

## **LEARNING BY EAR**

### **“Africa’s physically challenged people”**

#### **EPISODE 3: "Accepted before, rejected now"**

**AUTHOR: Chrispin Mwakideu**

**EDITORS: Andrea Schmidt, Susanne Fuchs**

**List of characters / Episode 3:**

**NARRATOR**

#### **SCENE ONE: SUNDAY MORNING AT KAREMI’S HOUSE**

- Zabibu (f, 15)
- Theresa (f, 60)
- Karemi (m, 18)

#### **SCENE TWO: AT THE HOSPITAL ENTRANCE**

- Oluanda (m, 18)
- Tofa (f, 40)
- Karemi (m, 18)

#### **SCENE THREE: AT CHITOTO’S HOMESTEAD**

- Fagilio (m, 42)
- Chitoto (m, 19)

## **SCENE FOUR: OUTSIDE OLUANDA’S / KAREMI’S HOME**

- Magoto (m, 18)
- Oluanda (m,18)
- Tofa (f, 40)
- Karemi (m,18)
- Kangwa (f,18)

### **INTRO:**

Greetings to you and thank you for tuning in to another episode of Learning by Ear. We are still rolling on with our radio drama entitled, **“Africa’s physically challenged people”**

In our previous episode, Oluanda was taken to the emergency unit and had his leg amputated after his terrible accident at the baobab tree. The people in Maganye had heard about it, but, except for his friend Karemi, Karemi’s grandmother Theresa and his sister Zabibu, no one is aware of his present condition. How will the others react? Let’s find out in today’s episode entitled, **“Accepted before, rejected now”**. And we pick up the story on a Sunday morning in Karemi’s homestead where Zabibu, the albino girl is watching her grandmother Theresa washing clothes.

**SCENE ONE: SUNDAY MORNING AT KAREMI’S HOME**

- 1. ATMO:**                    **WASHING OF CLOTHES BY HAND; BIRDS;  
YARD AMBIENCE**
- 2. ZABIBU:**                Grandmother Theresa, what do you think will now  
happen to Oluanda?
- 3. THERESA:**              Zabibu, what kind of a question is that? Hmm,  
how would I know about Oluanda’s future? I am  
not a soothsayer.
- 4. ZABIBU:**                Yes, I am aware of that Grandmother, but what I  
meant is, if...
- 5. THERESA:**              **(Cuts her short)** It is pretty obvious isn’t it? You  
want to know what will happen to Oluanda after  
his amputation. Just go to the shopping centre  
and look at all the beggars, that is what will  
happen to Oluanda.
- 6. ZABIBU:**                That is very sad. Oluanda is one of the nicest  
boys in Maganye. Grandmother, why are only  
those with disabilities left to beg in Maganye?

**7. THERESA:** Zabibu, do you want to drive me crazy with your questions today? Okay, I believe it's because our society has isolated them and completely forgotten about their existence. And since they need to survive, they resort to begging. It's a pity because these people are human beings like us and need to be given equal chances and opportunities in life.

**8. ZABIBU:** **(sadly)** But Grandmother Theresa, people here in Maganye treat me differently as well because of my skin colour and eyes. They call me all sorts of names. **(more cheekily)** But I also call them names... there is this one boy at school who kept calling me the 'white girl', yet he had such big ears, I told him he could hear the rains one day before they fell.

**(They both laugh)**

**9. THERESA:** Everyone has a flaw, but most don't even realize it. But Zabibu you shouldn't do that. If at all, I would expect such behavior from Karemi, not you! Where is he anyway? He should help me to hang these clothes up and go to the hospital to help Oluanda to return home, since he is being discharged today. **(calls out loudly)** Karemiiii!

**10. SFX:** **Steps coming closer**

- 11. KAREMI:**           **(approaching)** Yes, grandmother. I am not deaf so you don’t have to shout my name loud enough for the whole Maganye village to hear.
- 12. THERESA:**           Don’t talk to me like that! What do you know about being deaf? Help me hang these clothes up, it’s getting late for church. And remember to arrive early at the hospital to help Tofa bring Oluanda home. **(sighs)** Listen to me kids. I want you to treat Oluanda just like before, in fact if anything, you should show more love and acceptance. The boy will need that now.
- 13. KAREMI / ZABIBU:** Yes, Grandmother Theresa.
- 14. NARRATOR:** An African proverb goes: what old men see while seated, young men can not see even while standing. This was true with grandmother Theresa, her many years under the scorching sun had taught her that those in Africa, who were either born with a disability or like Oluanda became disabled after an accident, illness, violence, malnutrition or for any other reason, often faced the worst living conditions. But she was determined to teach her grandchildren to respect and treat them with dignity and kindness. But where does her attitude come from? Is it from having an albino granddaughter or is there more to it? Listen on, meanwhile at the hospital...

## **SCENE TWO: AT THE HOSPITAL ENTRANCE**

15. **ATMO:**                   **HOSPITAL AMBIENCE**
16. **SFX:**                   **SOUND OF WOODEN CRUTCHES USED FOR WALKING**
17. **OLUANDA:**           **(Takes deep breath) Pheeew!**
18. **TOFA:**                Are the crutches too heavy for you son? I don't know why they gave you wooden ones. When I get money, I will buy you those plastic ones.
19. **SFX:**                   **FOOTSTEPS AS KAREMI APPROACHES**
20. **KAREMI:**           **(Shocked) Ooooo ..luanda..how are you? Hallo Mama Oluanda. Sorry I am late.**
21. **OLUANDA:**        Hi Karemi. I am fine, still trying to get used to these crutches. Doctor Esther says it won't take me long to learn how to use them.
22. **TOFA:**                Yes, isn't my boy brave?
23. **OLUANDA:**        **(Sudden outburst) Mum would you stop that please! ...I don't need your pity, I don't need anybody's sympathy. Okay?**
24. **SFX:**                   **ANGRY FOOTSTEPS WITH CRUTCHES**

**(OLUANDA) GOING AWAY, QUICK  
FOOTSTEPS (2 p.) CATCHING UP, ENTRANCE  
DOOR OPENS AND CLOSE**

**25. ATMO:** **STREET SOUNDS IN FRONT OF HOSPITAL**

**26. KAREMI:** **(Trying to calm him down)** Hey... easy now Oluanda. This is your mother you are talking to here.

**27. TOFA:** **(Starts to weep)**

**28. OLUANDA:** **(Still angry)** Stairs! Stairs and stairs!.. cursed be the one who built this hospital. How do they expect people like me to move forward on these steps? We don’t have wings to fly!

**29. KAREMI:** Oluanda, I can help you if you...

**30. OLUANDA:** **(Cuts him short)** I don’t need your help! Let’s just go home, that’s why you came. Right?

**31. NARRATOR:** Tofa and Karemi couldn’t believe the Oluanda that was unfolding before them. This wasn’t the polite, obedient boy they used to know. What had caused this sudden change? And will they be able to handle it? Stay close to find out. Meanwhile Chitoto had heard about Oluanda’s amputation and was feeling guilty, so he decided to open up to his father Fagilio.

**SCENE THREE: AT CHITOTO’S HOMESTEAD**

32. **SFX:**                    **HEAVY SNORING**
33. **CHITOTO:**            Papa! Wake up... come on wake up!
34. **FAGILIO:**            **(Drunk voice)** Hmm.. what! Is the police here?  
Hide my drink, quickly!
35. **CHITOTO:**            No, something worse! I don’t know how to tell you  
this dad.
36. **FAGILIO:**            What? What could it be, my son. Hmm.. tell me.
37. **CHITOTO:**            But dad, you need to promise me that you will  
keep it a secret.
38. **FAGILIO:**            **(Excited)** Oh I know where this is going.. you are  
going to be a father, right? Tell me who is this  
girl?
39. **CHITOTO:**            Dad..it...is..
40. **SFX:**                    **HEAVY SNORING**
41. **CHITOTO:**            ... not what you think.
42. **NARRATOR:** And so Chitoto stood there watching his snoring  
father, who was hardly ever sober. Who should he turn to now?  
Meanwhile, Tofa, Oluanda and Karemi were arriving home, and to  
their surprise, their friend Magoto was there waiting...



**SCENE FOUR: OUTSIDE OLUANDA’S HOME**

- 43. ATMO:** **OUTSIDE AMBIENCE; BIRDS; CHICKEN WOODEN CRUTCHES SLOWLY MOVING FOLLOWED BY WHISTLE USED BY THE FOUR FRIENDS.**
- 44. MAGOTO:** **(Cowardly)** Hi Oluanda, it... it is good to see you. How, ehm how are you?
- 45. OLUANDA:** **(Excited)** Ah well, you have no idea, Magoto. Never complain that the journey is long. Just keep on walking. Two legs, one leg. Life must go on.
- 46. TOFA:** Oluanda, aren't you going to invite your friends in? Karemi, Magoto please come in.
- 47. KAREMI:** Oh no, mama Oluanda, I left Zabibu all by herself and need to get back before my grandmother returns from church. Oluanda, it is good to have you back. See you soon.
- 48. MAGOTO:** I think, I... I will go too. Yes, see you soon. Oluanda.
- 49. OLUANDA:** Hmm.. okay. Thank you guys.
- 50. SFX:** **FOOTSTEPS OF TWO PEOPLE LEAVING**

- 51. SFX:** **DOOR UNLOCKED, THEN LOCKED FROM INSIDE**
- 52. TOFA:** Magoto seemed like he was scared of you or something.
- 53. OLUANDA:** I can’t blame him. I’m scared of myself, scared of the future, scared of these crutches, scared of everything. I am useless, I should have died!
- 54. TOFA:** **(Shocked)** Oluanda! How can you even..
- 55. SFX:** **Knocking on wooden door**
- 56. TOFA:** **(Sighing heavily)** Hmm who could that be? I thought all your friends were already here? Just settle down, I will open the door.
- 57. NARRATOR:** Good question, who could that be? But believe it or not, Kangwa, the most beautiful girl in Maganye, was standing in front of Tofa’s doorstep, and she had come to visit Oluanda. Let’s listen to how it will go...
- 58. SFX:** **MORE KNOCKING ON WOODEN DOOR**
- 59. TOFA:** Who is it? Karemi is that you?  
**(SILENCE)**
- 60. SFX:** **DOOR BEING UNLOCKED**

- 61. KANGWA:** **(Shyly)** Hallo Mama Oluanda, I just passed by to check on Oluanda. I heard that he is back from hospital.
- 62. TOFA:** **(In a bit of shock)** Errr..yes.
- 63. OLUANDA:** **(From inside)** Mum who is it?
- 64. SFX:** **Steps going back to the room**
- 65. TOFA:** **(Pleasantly, in a lower voice)** It is Kangwa, Kangwa is here to see you, Oluanda.
- 66. OLUANDA:** **(Gets hysterical, pressed voice)**  
Kangwa!...Noooo, no mama! She can't see me like this. Please tell her to go away!
- 67. TOFA:** Oluanda, what is wrong with you? Kangwa simply wants...
- 68. OLUANDA:** **(shouts)** I said no! I don't want to be seen, not by her. Not by anyone!
- 69. SFX:** **STEPS RETURNING TO THE FRONT DOOR**
- 70. TOFA:** **(Lovingly)** Kangwa, my child I am sorry, since this accident, Oluanda has completely changed. I mean his behaviour has changed. I don't know what to expect from him anymore.

**71. KANGWA:** (Sadly) I understand, tell him I wish him well, and I hope to see him at school soon.

**72. TOFA:** Thank you, I will tell him that. Say hello to your parents and once again sorry about this.

**73. KANGWA:** It’s ok. It is hard to imagine what he is going through.

### **OUTRO:**

That was very true. No one knew what was going through Oluanda’s mind. After loosing his leg, he felt bitter, guilty, hopeless, sorry, helpless and ugly. Seeing his friends’ reactions didn’t help either. And with that, we put a lid to today’s episode. But what will become of Oluanda? Will he resume school? How will these new challenges affect his relationship with his mother and his friends? For this and much more, don’t miss the coming episode of our radio drama about **“Africa’s physically challenged people”**.

If you wish to listen to this episode once again or the previous ones that have been aired, visit [www.dw-world.de/lbe](http://www.dw-world.de/lbe). Until then, goodbye!