

Learning by Ear – Hygiene: How to avoid diarrhoea

Episode 02 “Ash Glazed Bananas”

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| Scene | Characters | |
|----------|--------------------|--|
| 1 | 1. EDITH | SAM – 17, m. EDITH – 40, f. MARIA – 43, f. EDDI– 36, m. |
| | 2. MARIA | |
| | 3. CHEMU | |
| | 4. NARRATOR | |
| 2 | 1. EDITH | DR SALLY – 34, f. CHEMU – 15, f. |
| | 2. MARIA | |
| | 3. CHEMU | |
| | 4. NARRATOR | |
| 3 | 1. SAM | NARRATOR |
| | 2. CHEMU | |
| | 3. MARIA | |
| | 4. NARRATOR | |
| 4 | 1. EDITH | |
| | 2. MARIA | |
| | 3. CHEMU | |
| | 4. EDDI | |

INTRO

MUSIC: THEME MUSIC

01. NARRATOR HELLO AND WELCOME TO EPISODE **TWO** OF OUR “LEARNING BY EAR” SERIES DEALING WITH THE MANY PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH DIARRHOEA. IN THE FIRST EPISODE, SAM’S FAMILY WAS SUFFERING FROM DIARRHOEA SICKNESS. WELL, SAM’S MOTHER EDITH DID SAY SHE WOULD SEEK ADVICE FROM HER IN-LAWS, EDDI AND DR SALLY, WHO ARE IN THE MEDICAL FIELD. WILL BABY FATU SURVIVE ANOTHER DAY AND NOT JOIN THE LARGE STATISTICS OF AFRICAN BABIES AND CHILDREN WHO DIE DUE TO THE EFFECTS OF DIARRHOEA?

LISTEN ON AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CAUSES, CURES AND PREVENTION OF DIARRHOEA AS WE FOLLOW THE STORY OF SAM AND HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

SCENE 1: EDITH’S HOUSEHOLD

02. SFX: BABY CRYING IN BACKGROUND, KNOCK ON THE DOOR

- 03. EDITH** (harassed) Come in.... the door is open.
Morning Maria, morning Chemu!
- 04. CHEMU** Morning Mama Sam!
- 05. MARIA** Morning, Edith. Oh, don't tell me your little one is still crying. Baby Fatu definitely has strong lungs. I could hear her from down the road.
- 06. EDITH** Morning Maria. I'm so worried. It's times like this that I so miss my dead husband. He would have known what to do about these sick children.
- 07. MARIA** God rest Baba Sam in peace and I curse the driver who killed him in the accident. But since he is not here, God rest his soul again, you and I must find a cure for Baby Fatu's stubborn stomach. I have brought Chemu to help us.
- 08. SFX: BABY CRYING STOPS**
- 09. CHEMU** When are Uncle Eddi and Auntie Sally coming?
- 10. MARIA** (sternly) Chemu, come here, light that fire while I peel these raw bananas. It seems Baby Fatu has fallen asleep, by the time she wakes up, the bananas must be ready.

BRIDGE MUSIC

11. NARRATOR BANANAS AND FIRE? MARIA IS UP TO SOMETHING AGAIN. DOES SHE KNOW SHE IS TRYING TO TREAT ONE OF THE MOST COMMON KILLERS IN AFRICA?

SCENE 2: EDITH'S FRONT ROOM

12. SFX: FIRE CRACKING. SCRATCHING OF DRY WOOD.

13. MARIA Edith, my friend. Let me tell you about this solution to a running stomach. This beats modern medicine. Chemu, ensure that fire has a lot of ash.

14. EDITH Ash?

15. MARIA Yes, hot ash. Now, peel the green bananas. Incubate them in the hot ash, cover them completely, they must bake in the ash.

16. CHEMU But they are so hard, and the ash, how will we get the ash off the bananas?

17. MARIA Who talked about removing the ash from the bananas? And who wants soft bananas when you have a soft stomach. The harder the raw bananas and the more ash, the better.

- 18. EDITH** (horrified) Better for what? Maria, now you are making me worried.
- 19. CHEMU** I think we should go to hospital now. We should go, we must go.
- 20. EDITH** Chemu, don't worry, Eddi will be here soon and he will tell us what to do. He always knows what to do about health matters.
- 21. CHEMU** (excited) Eddi is coming today? Oooh Goody... Goody.
- 22. MARIA** You two, what don't you understand? Baby Fatu needs to eat the bananas covered in ash. These hard bananas and the accompanying ash will form a strong hard lining inside the stomach and intestines. This will strengthen the insides of the stomach, and hence seal the runs, and that will be the end of running stomachs in this household. What part of this don't you understand?
- 23. CHEMU** (in sotto voice) Now I am seriously worried. Please Eddi where are you? Please arrive soon please! (loudly) Where is Sam?
- 24. EDITH** In his room. He is too weak. He sleeps a lot these days.

- 25. CHEMU** I will go see him.
- 26. MARIA** (**shouting**) Don't.... good girls don't go to boy's room.....,
- 27. SFX: DOOR SLAMS**
- 28. MARIA** I guess I am too late. (**muttering to herself**)
Do these children listen to us these days?
...No!

BRIDGE MUSIC

SCENE 3: SAM'S BEDROOM

- 29. CHEMU** Sam, Sam, are you awake? How are you feeling?
- 30. SAM** (**weakly**) I'm fine...but I feel weak.
- 31. CHEMU** Yeek, you look terrible.
- 32. SAM** (**sarcastic**) Thanks, now I feel better.
- 33. CHEMU** (**coyly**) Sorry SAM, I didn't mean to hurt you. I'm sorry you are sick.... Can I... can I read a book for you?
- 34. SAM** That's sweet.. but... well.. maybe just sit here and talk to me.

PAUSE

- 35. CHEMU** I could sing you a song?
- 36. SAM** You? Sing? You can't sing!
- 37. CHEMU** Well, I can rap! And rap real good.
- 38. SAM** **(Laughs)** Rap me a lullaby? How cute! Where did you get the song from?
- 39. CHEMU** It's a song to help you.. ... I made it up.. for you! It will help you fight the diarrhoea.
- 40. SAM** Is it a romantic one?
- 41. CHEMU** **(chiding)** Silly you! It is a song to keep disease away. It goes:
- Wash your hands
Only washed hands
Should be used
To eat
Only careless people
Don't wash their hands
After visiting the toilet.
Keep healthy.
Wash your hands.
- 42. MARIA (V O)** **(Very loud shout from outside the room)**
Chemu, get your backside out here this minute! Sam's room is no music recording studio. You have work to do! I am counting; one... two....

43. NARRATOR WELL, WHAT MOTHER DOES APPRECIATE A REALLY GOOD RAP? THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR CHEMU WAS TO SEE THE LITTLE SMILE IN SAM'S FACE. MEANWHILE, THE BANANAS BAKED IN THE FIRE..

SCENE 4: EDITH'S FRONT ROOM

44. SFX: BABY FATU IS CRYING AGAIN

45. MARIA Edith, that child of yours does indeed have strong lungs. Wait until she eats these bananas, she will be a quiet as a... as a baby.. well, a healthy one.

46. SFX: (HEARD FROM INSIDE EDITH'S HOUSE) - SOUND OF CAR DRIVING UP. CAR PARKS

47. EDITH (**excited**) He is here! That's Eddi's car.

48. CHEMU (**excited**) It's him.. it's him. Uncle Eddi is here!

49. SFX: DOOR OPENS. BABY FATU CONTINUES CRYING

50. EDDI Hallo everyone....why is the baby crying?
What's that smell?

51. CHEMU (excited) Uncle Eddi, you are here at last...Baby Fatu is sick. She has diarrhoea. Sam's feet can't run no more because his stomach won't stop running and he is sleeping and the bananas are cooking.

52. EDDI (confused) Eeeh?

53. EDITH Eddi, my brother-law, how good of you to come see us.

54. MARIA (sarcastic) Mr Eddi, so, you have turned up...

55. EDDI Good to see you too Maria... Edith, why is Baby Fatu crying so much. Let me have a look at her.

PAUSE

56. EDDI Oh no... no.. no.. this child is very sick. Edith, this child should be in hospital. Look at her dry skin, this child has lost a lot of fluid. She also looks too small. When last did I see her? Two months ago?.... Did she stop growing or what?

- 57. MARIA** **(stubbornly)** Look here Eddi, I do not need your level of education to know that Baby Fatu's genes are from her parents.
(sarcastic)... 'she stopped growing' my foot. Look at Edith, she is short. As for Baba Sam, God rest him in peace, he never had any tall genes.... Why should Baby Fatu end up being tall? It's genes, not sickness.
- 58. CHEMU** **(smugly)** She has diarrhoea, Uncle Eddi. I keep telling them.
- 59. MARIA** Hold your tongue, girl.
- 60. EDDIE** How long has she had this diarrhoea?
- 61. CHEMU** Several days but we have ash bananas cooking.....
- 62. MARIA** Shut up, girl...
- 63. EDDIE** **(livid mad)** Bananas..? What do bananas have to do with a critical health condition? We are taking her to hospital now... right now... get moving.. noooooooooow! **(softly)**, Good heavens, I hope we are not too late.
- 64. EDITH** **(worried)** Oh no.. what have I done to my child?

65. EDDIE Diarrhoea is very dangerous. It can kill. Baby Fatu should have been given medical attention within a maximum of seven days of the start of diarrhoea. Some hours of acute diarrhoea are enough to make a child badly dehydrated andand... I don't even want to say it... Edith, you should be getting into my car - NOW!...

66. SFX: RUFFLE AND SHUFFLE OF CLOTHING AND FOOTWORK

67. CHEMU I'm coming with you Uncle Eddi.

68. SFX; DOOR OPENS, FOOTWORK, DOOR SHUTS. CAR ZOOMS OFF IN RUSH. (All sound heard from indoors)

SILENCE.

69. MARIA And who's going to eat my ash-bananas?

OUTRO:

70. NARRATOR BABY FATU'S CONDITION IS SERIOUS.
THE DIARRHOEA DID NOT GET
IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION. THERE
IS A REAL DANGER THAT BABY FATU,
LIKE SO MANY CHILDREN IN AFRICA,
MIGHT DIE OF DIARRHOEA AND
IGNORANCE.

TUNE IN TO OUR NEXT EPISODE OF
'LEARNING BY EAR' TO FIND OUT WHAT
HAPPENS NEXT. AND: WHO'S THINKING
ABOUT POOR SAM IN HIS BEDROOM?

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