

LEARNING BY EAR

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

EPISODE SIX: "THE BLAME GAME"

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SCENE ONE: EMERGENCY AT RIBO DISTRICT HOSPITAL

List of characters:

- DR.MUNGA (m, 45)
- DUTY NURSE (f, 24)
- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

SCENE TWO: MASIKA’S HOME

List of characters:

- BETTINA (f, 34)
- ZAWADI (BABY, no actor)
- MASIKA (m, 40)
- KAREMBO (f, 14)
- DUTY NURSE (f, 24)
- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

SCENE THREE: AT MAMA DAVID’S HOUSE

List of characters:

- MASIKA (m, 40)
- BETTINA (f, 34)
- MAMA DAVID (f, 43)
- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

SCENE FOUR: MALARIA WARD AT RIBO DISTRICT HOSPITAL

List of characters:

- DR.MUNGA (m, 45)
- KAREMBO (f, 14)
- BETTINA (f, 34)
- MASIKA (m, 40)
- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

INTRO/NARRATOR (same voice):

Hallo and welcome back to ‘Learning by Ear’. You are about to hear the sixth episode in our continuing story about “The Unwelcome Evening Guests - a family’s fight against malaria.”

In the last episode, Bettina lied to her husband and took their children, Karemba and Zawadi, to Mizanja, the Witchdoctor, for traditional healing. When Karemba realised what was going to happen, she also lied and ran away from the Witchdoctor’s shrine, although she was sick, and very weak. At the same time, Masika discovered that his fellow fisherman, Yakubu, and the others had taken their insecticide-treated mosquito nets and used them as fishing nets. Meanwhile, at the district hospital more and more malaria patients kept arriving,

Where does Karemba intend to go? Was the visit to Mizanja successful? Who is to blame for all this? For this and more, stay tuned to today’s episode entitled "**The Blame Game**". Dr. Munga just trying to rescue a patient in the emergency

MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE ONE: EMERGENCY AT RIBO DISTRICT HOSPITAL

A-SFX: SOUND OF BED BEING WHEELED ON FLOOR

1. **DR. MUNGA:** (HURRIEDLY)
Out of the way, please! Get out of the way! Hurry up, people, hurry up. She’s losing consciousness.
2. **DUTY NURSE:** Her breathing is abnormal, Doctor!
3. **DR. MUNGA:** Check her pulse!

4. **DUTY NURSE:** It's very weak and her heartbeat is faint. We are losing her, Doc!
5. **DR. MUNGA:** Start artificial respiration, now! Right now!
6. **DUTY NURSE:** **(BREATHING INTO PATIENT)**
One! Two! Three! **(BREATHES IN AGAIN)**
I think we are too late. She's gone. **(SADLY)**
7. **DR. MUNGA:** **(FEELING BEATEN)**
No, we were not too late, sister. She was.

NARRATOR: And another young life is lost due to Malaria. The fact that people don't seek medical help in time makes it even harder even for Doctors like Munga to help them. Well, at Masika's home, Bettina has just arrived back with Zawadi. Mizanja told her he couldn't treat the baby alone but needed to take care of all the "bad spirits" which were also apparently in Karembo, Masika and her entire house.

SCENE TWO: MASIKA'S HOME

8. **B-SFX: DOOR BEING OPENED AND BANGING**
9. **BETTINA:** **(ANGRY)**
Karembo! Karembo! How could you do this to me? How?
10. **C-SFX: BABY STARTS TO CRY**

11. **BETTINA:** Oh, shut up Zawadi!
(**BETTINA STARTS TO CRY TOO**)
12. **MASIKA:** (**CONCERNED**)
My wife, what's wrong? Here, let me take the baby.
13. **D-SFX: BABY STOPS CRYING MAKES SOME BABYISH NOISES**
14. **BETTINA:** Where is Karembo?
15. **MASIKA:** (**PUZZLED BY QUESTION**)
Where? I thought she went with to the market.
She's not here.
16. **BETTINA:** (**REGISTERING SHOCK**)
What? Karembo is not here?
17. **MASIKA:** What is it? Where is she? Where is my daughter?
18. **BETTINA:** Oh nooo! Masika we have to go! We have to go!
19. **MASIKA:** Go where, woman? I want to know where our daughter is! You left with her and now she is not with you. I'm not moving an inch before I know where Karembo is.
20. **BETTINA:** Okay... okay, I will tell you but please promise me that you will forgive me. Please!
(**BREAKS DOWN IN TEARS**)

NARRATOR: And, as Bettina hurriedly told her husband of what she had done, our girl Karemba had just managed to reach the doors of Ribo District Hospital.

(AT RIBO HOSPITAL)

21. E-FX: WIDE DOORS SWINGS OPEN IN AND OUT

22. KAREMBO: Heeelp...(FAINTLY)
Somebody help me!

23. DUTY NURSE: (HURRYING TO HELP)
My goodness! Hang on, young. Hang on! It's okay now.

NARRATOR: With those reassuring words Karemba fell into a blackness she had never known before. Everything got darker and darker and a peaceful quietness settled in her as she fainted in the nurse's arms. The nurse quickly got her to a bed and began to treat her. Meanwhile, Bettina and Masika were frantically searching for their missing daughter in the neighbourhood. Their first guess was that she would be at Mama David's house.

SCENE THREE: AT MAMA DAVID'S HOUSE

24. MASIKA: (ANGRILY)
I still cannot believe it! You lied to me knowing very well that Karemba was ill. And you also lied to her and now you are angry that Karemba ran away without telling you where she was going.

- 25. BETTINA:** Don't blame me! You took the net without even asking me. Did you ever stop to think about about what I would say? Now, because of that Zawadi is also sick.
- 26. MASIKA:** Oh I see, so this is all my fault, right? I'm the one to blame for everything, am I? No! I won't accept that. You should have told me the truth. Because of your 'stupid' cleverness, we have lost a sick daughter and don't have a clue where she could be, or even if she is...
- 27. BETTINA:** Stop! Stop it Masika! My girl is still alive I know it. I can feel it!
- 28. MAMA DAVID:** **(INTERRUPTING BY COUGHING)**
Excuse me, we have a serious problem here and all you two have done so far is argue and blame each other. That will not get us anywhere. Karemba is missing and we need to find her. I know it sounds awful but there are only three places I can think of, we can check. The police station, the hospital or errr...
- 29. BETTINA:** **(STARTS TO CRY)**
No, Karemba is alive! She is!
(TURNS TO MAMA DAVID)
It's all your fault! Yes, you Mama David. If I had not listened to you, she would be with me now. You are the one who told me to go to Mizanja.

(SOBBING)

30. MASIKA: (WITH RAGING ANGER)

What!? So, you are also involved, Mama David? If anything happens to my daughter, I'm holding you two responsible. And I don't want you, Mama David, ever coming near my family again! Leave us alone! Come, let's go. It's getting late. Oh, and one more thing! I will never sell you any fish again!

NARRATOR: Masika was so angry. He left Mama David's house together with his wife Bettina and Zawadi and they all headed to Ribo Hospital to begin the search for Karemba. Meanwhile, at the Hospital Karemba was slowly regaining consciousness.

MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE FOUR: MALARIA WARD AT RIBO DISTRICT HOSPITAL

31. DR. MUNGA: (WARMLY)

Welcome back, young girl. Hello, my name is Dr. Munga. You are one very lucky girl. You came in and and it took us a lot of effort to revive you. But we weren't going to lose another life.

32. KAREMBO: (FAINT VOICE)

Where am I? Where are my Mum and Dad?

33. DR. MUNGA: (REASSURINGLY)

You are in Ribo Hospital. Don't worry, we will find your parents. We did some tests and found that

you have a severe case of malaria. That's why we had to start treatment immediately. You are receiving an intravenous infusion of quinine which you will get until you are able to swallow pills by yourself. So, for now just try and rest.

34. KAREMBO: No! I need to find my parents. They don't know where I am.

35. DR. MUNGA: What's your name and where do you live?

36. KAREMBO: Karembo...Karembo Masika. I live near the lake. My father is a fisherman.

37. DR. MUNGA: Oh, that place is a malaria factory! And I just heard on the radio that the fishermen there are using the mosquito nets, they got for free, as fishing nets. It's just tragic! And now we are getting more and more patients from that region. Including many pregnant women and children under five.

38. F-SFX: WIDE DOOR SWINGS OPEN, IN AND OUT

(MASIKA AND BETTINA FINALLY FIND KAREMBO)

39. BETTINA: **(OVERWHELMED WITH JOY AND TEARS)**
My child! My child! Oh, thank God!

40. DR. MUNGA: So, you are the parents of this girl. Well, calm

down and try to get control of your emotions. Your child will be fine. She is a brave girl.

- 41. MASIKA:** Yes, we are the parents. I'm so glad that we found you Karemba. We all feared the worst. Doctor, can we take her home with us now?
- 42. DR. MUNGA:** I'm afraid not, we have to keep her under observation for the next 48 hours, and I strongly recommend that Karemba stay here. I will also need to know a bit of her medical history. For instance when did her symptoms begin, what medicines, if any, did you give her at home?
- 43. MASIKA:** I think she is old enough to speak for herself. What I is, that I gave her some anti-malaria tablets that didn't help at all. I don't know if they were too old, or what.
- 44. DR. MUNGA:** I suspect that you gave her tablets that have become ineffective for the treatment of malaria. Drug resistance is a big problem with the disease. Some medicine such as chloroquine are cheap and safe but the malaria parasite in our region has become resistant to it.
- 45. MASIKA:** I had no idea. Bettina, now that we've found our daughter and we are at the hospital, why don't we also get Zawadi checked?

- 46. BETTINA:** No! Not just Zawadi. Husband, I say we all get tested for this malaria and only then we go home.
- 47. DR. MUNGA:** That's a wise decision, please go to the Registrar and give her your personal information. Then you will have to go up to the lab. It's right at the end of the corridor, on your left side. I have to attend to other patients now. It was a pleasure to meet you.
- 48. MASIKA:** Thank you Doctor.
- 49. DR. MUNGA:** See you later.

OUTRO/NARRATOR: And so Masika's family cuddled up around their recovering daughter, happy to have found her, even though she looked very ill and was connected up to drips hanging on stands. They all knew that she was in the best hands. After they had finished catching up and wiping tears from each other's face, Masika, Bettina and little Zawadi went to get tested. What will be the results? How long will Karemba have to stay in hospital and what will this mean for her studies as the exams draw nearer? Will the family's relationship with their neighbour Mama David stay bad or can it be patched up? The answers and a lot more await you in the next episode of „The Unwelcome Evening Guests - one family's fight against malaria”, and remember you can listen to this episode again or send us your comments by visiting our website at: d-w-world.de/lbe

Until next time, good-bye!

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