

Learning by Ear – Political Participation
Radiodrama „Family Affairs – How to become a political player“
Episode 8: “My right to choose”

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Episode Eight: “My Right to Choose”

Author: Chrispin Mwakideu

Editor: Maja Dreyer

CHARACTERS: Eveline (female, 19), Ronnie (male, 14), Betty (female, 12), Mapito (male, 40), Announcer, Journalist (male, 27)

Intro

Narrator: Thank you for joining us again for our continuing story of “Family Affairs: How to Become a Political Player”. In our last episode Betty and her choir surprisingly won the singing competition while Ronnie’s football school team was defeated in the Final. As Eveline and her campaign team were figuring out what to do next she got a call telling her that her Dad had been shot. Was this just a “normal” crime or was it some kind of threat against her campaign? Let’s find out as the residents of Milimani vote to select their

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councilor in today’s episode entitled “My Right to Choose”.

Scene one: Living room

SFX: SOUND OF DISHES BEING CLEANED – WATER etc

1. **BETTY:** (**Almost in tears**) I still can’t believe it.

2. **RONNIE:** Yes, me neither, Betty. I mean who would want to shoot our Daddy. He is a policeman. He wants to protect everyone.

3. **EVELINE:** Ronnie, stop talking as if he’s already dead! The doctors said until they can remove the bullet, it’s hard to know what will happen.

4. **BETTY:** After I finish cleaning the dishes I’m going straight to see him in the hospital. I miss him.
(Crying)

5. **EVELINE:** You can't visit him, he is still in Intensive Care. Let’s wait until after the surgery, then we’ll all go.

6. **RONNIE:** What about the elections? Eve, you aren’t

going to quit now because of Dad being shot,
are you?

7. EVELINE: Quit? Me? No way! We’ve come too far to give up now. In fact, I’m now more determined than ever to speak up against corruption, unfair distribution of national resources and all other forms of injustice that my people face.

8. BETTY: How are we going to get away? The journalists are still out there. They haven’t left since they got the news of Dad’s getting shot.

9. EVELINE: I’m sorry guys, but you’ll have to start getting used to this kind of life. Ronnie, could you look through the curtains and see if they are still there?

SFX: CURTAINS BEING DRAWN FOLLOWED BY FLASHES FROM CAMERA

10. RONNIE: Aaah, the flashes are blinding!!!

SFX: CURTAINS DRAWN AGAIN BACK

Seems like there are more cameras than last night.

- 11. EVELINE:** Well, for them, what we are going through at the moment is a good story and the star prize! However, this is what we will do: we'll go to the polling station, but don't say anything to them. Let me handle it.
- 12. BETTY:** I wish I could vote. Then I'd vote for you a hundred times.
- 13. EVELINE:** (**Laughter**) Betty, that's not allowed. A person has the right to vote only once. And he or she must possess an identity card and a voter's registration card which means the voter must be 18 years or over to be eligible to vote.
- 14. RONNIE:** I don't get it. I have a right to vote but I must wait until I'm 18? You are my favourite candidate and I want to vote for you now!
- 15. BETTY:** You lost your right, when you lost in the Final, hahaha (**Betty mocks Ronnie**)
- 16. RONNIE:** Don't start on that, Betty...
- 17. EVELINE:** Alright you two... Come on, let's go. I have to vote for myself.

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Radiodrama „Family Affairs – How to become a political player“
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SFX: DOOR OPENS CLOSSES AND IS LOCKED

Scene two: At the Polling Station

SFX: STREET VOICES, PEOPLE MILLING AROUND

18. Narrator: Never before in the history of this town had so many people turned out to vote. From all walks of life they came to exercise their right to choose. Eve has already cast her vote. Now she and her younger brother and sister are on the way to the hospital.

19. RONNIE: It is strangely quiet. Where is all the noise; the drums, trumpets and chanting that were there during the campaigns?

20. EVELINE: On Election Day, no candidate is allowed to campaign, so if any group of supporters start chanting and calling out the name of their candidate, this candidate could be disqualified.

21. BETTY: When will we know that you have won?

22. EVELINE: Betty!? It's not obvious that I will win. The truth

is, I face very tough competition from experienced politicians who will not be giving up this seat without a fight. But the results should be out before the end of the day. It all depends on how many people cast their vote.

23. **RONNIE:** But, what if you win and they somehow change the results? You know, like they don't count all the votes or they add some more that were not in the box. At least in football everyone can see when a goal is scored.
24. **BETTY:** Or when it isn't scored, like in your Final(**Giggles**)
25. **RONNIE:** (**Agitated**) Betty...you are lucky we are not at home!
26. **EVELINE:** When we vote, we like to believe that the elections are free and fair. It's not always the case, but there are a lot of things that are put in place to prevent any kind of cheating.
27. **RONNIE:** Really? Like what? Do you have spies?(**Ronnie gains interest**)
28. **EVELINE:** Sort of. But in elections we call them

observers. Some are national, and others are regional from different countries in Africa. Then we have international observers, especially during the general election. All these people closely monitor the election to see that the results announced exactly reflect the choice and voice of the people. Of course, we also have the police who offer security during elections and the officials from the Electoral Commission who are in charge of the elections.

29. NARRATOR: As the voting continued peacefully, doctors were working hard to remove the bullet from Mapito. Eveline, Ronnie, Betty and some supporters were waiting for the news of the operation when the results of the election were finally announced on the radio.

Scene three: At the hospital

SFX: Hospital floor

36. BETTY: How long until we know about Dad's condition? It's been hours and still...

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Radiodrama „Family Affairs – How to become a political player“
Episode 8: “My right to choose”

37. **ANNOUNCER: (Music fading out)** Dear listener we are just receiving the election results for the Milimani ward...
38. **EVELINE: (Excited)** Ssssh, just a moment Betty...let's hear the results.
39. **ANNOUNCER:** Here are the results for Milimani. The winner with 12,803 votes, the highest number of votes any candidate has won before is...Eveline Mapito! **(goes on but fade out under Betty's voice)** (Second with 10,405 votes is Ibrahim Mulongo, third with 678 votes is Samuel Dubu...)
40. **BETTY:** Yeeeeeees! Eve! Eve you won! You are now our Councilor!
41. **RONNIE: (Cheering)** Congratulations, big sis!
42. **EVELINE:** Thank you, thank you...but hey, keep it down, don't forget we are in a hospital. I just wish Dad could celebrate this victory with us. Ah, finally here comes the Doctor.
- SFX: BIG DOOR SWINGS OPENBACK AND FORTH**

43. **EVELINE:** Look, he is waving us in. You go first, I'll just have word with the doctor.

SFX: LIFE SAVING MACHINE MONITOR SOUND

44. **BETTY:** Is that him? (**Almost in Tears**) He looks so... so... pale and helpless.

45. **RONNIE:** Thin too. Have they been actually been feeding him?

46. **BETTY:** Can he hear us? (**Calls out softly**)
Dad...Papa?

47. **EVELINE (comes into the room):** The doctor says he can hear us, but he cannot respond to us. He is still unconscious.

48. **RONNIE:** Eve, I hate to ask this but do you think our Dad was shot by someone who was against you in this election. It is possible, right?

49. **EVELINE:** I don't know Ronnie. I wish I knew. But it's all in the hands of the police.

Learning by Ear – Political Participation
Radiodrama „Family Affairs – How to become a political player“
Episode 8: “My right to choose”

50. BETTY: Can I sing for him?

51. EVELINE: Sure...go ahead Sis.

52. BETTY: (Sings her favourite song gently and softly)

END OF EPISODE EIGHT

Outro

Narrator: And the song began to fill Mapito's hospital room while his three children sat by his side. Will he ever wake up? What awaits Eveline in the City Council? And there is yet another surprise for both Ronnie and Betty! To find out what happens, tune in next time to Learning by Ear: “Family Affairs”. The author of this program is Chrispin Mwakideu. As usual, if you wish to send in your comments or listen to this or any other previous episode, visit our webpage at www.dw-world.de/lbe. Good-bye for now!