

Title: Under the Mango Trees

EPISODE 7: Don't fuss, I just forgot

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Sc. 1 Interior.

List of characters:

- Eric (m, 18)
- Alice (f, 40+)
- Narrator

Scene 2 Interior.

List of characters:

- Desirée (f, 16)
- Lorraine (f, 18)
- Sazi (m, 20)
- Bongo (m, 20+)
- Eric (m, 18)
- Narrator
- Children in background

INTRO

Welcome to *Learning by Ear* and Episode Seven of our ten-part Radio drama series, “Under the Mango Trees” about family planning.

In today's episode Eric figuring out an excellent plan for both this professional and perhaps private future while his twin sister Lorraine and her boy-friend Sazi are having a serious talk about contraception.

SIG.TUNE UP HOLD UNDER AND FADE

NARRATOR: When Lorraine's brother, Eric, discovered that his parents owned a country house in Mtelera, and that his mother had been asked to run the new community clinic there, a plan began to form in his head.

Sc. 1 Interior.

SFX: Kitchen sounds

1. **ERIC:** Don't you think a year's work experience at the Mtelera Community Clinic would be a good thing to do before going to college?

2. **ALICE:** Yes. It's an excellent idea, Eric!

3. **ERIC:** I can't believe that we have a house there! That's fantastic!

4. **ALICE:** We can move in just as soon as it has been painted. You will be very close to Desirée and her family. I think she will be very happy about that! And you, too, eh, Eric?

5. **ERIC: (laughing softly)** Me too, Ma! And I will work hard.

6. **ALICE:** I'm sure you will. And afterwards? Are you planning to apply to St. Michael's Medical College in Granville?

7. **ERIC:** Yes, and with that kind of experience I'll be all ready half-way through the college frontdoor!

8. **ALICE:** You know, the Department of Health is looking for a researcher to collect data on family-planning costs. In other words, which family planning methods are the most cost effective for the government to provide? I could get you some more information about that, if you're interested.

9. **ERIC:** Family planning? So, that means the Pill and condoms, right?

10. **ALICE:** And methods that use injections and the Interuterine Device, the IUD. There is also a whole load of new implants and foaming tablets. The government needs to look at unit costs, to find out what each method costs each couple for one year. It's called CYP, which stands for Couple Year of Protection. Medically, it is very interesting and it would

- give you a fantastic chance to work with the patients, by interviewing them personally.
- 11. ERIC:** But do people in Mtelera use contraception? I mean, it's a very rural area.
- 12. ALICE:** There are traditional methods which men and women have been using for centuries. Withdrawal is one. That relies almost totally on the man not to impregnate the woman. The other is prolonged lactation.
- 13. ERIC:** I should be writing this down! That has to do with breast-feeding, doesn't it?
- 14. ALICE:** Hormones that are activated during breast-feeding or lactation, help to prevent the woman from getting periods and thus possibly getting pregnant.
- 15. ERIC:** Ah! Is that why I see so many women still breast-feeding 3-year-olds?
- 16. ALICE:** Well, that's what you can find out, my son! You know what you can do? Go and interview Granma Linda! Bella too, because she is in a relationship but she is not having babies. And of course, there's you own sister!

17. **ERIC:** Lorraine? Ok. Sounds good. But Ma, I 'm a guy. And a young guy at that. Are women going to want talk to me about contraception?
18. **ALICE:** You have a point there. Women in particular won't be happy talking to you until you are a qualified doctor like your father. Wearing a professional's white coat might help! You can borrow mine!
19. **ERIC: (laughing)** I can give it a try. You know what? I could be the one who takes notes during the interview and I could take Desirée along to actually do the interviews. She's a woman from the community and she speaks the dialect. Wow! What a team! I must ask her!

NARRATOR: The clinic was to open in three week's time. Meanwhile, Eric's twin sister, Lorraine, was getting worried. Pop Idols was also starting in three weeks time and she hadn't been feeling very well. Her boyfriend Sazi noticed the difference in her too.

Scene 2 Interior.

20. **SAZI:** You were tired yesterday and you're still tired today. Come on, Lorraine, what's up Babe?
21. **LORRAINE: (irritated)** I'm feeling fine, Sazi. Please don't fuss! It's just nerves. Pop idols starts soon and there

are so many wonderful songs to choose from.
I just can't make up my mind.

22. **SAZI:** Well? What does Bongo suggest? He is your agent, after all?
23. **LORRAINE: (irritated)** Yes, well, I'm seeing him later on. Now, stop talking and let me go through my song one more time.
24. **SFX: Starts singing.**
25. **SFX Paper/plastic rustle**
26. **SAZI:** Lorraine? What is this?
27. **LORRAINE:** What? What is it now, Sazi?
28. **SAZI:** Sweetheart? This packet. It shows that you are up to the Thursday pill today. But it's Friday already, which means you are a day out. The last pill you took was on Wednesday morning.
29. **LORRAINE: (subdued)** Oh, yes, um, that was last month's packet. I missed a day by mistake but I started a new packet on the right day.
30. **SAZI:** Which means you still missed out a pill last month.

31. LORRAINE: I said, please stop fussing! (**Softer**) Now, come here Sazi, my Darling, and help me to decide what to sing at the audition.

NARRATOR: Back in Mtelera, Desirée was becoming more Determined than ever to find out where Uncle Blessing was. He had promised to take his own children back to a new family home. If he would do that, a huge load would fall from her shoulders. And what about her own father? She so wanted to find him, for Endurance's sake too. He asked about his Papa everyday. Eric had promised to help.

32. SFX: Cell ring tone

33. ERIC: (FX: Phone) Hallo Des. It's me, Eric. How are you?

34. DESIRE: Eric! Hallo. I'm fine. And you?

35. ERIC: I'm doing OK. How are things? Any news?

36. DESIRE: Well, Granma doesn't know the exact address but says my father owns a car repair shop in Main Street East.

37. ERIC: Great! That means your dad will have a phone.

38. DESIRE: Yes, and apparently Uncle Blessing gets in touch with him sometimes. So, if we find my dad, we will find Uncle Blessing too.

- 39. ERIC: (FX: Phone)** It will be easy from now on! My dad said we can stay at his house in Granville any time we want. So, you just say when! School breaks up next week. Shall we go then?
- 40. DESIRE:** We can start looking then. But it's the week after that is crucial. That's the week Pop Idols starts and Lorraine sings. We could go visit and my father during the day and check out Uncle Blessing and then go the Pop Idols competition in the evening. We must give Lorraine all our support.
- 41. ERIC:** Oh, wow. Lorraine is going to sing! I'd totally forgotten about that! Ok. And what are you doing at the moment?
- 42. DESIRE:** I'm expecting my sister Bella any minute now. She's coming to teach me how to make a cake! If you want to come by and try some, you are very welcome! Although I know it's a long way to come just for that.
- 43. ERIC:** Cake is not the only reason I want to come, Des. I've got lots to tell you Des, exciting stuff. And I need to talk to Bella too, so expect me around 4 o'clock. Alright?

44. DESIRE: Ok! But what have you got up that little sleeve of yours Eric? Uh? (Laughing)

45. MUSIC UP

NARRATOR: While Eric was planning to see Desirée that same afternoon, Lorraine was on her way to Bongo's Rainbow Agency in order to go through her contract which would give the Agency exclusive rights over her for the next 12 months, IF she wins Pop Idols.

46. BONGO: Hallo, my Darling! Hmmm. (Kiss on cheek)
How are you? You don't look so good? Is it nerves?

47. LORRAINE: Sorry, Bongo! Can I use your toilet for a minute?

48. BONGO: Sure, it's the red door on the right.

49. SFX: Off mic coughing/retching

50. BONGO: (businesslike) Hey, Lorraine. I'm very busy at the moment and I can see you are in no fit state to sign this contract now. Take it home with you and read it through carefully, but remember, I can't enter you for Pop Idols until you sign it...

51. LORRAINE: No, I'm fine, honestly. It's just something I ate. I want to go through the songs with you, Bongo. You promised you would help me choose my opening number.

52. BONGO: Ok. Give me what you've got.

53. SFX: Lorraine starts an up-tempo pop song. Suddenly stops and breathes very fast

54. BONGO: Lorraine? What's wrong with you? You can't be out of breath already?

55. LORRAINE: I feel nauseous, Bongo. It must have been the food I had at lunch.

NARRATOR: But she felt more than a little sick. She didn't want to think about what it could be. Deep inside, though, Lorraine knew something was happening to her.

OUTRO

And that's all from Learning by Ear for today! You just listened to the seventh episode of "Under the Mango Trees." written by Romie Singh. It's a programme intended for young people which highlights how contraception can help to improve ones quality of life and gives women, and also their partners, the ability to decide when to start a family. Please join us soon for Episode Eight when Eric gets even more ideas about how he can get closer to Desirée and Lorraine's ambitions to

become a Pop Idol are beginning to look very shaky. Find out why next time and remember, if you want to hear this programme again, find out more or send us your comments, please visit our website at: [d w world dot d e slash l b e](http://dwworld.de/lbe)

Good-bye until next time.

56. SIG TUNE

END OF EPISODE SEVEN