

LEARNING BY EAR

“THE UNWELCOME EVENING GUESTS - ONE FAMILY’S FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA”

EPISODE SEVEN: "IT'S TIME FOR HEALING"

SCRIPT: CHRISPIN MWAKIDEU

EDITOR: ANDREA SCHMIDT

HEALTH EXPERT: DR. HEIDRUN HÜBNER

SCENE ONE: MASIKA AT HIS HOUSE LISTENING TO RADIO

List of characters:

- RADIO PRESENTER (f, 28)
- DR. MUNGA (m, 45)
- MASIKA (m, 40)
- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

SCENE TWO: MAMA DAVID AT MIZANJA’S SHRINE

List of characters:

- MAMA DAVID (f, 43)
- MIZANJA (m, 65)
- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

SCENE THREE: MASIKA AT HOSPITAL WITH HIS FAMILY

List of characters:

- BETTINA (f, 34)
- KAREMBO (f, 14)
- ZAWADI (BABY, no actor)

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- MASIKA (m, 40)
- NURSE (f, 24)
- HEADTEACHER (f, 38)
- DR. MUNGA (m, 45)
- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

INTRO/NARRATOR (same voice):

Hello and welcome everyone, welcome to ‘**Learning by Ear**’ and the seventh episode of our radio drama: “The Unwelcome Evening Guests - a family’s fight against malaria”.

In the previous episode, we left the Masika family at hospital visiting Karembo who had been admitted suffering from malaria, and they all decided to be tested for the disease. Back home, the family’s relationship with their old neighbour, Mama David has soured. So, who is free of the malaria parasites? And will Karembo’s condition improve? To find out, listen to today’s episode entitled: **"IT'S TIME FOR HEALING"**.

Our story begins at night with Masika at home listening to the radio.

MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE ONE: MASIKA AT HIS HOUSE LISTENING TO RADIO

A-SFX: BUZZING OF MOSQUITOES THEN RADIO BEING TUNED

1. RADIO PRESENTER:

And now we turn to the local news. The outbreak of Malaria in Ribo and its surroundings is stretching the local hospitals to the limit because they are already filled to capacity. The outbreak is spreading because of the length of the rainy season and the misuse of the insecticide-treated mosquito nets that in some areas are being used for fishing. In the studio we have Dr. Munga to talk further about this in the programme "Healthy Living".

2. **B-SFX:BUZZING OF MOSQUITOES AGAIN FOLLOWED BY SLAPS**

NARRATOR: Masika listened and experienced a pang of guilt as he realised that he had made a bad mistake by taking the mosquito net from his wife and child to use to catch fish and by doing so, had misled the other fishermen to do the same. Unfortunately there had been traces of the malaria parasite in the blood of his wife and Zawadi. Dr. Munga said it was a mild infection and had prescribed medicine for them both to treat them. How could Masika reverse what he had done? Would the fishermen listen? Before he could answer that, the programme 'Healthy Living' had begun...

3. **(RADIO TRANSMISSION CONTINUES..)**

4. **RADIO PRESENTER:**

Good evening and welcome to 'Healthy Living'. We have in the studio Dr. Munga to discuss with us the malaria epidemic in our region. So, Doctor, why do you think this outbreak started and what can be done to control it?

5. **DR. MUNGA:**

Thank you. **(CLEARS THROAT)**

Most patients come to us for treatment after malaria has got really bad and this is always very dangerous. What started this outbreak? Well, mosquitoes breed more during the rainy season and in places where there is stagnant water, tall grass or bushes. If no action is taken to reduce or control the density of the mosquitoes then an outbreak is inevitable.

6. **RADIO PRESENTER:** How would you go about reducing the mosquito population? It seems like a war we can never win because they have always lived amongst us.
7. **DR. MUNGA:** In my view you have to apply a combination of preventive measures. To start with, use indoor sprays to kill the mosquitoes. Then, cover or drain stagnant waters. In addition, cut down bushes and long grass, especially around homesteads. Also always sleep under mosquito nets, or at least burn mosquito coils at night to keep the mosquitoes, that carry the parasites, at bay. If these measures are carried out properly and consistently, we should see a reduction of infections.
8. **MASIKA:** **(SUDDENLY REALISES)**
This must be the same doctor who is treating Karemba!
9. **RADIO PRESENTER:**
That sounds pretty easy, but maybe our listeners are thinking
(CHANGES VOICE)
“What are they talking about? I don’t have enough money for sprays or nets. What do I do then?”
10. **DR. MUNGA:** Usually these nets are given away for free at public hospitals under the Ministry of Health's

programme for malaria control and the spraying is also a free service provided by the Health Department. When treated with an insecticide, the nets work effectively for from 3 to 5 years. Indoor residual spraying is effective when 80% of the premises are sprayed for 3 to 6 months. It is better to use herbal insecticides like Pyrethrum. DDT is not advisable, especially not indoors, because of the danger of side effects. One should keep children away from insecticides at all times.

11. RADIO PRESENTER:

Well, there you have it. And now it's time for our listeners' phone-in so that you can ask Doctor Munga any questions regarding today's subject. Next week, we will be talking about the consequences of malaria in our community. Our lines are open now and you can also text us...

12. MASIKA: (REGRETTABLY)

I wish I could, but I don't have a phone yet, but I'm going to ask you tomorrow personally when I come to visit my daughter.

13. C-SFX: RADIO BEING TUNED TO ANOTHER STATION

NARRATOR: As Masika lay asleep on his bed with mosquitoes buzzing around him, another idea came to him and he acted on it quickly and soon afterwards, he fell asleep. Early next morning Mizanja, the traditional healer, was surprised by a visitor whom he knew very well.

SCENE TWO:MAMA DAVID AT MIZANJA’S SHRINE

(MIZANJA CHANTING AND SINGING IN A LOCAL DIALECT)

14. **MAMA DAVID:** I salute you, powerful Mizanja, great medicine man and healer of our generation.
15. **MIZANJA:** Why are you here? Are you in trouble?
16. **MAMA DAVID:** No! Not at all, I only came to ask why the guests I sent to you the other day were not treated. Was I wrong to have put faith in you? Now, they won't speak to me anymore.
17. **MIZANJA:** Listen carefully, we follow the ways of our fathers and forefathers in finding cures for sicknesses, but we also know and accept the fact that modern doctors are also gifted with knowledge of the same. So, that family needed a doctor and not a traditional healer. I could only cast out the spirits, but the cure could only come from the hospital.
18. **MAMA DAVID:** **(SHOCKED)**
So, you are saying it's also right to seek healing that is not traditional? I thought that...
19. **MIZANJA:** The sick need only one thing; a cure. It doesn't matter if it comes from bitter herbs or sweet pills. We both want the patient to recover fully from that

sickness. Yes, we might not agree on a lot of things but at the end we all agree that life is sacred and should be saved at all costs. I, myself, often refer malaria patients to hospital after treating them with my herbs to lower the fever.

20. MAMA DAVID: (SHOCKED)

You do what!!!??? No, I don't believe it!

NARRATOR: I know, dear listener, it is hard to believe, but we cannot ignore the role of traditional healers in the fight against malaria. There are those who still think that the convulsions experienced by some people who have malaria very badly come from "bad spirits". So they first take their sick ones to healers like Mizanja and then to the hospital. Wouldn't it be a good idea for the traditional healers to team up with the modern doctors in the fight against malaria? Well, from Mizanja's shrine we go to join Masika at the hospital with his wife and children, Zawadi and Karembo.

SCENE THREE: MASIKA AT HOSPITAL WITH HIS FAMILY

21. D-SFX: CUTLERY SOUNDS AS WHEN PEOPLE EAT BREAKFAST

22. BETTINA: This is the first time I've seen Karembo finish a meal since she got sick. Doctor Munga said that she has recovered very quickly and when he examines her today he will decide whether Karembo can go home.

23. KAREMBO: I feel fine. I would like to go home. I've missed school and all my friends. The exams are just

around the corner as well.

- 24. BETTINA:** We know, but first you need to get well. You heard what Doctor Munga said. You need to finish your medication completely so that all the malaria parasites are killed, otherwise the illness might return after a while.
- 25. E-SFX: ZAWADI/BABY MAKES SOME HAPPY NOISES AS MASIKA TRIES TO TALK TO HIM**
- 26. MASIKA:** And how is Zawadi? Did he keep you up all night here in the hospital?
- 27. BETTINA:** No, he slept like a log. You notice that the windows here have screens to keep mosquitoes out. Masika, you have to bring back the net.
- 28. MASIKA:** I know. Don't worry, I have everything ready.
- 29. F-SFX: CURTAINS BEING DRAWN FROM ONE SIDE**
- 30. NURSE:** Sorry to disturb you but Karemba, you have a guest. I just want to check your temperature and the doctor will also be right in to see you. Please place the thermometer in your armpit and hold it tightly.
- 31. MASIKA:** Good morning, Nurse. Who's come to visit Karemba?

- 32. NURSE:** **(CALLS OUT)**
Please come in! Karembu, you may hand me the thermometer now.
(CHECKS IT)
Mm, very good. Your temperature is now normal and the fever seems to have subsided. Here, Karembu your pills and water.
- 33. G-SFX: TWO GULPS OF WATER.**
- 34. KAREMBO:** **(MAKES AN UNPLEASANT SOUND)**
Bwaaaah! I hate these pills.
- 35. H/TEACHER:** But it's the only way to get better. Hello, everyone. I'm Karembu's head teacher. I heard that she was in hospital from David, one of our other students. I also wanted to come and invite Doctor Munga to our school to give a talk about malaria, and he has agreed to come.
- 36. BETTINA:** Thank you for stopping by to see Karembu. It's very kind of you.
- 37. KAREMBO:** Yes, very kind.
- 38. H/TEACHER:** Well, I am sorry I cannot stay longer but I must be going otherwise I'll be late for work. Karembu, you look much better. Get well and see you soon.
- 39. DR. MUNGA:** **(CHEERFULLY)**

Good morning everyone!

40. H/TEACHER: Ah, Dr. Munga, I was just going. Don't forget we have a date at the school!

41. DR. MUNGA: I won't. Goodbye. So, how is our young patient today? Let's see... **(SOUND OF PAGES BEING FLIPPED)** Aha... it seems like you're ready to go home. Just make sure you keep yourselves protected from the mosquitoes. If you feel the symptoms recurring, then come back for check-up. So, that will be all unless you have any questions...

42. MASIKA: Actually I do.

MUSIC INTERLUDE

OUTRO/NARRATOR: With that question unasked and Karemba in recovery, we bid farewell to the seventh episode of our Learning by Ear story, "**The unwelcome evening guests**" **all about one family's fight against malaria.**

What is it that Masika wishes to know? How will Karemba be greeted when she gets back to school? What lessons has she learned from her experiences? Will she act on them? Well, to find out the answers to all of these questions you'll have to tune into the next episode.

To listen to this episode again or send in your comments please visit our website at: d-w-world.de/lbe

Until next time, good-bye!

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