

LEARNING BY EAR

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

EPISODE TWO: “IGNORANCE AND KNOWLEDGE”

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SCENE ONE: HEADTEACHER’S OFFICE

List of characters:

- HEADTEACHER(f, 38)
- KAREMBO(f, 14)
- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

SCENE TWO: DAVID AND KAREMBO AFTER SCHOOL

List of characters:

- DAVID(m, 14)
- KAREMBO(f, 14)
- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

SCENE THREE: HOSPITAL ENTRANCE

List of characters:

- KAREMBO(f, 14)
- BETTINA (f, 34)
- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

SCENE FOUR: MASIKAS HOME

List of characters:

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

INTRO/NARRATOR:

Hello and welcome to the second episode of “The Unwelcome Evening Guests - a family’s fight against malaria.” Part of our **‘Learning by Ear’ series**. In the first episode, Bettina had to be rushed to hospital by her husband, Masika, she gave birth to a baby boy - Zawadi. While waiting at home their daughter, Karemba, listened to a radio programme and learned something about malaria that made her curious, so curious that she forgot to finish her school homework. Join us now and find out what happens next in today’s episode entitled **“Ignorance and Knowledge”**.

MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE ONE: HEADTEACHER’S OFFICE

ASFX: KNOCKS HEARD ON THE DOOR

1. **H/TEACHER:** Yes... come in! (**HIGH PITCHED VOICE**)

2. **KAREMBO:** Good morning Madam...

3. **H/TEACHER:** Good morning to you Karemba. I’ve heard from your Maths teacher that you didn’t finish your homework! Karemba, even though you are the brightest pupil this year you should NOT think that you are

exempt from doing your homework.

4. **KAREMBO:** **(PLEADING)**
Madam...I can explain...
5. **H/TEACHER:** **(FIRMLY)**
I don't need any explanations! I need you to do your work just as you are told. You used to be a good girl but I see you are becoming arrogant, negligent and irresponsible!
6. **KAREMBO:** **(FEELING VERY SORRY)**
Madam, I really intended to do my homework but, really, a lot happened last night. First we didn't have any light at home and then my mum was rushed to hospital and...
7. **H/TEACHER:** **(CONCERNED)**
What!?...your mother? What happened?
Is she all right?
8. **KAREMBO:** Well... I haven't seen her yet, but I guess she's fine. She gave birth to a boy!
(PROUDLY) I have a younger brother now. His name is Zawadi.

- 9. H/TEACHER:** Oh, that's wonderful news! Please pass on my congratulations to your mother and father. However, that still doesn't explain why you didn't finish your work.
- 10. KAREMBO:** Honestly Madam, in all the excitement... I... forgot! I'm sorry.
- 11. H/TEACHER:** Aha! It's good that you've told me the. But "sorry" won't get you to the best high school. Will it?
- 12. KAREMBO:** No it won't Madam.
- 13. H/TEACHER:** Exactly! Only hard work, discipline and determination will. Every teacher is counting on you to pass with flying colours. So don't let us down and more importantly don't let yourself down. Go and finish that work now and I'll forget about any punishment.
- 14. KAREMBO:** **(GRATEFUL)**
Thank you Madam. Ah, Madam...may I ask you a question?
- 15. H/TEACHER:** Of course, that's why we are here.

16. **KAREMBO:** How many bites from an infected anopheles mosquito does it take to get malaria?
17. **H/TEACHER:** **(BEWILDERED)**
I beg your pardon?
18. **KAREMBO:** How many...
19. **H/TEACHER:** I heard you!... What is this? Are you trying to fool me now, Karemba? Where did you learn about the anopheles mosquito? That's not on our syllabus at all.
20. **KAREMBO:** **(SCARED SHE HAS MADE THINGS WORSE)**
I...I heard something on the radio yesterday and it got me thinking and worried about my whole family and my little brother who has just been born. You know that our house is close to the lake and there are so many mosquitoes around.
21. **H/TEACHER:** Don't you sleep under mosquito nets?
22. **KAREMBO:** No, my Dad said he can't afford to buy them.

23. H/TEACHER: Buying? These nets are often provided by the government free of charge and if you do have to buy them, they are very cheap. And what is very important is that these nets are treated with an insecticide that kills the mosquitoes on contact with the net and so they provide the best protection for young children and pregnant women. When you visit your mother tell her to ask for an insecticide-treated net. As for your question about how many bites it takes...I will give you an answer later.

NARRATOR: And with these words, the headteacher dismissed Karemba. She did her homework hurriedly, as she looked forward to the final bell so she could visit her mother and younger brother in the hospital. And at last it did ring.

SCENE TWO: DAVID AND KAREMBO AFTER SCHOOL

B-SFX: SCHOOL BELL RINGS... SCHOOL CHILDREN'S VOICES TALKING/SHOUTING ETC.

24. DAVID: **(CALLING OUT)**
Heeey, Karemba!... wait. What's the hurry? We are all going the same way.

25. KAREMBO: No, David, not today. (**HAPPILY**) I'm going to the hospital to see my mum and my new born brother.

26. DAVID: Wow! that's nice, can I come along? I've never seen a newly born baby before.

27. KAREMBO: Me neither. Yes you can come, as long as you don't start using those silly words.

28. DAVID: Silly words? What silly words?... Oh, Karemba they are not silly. I think... I..I really find you beautiful.

29. KAREMBO: Huh!..(**WITH ATTITUDE**)
Now, you are not coming. Bye!

30. DAVID: Karemba!...(**PLEADING**) Karemba....

NARRATOR: I know you might think dear listener that Karemba was being mean to David, but don't blame her. She had been taught by her mother not to accept such talk from boys. Besides, that wasn't even in her mind as she rushed to the hospital. All she could think of was what her little brother would look like... And it didn't take long to find out.

SCENE THREE: HOSPITAL ENTRANCE

C-SFX: WIDE DOOR SWINGS OPEN, MAKING NOISE INWARDS AND OUTWARDS, PEOPLES VOICES; HOSPITAL ATMOSPHERE; STEPS

31. KAREMBO: (EXCITEDLY)
Mummy!..

32. BETTINA: (FAINT WEAK VOICE)
Hi what took you so long?

33. KAREMBO: School... Mum can I see him?... oh he is so... beautiful and tiny... look at his hands, and legs and his ten sweet little fingers!

34. D-SFX: SLIGHT CHUCKLE FROM BABY ZAWADI

35. KAREMBO: Mum, are you ready to come home?

36. BETTINA: Yes, the doctor said I could go home.
Help me with my stuff and I'll carry Zawadi.

37. E-SFX: SAME WIDE DOOR OPENS WIDE

- 38. KAREMBO:** Wait a minute mum, did you know you can get a free insecticide-treated mosquito net from the hospital? It's important for preventing mosquitoes from biting little Zawadi and infecting him with malaria.
- 39. BETTINA:** No I didn't know, I don't think it's that necessary anyway. We haven't used one all these years so why start now?
- 40. KAREMBO:** But Mummy... you know, in the evening. **(MAKES BUZZING MOSQUITOES SOUNDS).**
All those mosquitoes, we need to protect Zawadi in any way we can. You know, I also learnt that the once the mosquitoes touch the net with the insecticide, they die! Isn't that something, Mum?
- 41. BETTINA:** **(TIRED OF EXPLANATIONS)**
Ah, okay, go and ask them for it at the registration desk. I'll wait here.
- 42. F-SFX: SAME WIDE DOOR SWINGS OPENS AGAIN**

- 43. BETTINA:** That was fast! So, what did they say?
- 44. KAREMBO:** Nothing, I asked them for a net and they gave it to me.
- 45. BETTINA:** Okay! Let's go home.
- 46. KAREMBO:** **(Laughing)**
I'm coming.

NARRATOR: There is always joy at the birth of any child and this was true with Zawadi too. And so, as soon as Karemba and her mother got home, there was music, laughter and smiles all around. Neighbours came from far and near to hold the child and congratulate the parents. Later on...

SCENE FOUR: MASIKAS HOME

- 47. KAREMBO:** Mum, let me try and see if I can put up the mosquito net before you lay Zawadi down. I don't want even one bite on his smooth skin.
- 48. BETTINA:** **(IMPRESSED BY KAREMBO)**
I see you will make a good mother, but leave the net for now. Go and make me some hot porridge.

49. KAREMBO: But mum... we need to protect him... see, our unwelcome evening guests are already out for blood.

50. G-SFX: BUZZING MOSQUITO SOUNDS

51. BETTINA: **(FURIOUSLY)**
Karembo! I am the mother here. I know how to take care of my children and you happen to be one of them. So, do as I told you: Make me some porridge... and add some lemon to it.

52. KAREMBO: Yes Mum.

53. H-SFX: DOOR OPENS, MASIKA ENTERS SINGING A HAPPY SONG TO WELCOME HIS SON.

54. MASIKA: **(Singing)**
Now... now... now where is my African King.

55. BETTINA: Don't you even want to know how I'm doing?

56. MASIKA: **(ACTING SORRY)**
Oh! How are you Mama Zawadi?

- 57. Bettina:** **(NOT BUYING THIS LINE)**
Hmm, so in just a day I've graduated from Mama Karemba to Mama Zawadi, right? African men! What do you have against girls? Look, Karemba is the smartest in her class while David who happens to be a BOY comes last! Anyway, I'm fine. Zawadi is sleeping now, we just got back. Do you have any fish? I'd love some Tilapia soup tonight.
- 58. MASIKA:** **(TAKES DEEP BREATH)**
How can I say this? I don't even have a single catch today! My fishing net is torn, holes everywhere. I could even see the fish laughing at me and playing like cat and mouse as they went in and out through the holes in the net.
- 59. BETTINA:** I'm sorry Masika, but tomorrow is another day.
- 60. MASIKA:** Yes, tomorrow is another day, another day for shame and hopelessness for a father who can't provide for his family. What's this? **(TAKING HOLD OF THE**

UNOPENED MOSQUITO NET)

- 61. BETTINA:** That's the mosquito net we got from the hospital. They gave it to us for free to stop the mosquitoes biting Zawadi and giving him malaria. Karemba told me that it's even treated with an insecticide that kills them at once.
- 62. MASIKA:** **(THOUGHTFUL)**
Hmm... but Zawadi is strong like his father. You know what they say, like father like son! He doesn't need this. Look at Karemba, she's 14 years old now and she's never slept under a net...and she looks healthy doesn't she?
- 63. BETTINA:** Masika! Zawadi is just one day old! I also thought the same as you but there is no harm in being careful. Help us to hang it up...I don't know to do it. Maybe from the ceiling. Oh I see they have some instructions here on how to use it.
- 64. MASIKA:** No problem, but first I need something to eat something to give me some strength.

- 65. BETTINA:** (SARCASM)
I thought you just said you are naturally strong! (LAUGHS)
- 66. MASIKA:** Don't get at me, woman, I've had a bad day already.
- 67. J-SFX: MORE MOSQUITO BUZZING SOUNDS.**
- 68. BETTINA:** Well, please close the window, we don't want to let any more mosquitoes in.
- 69. K-SFX: Some rustling of cloth WOODEN WINDOW CLOSES WITH BANG**

OUTRO/NARRATOR:

And with that window closed, we reach the end of the second episode of our story, 'The Unwelcome Evening Guests"- one family's fight against malaria. But what does Masika plan to do now after seeing the net? And what will happen to Karemba after she gets bitten by mosquitoes? To find out more please join us next week and remember, you can listen to this episode again or write comments about this programme by visiting our website at:

[www.d w-world.de/l b e](http://www.dw-world.de/lbe)

Until next time, good-bye!

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