

**Title: Under the Mango Trees**

**EPISODE 4: Strange pills and new perspectives**

**Author: Romie Singh**

**Editors: Susanne Fuchs, Katrin Ogunsade, Maja Braun**

**Sc. 1 In the bedroom. Lorraine and Desirée are practicing a new song.**

**List of characters:**

- Lorraine (f, 18)
- Desirée (f, 16)
- Narrator

**Scene 2 in the kitchen at Aunty Alice's house**

**List of characters:**

- Eric (m, 18)
- Desirée (f, 16)
- Narrator

**Scene 3 In Studio**

**List of characters:**

- Desirée (f, 16)
- Lorraine (f, 18)
- Eric (m, 18)
- Bongo (m, 20+)
- Narrator

## INTRO

Welcome to *Learning by Ear* and a new episode in our radio drama series, "Under the Mango Trees". We are looking at family planning and on how people, particularly teenagers, can protect themselves from unwanted pregnancies, HIV and other sexually-transmitted infections using the various contraceptives methods available.

In today's episode, Desirée discovers some interesting-looking pills in Lorraine's bedroom and Eric discovers some strong feelings for Desirée.

## Short music break

**NARRATOR:** Desirée spent the evening going over and over the song that she and Lorraine wanted to perform for Bongo the next day. It was strange having a friend like Lorraine and staying over at her house in Kentown. The two girls come from such different worlds and yet they get on so well. They both love singing and rapping together. But that evening DESIRÉE was to discover something new about her best friend.

## Sc. 1 In the bedroom. Lorraine and Desirée are practicing a new song.

1. **SFX:** FADE IN ON SINGING AND LAUGHING

2. LORRAINE: We need to dress up and get into the part!  
Just open that drawer, Des. You'll find a  
feather boa. It's bright pink. Put it on!  
**(giggling)** And I'll wear this crazy hat!

3. **SFX:** Drawer opening

4. DESIRÉE: Oh! What are these? Pills?

5. LORRAINE: Whoops. Sorry. I forgot they were there.  
You weren't meant to see them.

6. DESIRÉE: Why not? What are they for?

7. LORRAINE: That's the Mini-pill.

8. DESIRÉE: What – the Contraceptive Pill?

9. LORRAINE: (lovingly) Yes. Listen, Des, you know Sazi?

10. DESIRÉE: Of course, I do. You've been together for ages.

11. LORRAINE: Well, he and I... you know...

12. DESIRÉE: No, I don't know. What? You mean you...  
you are having – a sexual relationship?

13. LORRAINE: Yes! Don't look so shocked. So is your sister, Bella! Des - we're 18! We're old enough to vote, and old enough to get married.

14. DESIREE: But I never knew that you and Sazi were... you know... so close.
15. LORRAINE: Oh, I'm sorry for not telling you before. I'm two years older than you, Des – we're not in the same class. Well, anyway. You know now.
16. DESIRÉE: Yes. I do. So? What exactly do these pills do?
17. LORRAINE: Well, basically they stop me ovulating so I can't get pregnant. Look - the packet tells you. The pills contain small doses of hormones that inhibit ovulation.
18. DESIRÉE: How do they make you feel?
19. LORRAINE: Hundred per cent! I have no heavy bleeding every month and I can sing and dance on stage any time I want to. It's really liberating!
20. DESIRÉE: But isn't it dangerous?
21. LORRAINE: I think getting pregnant is more dangerous! The pill is safe and effective. The main danger is if you forget to take it. I

have to take one pill every day at the same time. If I miss a day, I could get pregnant.

22. DESIRÉE: (thoughtful) How did you find out about these pills?
23. LORRAINE: Well, you know my mother works at the ante-natal clinic. She advises on family planning.
24. DESIRÉE: (disbelief) Your mother? Aunty Alice helped you?
25. LORRAINE: (laughing) Look at your face! Yes - I know it must sound weird to you. But my mother and I talk to each other. She has always been open about things. Look, Des! She has seen so many teenagers coming into the clinic day in, day out, with babies they don't want or didn't plan. Quite honestly, Des – it's because most girls don't know what's going on when they sleep with a boy.
26. DESIREE: My Granma says women should wait till they are married.

27.       LORRAINE:       Well, I respect that, of course, but Sazi and I are really serious about each other, and we have been together for over a year. Your sister, Bella, she's living with her boyfriend. If she's not getting pregnant, then she must be using some form of contraception too.
28.       DESIRÉE:        I suppose so. I never thought about it before.
29.       LORRAINE:        No more questions! Let's get back to our singing! There's work to be done!
30.       **SFX:** Lorraine and Desirée go through the new song again.

**NARRATOR:** What a night! Des lay in clean white sheets wondering what her sister would say, if she asked her why they didn't have any children yet. She finally fell asleep, and woke up early expecting to hear Endurance whistling at the cattle, or the cock crowing. But instead of the farm sounds of Mtelera, she heard the soft hum of traffic of Kentown, and a siren in the distance - an ambulance or police car maybe? She went into the kitchen to discover Lorraine's twin brother, Eric, already up and making toast and tea.

**Scene 2 in the kitchen at Aunty Alice's house**

31. **SFX:** Kitchen sounds. Early morning. City sounds in background.
32. **ERIC:** Good morning Desirée. You're up early. Guess that's your farm training! Sleep well?
33. **DESIRÉE:** Very well, thanks.
34. **ERIC:** Here - have some toast and jam.
35. **DESIRÉE:** Thanks. (chewing)
36. **ERIC :** I must say Des. You have a lovely singing voice. Last night, at one point I couldn't tell if I was hearing the CD play or your voice!
37. **DESIRÉE:** (laughing) You're joking with me, right?
38. **ERIC:** No! Seriously! You will have to think hard about your future with a voice like that.
39. **DESIREE:** Oh? What do you mean?
- 40.
41. **ERIC:** Well - you could leave school and become a pop idol and earn millions, or you could go to college and keep music for later.

42. DESIRÉE: (laughing) Or nothing! I'd love to be a singer but I can't think of leaving home until Uncle Blessing's children are older. So – (sounding cheery) looks like the traditional home role for me.
43. ERIC: No, Des – you can't throw your life away like that. Come on!
44. DESIRÉE: Is it throwing it away? That's what my mother did.
45. ERIC: But I thought your mum regretted leaving school so young. That's what she told my mother.
46. DESIRÉE: (thoughtfully) Yes, true. But ...anyway, I could never afford to go to college.
47. ERIC: But you know there are bursaries or scholarships for students with good grades. You just have to want something hard enough and work for it. I mean – where do you see yourself being in ten years time?
48. DESIRÉE: (getting upset) Look Eric - it's not that easy to have plans right now. My mother has died,



my aunt had died and I am responsible for my four little cousins and my brother, Endurance.

49. ERIC: (quietly) I'm sorry. That was insensitive of me. Where is your uncle?
50. DESIRÉE: He's in Granville. He said he would go look for a job and a new wife and then come back for his children.
51. ERIC: Well, maybe he needs to be reminded.
52. **SFX:** toast/plates/cups  
Help yourself, hey! There's more tea.
53. DESIRÉE: Thanks. My dad is also there. Papa said we could come and visit him but he never got back in touch. I have no idea where in Granville he is.
54. ERIC: You know what? My father has moved to Granville because of his job. We could stay with him and go look for your father and your uncle too. They can't be so hard to find.
55. DESIRÉE: (dreamily) Stay in Granville? And look for my father? Oh Eric! Endurance would love

that. He misses his Papa so much. Oh! It's late. I have to get Lorraine up. We've got to meet Bongo at 12 and sing. Then, Endurance and I have a 3 o'clock bus to catch from the town.

56.       ERIC:           Listen. Stay a bit longer, Des. I can drive you and Endurance back later. Then you can tell me how the audition went. Will you! Please?

MUSIC UP

57.       **NARRATOR:**  
Desirée agreed. At twelve o'clock Desirée and Lorraine were ringing at the door of the Rainbow Agency. They had been practicing so hard - now it was time to sing in front of Bongo. But will he like it?

58.       **SFX: SONG WITH FRENCH AND ENGLISH**

*Je t'aime. Tu m'aimes. We're similar but not the same.*

*I do the things you want me to do*

*But is it because I love you?*

*Je t'aime. Tu m'aimes, but we don't love the same.*

*I say no, but you say Babe, then show me*

*How else can I know.*

### **Scene 3 In Studio**

59.       **SFX:** Lorraine and Desirée singing. Clapping.
60.       **BONGO:**               Wow, girls – you’ve something there! Real promise! And you, Des – great voice - really good.
61.       **LORRAINE:**           Were we good? Did you really like us?
62.       **BONGO:**               Lorraine – you have talent. And you, Des! Look! I’m a serious business man. I know talent when I see it. You’re very young. How old are you?
63.       **DESIRÉE:**           I’m 16.
64.       **BONGO:**               Right? So you qualify. I could make something out of you. There’s another month to go before the auditions begin. The problem is, you can’t appear as a duo and I only have enough resources to promote one of you for this show. I’ve got other acts and I have to choose. So, let me record you separately now and then I’ll phone you and let you know.
65.       **DESIRÉE:**           I don’t have a phone.

66.       BONGO:            Take this one. It's got enough airtime on it.  
                                      Go on! Take it! Now - one more time!

**NARRATOR:**   Lorraine felt confident. Bongo had known her longer. She would be the one. Driving back to Mtilera Eric encouraged Desirée not to give up. After arriving they sat talking in the car for nearly an hour. Granma finally came out to call her granddaughter inside. Eric left, making sure he saved her new cell phone number on his phone. Later, when everyone was asleep, Desirée went out under the mango trees to share these new feelings with her mother. As the wind rose in the trees, she pulled her shawl tighter around her, singing her mother's favourite song. But this time she was singing it for Eric.

(Signature tune up)

#### **OUTRO.**

And that's all from Learning by Ear for today. Please join us next time for Episode Five of "Under the Mango trees" when both Lorraine and Desirée's elder sister, Bella, tackle the question of preventing unwanted pregnancy. And remember, if you want to hear this programme again or tell friends about it, please visit our website at: [deworld.de/lbe](http://deworld.de/lbe). Good-bye until next time.

**END OF EPISODE FOUR**