

Title: Under the Mango Trees

EPISODE 10: Family and a new born star

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Sc. 1 Interior

List of characters:

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

Scene 2 On the phone

List of characters:

- Eric (m, 18)
- Lorraine (f, 18)
- Narrator

Sc.3 In the car driving

List of characters:

- Endurance (m, 13)
- Babu (m, 40+)
- TV voice
- April (f, 39)
- Family members in background

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

Welcome to *Learning by Ear* and the very last episode of our 10 – part radio drama series, “Under the Mango Trees”, which looks at issues regarding family planning.

In this final episode Lorraine has to start working out what she will do now, while Desirée finds herself swept along by events.

SIG.TUNE UP HOLD UNDER AND FADE

NARRATOR: Lorraine was only six weeks pregnant and she could probably have hidden her condition quite well from the pop idols judges and her teachers, but she decided to face up to reality. Bongo seemed remarkably relaxed when Lorraine phoned him. She had no idea he had actually wanted Desirée for the Pop Idols competition all along. However, Desirée hadn’t signed the contract yet and Bongo was worried she might still refuse because of her family commitments. He decided to drive out to Mtelera to put some pressure on her.

Sc. 1 Interior

FADE IN DIALOGUE

1. BONGO: You have such a good chance of getting through the first round, Des. What’s stopping you from just saying yes?

2. DESIRÉE: I'm terrified! I've never sung in front of an audience before. And then when you talk of radio and TV - oh my goodness!
3. BONGO: Look! I can help you, you know, train you about how to present yourself, hold the microphone, move etc. We still have two weeks and you've got school holidays now, so we just need to plan everything.
4. DESIRÉE: I don't understand why Lorraine dropped out. Eric doesn't know. Didn't she say anything to you?
5. BONGO: She did but it's private, Des. I suggest you ask her yourself. The thing is, I need you to sign this contract and commit yourself. Will you do that?

6. MUSIC UP

NARRATOR: Desirée took a deep breath. She knew she had to find her father and uncle. They had to help her with the children. Without their support she couldn't do it. She took a deep breath again and then she signed. For Lorraine, however, the next problem was school. Lorraine had told her twin brother, Eric, everything about her pregnancy and he was standing by to help as Lorraine picked up the phone to call the headmaster, Mr Adams.

He was on holiday, but she had to find out. Could she stay on and finish her schooling? The exams were only a few weeks away.

Scene 2 On the phone

7. LORRAINE: Mr. Adams. I am a student in the 12th grade.....Yes sir.....I'm getting ready to take final exams in three months sir... but um... I've discovered I am six weeks pregnant..... Yes Sir.....Are you are saying that the school has a policy? Yes, Sir...and schoolgirl pregnancy is not tolerated at all?What? Expel me? (gasps) Can't I come back even after a year? Never? Goodbye, Headmaster. (Bursts out crying) I will be expelled. That will be such a blot on my school report! Oh, Eric...how will I take the school exams now? Or go to college?
8. ERIC: Lorraine, my Sister –shhh. I'm afraid that's what schools do. Thousands of girls all over the world have to leave school because they become pregnant.
9. LORRAINE: (sobbing) He said I would be a bad influence on the other girls if they see me pregnant. There were five pregnancies last year. He expelled every single girl. He says

he needs to make an example of us for the rest of the school.

10. ERIC: He should rather make an example of his school as a progressive place of learning where girls can finish school at evening classes or come back to school a year later. Don't we want women to be educated? And why is the father of the child exempt! The girl gets expelled. The boy gets away with it.
11. LORRAINE: Yes, but it wasn't Sazi's fault I got pregnant, Eric.
12. ERIC: Well, maybe but he's responsible too. It's a lesson for us men that we can't just rely on the woman to sort out the contraception. If we want no risk, then the boy should always wear a condom too, because quite honestly, there are STIs and HIV to think about.
13. MUSIC UP

NARRATOR: The next person Lorraine phoned was Desirée. She explained everything and why she wasn't taking part. Desirée found it very hard to believe. Lorraine, pregnant? She was very upset, but Lorraine was calm and insisted she wanted Des to win

Pop Idols! So, for her sake, Des promised to do her best. The clock was ticking! She had to find her father, Babu and then find Uncle Blessing, and then ask them to take care of their children without delay. She had five days to go before the start of the competition. Eric set off by car with her and Endurance to find their father, Babu.

Sc.3 In the car driving

14. ENDURANCE: There it is! There, the blue sign on the right! Babu's Car Repairs.
15. ERIC: Well spotted, Endurance! I'll park here.
16. FOOTSTEPS ON STREET; TRAFFIC.
In the workshop **SFX: hammering**.
17. DESIRÉE: Those are his shoes sticking out from under the car. I recognise them! (shyly)
Papa?
18. ENDURANCE: (louder) Papa! It's us, Endurance and Desirée.
19. **SFX:** heavy groaning as Babu pulls himself out from under the car
20. BABU: Hah! (Embarrassed laughing)
Endurance! Desirée!

21. DESIRÉE: (relieved) Papa! Oh, I'm so glad we found you!
22. BABU: What a surprise! And this is Doctor Alice's young boy, Eric, right?
23. ERIC: Yes, Sir!
24. BABU: Can't shake your hand, mine's all covered in oil. Come. Let's go and sit down in my office and talk!
25. **SFX:** Background radio music/ chairs scraping.
26. DESIRÉE: Do you own the whole workshop, Papa?
27. BABU: Yes, I bought it with the money I got from the sale of the farm. Granma Linda was very against me selling up so I didn't want to visit you all until I felt sure I had a successful business. But I was going to phone you – soon, honestly.
28. DESIRÉE: (hard) So, what was stopping you?
29. ENDURANCE: Where do you live, Papa?
30. BABU: (coughing embarrassed) I... um... live with... Maryam.

31. ENDURANCE/DESIRÉE: (shocked) Maryam?
32. BABU: Yes, and her two children.
33. DESIRÉE: You left us straight after Mama died - to live with another woman and her children? What about us? Your children? Papa, how could you? How long have you known this Maryam, uh? How long? (Sobbing through next part of dialogue)
34. BABU: (stuttering) Your... your mother and I I....
(Suddenly angry) Desirée, I don't have to answer to you. But I was going to bring you here once we had a big enough house. That is why I've been working so hard.
35. ERIC: (comforting) Shh, Des. You're upset! But we have to ask your dad about the...
36. DESIRÉE: (Sniffing/more controlled) Yes. Ok. Papa, there isn't much time. I have to ask you this. Can Endurance stay with you, at least occasionally at a weekend, like, for instance, this coming weekend?

37. ENDURANCE: Please?
38. BABU: I don't know. I must ask Maryam. I...
I...
39. DESIRÉE: Papa, you owe this much to us, at least.
You are our father. We should come
first.
40. BABU: Yes, well, um... it should be fine, little
man, if you are prepared sleep next to
Maryam's nine-year-old son.
41. ENDURANCE: (happy) Yes!
42. ERIC: You won't regret it, Sir. You are helping
your daughter to become a big star.
43. BABU: I know! Your manager, Bongo, phoned.
He is very impressed with you. Look,
Des, I'm sorry, but hey (Laughing) if I
can help you win a million dollars, I'll do
anything!
44. ENDURANCE: Then she will have enough money to
buy one big house for all of us to live in!
Together! You too, Eric!
45. DESIRÉE: (embarrassed) Endurance!

46. ERIC: (laughing) Ok! (Seriously) Oh, one more thing, do you have any idea where Uncle Blessing is?
47. BABU: Well, yes, actually he works with me on the cars. He should be here any minute now.
48. DESIRÉE: Oh, wow! I can't believe it!
49. **SFX:** MUSIC. FADE UNDER

NARRATOR: Uncle Blessing had also found a wife, who also had children of her own. He had planned that his children should continue to live with his sister, Granma Linda. It was more convenient – for him. On the night of the Pop Idols competition, Endurance and his father's new family sat together watching the show on television. Eric sat with Lorraine, and their mother along with Sazi at home wishing he could join Desirée's big family with its three generations mixing and mingling! Meanwhile, Bella had made it up with Granma and had invited her round to watch TV with her and her boyfriend Robert. Everyone was excited, and gasped with joy as Desirée came on and sang like a bird!

50. DESIRÉE: Good evening. This is a song my mother always sang. I dedicate it to my best friend, Lorraine!

51. LORRAINE (at home) Oh, Des, thank-you, Girlfriend!
52. **SFX:** Live applause from family members. PLUS TV audience applause
53. ALL: (different moments) Isn't she lovely. What a beautiful dress... Shhh...I can't believe that's our Des! How she's grown!
54. SIG TUNE (Desiré singing)
55. **SFX:** Applause.
56. TV VOICE: Desirée Thomas, you are through to the next round!
57. **SFX:** FADE UP SINGING/CHEERING. HOLD UNDER

NARRATOR: Under the mango trees an evening breeze was rustling the leaves. The heavy mango fruit was ready to fall. New trees would grow there one day. If you listened hard you could hear the soft voice of April whispering to the children she had lost, and to the children she had given life to:

58. APRIL: Bella, Desirée, Endurance, go well into the future. Your life is your life (echo) is your life...is your life....

SIG. TUNE UP

OUTRO

And that was the last episode of our Learning by Ear series, “Under the Mango Trees.” This radio drama was written by Romie Singh.

We hope that you now have a better understanding of family planning and how contraception can help to improve the quality of your life. It can protect you and keep you safe. Using it, young women and their partners can make smart choices about relationships and about when to start a family.

Remember, if you want to hear any of the programmes again, tell friends about the series or send us any comments, please visit our website at: dwworld.de/lbe.

Goodbye and take care

END OF EPISODE TEN