tokunbo digs into his pepper soup.

096 DANJUMA
(to Tokunbo)
Eh eh, how far preparations na?

097 TOKUNBO
Other than the usual wedding prep drama, it's going good.
(sips pepper soup)
The two families want a jamboree.
So...

098 JERED
Oh boy, that's how it is oh. You almost have no say in these things. It's their wedding you know.

099 TOKUNBO
Yeah man. Exactly what i told wifey.

100 JERED
Wifey!

Jered jokingly taps Tokunbo on the shoulder.

101 JERED (CONT'D)
Oh boy. Our friend is becoming a man oh.

102 TOKUNBO
(laughing)
You can say that again.

103 DANJUMA
I love it! But before then...

He stretches his head.

104 DANJUMA (CONT'D)
Wey that girl?

He spots Sade, waving three fingers in the air, he shouts an order.

(CONTINUED)

105 DANJUMA (CONT'D)
Bring errr...bring three extra with
one goat meat. We die here today.

106 TOKUNBO
(laughing)
You and who?
(sips on lemon water)
You no dey tire? You just be
drinking like you're drinking
Sapele water. And you be
northerner.

DANJUMA gulps from the glass in front of him.

107 DANJUMA
(to Tokunbo)
Ehn ehn, abeegii... Na you no want
enjoy life bro.

108 JERED
Life is for the living my brother.

109 TOKUNBO
Really. Well, I'm perfectly fine
with my pepper soup and lemon
water, please.

110 JERED
Stop it my friend. Which one be
lemon water? Today you booze oh.

111 DANJUMA
Yeah man, today we celebrate. We're
done with this shit man. We're
going back home.

112 TOKUNBO
(sigh)
Man, do i miss home.

Sade returns with three bottles of beer. Danjuma and Jered
fill their cups.

Danjuma takes one of the bottles and gently bangs it in
front of Tokunbo.

113 DANJUMA
Guy, this one is for you.

Danjuma raises his glass.

114 DANJUMA (CONT'D)
To a successful year of serving our
fatherland
(turning towards Tokunbo)
and to this gentleman leaving us
behind in bachelorhood...

(CONTINUED)

Jered raises his glass too. Watching them both, Tokunbo pushes the bottle back to Danjuma.

115 TOKUNBO
I can't man.

Danjuma and Jered's glasses are still in the air. Tokunbo raises his glass of lemon water and they all clink and drink.

Danjuma pushes the bottle back to Tokunbo.

116 DANJUMA
Guy, finish your concoction and drink better drink. No stories tonight my friend.

A tipsy Jered is excited.

117 JERED
Just one drink man. What's the worst that could happen?

FLASHBACK TO:

Sc.5 FLASHBACK - EXT./INT. AJAYI'S KITCHEN. NIGHT

Sc.5

Little Tokunbo, barefoot and in his pyjamas. With curious eyes, he stands at the kitchen door. The house is silent. He gently presses the door handle. The door creaks open.

Little Tokunbo tiptoes in, he glances over his shoulder. He is alone. The soft hum of the fridge draws him closer.

He reaches the fridge and slowly opens the door. The light spills out, making him squint. He scans the fridge - leftovers, tupperwares, jars, and then his eyes lock unto -

First, THE PASTIS BOTTLE.

Then, the row of alcoholic drinks, most of them half full.

Little Tokunbo's face lights up. He reaches for the Pastis bottle, pauses for a split second, then unscrews the cap. Another glance at the open door. He hears nothing, still alone.

He takes a small sip, his face contorts with the strong taste. He pauses, then takes another sip. He scans the bottle, screws the cap and returns it to the fridge.

Then he reaches for a second bottle - RED WINE. He opens the cap and sips. A smile forms across his face. He takes a longer sip, faster, before he returns it to the fridge.

Then he reaches for a third bottle - CHAMPAGNE, then a fourth, a fifth, a sixth and a seventh.

(CONTINUED)

Sc.5 Behind the Glass
CONTINUED:

16.
Sc.5

With the last bottle in one hand, he wipes his mouth with the back of the other hand, his legs wobble. The bottle rolls off his loose grip, its remaining content spill. He stumbles back, closing the fridge door with his shoulder as he drops to the floor.

The kitchen plunges back into darkness, silent, except for the faint hum of the fridge.

BACK TO SCENE:

Sc.6 EXT. BEER PARLOUR. SUNDOWN

Sc.6

Tokunbo still hasn't touched the bottle in front of him. Jered picks it and pours into a lone empty glass cup.

118 JERED
You really have never had alcohol?
As in, none at all??

119 TOKUNBO
I mean...it's not like that. It's
just...

Danjuma butts in before Tokunbo finishes his statement.

120 DANJUMA
Eh eh, you see...him don dey
confess small small.

He pushes the now full, lone glass closer to Tokunbo.

121 DANJUMA (CONT'D)
Oga drink something... kamar
babban mutum (Translation: Do it
like a big man).

Jered laughs. Danjuma joins in. The boys are loud, inebriated.

Just then, a pot-bellied man, MR. ABBEY (30s) in 'Yoruba lace and cap' exits the beer parlour. He sees - -

Tokunbo, Danjuma and Jered, and stops by their table. The young men exchange handshakes.

122 JERED
(to Mr. Abbey)
Oga Abbey. You don dey commot when
night never start? Be like your
body don dey old oh.

123 MR. ABBEY
(slurring)
No be like that oh. I just say make
i come step down with small pepper
soup. We don dey shayo since
morning.

(CONTINUED)

124 DANJUMA
Since morning? How?

125 MR. ABBEY
(giggles, scratches head)
Na so oh...one of my guy been wan
marry, so we say make we run am
something before...before our guy
cross.

126 JERED
(excited)
Ah ah. Oga Abbey, International
Painter! Na you sponsor am abi?

Jered gives Mr. Abbey a quick handshake.

127 MR. ABBEY
No oh, no be only me oh....we just
dey...the shayo plentyyyy well
well.
(laughs)
Our guy wey no dey drink normal
normal sef, omo...na him come
dey...dey do like fish wey dey
inside water.
(laughing)
We we be like JJC for him side.

They all laugh. Tokunbo also.

128 DANJUMA
Ah ah, correct. Correct.

Mr. Abbey scratches his head as he pulls his sagging
trousers.

129 MR. ABBEY
Eye wan dey tear me, make i go
sleep jeje.

130 DANJUMA
No wahala now.

131 JERED
Oga Abbey.

Danjuma and Jered laugh as a drunken Mr. Abbey staggers
away.

Mr. Abbey misses a step and trips unto an empty bench in
front of him. Tokunbo rushes off his seat concerned, but Mr.
Abbey quickly picks himself up.

132 DANJUMA
(to Mr. Abbey)
No fall oh...
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DANJUMA (CONT'D)
(laughing)
Kai...wannan mabuga ne. Drunkard.

Tokunbo sits, uneasy.

FLASH BACK TO:

Sc.7 FLASHBACK - INT. AJAYI'S KITCHEN. DAY

Sc.7

Maria enters the kitchen, humming 'Ayefele's Beru bamonu ro ni, adupe' softly to herself. She freezes mid-step, her eyes widening in horror.

133 MARIA
Tokunbo!

Young Tokunbo lies stretched on the floor, his hands flared out to the sides. His eyes are slightly open, rolled back. Foamy drool trickles from the corner of his mouth. The empty bottle lies beside him, its spilled content drying up on the floor. Maria shakes little Tokunbo but he doesn't respond.

134 MARIA (CONT'D)
(screaming)
Yeeeh! Mummy! Daddy!!
(shaking Little Tokunbo)
Tokunbo! Aaaah mo daran - I'm in trouble.

Sc.8 FLACHBACK - INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE. DAY

Sc.8

TWO MONTHS LATER.

The office is quiet, except for the ticking clock on the wall. Mr and Mrs. Ajayi sit together. Mrs. Ajayi is nervously tapping her foot, while Mr. Ajayi's head is buried in his palms. The door opens, a gentleman in his 50s, DR. DAIRO (M) walks in, a clipboard in his hand. DR. ODUFA (F), a petite doctor in her 30s follows behind.

135 MR. AJAYI
Dr. Dairo.

136 DR. DAIRO
Sorry to keep you waiting Mr and Mrs. Ajayi.

He points to Dr. Odufa.

137 DR. DAIRO (CONT'D)
This is Dr. Odufa, she's an in-house specialist.

Dr. Odufa greets the parents with a nod and a warm smile.

Dr. Dairo takes his sit opposite the parents.

(CONTINUED)

138 MRS. AJAYI
How is he?

139 DR. DAIRO
He is stabilised now and he can go
back home today...
(scanning their faces)
But I am afraid i have some very
serious news.

The parents lean in, anxious. Dr. Dairo turns to Dr. Odufa.
Mr and Mrs. Ajayi turn towards her too.

140 DR. DAIRO (CONT'D)
(to Dr. Odufa)
Doctor.

141 DR. ODUFA
Please, you can call me Mabel. I am
the nephrologist assigned to your
son's case and after careful
observations, i am afraid to tell
you, that your son has
unfortunately developed a Chronic
Kidney Disease, which often leads
to these repeated faintings that
he's experienced in the past two
months.

Mrs. Ajayi gasps, her eyes welling up with tears. Mr. Ajayi
squeezes her hand as he adjusts in his seat.

142 MR. AJAYI
(voice shaking)
What...what does this mean?

143 DR. ODUFA
Sadly, the amount of alcohol he
consumed is significant enough to
affect how his kidneys function, so
right now, they are not working as
they should...

Mrs. Ajayi breaks down, sobbing quietly. Mr. Ajayi puts his
arm around his wife, his eyes moist with unshed tears.

144 DR. ODUFA
...but there are treatments to slow
down the progression and manage his
symptoms. With the right
medications, a review of his diet
and regular check-ups, he will be
fine.

Mr. Ajayi heaves a deep sigh. Dr. Dairo leans in, closer.

(CONTINUED)

145 DR. DAIRO

I know this is incredibly hard to hear but we will do everything we can to give him the best care possible.

Mr. Ajayi snuffles while Mrs. Ajayi wipes her tears, regaining composure.

146 DR. ODUFA

I must say...it is VERY crucial to keep him away from any form of alcohol and other substances that may affect him any further.

147 DR. DAIRO

(to Dr. Odufa)

Thank you doc.

Mr. Ajayi continuously nods his head as he shakes hands with both Dr. Odufa and Dr. Dairo.

BACK TO SCENE:

Sc.9 EXT. BEER PARLOUR. SUNDOWN

Sc.9

The bar is nearly filled to capacity.

Three corps members, all male in their full 'NYSC regalia' walk in, each with a young girl, not older than fourteen, by their sides.

Danjuma spots them. Tokunbo and Jered steal a glance too.

148 DANJUMA

(irritated)

You know...I can never understand grown men following young girls. Wallahi, it's...it's dirty behaviour.

149 JERED

I swear. Underage girls oh, but na dem dey form steeze pass.

150 TOKUNBO

I mean, to each his own...but, i agree it's totally irresponsible.

151 DANJUMA

Bruh, it is a crime! Plus we're government boys sort of. That should count for something.

152 TOKUNBO

I get that. I guess...

Danjuma does not let Tokunbo finish his statement.

(CONTINUED)

153 DANJUMA

I don't get it. Na just one year
guy, plus if anything, grown women
plenty out there...like come on.

154 JERED

Dude, it's just men taking
advantage of women as always.
Nothing new here.

155 DANJUMA

Abeeg. Make dem just scrap this
service thing once and for all.
It's done its time... and enough
damage too honestly speaking.

156 TOKUNBO

Well, i believe it stays true to
its mission. Otherwise, i wouldn't
have met any of you guys.

157 JERED

True, true...plus, na one year of
free money oh guy... Enough to eat
well, chill with my guys, make I
dey alright you know.

158 TOKUNBO

And booze too.

159 JERED

(laughing)

You sabi, you sabi...but e be like
say Danjuma don dey need another
bottle. Him don dey sober.

They all laugh.

Tokunbo stretches his arms, swinging them sideways over his
head. He lets out a gentle groan.

160 TOKUNBO

Guys, looks like i'm calling it a
night here. It's been a long day.

161 DANJUMA

Haba, calm down jor. Where you dey
rush go?

Just then, Sade walks in with a plate of peppered meat. She
drops it in front of Tokunbo. He is surprised.

162 SADE

Maami say i should give you sir.

163 TOKUNBO

Oh really? I was just about to
leave.

(CONTINUED)

Danjuma picks a piece form the plate.

164 TOKUNBO (CONT'D)
(to Sade)
Okay, tell her thank you.

Sade smiles sheepishly as she leaves their table.

Jered stands, gulps half of the glass in front of Tokunbo then he staggers and pulls at his belt.

165 JERED
(slurringly)
You see my friend, the universe
speaks and we listen. Abeg make I
go offload. No finish the meat oh.
I dey come.

He exits.

Danjuma refills the glass and passes it to Tokunbo.

166 DANJUMA
Yo, you still never touch your
drink oh.

Tokunbo pushes it away, again, some of the beer spilling out.

167 TOKUNBO
(kissing his teeth)
Guy, you have to free this thing at
some point you know.

168 DANJUMA
(laughing)
Coconut head.

Danjuma takes a sip. Jered returns. He looks at Tokunbo mischievously, bopping his head and rolling his eyes.

169 TOKUNBO
(laughing)
Crazy guy. What?

170 DANJUMA
(to Jered)
This one don high oh. Wetin do you?

Jered leans into Danjuma and whispers in his ears.

Tokunbo does not hear what they say because Jered's lips are covered.

Danjuma and Jered exchange a mischievous laughter. They shake hands. Tokunbo doesn't see - -

Jered is now standing behind him.

(CONTINUED)

Sc.9 Behind the Glass
CONTINUED:

23.
Sc.9

Suddenly, Tokunbo feels his two arms locked behind him. He tries to turn to see who it is, but Jered's grip is surprisingly firm. Arms tightly locked, Jered pulls Tokunbo up, facing Danjuma who now has a glass full of beer in his hand. The two friends burst out laughing.

Tokunbo's face is mixed with fear and anger. Danjuma raises the glass to the sky.

FLASHBACK TO:

Sc.10 FLASHBACK - INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE. DAY

Sc.10

Tokunbo sits on a hospital bed, buttoning his shirt. Dr. Odufa stands next to him, making notes on a clipboard. She hands over a bottle of BUMETANIDE to Tokunbo. Tokunbo scans through the bottle.

171 DR. ODUFA

I can clear you for your service year but you need to remember, under no circumstance can you indulge in substances and alcohol.

172 TOKUNBO

I'm good Doc. It's been what now? 15 years. Doc, you should trust me by now. One year's got nothing on me doc.

173 DR. ODUFA

This is very important, Tokunbo. One simple mistake can change everything.

BACK TO SCENE:

Sc.11 EXT. BEER PARLOUR. SUNDOWN

Sc.11

Tokunbo makes a feeble attempt to wriggle himself out of Jered's firm grip.

The crowd at the bar cheers. Some start to chant, others use the benches as drums.

174 CROWD

Mama no dey oh, Papa no dey oh...

175 TOKUNBO

(struggling)

Stop this nonsense guys!

Danjuma moves closer.

176 CROWD

If you want to killy me, killy me make i die.

(CONTINUED)

177 TOKUNBO

STOP!

His voice is louder than before. It makes Danjuma laugh. Danjuma forces Tokunbo's tight lips open with the glass cup. He forces the drink down his throat.

The crowd continues to cheer.

178 CROWD

I will never follow you to that station.

Sade watches in shock. She attempts to reach their table, but some customers are now in her way, excited as they watch the shit show.

Tokunbo's attempt to speak only drowns the drink in a rush.

His eyes widen in panic as the alcohol floods his system.

179 JERED

(laughing out loud.)
MORE. MORE.

180 TOKUNBO

Guys, stop! I can't...

He chokes and tries to pull away, but they hold him in place.

Danjuma and Jered are caught up in the excitement that they don't notice his distress.

Danjuma reaches for the bottle and empties the remnant down Tokunbo's throat.

He scans the other bottles on the table, but they are now all empty. Jered lets Tokunbo go.

As their arms unlock, Tokunbo stumbles back. He dips his fingers into his mouth, forcing a retch. He coughs out as hard as he can, clutching his stomach, his face contorts in pain.

181 DANJUMA

(laughing)
See...that wasn't so bad.

Jered pats Tokunbo on the back.

182 JERED

Bad guy!

Staggering, Tokunbo reaches for his pocket - BUMETANIDE. He swallows as many pills as possible, but most of the pills spill to the floor. He reaches for his phone and scrolls, but his vision blurs.

(CONTINUED)

Sade hurries towards him. She stops in her tracks when - -

Suddenly, Tokunbo slumps face forward into the bottles, then the benches and then the floor. It is a terrible fall.

The beer parlour falls silent as everyone turns to see what happened.

Danjuma and Jered's faces go from amusement to horror as they see Tokunbo lying motionless.

Jered rushes to his side, shaking him. Danjuma joins in.

183 JERED (CONT'D)
(panicking)
Toks. Toks, look at me man.
Tokunbo!

TOKUNBO doesn't respond. His eyes have rolled far into their sockets.

Jered turns to Danjuma.

184 JERED (CONT'D)
Guy. What...what did you give him?

185 DANJUMA
(confused, stuttering)
What the fu...? It was just one...
The beer. It was one bottle man.

Panic spreads across the bar, and everyone starts to flee. Danjuma and Jered look around frantically, but no one stays to help. Sade runs too.

Danjuma picks the bottle of Bumetanide. He scans through.

186 DANJUMA (CONT'D)
Shit Shit Shit!

THE CAMERA ZOOMS OUT, SHOWING THE DESERTED BAR WITH HORRIFIED AND HELPLESS DANJUMA AND JERED STANDING OVER TOKUNBO'S LIFELESS BODY, HIS PHONE IN HAND.

AN UNREAD MESSAGE FROM IRE POPS UP.

187 IRE (TEXT)
Till the wheels fall off my love
XOXO.

BLACK OUT.

THE END.