

LEARNING BY EAR

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

EPISODE FIVE: "A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE"

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SCENE ONE: DR. MUNGA SLEEPING IN HIS HOME.

List of characters:

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

SCENE TWO: ON WAY TO MIZANJA THE WITCHDOCTOR’S SHRINE

List of characters:

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

SCENE THREE: AT THE LAKE

List of characters:

- YAKUBU (m, 41)
- MASIKA (m, 40)

- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

SCENE FOUR: AT MIZANJA'S SHRINE

List of characters:

- MIZANJA/WITCHDOCTOR (m, 65)
- KAREMBO (f, 14)
- BETTINA (f, 34)
- ZAWADI (BABY, no actor)
- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

INTRO/NARRATOR

Greetings and a warm welcome to **LEARNING BY EAR** and thank you for tuning into episode five of “The Unwelcome Evening Guests - a family’s fight against malaria.” In the last episode, Karemba missed school because she was ill and David was requested by their teacher to find out how she was doing. Mama David advised Karemba’s mother, Bettina, to see the village witchdoctor so that he would cure both Karemba and her baby Zawadi. Knowing that her husband Masika would not approve of this, what does Bettina plan to do? And what will Karemba’s reaction be? Stay tuned to find out in today’s episode called "**A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE**".

MUSIC INTERLUDE.

SCENE ONE: DR. MUNGA SLEEPING IN HIS HOME.

A-SFX: HEAVY SNORING, FOLLOWED BY A SHARP MOBILE RINGTONE

1. **DR. MUNGA:** (AWAKE)
Hello, Dr. Munga here.

2. **DUTY NURSE:** (URGENT)
Sorry, Doctor... I know, I must have woken you, but this is the Duty Nurse and we have an emergency at the Hospital. Please come quickly!

3. **DR. MUNGA:** What kind of emergency, Sister? I left the hospital only a few hours ago. What is it and are there no other doctors that can handle it?

4. **DUTY NURSE:** They are all busy. There is even no space left for

any new patients. Doctor, you know that 60% of the beds are occupied by malaria patients and they just keep on arriving. We have just this minute admitted a young patient.

5. **DR. MUNGA:** What is his condition?
6. **DUTY NURSE:** Her condition Doctor. It looks bad. She is having convulsions and she can't even walk without help.
7. **DR.MUNGA:** Okay, take her temperature and test her blood for malaria parasites. I'll be there in 20 minutes.
8. **DUTY NURSE:** Hurry up, oh and one more thing, Doctor.
9. **DR. MUNGA:** **(TAKES DEEP BREATH)**
I'm listening.
10. **DUTY NURSE:** I don't really know how to check for the malaria parasites. I mean, I know how to use a microscope but.
11. **DR. MUNGA:** **(CUTS HER SHORT)**
I'll do the test when I arrive. Just take her temperature and try to get her fever down.
12. **DUTY NURSE:** Thank you, Doc. See you soon.

NARRATOR: Here, my dear friends, you see some of the many problems we have when fighting against malaria: incompetence and lack of qualified

people to diagnose malaria quickly. Lots of lives could be saved if hospitals have trained personnel and the right equipment... Well, as Dr. Munga was getting ready to rush to Hospital, Bettina was on her way to Mizanja, the witchdoctor, with both Zawadi and Karemba who had no idea what awaited her.

SCENE TWO: ON WAY TO MIZANJA THE WITCHDOCTOR'S SHRINE

13. B-SFX: FOOTSTEPS ON PATH WALKING SLOWLY

14. KAREMBO: Mum where are we going? You have not said anything to me since we left home.

15. BETTINA: Just trust me Karemba, and save your energy. Don't talk too much. We have a long way to go.

16. KAREMBO: Do you know what David told me?

17. BETTINA: **(UNPLEASANTLY)**
No, Karemba, how would I know? You were the one who talked to him.

(FEELS SORRY FOR SICK DAUGHTER)

I'm sorry. Tell me, what did he tell you?

18. KAREMBO: He told me that the headteacher advised them about how to keep the mosquitoes away. He told me she said we should cut down the grass around our homes and drain the stagnant water because that's where the unwelcome evening guests normally breed.

19. **BETTINA:** (NOT ATTENTIVE)
Hmm...okay.
20. **KAREMBO:** And it got me thinking.
21. **BETTINA:** Karembu you are sick you shouldn't be thinking of anything else than getting better!
22. **KAREMBO:** (SHOCKED BY MUM'S REACTION)
What's going on, Mum? I have never seen you like this before?
23. **BETTINA:** Everything is fine. Let's have a little rest under that tree. Is Zawadi still sleeping? He likes it when I carry him on my back.
24. **KAREMBO:** Yes, he is sleeping. (TAKES A BREATH) I wish I was young like him so I could be carried around. I feel so light, I'm scared the next wind will blow me away, like a feather.
25. **BETTINA:** Be brave and strong. Everything will be fine again soon.

NARRATOR: So Bettina and her children Karembu and Zawadi sat down to rest, but Bettina's mind was troubled by the thoughts of what she had just done. She had lied to her husband, Masika, and told him they were going to the market to buy vegetables and needed that she needed Karembu to go with her so that she could pick what she wanted. But her plan was to take

both Karemba and Zawadi to Mizanja for traditional healing. Something she had never done before, until Mama David convinced her to do it. And at the lake, Masika got a new shocking revelation.

SCENE THREE: AT THE LAKE

26. C-SFX: WAVES SPLASHING GENTLY ON SHORE

27. YAKUBU: (CALLING OUT)
Masika! Hey Masika!

28. D-SFX: FEET SPLASHING RAPIDLY IN WATER

29. MASIKA: Yakubu! Slowly, man, you will scare the fish away!
What is it?

30. YAKUBU: I'm only here to say that I am so grateful, my friend. Thank you very much!

31. MASIKA: (PUZZLED)
Ah I'm lost... thank me for what?

32. YAKUBU: Oh Masika, you have no idea. Since I saw you using the mosquito net and catching so many fish, guess what I did?

33. MASIKA: Oh no!

34. YAKUBU: Oh yes, my friend! (EXCITED) I took my wife's net too, and since then I've have brought home a

good catch every day. What's more, now all the fishermen in Ribo are copying you and throwing their old nets away, replacing them with the mosquito nets.

35. **MASIKA:** **(UTTERLY SHOCKED)**
What!!?? Noooo! All of the fishermen?
36. **YAKUBU:** Almost. These nets are really magical, aren't they?
37. **MASIKA:** That's not right! Oh no! What have I done?
38. **YAKUBU:** What have you done? You have helped your fellow fishermen and that is something really good, isn't it?
39. **MASIKA:** You don't understand. You all don't understand!
Come with me, let me show you something.
Come!
40. **D-SFX: FEET AGAIN MOVING RAPIDLY IN WATER**
41. **MASIKA:** Look at this fish. Do you notice something?
42. **YAKUBU:** Yes. It's a fish!
43. **MASIKA:** Cut the jokes, Yakubu!
(SERIOUSLY)
Can't you see that most of the fish caught in this

net are small?

44. YAKUBU: Yes, I can, but so what? Better small fish than no fish, right?

45. MASIKA: No! These nets are designed to keep mosquitoes from going through the holes and biting those who sleep under. They have much smaller holes than our normal fishing nets, Yakubu. We might destroy the whole fish population if we catch all the baby fish. I only did it because I was desperate.

46. YAKUBU: We all are, Masika. Otherwise we wouldn't wake up so early to come to this lake. Whether the nets are for mosquitoes or not, isn't my problem. Wish you luck in the waters. Bye

47. E-SFX: FOOTSTEPS WALKING ON SAND

48. MASIKA: No... Yakubu, wait... wait please!

NARRATOR: Sometimes what we do innocently can have such a effect on others. Masika suddenly fully understood what consequences his originality had had and what it meant for the fish population and more importantly for the people who were left without the protection they badly. Meanwhile, Mizanja was welcoming his patients as he usually did...

SCENE FOUR: AT MIZANJA’S SHRINE

49. (MIZANJA SINGING/CHANTING IN A LOCAL LANGUAGE)

50. F-SFX: SHAKERS AND TRADITIONAL JINGLES BELLS

51. MIZANJA: (AFTER BLOWING IN AIR)

Hmm, I see... I see. Your children are both possessed by spirits that are sucking their blood and strength away.

52. KAREMBO: (IN HUSHED WHISPER)

Mum, I’m scared...

53. BETTINA: Sssh, Karemba, let him finish.

54. KAREMBO: I need to go to the toilet, Mum.

55. BETTINA: What? Now?

56. MIZANJA: Quiet! No one is to speak except my ancestors. Wait here. I’ll be right back!

57. (MIZANJA EXITS WITH SAME CHANTING/SINGING)

58. BETTINA: Go outside, and soon as you finish, come back quickly before he returns. Go!

59. G-SFX: BABY/ZAWADI STARTS TO CRY

OUTRO/NARRATOR: That was all Karemba needed. She left Mizanja's shrine and quickly collected all the energy that was left in her body and then begun to head back towards where they had come from. She knew her mother would be angry when she found out she had escaped, but she didn't mind about it then. Where is she going? Will she even make it? And what sort of treatment will Mizanja prescribe for little Zawadi? Does Masika plan to do anything after discovering how the mosquito treated nets are being misused? To find out, tune into the next episode of "The Unwelcome Evening Guests - a family's fight against malaria." and remember, you can listen to this episode again or write comments about this programme by visiting our website at:

dw-world.de/lbe

Until next time, good-bye!

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