

**Learning by Ear – HIV****"An Angel in Everyone" Episode 04****Text: Romie Singh****Redaktion; Maja Dreyer**

CHARACTERS: Angela; Annie; Doctor ; MaTilly (36) Annie; Djamila;  
Jet (29)

**INTRO**

Welcome back to Learning By Ear and the next episode in our new 10 – part radio drama series, "An Angel in Everyone", that traces the lives of four teenagers facing all sorts of pressure in a world of HIV and AIDS.

In today's episode: Angela who is 17, is already seven months pregnant by a boy she met only once at a party. The clinic has asked her to come back for the HIV test result. Her school friend Annie is ready to accompany her but Angela decides to go alone. After leaving the doctor however she is more confused than ever before.

Who can she turn to?

Find out as we listen to Episode Four of "An Angel in Everyone."

**Scene One. Int. Kitchen****SFX: KNOCK ON OPEN DOOR. MUSIC COMING FROM WITHIN**

**1. ANGELA:** Hello? Annie!

**2. ANNIE:** **(off mic)** Angela! Come in! I'm nearly ready.  
**(Approaching on mic.)** Let me turn the music down!

**SFX MUSIC TURNED DOWN**

**3. ANNIE:** You look tired girlfriend! Look! You don't have to go at all if you're not ready to hear the results of the test. No one can make you, you know. It's your choice.

**4. ANGELA:** Yes – I know. But I have decided I WILL go – it's just I need to go alone.

**5. ANNIE:** But I want to come with you Angela.

**6. ANGELA:** No listen- I've thought about it. I could wait hours and I'm OK. I..I really need to do some quiet thinking. I'd rather do this on my own Annie.

**7. ANNIE:** Well if you're sure. You won't do anything silly, will you?

**8. ANGELA:** No. I promise. I'm just scared about telling my ma.

- 9. ANNIE:** But you don't have to. The HIV test and the result are absolutely confidential, you know. You don't have to tell your mother anything.
- 10. ANGELA:** I don't? Are you sure?
- 11. ANNIE:** Absolutely. I've been to the clinic for other things – you know – contraception. Not your ma, not the school – no one can make you tell.
- 12. ANGELA:** Wow! That's a relief. Thanks Annie.
- 13. ANNIE:** So? Do you know what to expect?
- 14. ANGELA:** Well, yes and no. He gave me a form which I signed. Oh, and a pamphlet.
- 15. ANNIE:** And that was it? But you're supposed to get proper counseling – you know – to explain what the test MEANS.
- 16. ANGELA:** Well the pamphlet says being HIV infected doesn't mean you are going to die. But that's why I need to know my result.
- 17. ANNIE:** I'll come and give you support if you want.
- 18. ANGELA:** **(Kiss)** No, but thanks for offering. You're an angel!
- 19. ANNIE:** No YOU are the angel! I'm not –just look at my life!

**20. ANGELA:** There's an angel in everyone Annie! Even you! I'll come by later and tell you how it was.

**21. ANNIE:** I'll be here. I promise!

**MUSIC BRIDGE**

**Scene Two: Hospital Atmo****SFX: SCRATCHING OF PENCIL ON PAPER**

1. **ANGELA:** (Reading aloud slowly, as she writes) What is this virus in me? What does it do? What about my baby?
2. **DOCTOR:** Next please.(**BEAT**) Selebi?
3. **ANGELA:** Yes that's me.
- 4.**DOCTOR:** Angela Selebi?
5. **ANGELA:** Yes.
6. **DOCTOR:** Here is your result. You're positive.
7. **ANGELA:** Eh? Positive? Is that good?
8. **DOCTOR:** You think positive is good? It's not good.
9. **ANGELA:** Then it's negative.
10. **DOCTOR:** No young lady.
11. **ANGELA:** I read the pamphlet – it talked about positive living.
12. **DOCTOR:** (**Sigh**) Positive means you have the virus.
13. **ANGELA:** Yes but what does that mean?
14. **DOCTOR:** You didn't read the pamphlet.
15. **ANGELA:** I did and I have some questions.

**16. DOCTOR:**

Then go home and read it again. You got yourself in this mess through your own foolish behavior. You are HIV positive. That's it. **(Off mic)** Next please.

**MUSIC BRIDGE**

**Scene Three: Ext. Township atmo, light traffic**

**1. ANGELA:** (Knocking on door) Hello? Ma Tilley?

**2. MaTILLY:** Angela! You're looking for Annie- well she's not here. I don't know where she is – she said something about doing an auntie's laundry. Sorry! I must go inside. **(Getting excited)** The soapie's about to start. My favourite. Benny's just lost his mother in a car accident. And they're looking for his sister to tell her. Hope you find Annie. Tell her to come home soon.

**SFX DOOR SHUTS TV LOUD**

**SFX FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL, CELL PHONE**

**DIALLING/RING**

**3. ANGELA:** (on her cell) Djamila is that you? (PAUSE) There's no one at my aunts' place and Annie's nowhere to be found. I don't want to be alone. (PAUSE) Is it alright if I come by? (PAUSE) Thanks – I'll be there in 5 minutes.

**4. MUSIC BRIDGE**

**Scene Four: Int. Living room. Radio on**

**5. ANNIE:** But Jet. I said I'd be there for Angie when she gets back from the clinic. I can do the ironing later. I want to go now.

**6. JET:** **(angry)** Stop telling me what you want Annie. I'm sick of hearing what you want. I give you money- you do what I say for God's sake.

**7. ANNIE:** I'm sorry, but I promised her.

**8. JET:** **(calmer)** You promised you'd clean the house and finish the ironing – and those shirts over there. I'll see you when I get back. And that's my best shirt. So just you be careful.

**SFX:** **Door open/close. Car revving outside and leaving.**

**Annie starts humming a happy song. Gets louder as if she's dancing too.**

**SFX:** **Car getting closer. Stops. Door opens suddenly.**

**9. JET:** Annie!



**10. ANNIE:** (stops mid sentence) Jet! What are you doing here? Oh my God – the iron!

**11. JET:** I came back for my phone- and what do I find? I catch you singing and burning my – my – best shirt. I told you to be careful. You useless girl!

**SFX:** **PUNCHES HER IN THE ARM**

**12. ANNIE:** Ouch – Jet! My arm! That hurt! That really hurt.  
**(Bursts out crying) FADE**

**MUSIC FADE UNDER FOLLOWING SCENE. CROSS FADE CUE 1**

**Scene Five Int. Bedroom**

1. **ANGELA:** (softly. Sniffing) Thank you for letting me come round and cry on your shoulder, Djamilia. I don't know what happened to Annie.
2. **DJAMILA:** It's OK. Here. Have another tissue.
3. **ANGELA:** (sniffing) Thanks. (BEAT) You've got such a lovely room and so many photos on your wall. That one – Is that your mum and dad?
4. **DJAMILA:** Yes- on their wedding day! Aren't they beautiful!
5. **ANGELA:** They are. I don't have a clue who my father was. My mom never got married.
6. **DJAMILA:** That must have been hard. But Angela – what's going to happen now? You're pregnant and your mum's making you go and live with someone you hardly know? I can't believe what I'm hearing,
7. **ANGELA:** (BEAT:Whispering throughout) Djamilia – there's something else- you've got to swear not to tell anyone – no body- do you hear?

- 8. DJAMILA:** (Whispering) I swear on the holy Prophet Mohammed, Peace be upon Him.
- 9. ANGELA:** Last week when I found out I was pregnant the doctor took a blood test. Today I went back for the result. He said I'm HIV positive.
- 10. DJAMILA:** Oh my Goodness. Angela. Oh my God! Oh No!
- 11. ANGELA:** Do you know what it means when they say you can live with it? I'm so confused.
- 12. DJAMILA:** But you went to the clinic. Didn't the doctor explain?
- 13. ANGELA:** No he didn't – that's the point. Am I sick? I don't feel sick. Must I take medication or what?
- 14. DJAMILA:** Angela- I'm not the right person to ask. We never talk about anything like this in our family – it's absolutely taboo. If they knew you were pregnant they'd probably throw **me** out too.

**SFX:** **PAPER**

- 15. ANGELA:** (Reading) Listen to this: "*HIV is a virus like any other. But it's different from the other viruses we catch.*" That's what this pamphlet says. But I don't get it – and what's the difference between HIV and

AIDS. Am I going to die? **(getting loud)** And ant-  
ee-ret-ro – whatever – what **is** that? Here YOU read  
it.

**16. DJAMILA:** Shhhhh. Keep your voice down

**17. ANGELA:** **(whispering)** Tell me if YOU can understand it

**SFX:** PAPER

**18. DJAMILA:** **(Reading softly)** Doctors still disagree about when  
is the best time to begin HIV treatment, also called  
antiretroviral therapy. Some doctors prefer starting  
treatment if your CD4 count is above 350. Others  
only start treatment when the level falls to 250. You  
and your doctor will need to determine this together.

**19. ANGELA:** **(loud)** Oh stop please! Whoever wrote that thinks  
doctors are nice helpful people. But the doctor at  
Matula clinic is NOT going to help me - ever.

**20. DJAMILA:** Shhh. Look. There's a helpline number here. Maybe  
you should try calling them. 0800 0123 22 [Adapt for  
country]. So many people have HIV – there must be  
someone out there who can help.

## END OF EPISODE FOUR

### OUTRO.

"An Angel in Everyone" was written by Romie Singh.  
And that's all from Learning By Ear for today.

Please join us for Episode Five when Djamila's Uncle Imrat gets too close,  
and Angela faces a new and uncertain future.

Remember, if you want to hear the programme again or tell friends about it,  
please visit our website at

[www.dw-world.de/lbe](http://www.dw-world.de/lbe)

Goodbye.