

## "LIFE IN MY SHOE"

"It's not the oath that makes us believe the man, but the man the oath." -aeschylus.

This is a story about three childhood friends namely Benjamin(Benji), Jill and Susan(sweety) who go separate ways in life but are still connected through their blood oath that they took as children to keep their friendship forever despite them having to separate as young as they were as Benjamin's parents had to move to the city. The oath led to Jill contracting HIV from Susan who got it from breastfeeding from her infected mother. Benjamin was never infected as he faked his oath as he was afraid of needles so he used fake blood to throw his friends off.

Susan grew up to be a beautiful curvy woman despite being infected whereas Benjamin grew up to become a handsome young man who loved partying and girls and lived somehow a lavish lifestyle. Jill on the other hand turned out to be a drug addict and a thief after undergoing a difficult childhood growth in the hands of his uncle and mysterious death of his then girlfriend.

Susan and Benjamin get to meet years later through a mutual friend and this is where their love interest towards one another is played out despite Susan knowing that she is HIV positive. Jill is later introduced to the picture as he unknowingly mugs Benjamin only to find out who he was later on after going through his wallet. The guilt kills him and he decides to face Benjamin who was with Susan on a date who wanted to reveal her status to him. The two get into a bad confrontation which brings the three back together in one picture and the story plays out from there.

### EPISODE 1; YOUNG AND NAÏVE/TRANSFUSION THROUGH BLOOD

Scene 1; The show starts off by showing Jill, Benja and Sweety as kids in a room whereby they make an oath to being friends forever by injecting their fingers with the same needle and pressing the fingers together to symbolise one.

Scene 2; We get to see Jill and Sweety waving goodbye to Benja at the bus stop and Jill and Sweety walking back to their homes together.

Scene 3; Sweety starts feeling a little bit sick and her mum gets her, her usual medicine to take. Her mum then walks back to her room where she can be heard arguing with Sweety's father about telling the truth to Sweety about her condition where her father refuses. Sweety can be seen eves dropping but not understanding what the argument is really about as she is still young.

Scene 4; There is a transition of Sweety in classroom from a child to a young girl and she is called to answer a question in front of the class. On her way, she accidentally drops the pills she is used to taking for her "condition" and when the teacher picks it up for her she realises that they are ARVS and asks her if she knows what the med are for and realises that Sweety doesn't.

SCENE 5; The teacher goes to Sweety's home to try convincing the parents to tell Sweety about her condition of being born with HIV, she is chased away by the father but at this point we can also see that Sweety eves dropping

The scene ends with Sweety crying after realising she is HIV positive

## EPISODE 2; ONE NIGHT STAAAND

Scene 1; Years later, Sweety is in her last year of high school and is at home with her friend Melisa and are getting ready to attend a party that is to take place that night in celebration of their last term in high school. We can see sweety going through Melisa's Instagram photos where he sees a photo of Benja with Melisa and is shocked at how Melisa knows him. It just so happens they were classmates and with eager to see him after so many years, sweety forces Melisa to invite him to the party so that he can surprise him

Scene 2; Sweety and Melisa arrive at the party which is fully packed and as they sit down, Benja approaches Melisa to say hi to her where he is surprised to see Sweety next to her and is so shocked and they decide to sit down and catch up a little but Benja at this point is so mesmerized by all the beautiful girls in the party and isn't paying attention to her and decides to leave sweety with his number and goes to try his luck with one of the girls he had spotted.

The episode ends with everyone enjoying the night and we can see Benja leaving with one of the girls from the party.

## EPISODE 3;

Scene 1; Sweety and Melisa wake up with a hangover from the party and pillow talk about how the party is and at this point Sweety decides to text Benja after realising that he never saw him again at the party

Scene 2; Benja is woken up by a text message from Sweety asking him where he went to the previous night as he did not see him the rest of the night at the party. Benja then ignores the text and returns the phone to the drawer next to the used condom and turns around to the other side of the bed where we can see Kate who is the girl she left with from the party the previous night lying next to her. Benja tries waking her up by kissing her and tries to have sex with her again. Kate at this point decides to tell Benja that she likes him and doesn't want to have meaningless sex with him and indirectly requests Benja to go take an HIV test with her. Benja refuses as for him he knows he has been using a condom so he is safe from contracting HIV.

Scene 3; this takes place during the day whereby Benja is hanging out with friends talking about the party that took place and bragging about the girls they had sex with and trying to hit on ladies that pass by next to them.

Scene 4; Benja is back home and decides to text Sweety back and lies to her that he had to leave early. We can also see Benja trying to revive his friendship with Sweety as he used to have a crush on her when they were kids.

The scene ends by Benja texting Sweety of how he used to be jealous that she liked Jill more than him.

## Episode 4;

Scene 1; The scene starts at a high school debate forum whereby Benjamin and his friends are mingling with girls from other school and trying to vibe them before the debate starts. All of a

sudden, we can see a beautiful girl who happens to be Sweetie pass by and all guys stare at her physique and beauty. She goes straight to the front of the hall and officially starts the debate. Looking shocked, Benjamin stares at Sweetie the whole time as she can't believe that she is also the captain of the regional debate teams.

Scene 2; The debate ends and Benja gets time to talk to Sweetie and tries to flirt with her. Sweetie notices this and tries to brush it off as she knows that if Benja knew she was HIV positive she wouldn't hit on her. Though with this information at hand, Sweetie still feels it's right to tell Benja about her condition but doesn't know how to bring it up.

This scene ends when Sweetie is about to tell Benja about her condition but the teacher shows up and it's time for Benja to go back to school.

#### EPISODE 5;

Scene 1; It starts with a school girl in uniform (Kate) throwing up in the bathroom and this scene fades off

Scene 2; It shows students in class receiving a text as the teacher teaches about a party that is to happen the next day at the local club. Everyone stares at each other and confirms that they will show up and as usual Benja agrees to sneaking his dad's car and bringing it to the party.

Scene 3; in this scene, we can see Benja in their house planning on how to steal his father's car keys of which he finally succeeds and sneaks the car off

Scene 4; everyone is partying and having fun in the party, drinking, smoking and making out. We can see Benja making out with a random girl who he then sneaks her out to the parking lot where he wants to have sex with her in her father's car. They get inside the car and when they are about to have sex Benja realises that he is out of condoms and decides to rush for them at the nearby chemist. On his way, he notices his friend making out with another girl in the next car and decides to ask him for a packet of condom and he is brushed off so he decides to just head to the chemist. On his way, he is approached by 3 guys who surround him and steal from him everything and also beat him up mercilessly.

Scene 5; As the thugs split what they have stolen from him, we can see one of them looking at the ID in the wallet keenly and takes it out and puts it in his pocket and this is where the scene ends

#### EPISODE 6;

Scene 1. The scene starts in a filthy environment with a group of guys smoking weed and one of them taking out Benji's wallet that they had robbed of him the previous night and we get to reveal him as Jill who had turned into a life of crime and unknowingly robbed Benji his long-time friend. He then sees Benji's library card and decides to go stalk around Benji at the school just to be sure that indeed that was Benji's wallet.

Scene 2; Jill is standing outside Benji's school where he spots him on his way home and decides to follow him. Benji is now alert after the incident the previous night and notices that

someone is following him so he picks up his pace. Jill is right on his tail but at a distance till Benji reaches home and that's where he turns back.

Scene 3; JILL remanences on what to do next now that he found Benji and if he should reveal himself to him. He is not proud of how his life turned out and somehow jealous of how Benji is leaving a good life. He now remembers how he ended up in the streets. And we are shown of how his uncle who he used to stay with in upcountry would mistreat him and give him chores that led to him stop going to school as he would look after the homestay animals. We can also see that he used to have a girlfriend who mysteriously died and this is what triggered his drug addiction and was chased away by his uncle and ended up in the city in a life of crime

#### EPISODE 7; REVELATION

Scene 1; It shows that Benji are now done with high school and Benji asks Sweety out and Sweety decides that she will use this opportunity to reveal his HIV status to Benji before he makes a move on her.

Scene 2; we can see Benji and Sweety at a restaurant eating and when sweety is about to reveal her secret to Benji, Jill shows up out of nowhere and gives Benji his wallet then walks off. Not realising who it was, Benji chases him down to an early where Jill reveals himself to him. Filled with anger, Benji punches him and they get into a fight before Sweety who was right behind Benji shows up and tries to stop the fight after realising that Benji is fighting Jill their long-lost friend. Unable to stop the fight, Jill shouts that she is HIV positive

The scene ends by Benji shocked by Sweety's revelation storms off and leaves Jill and Sweety in the alley.

#### EPISODE 8; STIGMATIZATION/BREASTFEEDING

Scene 1; Rumours through Benjamin spreads that Sweety is HIV positive. We can see Sweety walking on the streets and everyone looking at her weirdly with judgemental eyes.as she is walking, she sees Jill from a distance and decides to follow him which leads her to Jill's hide out in an abandoned house where she finds him smoking weed. They then have a set down where Sweety shares her story of how she has lived with HIV all her life, she wasn't born with it but got it through breast feeding from her mother who was a carrier. And Jill also opens up to her about his story and how he got there. Sweety promises to get help to Jill who doesn't seem to open to the idea

#### EPISODE 9; KNOW YOURSELF (TESTING)

Scene 1; Jill decides to secretly take Sweety's advice and go testing where he finds out that he is HIV Positive. He gets mad and storms out of the hospital in denial. Sweety who notices him and tries running after him but Jill threatens him not to follow him.

Scene 2; we see Benja in this scene also deciding to research on HIV/aids and he gets a better understanding on the disease and how it's not a death sentence. he also learns that he can

still date Sweety if he is HIV negative and still live which leads him to also go to testing where luckily, he finds himself HIV negative.

#### Episode 10; MYTHS

Scene 1; it starts with Benja getting mad at one of his friends who were talking falsely of how Sweety might have gotten infected and gets into a fight with him as he now realises that he has feelings for her and runs to the volunteer centre where Sweety volunteers to apologise to her. While in the waiting room, he spots Kate. He approaches her to ask her why she is there. Kate reveals to her that she is pregnant and it might be his baby and at that moment Sweety walks in and Benji is left in a dilemma not knowing what to do as he had come to ask Sweety out but with this new info it might ruin his plans. The scene ends.

#### Episode 11 PREP AND PEP/INFORMATION

Scene1; starts with a continuation of episode 10 where by Kate reveals to Sweety that she is pregnant. Sweety decides to take her in for counselling and testing and benja is left walking worriedly on the hospital walls as Sweety advises Kate on what to do. Kate also decides to take a HIV test whereby she finds out that she is positive. with this information, the baby can't be benja as he is negative. Sweety advises Kate on steps to take and shows her how with that information, the baby can be delivered safely without contracting HIV as Kate wanted to abort.

Scene 2; benja decides to ask sweety out who says yes after taking benja through pep and prep talk on how it can help them in their new-found relationship and prevent benja from contracting it.

Scene3; here we see Sweety going to Jill's hideout and leaving ARV pills for him at the door step then leaving, a habit that she has been doing after realising Jill was HIV positive too. Jill on the other hand has been ignoring the pills and throwing them away each time

#### EPISODE 12 DEATH

Scene 1; Benji and Sweety wake up to bad news of Jill's death after his body was discovered in the abandoned house. It's a sad full day for everyone.

Scene 2; everyone has gathered at the send off of Jill who on his last days had decided to ask everyone for forgiveness for his bad deeds throughout the year. As everyone is gathered at the funeral, a narration of everyone's life future can be heard in the background thus ending the series.

#### Episode 13

Bloopers and real-life stories from people relating to the series.