

## **LEARNING BY EAR**

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

#### **EPISODE 10: “Oluanda’s story”**

**AUTHOR:** Chrispin Mwakideu

**EDITORS:** Andrea Schmidt, Susanne Fuchs

#### **List of characters / Episode 10:**

NARRATOR

#### **SCENE ONE: LATE EVENING AT CHITOTO’S HOMESTEAD**

- Chitoto (m, 18)
- Mr. Mali (m, 50)
- Mrs. Mali (f, 45)
- Fagilio (m, 42)

#### **SCENE TWO : KANGWA’S ROOM AT THE MALI HOUSE**

- Mr. Mali (m, 50)
- Mrs. Mali (f, 45)

#### **SCENE THREE : AT OLUANDA’S PLACE**

- Kangwa (f, 18)
- Oluanda (m , 18)
- Mr. Mali (m ,50)
- Mrs. Mali (m, 45)

## **SCENE FOUR: NIGHT AT THE KAREMI’S HOME**

- Zabibu (f, 15)
- Karemi (m, 18)
- Theresa (f, 65)

## **SCENE FIVE: PEACEFUL MARCH AT MAGANYE**

- Chitoto (m, 19)
- Oluanda (m, 18)
- Leader (m, 55)
- Crowd (m+f, mixed ages)

### **INTRO:**

Hello and welcome to the tenth and final episode of the Learning by Ear series “**Africa’s physically challenged people**”. In our previous episode, Chitoto was rushed to hospital by Mr. and Mrs. Mali, after they accidentally hit him with their car as he crossed the road, completely drunk. Meanwhile the stage had been set for the peaceful demonstration in support for equal rights for physically challenged people. The march was confirmed by Inspector Joe, who personally came to hand over the permit to Oluanda and his companions. Stay tuned, as we wind up the story in today’s episode, entitled “**Oluanda’s story**”. Let’s join Mr. and Mrs. Mali as they drop off Chitoto at his home, after he had been examined by Dr. Esther in hospital.

**SCENE ONE: LATE EVENING AT FAGILIO’S HOMESTEAD**

- 1. SFX + ATMO:** **CAR COMES TO A STOP + AMBIENCE  
INSIDE A MOTIONLESS CAR**
- 2. MR. MALI:** Here, right? This is where you live? You are sure of that.
- 3. SFX:** **CAR BREAKS HEARD FROM INSIDE THE CAR**
- 4. CHITOTO:** Yes, this is it. That over there is my father.
- 5. MRS. MALI:** My husband, you go and talk to him, he looks very, very angry.
- 6. CHITOTO:** Yes, please come and explain everything to him.
- 7. SFX + ATMO:** **CAR DOOR OPENS, EVENING AMBIENCE**
- 8. MR. MALI:** Okay, let us do this then. We need to get home too, otherwise Kangwa will get worried.
- 9. SFX:** **STEPS OF TWO PEOPLE**
- 10. FAGILIO:** **(Angry)** Chitoto! Where have you been? What have you done to these people this time?  
**(concerned)** Chitoto, why do you have bandages, what happened?
- 11. MR. MALI:** I can explain everything.

**12. NARRATOR:** It was sheer luck; those were the words of Dr. Esther, after she had examined Chitoto. He had been lucky enough to escape any serious injury that would have either cost him his life, or disabled him physically like Oluanda. And Mr. Mali took time to explain to Fagilio that the main reason the accident had happened was because his son was under the influence of alcohol. Afterwards, Mr. and Mrs. Mali drove home, but to their surprise, Kangwa was not there. To make matters worse, most of her belongings were not there either, except for a letter addressed to her mother. Mrs. Mali took the letter, hands trembling and...

## **SCENE TWO: KANGWA’S ROOM AT THE MALI HOUSE**

**13. MR. MALI:** Open it! We need to know quickly what Kangwa is up to.

**14. SFX:** LETTER RIPPED OPEN

(Mrs. Mali starts to read the letter)

**15. MRS. MALI:** (Takes a deep breath, reads slowly)  
“Dear Mum and Daddy. Don’t worry about me, in case you hadn’t noticed, I am now an adult and I believe it’s time for me to move out. I rarely see you anyway, so it shouldn’t really matter. Dad, thanks for everything. Mum, I still love you and I wish you’d meet Oluanda’s mother. She is a wonderful person.”

And I will marry her son. I can’t wait to be her daughter-in-law. See you tomorrow at the demonstration. Your loving daughter, Kangwa.”

- 16. NARRATOR:** Mrs. Mali felt a pang of guilt, after reading her daughter’s letter. She was relieved that Kangwa was safe, but deeply hurt by the last words of her daughter. Mr. Mali could not even bring himself to comment. Meanwhile at Oluanda’s place...

### **SCENE THREE: AT OLUANDA’S PLACE**

- 17. ATMO:** **BACKYARD AMBIENCE**
- 18. OLUANDA:** Kangwa, you can not do this. They are still your parents. You need to go back. Besides, you can not stay here. That will create a bigger problem.
- 19. KANGWA:** Oluanda, I don’t want to stay with a parent who is not tolerant, who does not understand that disabled people are actually people too... with feelings and emotions, who are able to love and have the need to be loved back.
- 20. OLUANDA:** That’s true. But still. You need to go back. Running away is never the answer.
- 21. NARRATOR:** As Oluanda tried to convince Kangwa to return home, Mr. Mali arrived in the company of his wife Mrs. Mali, who looked remorseful and ashamed. Let’s catch in on their conversation.

- 22. MRS. MALI:** **(Crying out)** Kangwa! My dear beautiful daughter!
- 23. KANGWA:** Mum, Dad... what are you doing here?
- 24. MR. MALI:** Your mum said she wouldn’t sleep until she makes it right with you. She literally pulled me here!
- 25. KANGWA:** Oluanda, this here is my mother. You have met my father before.
- 26. OLUANDA:** I am so delighted to meet you, Madam.
- 27. MRS. MALI:** Nice to meet you too, Oluanda. Kangwa, can I have a word with you?
- 28. MR. MALI:** **(joking)** As usual, ladies do the talking, men do all the work.  
**(laughter from Oluanda and Mr. Mali)**  
Come Oluanda, let me tell you who is coming tomorrow. **(talks while leaving)** You will not believe this...
- 29. MRS. MALI:** Kangwa, I have thought a lot about my stand on your relationship with Oluanda. And today this accident made me see things differently.
- 30. KANGWA:** **(Shocked)** Accident? What accident, mum?  
Are you okay?

- 31. MRS. MALI:** Yes, your father and I are both fine. Never mind, I will tell you about it later. The thing is, I was wrong to have said such cruel words about Oluanda. And I only came to tell you that I am sorry. So please come back home, and from tonight on, you will see a different mother. I promise.
- 32. NARRATOR:** As mother and daughter aired out their differences, it seemed as if every household in Maganye was talking about the demonstration organized by Oluanda. One such home was Karemí’s, where Karemí, Zabibu and their grandmother Theresa were gathered around the table.

#### **SCENE FOUR: NIGHT AT THE KAREMI’S HOME**

- 33. ATMO:** **NIGHT AMBIENCE**
- 34. ZABIBU:** Grandmother Theresa, everyone in Maganye will be attending the march. Maybe I should organize another one for albinos.
- 35. THERESA:** Zabibu, you are too young. And then again there are not so many albinos in Maganye as disabled people.
- 36. KAREMI:** That should not be a reason to stop her from

coming, grandmother. She has faced the same kind of treatment as most people with physical disabilities. If she shows up, she will be speaking for all the other albinos.

**37. ZABIBU:** Yes and I can wear a hat, sun-glasses, a long dress, then I will look like a tourist.

(They all laugh heartily)

**38. THERESA:** What if people in the crowd start taunting you, laughing at your skin and calling you names? I can't accept that!

**39. ZABIBU:** Oh, then they have no right to even be there. This march is supposed to be against just that type of attitude and behaviour. Am I not right brother?

**40. KAREMI:** Yes, and I will be there to watch over you. (serious tone) Anyone who offends you, offends me and my family name.

**41. THERESA:** Karemi, hearing you say those words, reminds me so much of your father. He used to say exactly the same concerning Zabibu's albinism. Now I see that I don't need to protect Zabibu anymore. She is in safe hands with you. Go to sleep now. You will both need the strength for tomorrow.

**42. ZABIBU:** (Screams in delight) Yeeeees!

**43. NARRATOR:** That night, as the candles and lamps of Maganye residents flickered out, a signal for going to sleep, one could almost feel the excitement that was hanging in the air. Nothing like this had ever happened before. For the next day, one of the biggest and largest gatherings was going to take place. Opposition leaders, human rights activists, labour union movements, journalists would be there and almost every family in Maganye was represented by a family member. The car rally competition which took place annually was nothing compared to the attention this demonstration had attracted. All the disabled people of Maganye were at the head of the crowd led by Oluanda, Kangwa, Gidi and would you believe it!? Chitoto!

### **SCENE FIVE: THE PEACEFUL MARCH AT MAGANYE**

**44. CROWD:** **(Large crowd chanting)** We want equal rights!

We want equal rights!

**45. OLUANDA:** **(Addresses crowd from loud speaker)** Thank you, thank you very much. This is not a political rally. It is a peaceful march to tell our government, our leaders, that we, the physically disabled deserve equal rights and opportunities.

**46. SFX:** **HUGE APPLAUSE FROM CROWD**

**47. CROWD:** **(chanting)** Oluanda! Oluanda! Oluanda

**48. OLUANDA:** This is not just about me; it is about every

disabled person here, at home, in hospitals everywhere in our country and in Africa. Thank you all very much for coming and showing us your support. Now I shall hand over to a political leader who will say a few words before we start the march.

**49. LEADER:** Hello everybody. In all of my political and social life, I have never seen such a big crowd.  
**(joking)** I wish these were all my votes.

**50. SFX:** **CROWD BREAKS INTO LAUGHTER**

**51. LEADER:** But I want to say this. We have heard your cries. We shall push for a new law in parliament that guarantees equality to the physically disabled in every area of life, be it in education, health, social issues and even politics. It is time to have the physically disabled represented in parliament. Equal rights for the disabled!

**52. CROWD:** **(Shouts)** We want equal rights!

**53. CHITOTO:** **(Whistling to Oluanda as they did before the accident)** Oluanda, I know you must hate me after all I put you through. You don’t need to take me back as a friend. But, all I ask of you is that you forgive me. I am trying to change my ways after almost losing my life.

**54. OLUANDA:** Chitoto, losing a leg has taught me many

things. One of them is that hate eats you from the inside like cancer. I forgave you a long time ago. That is how I became free of any hate and guilt. Come now, let’s join the march. I want to introduce you to my new friends.

## **OUTRO:**

And so, on and on they marched, in the full glare of the media, stopping from place to place to hear the stories of their physically disabled fellow citizens, about the difficulties they were facing and the challenges in their life. By the end of the march, Oluanda had won the admiration of many, and even got invited to speak in parliament and social forums which were already being planned. Mr. and Mrs Mali couldn’t hide their tears on seeing their daughter so involved in all of it. Zabibu, Karemi and grandmother Theresa also gave their support. And in Theresa’s own words, “the calabash had been broken”, the disabled people would no longer be the forgotten. And that brings us to the end of our story entitled, “**Africa’s physically challenged people**”. The story was written by Chrispin Mwakideu. To listen to this episode again or the previous ones in this series or to subscribe to our podcasts, please visit: [www.dw-world.de/lbe](http://www.dw-world.de/lbe).

We would appreciate your comments on what you have learnt from the series and also, do not hesitate to share your experiences.

Goodbye for now, until next time!