

Title: Under the Mango Trees

EPISODE 9: A second chance

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Scene 1 In the bedroom

List of characters:

- Lorraine (f, 18)
- Sazi (m, 20)
- Alice (f, 40+)
- Narrator

Scene 2.

List of characters:

- Grandma (f, 60+)
- Endurance (m, 13)
- Desirée (f, 16)
- Eric (m, 18)
- Bongo (m, 20+)
- Narrator

Scene 3 In the office.

List of characters:

- Bongo (m, 20+)
- Lorraine (f, 18)

- Narrator

Welcome to *Learning by Ear* and Episode Nine of our radio drama about family planning called “Under the Mango Trees”. We are looking at questions concerning contraception and family planning. For example, how people, particularly teenagers, can protect themselves from unwanted pregnancies, HIV and other sexually-transmitted infections using the various contraceptive method that are available

The most commonly reported reasons for resistance to contraceptive use are lack of knowledge, health concerns, and social disapproval. In Africa, there is a high rate of mortality among pregnant women, a high percentage of births that puts teenagers’ lives at risk, and gender inequality that submits girls to the risk of early pregnancy. This series aims to explore these somewhat sensitive issues and, hopefully, open them up for discussion.

In today’s episode Desirée looks fate in the eye for a second time, and she comes one step closer to finding her father.

SIG.TUNE UP HOLD UNDER AND FADE

1. NARRATOR: Lorraine was nursing a secret of her own. For a few days now she had been afraid to ask herself if she was she pregnant or not? She should have felt one hundred per cent sure that she wasn’t. She was on the mini pill, but she knew she had forgotten to take it more than once. Now, she knew she was pregnant – the home pregnancy test had been positive.

Scene 1 In the bedroom

1. SAZI: Lorraine, I still love you. I wish now I hadn't just left it to all up to you to sort out the contraception. I should have worn a condom as well.

2. LORRAINE: (sobbing) Oh, Sazi - I'm so sorry. I really didn't want this to happen. I keep thinking about the Pop Idols competition. I so want to do it but if Bongo finds out I'm pregnant, he will disqualify me. He made that clear at the start.

3. SAZI: Forget Bongo! Let's focus on you and me right now, Lorraine. What are we going to do? I mean, what are our options? Look, I really feel I don't have a clue. Can we talk to your Ma? Together?

4. 4. LORRAINE: My mother? Yes, I suppose so. If anyone will understand she will. Let's call her here to my room. I don't want Eric to see me like this.

5. SFX: MUSIC UP. FADE IN DIALOGUE:

6. LORRAINE: And what about my school diploma? If I keep the baby I will be thrown out of

school. No pregnant girl is allowed to stay.
Oh Ma! What if I terminate the pregnancy?
(sobbing heavily)

7. SAZI: Shhh, baby. Take it easy.

8. ALICE: Darling, remember, you and Sazi are in a steady relationship. You have his family, you have us. So you have a very strong support system.

9. SAZI: I just want you to know, I would try and be a good father and I know my mother would help me too. We could make it.

10. ALICE: You're only 18, honey. You can catch up your school diploma later, and you can sing later. And I will find time to help you. **(kissing Lorraine)** Poor darling, this is not the end of the world.....!

11. MUSIC UP

NARRATOR: Lorraine's future was being re-mapped, as was Desirée's, but in a very different way. Desirée was busy making plans to find her father. Endurance was very excited and even Granma seemed pleased too, but more cautious.

Scene 2.

12. GRANMA: Your father promised he would set up a new business and then come to get you, Endurance, so just be patient and give him time.
13. ENDURANCE: But now we know where he works. Desirée has his phone number. I want to see him again, Granma. I want to help Papa in his repair shop. I don't want to herd cows anymore on the farm.
14. DESIRÉ: (laughing) Woa! Slow down! One step at a time! Eric has his phone number. Just wait 'til he comes.
15. ENDURANCE: Eric is coming? When?
16. DESIRÉ: Any minute now. Go and see if you can see him coming.
17. SFX: Endurance runs off in excitement.
18. ENDURANCE: (off mic) We're going to see Papa again!
We're going to see Papa again!
19. GRANMA: Endurance is now so much happier, at school too. You've been a good sister and

a mother! Oh, by the way, what happened to that questionnaire that I signed? The one your headmaster handed out some weeks ago? Parents were supposed to fill it in, in order to help the teachers to understand the students' family situation better in order to help you become better students.

- 20.** **DESIRÉ:** The director, Mr Adams, wants to hold a school meeting soon. You'll get a chance then to meet our teachers and other parents.
- 21.** **GRANMA:** Good. I need to talk to teachers and young people more. But also listen, I suppose! Ai! The youth of today is changing so fast.
- 22.** **SFX:** cell phone ring
- 23.** **DESIRÉE:** Oh! Is that Eric calling? Hallo? ...Yes?.....
Bongo?
- 24.** **BONGO:** (telephone voice) So? Don't you hear Fate calling you, Desirée?
- 25.** **4. DESIRÉE:** Fate? What do you mean?

26. 5. BONGO: Ok. Are you sitting down? Now take a deep breath!

NARRATOR: What Bongo told Desirée really did take her breath away. Lorraine had dropped out! But why? What reason had she given? Bongo didn't know. Lorraine had just said, it was to do with circumstances" beyond her "control". Just then, the car arrived.

27. **SFX:** Car horn

28. **ENDURANCE:** (off mic) Des – Eric's arrived. Come on!

29. **DESIRÉE:** (As if waking from a dream) Eric? Eric!

30. **SFX:** Running /breathless

31. **ERIC:** Des! What is it?

32. **DESIRÉE:** Bongo says I have to take part – in Pop Idols!

33. **ERIC:** Wow! That's great!

34. **DESIRÉE:** Lorraine has dropped out but he doesn't know why! Do you?

35. **ERIC:** Lorraine's dropped out? No, I haven't a clue. How strange.

36. DESIRÉE: But Eric, I can't do Pop Idols unless we can find Papa and Uncle Blessing. Bongo said I must decide within 24 hours.
37. ERIC: But this is truly an amazing opportunity, Des. You can't let it go again. Here! Phone your dad now. No need to worry about airtime. Go on!
38. DESIRÉE: I hope this number is right? Oh dear! What if he says no!
39. SFX Dialling tone:
40. DESIRÉE: Hallo – is that you, Papa?
41. ENDURANCE: Papa? Let me speak to him!
42. DESIRÉE: (softly) Endurance, wait one minute. (louder) Papa? Endurance and I have been waiting to hear from you.....Oh!.....But you have a place now?.....Oh....No, we are fine. Listen, Papa, it's a long story, but I have to ask you something important.
43. ERIC: (Whispering) Ask him now if Endurance can stay over, next Saturday. And also ask where Uncle Blessing is.

44. DESIRÉE: Papa? (NOISE) Oh, the line's breaking up!

NARRATOR: Eric and Endurance stood full of suspense as Desirée tried to find a signal and call her father back in Granville. Meanwhile in Kentown, Bongo was full of suspense too, waiting for Desirée to tell him whether she would sing at Pop Idols or not. He still didn't know what Lorraine had meant by "circumstances" beyond her "control" but he had now told Desirée to stand in. She had to confirm whether she would or not. What if she still refused? And what if the "circumstances" were back under "control" now and Lorraine wanted to take part again? He was about to find out!

Scene 3 In the office.

45. **SFX:** Background pop music playing; fax machine; office phone ringing; cell phone ring tone. Phone FX on Lorraine's voice throughout

46. BONGO: Rainbow Agency. Bongo speaking. Hallo.

47. LORRAINE: (Phone FX) Bongo, it's me.

48. BONGO: Lorraine, baby. Hey Gal! Good to hear from you! What's up?

49. LORRAINE: Bongo, I just wanted to explain. I'm sorry to let you down like this. I know how much you were relying on me. I feel terrible.

50. BONGO: Listen, darling, just say you can do it and I'll be happy again.
51. LORRAINE: Haven't you asked Desirée to step in for me?
52. BONGO: Yeah, but she's not as good as you gal – and she may still say no. These rural girls, you know, they are too tied to the home.
53. LORRAINE: I'm afraid, Bongo, I don't qualify any more. I... you see... I was on the mini pill... but still I got pregnant.
54. BONGO: Aiaiai. You're pregnant! Lorraine. That really does put you out of the competition. I did warn you right at the beginning! Protect yourself. What happened? You missed a day?
55. LORRAINE: Something like that. Look, Bongo, my family and Sazi's family are offering to help, so, you know what I'm saying, I'll have to look after my baby but I'll have more time again in say two or three years time. If I come knocking on your door, then, will you....
56. BONGO: Sure! Baby, if you are serious about becoming a singer/performer keep it up at

home and sure, I promise, we'll make a plan. Don't forget, singing is good for babies. It calms them down. So, sing sweetly to it and you'll never have trouble getting babysitters!

NARRATOR: All Bongo knew was that now, Desirée must take Lorraine's place and sing! He sat listening to the recording of her voice. She was a winner! But would she say yes? He turned the music up. How long would she need to decide? It was urgent, he needed to know.

SIG TUNE UP (Desire singing)

OUTRO

And that's all from Learning by Ear for today. "Under the Mango Trees" is a radio drama that is written by Romie Singh. It highlights how contraception can help to improve the quality of life for a family and gives women, and also their partners, the choice of when to start a family. Please join us for the last and final episode when Desirée realises that fulfilling her dreams to be a singer still depends on finding her father.

Remember, if you want to hear the programme again or tell friends about it, please visit our website at: dwworld.de/s/1be
Goodbye for now and take care.

END OF EPISODE NINE