

LEARNING BY EAR

“Africa’s physically challenged people”

EPISODE 6: " Making changes "

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INTRO:

Hello there and thank you for joining us at Learning by Ear. We are moving on with the sixth episode of our series entitled, **Africa’s physically challenged people”**. In the fifth episode, Oluanda explained to his mother why he was suddenly showing an interest in shoe repairing, whereas drunkard Fagilio discovered that his son, Chitoto was taking to alcohol too. Now, everyone knows that change is always hard to bring about. Are people willing to accept change? Stay close to your radio to discover what Oluanda intends to bring to Maganye in this episode entitled, **“Making changes”**. First though, let’s hear what Fagilio had to say about Chitoto’s drinking habit.

SCENE ONE: AT FAGILIO’S HOME IN BACKYARD

1. **ATMO:** **YARD AMBIENCE; BIRDS; PEOPLE’S NOISE FROM AFAR**

2. **FAGILIO:** Chitoto pick up the bottle, and follow me inside.
Now!

3. **SFX:** **BOTTLE ROLLS ON GROUND**

4. **CHITOTO:** Dad, please forgive me.

5. **SFX:** **DOOR OPENED**

6. **FAGILIO:** Get inside! You irresponsible, ungrateful boy!

7. **SFX:** **FOOTSTEPS OF TWO PEOPLE (MAN, BOY) ENTERING THE HOUSE**

8. SFX: DOOR BEING CLOSED

9. FAGILIO: Now, I want you to tell me everything Chitoto. I am not drunk, so don’t try to make a fool out of me. When did you start drinking? Why does Oluanda’s mother keep accusing you for something she suspects you did?

10. CHITOTO: Okay, okay dad. Actually I started drinking after Oluanda’s accident...

11. NARRATOR: Many people think that by drowning themselves in alcohol, their problems will somehow go away or be forgotten. Obviously Chitoto had seen that in his Dad and he began drinking believing that the momentary tipsiness would take away his guilt. Step by step, Chitoto narrated to his Dad, how it all started with the bet, the fall, the accident whereby Oluanda lost his leg and led him to where he was now. Fagilio stared into the eyes of his son and...

12. FAGILIO: **(Thoughtful)** Hmm... so what you are saying is that Tofa was right all along?

13. CHITOTO: Yes. I tried to explain this to you, so many times but you were always either too drunk, or snoring. You once even thought I had impregnated a girl.

- 14. FAGILIO:** Was I? I need to quit drinking soon. Anyway listen to me son. You have to stop this habit. I don’t want you to end up like me. I sacrificed a lot for you so that you could have a better life. That said, you also need to make things right with Oluanda. There is nothing as tragic as living with a guilty conscience. You hear me son? Make things right with him, the sooner, the better.
- 15. CHITOTO:** Dad, that will be somehow hard for me now.
- 16. FAGILIO:** I don’t care how hard it is, just do it! Now go and dispose off that bottle.
- 17. NARRATOR:** Chitoto was right, he had made things worse for himself. Not only had he broken off his friendship with Oluanda after the accident, but his two other friends, Magoto and Karemi were also tired of his bullying, something he too had realized. Several weeks after that, Oluanda had become increasingly popular as the one-legged shoemaker. And one fine afternoon as he was busy working outside their house, Kangwa, the most beautiful girl in school, came. She too needed her shoe repaired, but was that the only reason?

SCENE TWO: SHOE REPAIR OUTSIDE OLUANDA’S HOME

18. **ATMO:** **OUTSIDE AMBIENCE; BIRDS; PEOPLE PASSING BY; GENTLE HAMMERING ON NAIL**
19. **KANGWA:** Oluanda, hi. How have you been?
20. **OLUANDA:** **(Happy mood)** Oh Kangwa, it’s good to see you. Please have a... mmh.. I need to make some benches here for the clients.
21. **KANGWA:** No problem. I will just stand. **(Embarrassed)** Oluanda, my shoes... well since everyone in Maganye is talking about how good you are... I mean with shoes.
22. **OLUANDA:** May I have a look?
23. **KANGWA:** Sure. That’s why I am here... I mean not only that... but... to see how you have been too.
24. **OLUANDA:** That is very kind of you, Kangwa. Do you need your shoes urgently? Because I have a lot of work, but a girl like you should never walk without her favorite pair of shoes.
25. **KANGWA:** A girl like me? I am not any different from the rest of the girls in Maganye.

26. OLUANDA: If you are not different from them, then they are different from you.

(They both laugh heartily)

27. KANGWA: Sorry for asking this, but is this what you want to do for the rest of your life?

28. OLUANDA: You are beginning to sound like my mum. I will answer your question though, I know what I want to do, and I know this is not it, but I don’t know how, where, or when to start! So I do this, at least to make myself feel useful.

29. KANGWA: **(Curiously)** Then tell me! I am your friend, I can help... maybe. Tell me Oluanda, you were one of the best students, and I know you always dreamt big.

30. OLUANDA: When you hear my plans, you will probably think that I have not only lost my leg, but my mind too.

31. KANGWA: **(Shocked)** What!?

32. OLUANDA: That was meant to be a joke.

33. KANGWA: Oh!
(Hearty laugh again)

40. **TOFA:** What happened? I am dying to hear what this thing is, that has somehow made your day today.
41. **OLUANDA:** For starters, it’s not *something*, it’s *someone*.
42. **SFX:** **SPOON DELICATELY PLACED DOWN**
43. **TOFA:** **(Curiously)** Someone? Okay now you have my full attention. Who is this someone and what did he do?
44. **OLUANDA:** Wrong again mum, what did *she* do...
45. **TOFA:** She? Aha it’s a woman. I see, so who was it? Did you get a huge tip from her?
46. **OLUANDA:** **(satirically)** Yes and no.
47. **TOFA:** **(Nervous)** Oluanda stop your word games, what do you mean yes and no?
48. **OLUANDA:** Yes, she gave me a big tip, but not the kind of tip you are thinking of. She somehow managed to ignite in me the dreams that were mine. Mum, I am ready to start making changes.
49. **TOFA:** **(Happy)** Oluanda, that is great news! I am so thrilled. So you want to resume school? You know you can always join a technical school or even...

- 50. OLUANDA:** Maybe, I will. But not just me! My dream and desire is that all those who have disabilities and wish to continue with their education are given that chance.
- 51. TOFA:** **(Puzzled)** And just how do you think you will achieve that? Who is this lady anyway?
- 52. OLUANDA:** I will, or let’s say, we will. And if we don’t, at least we will have started the fight. And victory is ours.
- 53. TOFA:** **(More puzzled)** Okay, tell me the name of this woman, I might need to have a word with her. She seems to have totally poisoned you.
- 54. OLUANDA:** It is Kangwa. She is the one, mum.
- 55. TOFA:** Oluanda, I am completely lost. You mean Kangwa, the beautiful girl, the one you chased away when she came to see you after you came back from hospital?
- 56. OLUANDA:** That same Kangwa.
- 57. NARRATOR:** Every parent will tell you that they always want their children to be happy. Tofa was no exception. She listened attentively as Oluanda shared a bit of his meeting with the dream girl of Maganye. In the end, all she could say was...

58. TOFA: **(Takes one long deep breath)** What can I say? I am happy when you are happy. Just be careful, I don’t want you to rush into anything only to regret it later, or worse have your heart broken. Let me do the dishes, you will help me tomorrow.

59. SFX: **CUTLERY BEING COLLECTED**

60. NARRATOR: So as Tofa cleared the table, she couldn’t help but wonder what all this could mean for her, her relationship with her son and for the people of Maganye. She knew that Kangwa came from a well-off family, and had a hunch that it would not go down easily for her. But was she right? Mr. and Mrs. Mali, Kangwa’s parents were the only ones in the neighborhood who owned a car. It was an old one, but still the only one. That night as Kangwa waited for them in their house, her parents were quarrelling in the car.

SCENE FOUR: NIGHT AT THE MALI’S

61. SFX: **OLD CAR COMES TO A HALT**

62. MRS. MALI: I keep telling you, we need to get a new car.

63. MR. MALI: And I keep answering you, we don’t need to get a new car!

64. **MRS. MALI:** **(Annoyed)** I feel embarrassed to be seen in this old rusty car.
65. **MR. MALI:** Then don’t ride in it. You should be grateful; do you know how many women would be glad to take your place?
66. **MRS. MALI:** So is that what this is about? Other women taking my place?
67. **MR. MALI:** No, I mean your place in the car! Mama Kangwa. The car is fine.
68. **MRS. MALI:** It is not! It’s an old, stupid car.
69. **MR. MALI:** The car is fine.
70. **MRS. MALI:** It is not!
71. **SFX:** **GETTING OUT OF THE CAR + CAR DOOR IS BANGED HARD**
72. **MR. MALI:** If you keep doing that, then it will truly *not* be fine!
73. **SFX:** **GETTING OUT OF THE CAR + CAR DOOR GENTLY CLOSED**
74. **SFX:** **FOOTSTEPS OF GIRL APPROACHING**
75. **KANGWA:** **(coming closer)** Hi mum, dad.

76. MRS. MALI: Hi dear. Aren’t you supposed to be doing homework?

77. KANGWA: Were you two arguing again? Yes, I finished my homework and I was waiting for you. I have something important to share with you.

78. MRS. MALI: Did you hear that? Kangwa has something she wants to tell us!

79. MR.MALI: Yes, I heard it, I am coming.

80. SFX: **FOOTSTEPS OF MAN, FOOTSTEPS OF WOMAN AND GIRL**

OUTRO:

And this brings us to the end of our sixth episode of our drama about Africa’s physically challenged people. The stakes are getting high, what does Oluanda plan to do to fight for the rights of the disabled in Maganye? And how will Mr. and Mrs. Mali, Kangwa’s rich parents, react to the news about her relationship and involvement with Oluanda? This and much more still to come in the next episode.

If you wish to listen to this episode again, send comments about it or just to listen to other previous Learning by Ear series, visit www.dw-world.de/lbe.

Until then, it’s goodbye from us.