

Learning by Ear 2010**Theme: Literacy and education****“A GIRL FINISHING SCHOOL”****Episode 06:** *“Latifa takes a short cut.”***Author:** Frédéric GAKPARA**Editor:** Yann Durand**Translator:** Anne Thomas

Characters: **Latifa** (15 years old, Papa Wali and Mamoua’s daughter. In her ninth year of school. Very intelligent, has never had to retake a year. However, she has to face her parents’ decision to make her drop out of school just as she is preparing for her exams.)

Zakia (20 years old, a very emancipated girl, Latifa's friend, has just found a job in a tourist agency thanks to her technical qualifications. She travels a lot and meets lots of people in her job.)

Elinam (19 years old, Papa Wali and Mamoua's son, Latifa's older brother. He has just started university in a big city 120 kilometers away from his parents' small town.)

Roland (28-year-old man, tourist, charmed by Zakia. She doesn't give him a chance!)

Mamoua (39 years old, Papa Wali’s wife and the mother of his children. She is expecting a fourth child. She is an illiterate housewife and runs a small maize porridge business in front of her house.)

INTRO

Hello and welcome to Learning by Ear for the sixth episode of our series "A Girl Finishing School" about illiteracy and education.

*The holidays begin very well for Latifa. And Papa Wali's business seems to be back on track. What's more, the metalworker is listening to his employee Epiphane more and more. Thanks to his evening classes, he is finding out how to improve their business. Zakia's tourists, on the lookout for traditional handiwork, do not complain about Papa Wali's manual finishing. So, finally things are better at home and Papa Wali takes responsibility for paying back Mamoua's loans. Life is looking brighter! For two days now, Latifa has been allowed to accompany Zakia and her tourists on their tours. It's lunchtime and they are all eating together on the mountain. This is the sixth episode entitled: **Latifa takes a short-cut.***

Scene 1, AT THE RESTAURANT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Zakia, Latifa, Roland, Elinam on the phone...

1. **SFX ATMO:** **OPEN-AIR RESTAURANT. WIND IN THE TREES. BIRDSONG. CHILDREN PLAYING. SOUND OF CUTLERY AND CROCKERY. MORE TOURISTS VOICES**

2. **Zakia:** Latifa, you don't seem to have woken up from dreaming yet.

3. **Latifa:** No, not really! Oh Zakia! This place is so romantic! It makes you dream.
4. **Roland:** She's right – it's like a piece of paradise.
5. **Zakia:** Thanks Roland! It's a great spot for our agency. We try to protect it as much as possible, also for the tourists like you. But the villagers looking for firewood and especially poachers don't help us much. Sometimes they even start fires to scare the animals. It's terrible, you can't imagine!
6. **Roland:** Do they know it's a protected site?
7. **Zakia:** Of course, they know! They come anyway because there's no one here to patrol the place. But the agency has been running an environment-awareness program for a few months now.
8. **Roland:** That's great!
9. **Zakia:** We give them some basic lessons and ask them to volunteer to look after the protected spaces themselves.
10. **Roland:** (**Agreeing**) Wow! How long have you been at the agency?
11. **Zakia:** 11 months. It's my first job.

12. **Roland:** May I ask what your qualifications are?
13. **Zakia:** Heritage and tourism. Now I'm doing communications.
14. **Roland:** And... are you married?
15. **Zakia:** (Firmly) That's a personal question which I choose not to answer.
16. **Roland:** My apologies! You're so young and so mature at the same time – it made me curious...
17. **SFX ATMO :** **MOBILE PHONE RINGS – STEPS ON DEAD LEAVES AND TWIGS**
18. **Zakia:** Excuse me please, I have to take this call (**Walking away**) Hello?
19. **Elinam:** (on the phone) Hello!
20. **Zakia:** (**Shouting**) Oh hello Elinam! (**Shouting at Latifa**) Latifa, come here, it's your brother! (**On the telephone**) How are you?
21. **Elinam:** I'm fine. How are you, Zakia?
22. **Zakia:** Everything is fine! What happened to you the other day?
23. **Elinam:** I'm sorry Zakia. I had to prepare a presentation for university. What was the news?

24. **Zakia:** I'll let Latifa tell you herself.
25. **Elinam:** Put her on then!
26. **Latifa:** Hello Elinam!
27. **Elinam:** Hello sister. I'm trying to guess but I'm holding back. Go on, spit it out!
28. **Latifa:** I passed my exams!
29. **Elinam:** (**He shouts**) Wow! Great! I knew you would! Well done, my little sis!
30. **Latifa:** Thank you!
31. **Elinam:** And... you know what?
32. **Latifa:** No...
33. **Elinam:** I got my scholarship!
34. **Latifa:** Really?
35. **Zakia:** What did he say?
36. **Latifa:** He got a scholarship at last!

37. **Zakia:** (**Shouting**) Wow! So cool!!! Elinam, come back during the holidays so we can celebrate!

38. **Elinam:** Latifa! Are you interested in taking the entry exam for students who want to become medical assistants?

39. **Latifa:** What would it mean exactly?

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

40. **Elinam:** You would study medicine for three years, then become a medical assistant. Like a little doctor, if you like!

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

41. **Latifa:** Is that what you want me to do?

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

42. **Elinam:** **You** have to decide. But keep in mind the financial advantages and the job opportunities. You seem to be better at sciences and our hospitals need staff... Whereas the other sectors are going through a tough time.

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

43. **Latifa:** How much time do I have to think about it ?

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

44. **Elinam:** Not much! The exam is in two weeks and you have to register 72 hours before.

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

45. **Latifa:** OK. How about tomorrow? Will you call me back? I'll be with Zakia again.

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

46. **Elinam:** OK, speak to you tomorrow, girls!

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

47. **Latifa and Zakia:** Speak to you tomorrow, boy! (**They hang up laughing**)

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

48. Zakia: Latifa, you shouldn't hesitate so much! Just take the risk!
You can always take other courses later if you want.

Formatiert: Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

49. Latifa: I wanted to have your opinion first.

Formatiert: Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

50. Zakia: If both your parents were right behind you, you could go as far as you wanted. But you have to take short-cuts so you can protect yourself as much as possible from any nasty surprises.

Formatiert: Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

51. Latifa: You're right Zak, I'll take the exam. Uh oh! I think the tourists are getting impatient...

Formatiert: Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

52. Zakia: You're right, let's go!

Formatiert: Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

53. SFX ATMO: **Steps (two women) running on dead leaves and twigs**

Formatiert: Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

54. NARRATOR: *After their trip to the mountain, Latifa, Zakia and the tourists set off for a small town. Each day, the tourists discover a site that is even more fabulous than the last. The medical assistant entry exam takes place all over the country, so Latifa is lucky to be able to take it in her small town. She is overjoyed to discover that she is on the shortlist of those who have passed. Shortly afterwards, Mamoua gives birth to a baby girl and Latifa has to cut down on her going out to help her mother.*

Formatiert: Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

Soon, it's almost time for Latifa to move to the capital where the only Medical Assistant School in the country is located. But then one morning a volcano erupts in Papa Wali's home.

Scene 2, AT PAPA WALI'S HOME

Papa Wali, Mamoua and Latifa

55. SFX ATMO: **HENS CLUCKING IN THE BACKGROUND.
SOME SHEEP BLEET – SOME TRAFFIC IN THE
DISTANCE**

Formatiert: Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

56. Papa Wali: **(angry)** Latifa, what do you really want to do? Do you
want to kill us?

Formatiert: Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

57. Latifa: What do you mean, Dad?

Formatiert: Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

58. Papa Wali **(angry)** You made sure you went back to school instead
of helping your mother at home and we didn't say
anything. You passed your exams, as you wanted. And
now that your mom just had another baby, you want to
leave home to live with your brother and go to this
Medical Assistant School.

Formatiert: Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

59. Mamoua: **(Playing the victim)** The porridge business that you look
down on was what fed you in this house; it's what clothed

Formatiert: Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

you and paid for your school materials... And today, you dare tell us your future does not lie in porridge!
(**Shouting**) Latifa!!!

60. Latifa:

Papa, I'm just going to Elinam's so I can take a course that I can't do here in town!

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

61. Papa Wali:

Of all the courses there are in this town you had to go and find the only one that you can't do here, Latifa!

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

62. Latifa:

Elinam recommended it to me.

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

63. Papa Wali:

Is Elinam your dad now? When he comes home, he's going to be in for it, that's for sure!

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

64. Latifa:

Nobody said anything when he left. On the contrary, he got everything he needed in his suitcase!

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

65. Mamoua:

Elinam is a boy! When he gets a job, he'll come back with his wife, God willing! And while he makes sure we have everything, his wife will help me with the housework. But you Latifa, if you don't help me today, when are you going to do it? When you're at your husband's looking after him and his parents?

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

66. Latifa:

Mum, I'm not asking you for anything, not for the course, nor for my rent, nor for food. I just want permission to go to town and succeed in my life.

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

67. Mamoua:

Oh, excuse me! **I'm** the one who hasn't succeeded in my life, am I? Who's been putting these ideas in your head? Your friend?

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

68. Latifa:

Dad, don't tell me you don't understand. Defend me for once in your life and explain this to Mum!

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

69. Papa Wali:

Defend you and say what? You always do what you want anyway. You're not even asking for permission. You're just informing us that's all.

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

70. Latifa:

(With tears in her eyes) I'm asking you for your blessing, Dad.

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

71. Papa Wali:

Did you ask for our blessing before taking your exams or this entry exam? Did you even tell us you were taking such a test?

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

72. Latifa:

I'm sorry, Dad, but I was worried that you would refuse.

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

73. Papa Wali:

So, why are you telling us now? What if I were to say "no"?

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

74. Latifa:

(Silence) ...

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

75. Papa Wali:

Of course, you would just take your suitcase and go.

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

- 76. Latifa:** (Crying loudly) Dad...I want to succeed so I can help you later...
- 77. Mamoua:** Spare your tears! You'll need them when your child does to you what you're doing to me now!
- 78. Papa Wali:** (realizing they went too far) Mamoua, what are you saying? Are you putting a curse on your daughter?
- 79. Mamoua:** Does she deserve anything else?
- 80. Papa Wali:** (firmly) Everything but this! She might not be very obedient but she is making us proud! She's been helping you up to now and you can't treat her like a piece of garbage just because she wants to leave! Now you're going over the top!
- 81. Mamoua:** Who's going to do the cleaning instead of her? Can you picture me washing the baby's nappies?
- 82. Papa Wali:** I'll do it, no problem. (To Latifa) Latifa!
- 83. Latifa:** Yes, Dad?
- 84. Papa Wali:** You can go! Pack your suitcase and I'll take you to the station when you are ready to go.
- 85. Latifa:** Thank you, Dad... (She leaves the room discreetly)

Formatiert: Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

86. Papa Wali: I have to go now. I've got work to do. (**Gets up**)

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

87. SFX ATMO: **SOUND OF METAL CHAIR SCRAPING THE FLOOR. FOOTSTEPS (ONE MAN) GOING AWAY**

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

88. Mamoua: Is that all you've got to say to me? (**Angrily**) Wali! You wait till she comes back pregnant! (**For FADE OUT**)... That's what she can expect if she goes to the big city... with all those hooligans having their way with innocent girls from the provinces...

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

MUSIC

OUTRO

Three days later, Latifa set off for the capital where her brother Elinam was waiting for her. Her best friend Zakia was in tears at the bus station. Her dad also found it hard to hide his emotion. Mamoua was conspicuous by her absence.

In the capital, Latifa moved in with her brother and registered at the school of Medical Assistants.

Will everything go well? Will she be safe in the big concrete jungle of the capital? What will happen? To find out, tune in to the next episode of "A Girl Finishing School", a series about illiteracy and education.

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Thanks for your loyalty and all the best till next time!!

END OF 6th EPISODE