

Learning by Ear – HIV**“An Angel in Everyone” Episode 09****Text: Romie Singh****Redaktion: Maja Dreyer**

CHARACTERS: Annie, Jet, Uncle Imrat, Djamila, Tom, Boys

INTRO

Welcome again to Learning By Ear, and our new 10 –part radio drama series, “An Angel in Everyone”, which traces the lives of four teenagers and how they cope with the problems they face in their relationships.

Angela is now living with Pinto and is expecting his baby soon. After finding out that she is HIV-positive, she has received proper counseling and knows more about PMTCT – Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission – and how best to prevent transmission of HIV to her baby at birth.

Meanwhile her friend Annie has had a rude awakening and realizes she is taking too many risks. Breaking off with her sugar daddy is not so easy and she is about to see his worst side.

Djamila too is in trouble. But why does she bite her Uncle?

Find out as we listen to Episode Nine of “An Angel in Everyone.”

Scene One. Interior.

SFX: DISTANT THUNDER OUTSIDE

1. ANNIE: Jet. Can you put the paper down and talk?

SFX: TURNING NEWSPAPER PAGES

2. JET: **(Distracted)** Hmmm?

3. ANNIE: **(Softly)** Listen! And please don't get mad. But I don't want to come round any more.

SFX: CLOSING NEWSPAPER/ BANGING IT ON

TABLE.

4. JET: What? What are you talking, Annie?

5. ANNIE: **(louder)** I want to stop coming round.

6. JET: Oh! This is new! What brought this on, eh?

7. ANNIE: I saw you at the clinic.

8. JET: Uh? What are you talking about?

9. ANNIE: I was going to get my contraceptive injection. I saw you. I thought you only went to the traditional healer. What happened?

10. JET: **(Sounding threatening)** Are you interrogating me now or what?

11. ANNIE: No Jet – why can't we talk like normal people?

12. JET: Hmm. Well- nothing happened OK? His herbs weren't working. So he referred me to the clinic.

SFX: CRASH OF THUNDER ABOVE

13. ANNIE: And what did the doctor say?

14. JET: Look shut up Annie right? You're not my mother.

15. ANNIE: OK. If we can't talk about **you**, then let's talk about **me**. I feel I'm playing Russian roulette with my life.

16. JET: What are you talking about?

17. ANNIE: Well, sexually transmitted infections, to take an example. We're not using condoms. I could have got your STI.

18. JET: My STI? How come it's MY STI? You probably gave it to me?

19. ANNIE: How come I haven't got it then?

20. JET: Well, nor have I. I'm fine now.

21. ANNIE: And your blood test?

22. JET: Look Annie- I'm getting sick of this conversation.

23. ANNIE: You must have had one when the nurse checked you for sexually transmitted infections.

- 24. JET:** Well it's none of your business but if you must know - I refused the HIV test result. They won't tell you if you say you don't want it.
- 25. ANNIE:** You refused to know your status? That's just what I'm talking about. Your decisions affect me. Angela found out **(Stops sharply)** um.. found out she was um - pregnant.
- 26. JET:** Look- the nurse gave me a full pack of condoms. OK? If that's all you're worried about.
- 27. ANNIE:** All? We're talking about HIV here.
- 28. JET:** No! **I'm** not. I have an STI. Once I've finished the course I'm back to doing it skin on skin. Got a problem with that?
- 29. ANNIE:** Yes I have. What if *[your test was positive?]*
- 30. JET:** **(Interrupting)** What if what? Look Annie- this HIV nonsense is just there to scare us. We're all going to die one day. I pay your school fees. You owe me.
- 31. ANNIE:** Jet you're a lot older than me. I can't go on risking my life. You've definitely had other partners.

- 32. JET:** (Shouting) And you Miss Sweet Innocence?
- 33. ANNIE:** That's what I'm saying. Me too! We should both get tested and use condoms.
- 34. JET:** Are you worried about getting pregnant or what? You are on contraception. (Getting intimate) Annie! For goodness sake! Trust me.
- 35. ANNIE:** It says clearly on the packet, contraception does not protect you from HIV and AIDS. Condoms do!
- 36. JET:** Will you stop talking about HIV and AIDS as I've got it. If you want condoms then go somewhere else. I'm a real man.
- 37. ANNIE:** Real men care about their partner. If you don't want to then I – I must stop this relationship.

DRAMATIC MUSIC UNDER VOICES BUILDING UP.

- 38. JET:** (Getting angry) Oh well- go to hell then. Manage on your own. You're shop-soiled Annie. Go ahead. Get out. Go! Here's your bag..your books...OUT!

SFX: OPENS DOOR. LOUD STORM

- 39. ANNIE:** Ow. Stop pushing me- stop it. You're hurting Jet.

40. JET: (Hitting her/ breathing heavily) Out – out- you ungrateful girl.

SFX: HEAVY RAIN. THUNDER.

SFX: SOUND OF GRAVEL AS SHE FALLS.

SFX: SLAMS DOOR.

41. ANNIE: (Softly) Oooh – my leg! Ouuuw.

MUSIC FADE

Scene Two Interior. Night ambience

SFX: SAME STORM RAGING

1. UNCLE IMRAT: (Heavy breathing) Djamila – don't always pull away. I'm your uncle. Come – it will be our little secret.

2. DJAMILA: (Struggling) Uncle Imrat ! Please get off.

3. UNCLE IMRAT GRUNTING AND BREATHING HEAVILY.

4. DJAMILA: (Screaming) Get off you animal!

5. UNCLE IMRAT: How dare you speak to me like that! Have you no respect for what a man wants?

6. DJAMILA: What about respecting me? Get off!

7. IMRAT: (Getting intimate) Come on Djamilia. I just want a cuddle! What's wrong with that? **Getting angry)** Stop screaming dammit.

8. DJAMILA: (Crying) Uncle. Please. I'll tell my mum – you must stop.

9. UNCLE IMRAT: Why Djamilia- you're old enough. OUCH!
Aggh! She bit me! The little beast. Arrggh!

SFX: FOOTSTEPS RUNNING DOWNSTAIRS.

SFX: FRONT DOOR OPENS/ SLAMS SHUT.

MUSIC BREAK

Scene Three. Ext. In the rain

SFX: HEAVY RAINSTORM. INSIDE CAFÉ/ PEOPLE PLAYING

POOL/TALKING. MUSIC. TAPPING WINDOW PANE WITH A

COIN

1. BOY 1: Hey Tom – good shot! **(BEAT)** Look- Isn't that Annie outside tapping on the window? She's calling for you?

2.TOM: Uh? Oh – yes-that's her. Um – hey Dez. Take over from Me. I'll be back in a mo.

SFX: OPENING CAFÉ DOOR.

SFX: EXTERNAL STREET AND STORM.

SFX: CAFÉ NOISE FADES INTO BACKGROUND.

3. ANNIE: I ended it Tom! Jet threw me out of his house.

4. TOM: **(Angry)** And he hurt you too. I'll call the boys- we'll go and sort him out. The dog! How dare he lay a finger on you.

5. ANNIE: No No. Don't. I'm glad he did. It's finally made me wake up to who he really is.

6. TOM: **(Gently)** Come inside and get cleaned up. You can go to the ladies and I'll get you a drink.

SFX: DOOR OPENS. CAFÉ LOUDER. STORM FADES.

SFX: BEER CAN OPENING

7. BOY 2 Hey Tom – here's the beer I owe you!

8. TOM: It's not about that moron. Just give us a break and leave us to talk in that corner, alone. OK?

9. BOY 1: Right! We brothers got to support our sisters. Right?

SFX: BOYS SHOUT RIGHT /SLAP HANDS/ LAUGH.

10. TOM: **(Off mic)** Over here Annie. **(On mic)** Here's your drink.

- 11. ANNIE:** Thanks. **(Sips drink)** Tom. I want to start over again.. This is my matric year. I need to focus and stop risking my life.
- 12. TOM:** Sounds like you've finally come to your senses!
- 13. ANNIE:** The thing is Tom, you were right, that time you told me off for being careless and not using condoms.
- 14. TOM:** I'm sorry it came out a bit heavy.
- 15. ANNIE:** Yeah – it did a bit.
- 16. TOM:** I thought you were almost on a suicide mission, living on the edge and for what? An old man with a flashy car and a taxi driver with his brain somewhere down in his pants!
- 17. ANNIE:** **(Laughing then very quiet.)** Have you ever known poverty Tom? I mean real poverty – when there's not a scrap of food in the cupboard. Your father's gone and your mother is struggling to make ends meet?.
- 18. TOM:** No not really.
- 19. ANNIE:** It started with getting small things from boys, sweets, chips, juice. In exchange for a kiss and

a cuddle. Then it escalated. I was an only child- no father and a mother scraping a living. I needed to feel wanted. And these so-called "gifts" helped us out of poverty. Jet gave us a TV and now she watches soapies non stop. But the biggest thing was my school fees.

20. TOM:

A lot of girls though don't do it out of poverty. They just want the latest fashion and cell phone.

21. ANNIE:

Yes and that's what happened to me. It became a habit. I don't need to sell myself like this. And I'm scared. **(Big sigh)** I want to get, get- you know.

22. TOM:

(Understanding) Ah! You want to get tested. I can tell you Annie, you will feel a huge sense of power and taking control of your life. **(BEAT)** What do you want me to do? Go with you?

23. ANNIE:

Would you Tom? I'd appreciate that so much. I would ask Angela but she's about to give birth.

24. TOM:

Wow! That's amazing. So-if we're going to the clinic, then I get to choose! Um- Central Clinic.

25. ANNIE:

(Sigh) I know! So that no one will recognize us!

- 26. TOM:** No. Uh uh! Actually I was going to say,- because the nurse there is much prettier than the one at Matula Clinic!
- 27. ANNIE:** **(Laughing)** Oh Tom! Thanks!
- 28. TOM:** For what?
- 29. ANNIE:** For making me laugh!

MUSIC BREAK

END OF EPISODE NINE

OUTRO

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

Please join us for the final episode of this drama series when Angela tries to persuade Pinto that they can plan a future if he knows his HIV status and gets the right treatment. **And** she catches up with old friends Djamila and Annie who have also been learning how to cope with risks and change their lifestyle.

Remember, if you want to hear the programme again or tell friends about it, please visit our website at www.dw-world.de/lbe

Goodbye