

Learning by Ear – Climate Change

Episode 07

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CHARACTERS:

Scene 1:

- LORNA (16)
- ALEX (15)

Scene 2:

- DEMONSTRATOR (MALE IN 20's)
- LORNA (16)
- JOURNALIST 2 (MALE 30)
- CAROL (14)
- ALEX (15)
- JOSHUA (15)

Scene 3:

- JOSHUA(15)
- ALEX (15)
- CHRISTINE KIMASI – INVESTOR (FEMALE 50)

Scene 4:

- CAROL (14)
- LORNA (16)
- MINISTER ENVIRONMENT PAUL GITAKI (MALE 61)

Intro:

Welcome to Learning by Ear and Episode Seven of our radio drama about climate change. Remember, in the last episode a sudden power blackout had interrupted a meeting of the Task Force, just when they were organizing a demonstration against the power plant to be build in Dhowville? Find out why as we listen to today's episode.

5. DEMONSTRATOR: Hey Miss, you're one of the organisers of this demonstration, aren't you? Why are we walking past the landfill site?

6. LORNA: It's to make a point about renewable energy, climate change, and recycling. Do you know that landfill sites emit greenhouse gases?

7. DEMONSTRATOR: No, I didn't. How?

8. LORNA: Well, when all the rubbish starts to decompose, a gas is released – it's called methane.

9. DEMONSTRATOR: Methane?

- 10. LORNA:** Yeah – and methane is twenty-one times more damaging to the environment than carbon dioxide!
- 11. DEMONSTRATOR:** That's bad news – why don't more people recycle – or maybe there should be a ban on plastic bags Some places have already done that, haven't they?
- 12. LORNA:** Exactly – but it is possible to capture the methane from the landfill, and then it can even be converted into clean-burning renewable fuel. That's what we need to ensure, happens here.
- 13. DEMONSTRATOR:** If only more people knew about all of this, then, everyone would be out demonstrating.

14. LORNA: The people who want to build this plant don't like us – they've started trying to scare us. They even cut the power cables at my home.

15. DEMONSTRATOR: Hey, you're brave to carry on.– Look, there's the Press. I think they want to interview you.

16. JOURNALIST 2: Hey, Miss, are you one of the task force organising this demonstration?

17. LORNA: Yes. My name is Lorna. There are four of us. Here come the others, Joshua, Carol and Alex. **(towards the others)**
Hey Guys, this reporter wants to interview us!

18. JOURNALIST 2: So, you four are calling yourselves the "Anti Power Plant Task Force". Why are you so passionately against this power plant when so many people in Dhowville need electricity?

19. JOSHUA: We all need power, that's true. But we also need to protect our environment. Our country has noticeably changed in the last decade. Our town too: warmer temperatures, limited fishing resources, changing weather patterns. And this is all because of climate change.

20. JOURNALIST 2: But isn't that just a side-effect of development?

21. CAROL: Of course, it is. But there are now means for us to develop in a sustainable way that takes into consideration our environment.

22. JOURNALIST 2: So, what is the alternative that you propose?

23. ALEX: We want the power plant to be powered by renewable energy.

24. LORNA: Yes – we're looking at all the options – hydro power, wind power, even solar power from the sun – after speaking to the people we've met, we think it's possible.

25. JOURNALIST 2: So, why this demonstration?

26. JOSHUA: We need to get maximum publicity to stop the plant going ahead. There are some powerful people who stand to gain a lot financially from this plant and won't even consider the environment.

27. CAROL: We want them to know there's a lot of opposition.

28. LORNA: We chose this route – for people to see the landfill site – to ask questions about it and to know how damaging it can be, because of the greenhouse gas, methane, which it emits. Perhaps people might consider recycling as well.

29. JOSHUA: We're finishing the demonstration at the proposed site for the power plant – the beach – not a nice place for a power plant to be belching out fumes all day.

30. JOURNALIST 2: So, you're determined to stop this power plant even though people desperately need power?

31. JOSHUA: We're determined to get the people responsible for building the plant to sit down and discuss other options – by that we mean renewable energy.

32. JOURNALIST 2: Thank you.

Scene Three: Downtown

SFX ATMO: **TRAFFIC**

33. ALEX: Well, I think our demonstration was a success – there must have been about three hundred people who turned up.

- 34. JOSHUA:** Yeah, Alex, and it was good that the Press turned up, as well. Hopefully, they'll put us on the evening news too.
- 35. MRS KIMASI:** Oh, excuse me, I guess you two are part of the task force who organised this demonstration?
- 36. JOSHUA:** Yes, we are. I'm Joshua and this is Alex.
- 37. MRS KIMASI:** Nice to meet you both. My name is Christine Kimasi – I'm an investor – more precisely, I invest in renewable energy projects.
- 38. JOSHUA:** Ah, really? Did you join in with the demonstration?
- 39. MRS KIMASI:** I caught the tail end of it. You got a very impressive turn out.

- 40. ALEX:** You're not from here though, are you?
- 41. MRS KIMASI:** No, I live in the capital and actually I work all over the continent. I'm a passionate believer in sustainable energy. I also believe it could become a successful business, as well.
- 42. JOSHUA:** What kind of energy have you worked in before?
- 43. MRS KIMASI:** All sorts – solar, biofuels, geothermal...
- 44. ALEX:** Oh, geothermal – that's supposed to be a very efficient and cheap way of providing a lot of people with power?

45. MRS KIMASI: It can be, yes – essentially it's a great idea, making use of the earth's heat to provide us with power. It's used a lot in East Africa, especially in areas with volcanic activity. But it's extremely expensive at the beginning, in the exploration phase.

46. JOSHUA: What do you mean by exploration?

47. MRS KIMASI: Exploration...educated guessing, I suppose. If geologists suspect there's the potential for geothermal energy in a particular piece of land they will raise money to explore the area. That means they will drill holes to see if there is enough heat to power a geothermal power plant.

- 48. ALEX:** So, that means that it is not totally certain it will be possible.
- 49. MRS KIMASI:** Exactly, Alex. It could fail. So it's a very timely and costly exercise.
- 50. ALEX:** Can you explain how geothermal energy works?
- 51. MRS KIMASI:** Well, under the earth you find very hot rocks and it's these rocks that heat water to produce steam. By drilling holes down in the rock, this steam is released.
- 52. JOSHUA:** Ah, I didn't realise it was steam.

- 53. MRS KIMASI:** The steam is then purified in power turbines which in turn drive electric generators supplying power to the national grid.
- 54. JOSHUA:** How do you get enough water to produce enough steam?
- 55. MRS KIMASI:** You have to pump a lot of water down over the rocks to get enough steam. It sounds simple and it can be very efficient especially as no greenhouse gases are released.
- 56. ALEX:** Could we have one here in Dhowville?
- 57. MRS KIMASI:** Unfortunately, Alex, I'm not sure if Dhowville has the right geological conditions. I know for sure no one has done any exploration here, though.

58. JOSHUA:

Oh!

59. MRS KIMASI:

However, the reason I came to find you was to propose a plan, for us to come up with a viable alternative for the power plant to use sustainable energy. Then we can lobby for a meeting, and try and raise funds.

60. ALEX:

That sounds brilliant. We'll get the task force together this afternoon if you've got time.

61. MRS KIMASI:

Yes, let's get the ball rolling.

Scene Four Café

SFX ATMO:

CAFÉ SOUNDS

62. CAROL:

Wow, I needed that cup of tea. What an exhausting morning out in the sun all day!

63. LORNA:

All right, Carol, but it was very exhilarating, I feel somehow we're making progress.

SFX:

(TELEPHONE RING)

64. LORNA:

Ah, that's my phone... Hello?

65. MIN ENVIRONMENT:

Hello, is that Lorna?

66. LORNA:

Yes, speaking.

67. MIN ENVIRONMENT: I've just seen a report on the news with you being interviewed. I gather you were demonstrating to stop a power plant going ahead in your town?

68. LORNA: Yes, who is this?

69. MIN ENVIRONMENT: My name is Paul Gitaki, I'm Minister for the Environment. I'm interested in meeting with your task force to discuss this power plant. It looks like you need a bit of help getting the company who want to build the plant, to sit down and listen to you.

70. LORNA: Yes, that's exactly what we need. Can you help us?

71. MIN ENVIRONMENT: I'm going to try. This is my department and we want to push for sustainable energy wherever we can. I'll have my secretary call to set up a meeting. The sooner the better I imagine?

72. LORNA: Yes, as soon as possible. Thank you Mr Gitaki.

73. MIN ENVIRONMENT: Goodbye.

74. CAROL: Who was that, Lorna?

75. LORNA: Incredible! Believe it or not, that was the Minister for the Environment. He saw the report on the news and he wants to help. He wants to have a meeting with us.

END OF EPISODE 7

Outro:

And that's all from Learning by Ear for today. Join us next time when the Task Force's class mates start to turn against them. Also, find out if the Minister of Environment has enough power to overturn the strong lobby for the power plant.

This series about climate change is written by Victoria Averill.

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Goodbye for now and thanks for listening!