

## **LEARNING BY EAR**

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

#### **EPISODE 9: “Making history”**

**AUTHOR: Chrispin Mwakideu**

**EDITORS: Andrea Schmidt, Susanne Fuchs**

#### **List of characters / Episode 9:**

##### **NARRATOR**

##### **SCENE ONE: MORNING AT OLUANDA’S HOME**

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

##### **SCENE TWO: IN THE MALI’S LIVING ROOM**

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

##### **SCENE THREE: KANGWA IN THE HEADTEACHER’S OFFICE**

- Kangwa (f, 18)
- Mrs. Nina (f, 45)

### **SCENE FOUR: AT MAGANYE MARKET- PLACE**

- Oluanda (m, 18)
- Gidi (m, 38)
- Inspector Joe (m, 30)
- Wema (f, 40)
- Crowd (m + f, mixed ages)

### **SCENE FIVE: CHITOTO DRUNK ON WAY HOME**

- Chitoto (m, 19)
- Mr. Mali (m, 50)
- Mrs. Mali (f, 45)

### **INTRO:**

I greet and welcome you warmly to Learning by Ear. Today we are on the ninth episode of our story about “Africa’s physically challenged people”. Last time, we left the story as Mr. Mali, Kangwa’s father, reassured Oluanda of his help. He promised to mobilize his business counterparts and even journalists to join the demonstration in favor of the physically disabled people. Meanwhile, Chitoto had just discovered that Kangwa and Oluanda were much more than just former school mates; she was obviously serious about him. This made Chitoto hate Oluanda even more. But what about Mrs. Mali? How will she react to that news? Will the rally succeed? Stay tuned to find out in today’s episode, entitled, “**Making history**”. We pick up the story in the morning at Oluanda’s home.

## **SCENE ONE: MORNING AT OLUANDA’S HOME**

**1. ATMO + SFX:**                    **MORNING AMBIENCE FOLLOWED BY  
WASHING FACE WITH WATER FROM BASIN**

**2. TOFA:**                            Oluanda, my son. You have the strength of 10 elephants, and the heart of a lion. It’s hard to imagine, seeing you doing everything by yourself now that a few months ago you were almost giving up on yourself, on me, on your dreams and ambitions.

**3. OLUANDA:**                    I know mum, but I couldn’t have done it without you. Oh talking of dreams... I wanted to let you know that **(pause)** I intend to marry Kangwa!

**4. TOFA:**                            **(Overjoyed and almost in tears)** My...my... goodness! This is sooo....

**5. OLUANDA:**                    No tears mum, and that’s not all. I have decided, whether we succeed with this demonstration or not, to go back to school. I want to make history and be the first engineer in Maganye on crutches.

**6. TOFA:**                            **(Happy tears)** You make me proud to be a mother. So have you talked to Kangwa about it? That you want to marry her?

**7. OLUANDA:** (Chuckles) Aha, yesterday. She came to see me with her dad and after he left, I told her. Of course, we both need to finish our studies first before we get married.

**8. TOFA:** This is just too good to be true! I am so happy for you both. And has she told her parents about it?

**9. OLUANDA:** She promised to do so, this morning before she goes to school, so I bet she is actually telling them now.

**10. NARRATOR:** Oluanda was right on target with that guess, Kangwa had indeed just informed her parents about her intention of getting married to Oluanda, the only difference was that, the news wasn’t received in the same way Oluanda’s mother had received it. Keep an ear to your radio to find out.

## **SCENE TWO: IN THE MALI’S LIVING ROOM**

**11. ATMO:** LIVING ROOM AMBIENCE

**12. MRS. MALI:** (Screams out) Kangwa, what are you doing? Do you want to give me a heart attack? You want to marry a lame guy, who mends shoes for a living?

- 13. MR. MALI:**                   **(Calmly)** My wife, now you are overreacting. I have met the boy and he seems to be a nice person.
- 14. MRS. MALI:**                   **(Maliciously)** You two are ganging up on me, and really want to finish me off. Well. You will not!
- 15. KANGWA:**                   Mum, I know you don’t like him, but Oluanda is the one I have chosen. I wish you would understand that and accept him. When I am with him, I don’t even see his disability... I only hear and see abilities in him.
- 16. MRS. MALI:**                   **(Loudly)** That is because he has bewitched you, Kangwa! Can’t you all see this? The boy is simply after our riches!
- 17. KANGWA:**                   **(Angry)** I can’t stand here and listen to any more of this. Not everyone is crazy about riches. Some people just want to make a difference in the lives of others. I have to go to school. Bye Dad. See you tomorrow at the planned demonstration.
- 18. MR. MALI:**                   Yes, see you child. I have organized everything and it is going to be big.
- 19. KANGWA:**                   Thank you. I wish mum would see it the way you do.

**20. NARRATOR:** Kangwa left home with a heavy heart and went to school, but before she even entered her classroom, she was called by her head teacher. Anxiously she approached Mrs. Nina.

### **SCENE THREE: KANGWA IN THE HEADTEACHER’S OFFICE**

**21. ATMO:**                    **HEADTEACHER’S OFFICE SOUNDS;  
COMPUTER**

**22. MRS. NINA:**            Kangwa, I have been receiving calls from reporters and politicians who wanted to know more about Oluanda. It seems like this march has attracted wide attention and a lot of interest. **(happily)** I just wanted to let you know that I will join you tomorrow with my family. I really felt guilty after expelling Oluanda. I just hope that this will somehow make up for it.

**23. KANGWA:**            **(Excited)** Thank you madam. I am sure Oluanda and all the disabled people in Maganye will appreciate.

**24. MRS.NINA:**            That’s all. You can go to class now.

**25. SFX:**                    **DOOR CLOSED**

**26. NARRATOR:** Kangwa could not believe her ears. She left her head teacher’s office with a big satisfactory smile on her face and went to class. At Maganye’s market place, the other disabled people led by Wema, the disabled mother of two children, were still pestering Gidi on the planned peaceful demonstration that was to take place the following day.

**SCENE FOUR: AT MAGANYE MARKET- PLACE**

**27. ATMO: MARKET AMBIENCE**

**28. GIDI:** **(Stressed)** I have told you people, I don’t know! This was Oluanda’s idea anyway. Go and ask him if the march is on or not!

**29. SFX: MURMURS AND SHOUTS FROM CROWD**

**30. WEMA:** I knew it! This was just another way to trick and use us. You and Oluanda have now become rich and famous and have forgotten about our rights and the march.

**31. SFX: MORE SHOUTS AND LOUD PROTESTS FROM ANGRY CROWD**

**32. GIDI:** Wema, are you crazy? Do you think I would sit here and beg for coins if I were rich and famous?

- 33. WEMA:** **(Angry tone)** Yes. To fool us. You have probably got enough money now and you are only sitting here laughing at us, holding our placards and green branches ready for the march tomorrow. You have been bribed by politicians! **(with a realization)** Aha! There comes Oluanda... with a policeman? He has been arrested!...Oh oh... I need to get out of here.
- 34. SFX:** **CROWD STARTS PANICKING**
- 35. OLUANDA:** **(Happy tone)** Hello there friends, I have some good news!
- 36. GIDI:** **(Shouts out)** Wema, listen people, wait! Hey relax. That is Inspector Joe from Maganye police station. Why are you scared of him? You have done nothing wrong. We have the right to assemble, even as disabled people.
- 37. INSP. JOE:** Hello everybody. Here is your permit for the demonstration tomorrow. We shall be there to see that law and order are maintained though. It seems like your cries for justice have reached the highest people in power. Good luck tomorrow.
- 38. SFX:** **HUGE WILD APPLAUSE FROM CROWD**



**39. NARRATOR:** For a moment, Maganye market was filled with the sounds of happy, cheering disabled people who were united, bonded and ready for the challenge that lay ahead. Crutches were lifted up in the air in jubilation, so were the blind's walking sticks, wheel chairs were turned in circles bringing the market to a sudden halt. Oluanda shook hands with each of them and hugged them all. Then he went home, happier than he could ever remember being. Meanwhile Chitoto left school for home but on the way...

#### **SCENE FIVE: CHITOTO DRUNK ON WAY HOME**

**40. SFX:**                               **SEVERAL GULPS OF A DRINK FOLLOWED BY A BURP**

**41. CHITOTO:**                       **(Cursing with drunken tone)** Oluanda!  
Oluanda... how I hate... aah I don't need that ugly Kangwa anyway. I need to get another bottle of beer. Oh there is the bar, jus... just need to cross the roo...

**42. SFX:**                               **EMERGENCY BREAK FROM CAR**

**43. SFX:**                               **CAR DOORS OPENED SIMULTANEOUSLY**

**44. MRS. MALI:**                     **(Screams out)** Wuuuuuuuuuuuuuu! Mali, you have crashed into someone. You have killed someone.

45. **MR. MALI:**                   **(In a panic)** I didn’t see him! I swear I didn’t see him! He just appeared from nowhere on the road.
46. **MRS. MALI:**                   Well don’t just stand there, holding on to the car door, do something!
47. **MR. MALI:**                   Get me the first aid box from the boot. Quickly!
48. **MR. MALI:**                   Hey are you alright? Hello..?
49. **MRS. MALI:**                   Is he alive?...phhhew...he smells of alcohol.
50. **MR. MALI:**                   Yes, he is alive, he is just in shock, thank God I braked in time, he has just got a few scratches on his legs, a little antiseptic should be enough to treat them. We still need to take him to hospital though for a check up.
51. **MRS. MALI:**                   But isn’t he too young to be drinking? He could have died today!
52. **MR. MALI:**                   Yes, but now is not the time to think about that. Open the first-aid box for me please.
53. **SFX:**                               **PLASTIC FIRST-AID BOX OPENED**
54. **MR. MALI:**                   Now help me to put on the gloves.
55. **SFX:**                               **LATEX GLOVES STRETCHED AND WORN**
56. **MR. MALI:**                   Now please go back and secure the car. I don’t want any more incidents.

57. **MRS. MALI:** But, my husband. We are the only ones with a car here.
58. **MR. MALI:** **(Commanding)** Just go and do as I have told you!
59. **MRS. MALI:** Yes. Alright.
60. **SFX:** **LIQUID SHOOK IN BOTTLE**
61. **CHITOTO:** **(Cries from sting of antiseptic )**  
Arrrrrgh!...what...where am I? What happened?
62. **MR. MALI:** Boy you are on earth, in Maganye, on the road. And you are one lucky boy. I almost ran you over with my car. Do you feel pain anywhere? We need to get you to hospital.
63. **CHITOTO:** You...you who are you?
64. **MR. MALI:** Me, well... I am...I will explain that later, how do you feel?
65. **CHITOTO:** I feel... dizzy but fine. Why am I here?
66. **MR. MALI:** Come now, let’s get you to the hospital. I will answer all your questions. **(Calls out)** Mama Kangwa! Get in the car.
67. **SFX:** **CAR DOORS CLOSED, ENGINE STARTS AND DRIVES AWAY.**

**OUTRO:**

As Mr. and Mrs. Mali drive off to hospital with Chitoto, we end the ninth episode of our story "**Africa's physically challenged people**". So, is Chitoto actually as fine as he and Mr. Mali think? Or is there more to the near fatal accident? Who will show up for the demonstration and what will be the outcome? This and more awaits you in the coming final episode. If you wish to listen to this episode again, or any other Learning by Ear series already aired, simply visit [www.dw-world.de/lbe](http://www.dw-world.de/lbe). Don't forget to make a date with us next time. And until then, goodbye.