

## Learning by Ear 2010 – Urban exodus

### Episode 08: “Love Triumphs”

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CHARACTERS:

#### Scene 1:

- **NANA** (22 YEARS OLD, PRESIDENT OF THE YOUTH ASSOCIATION)
- **HADIA** (45 YEARS OLD, NANA'S MOTHER)

#### Scene 2:

- **KABO** (FARMER, BEN'S UNCLE, 57 YEARS OLD)
- **HADARI** (48 YEARS OLD, HEAD OF RURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT)
- **2 CUSTOMERS**

#### Scene 3:

- **BAKI** (26 YEARS OLD, SOCIOLOGIST, FRIEND OF ZEINA AND BEN'S)
- **ZEINA** (24 YEARS OLD, ÉCONOMIST, FRIEND OF BAKI AND BEN'S)

**Intro:**

Welcome to *Learning by Ear* for a Episode 8 of our series about urban exodus called "Against the Current". In order to escape the lack of prospects in the capital, Ben, Baki and Zeina, three unemployed young graduates, have decided to set up an agricultural cooperative in their village. But they are not short of problems. For example, getting administrative procedures done proves to be very time consuming because of Hadari, the head of the rural services department. In the last episode, he brought Baki to hospital after a violent quarrel.

Join our young heroes and hear about the unbelievable consequences of Baki's hospitalization.

**Scene 1: At Nana's.****NANA AND HADIA**

1. **ATMO**            **AT NANA'S. SOUNDS IN THE KITCHEN: A SAUCE BOILING, A LADLE MIXING THE SAUCE, HITTING AGAINST THE SAUCEPAN.**
2. **HADIA**            Nana! **(to herself)** Where is she? Nana?
3. **SFX**                **STEPS COMING CLOSER (NANA, indoors)**
4. **NANA**             I'm here, mom!
5. **HADIA**             I'm ready. Get dressed properly and bring him this dish.

- 6. NANA** Who?
- 7. HADIA** Our patient! Who else would I have cooked for? That's how you conquer the heart of a man and keep it – you have to show your talent and your attachment.
- 8. NANA** I don't understand!
- 9. HADIA** Stop being such a girl. Baki is interested in you! And you're interested in him. So now that he's in hospital, bring him this food and keep him company.
- 10. NANA** But mom! Why are you sticking your nose into things which aren't any of your business?
- 11. HADIA** What's none of my business? Are you mad or what?
- 12. NANA** It's not what you think. There's nothing between Baki and me!
- 13. HADIA** Everyone sees you together all the time. There's nothing to hide!
- 14. NANA** What you don't know is that Baki and Zeina are going out.
- 15. HADIA** Well, they might be going out now, but Baki will marry the woman who can conquer his heart! I dare you, you'll see, he'll belong to you!
- 16. NANA** Mom, I don't love Baki! And even if I did I wouldn't do anything to jeopardize the group bonds and our cooperative.

17. **HADIA** Didn't you say that this cooperative was a way of advancing your personal development?
18. **NANA** Yes, of course. That's the ultimate aim of our project!
19. **HADIA** What's a blossoming woman? A single woman who only thinks of work? Don't be so stupid! Go and get dressed! Put on that tight dress, the red one!
20. **NANA** I already went to see Baki this morning.
21. **HADIA** And?
22. **NANA** And I'm not going to bring this meal to him.
23. **HADIA** Do you know how much I paid for it?
24. **NANA** I didn't ask you for anything.
25. **HADIA** OK then, I'll bring it myself!
26. **NANA** No! No! Please mom! **(sighing)** OK, OK. I'll get ready now and go myself.
27. **SFX** **STEPS GOING AWAY (NANA, indoors)**
28. **HADIA** **(triumphant laugh)** Hypocrite! Don't you know that I was 20 before you? They don't call me the "matchmaker" so that my daughter ends up being an old maid. How did I give birth to such a shy girl who doesn't do anything?  
Yet she's got everything to seduce a man!
29. **SFX** **RAPID STEPS APPROACHING (NANA, indoors)**

- 30. HADIA** You're looking beautiful, Nana! Don't give him that gloomy look though!
- 31. SFX** **STEPS GOING AWAY (NANA, indoor)**
- 32. HADIA** Let love guide you on your path!
- 33. SFX** **SOUND OF A GATE SHUTTING VIOLENTLY**
- 34. HADIA** And on top of everything she pretends to be angry!  
(laughter)

----- MUSIC -----

**Scene 2: Bar**

**HADARI, KABO, TWO CUSTOMERS**

- 35. ATMO** **LOUD BAR ATMOSPHERE: SHOUTS, CONVERSATIONS, DANCE MUSIC**
- 36. CLIENT 1** He's good! He's been dancing non-stop for over an hour. And he's really good. At all the rhythms.
- 37. CLIENT 2** That's Hadari, the head of the rural development services department. He's a regular here.
- 38. CLIENT 1** Is he celebrating something?
- 39. CLIENT 2** I guess... But if you're really happy you don't get drunk on your own.

- 40. SFX            HANDS CLAPPING MORE AND MORE RYTHMICALLY**
- 41. CLIENT 1**    Look at that! Look at that! He is good, no doubt about it!
- 42. SFX            LOUD CLAPS AND CRIES OF ENCOURAGEMENT**
- 43. SFX            THE MUSIC CHANGES – SLOW MUSIC**
- 44. HADARI**     **(drunk and out of breath)** What's going on? Put some real music back on! Yes. Hello Mr Kabo! Have you been here a long time? Oh, sorry I didn't see you. I was dancing. Hi hi. Come and have a seat at my table. Come on now. Come on!
- 45. SFX            NOISE OF CHAIRS BEING MOVED**
- 46. KABO**        Did you want to see me Hadari?
- 47. HADARI**     Yes! Nothing serious! Let's have a drink! We've got time! And we're alive, aren't we?
- 48. KABO**        I would suggest we postpone our meeting. Till tomorrow for example.
- 49. HADARI**     No, no. This is important and urgent! Here you are!
- 50. KABO**        What's this?
- 51. HADARI**     It's the approval for your cooperative. Look at the bottom. The sub-prefect's signature. Do you see it? It's OK, isn't it? I wanted to give it to you directly.
- 52. KABO**        Oh, I don't know how to thank you. I wasn't expecting...

- 53. HADARI** Stop it now! I'm the one who should be thanking you. I've been posted elsewhere.
- 54. KABO** Posted elsewhere?
- 55. HADARI** Yes, but I'm only going in one month. And it's not really a punishment. I was beginning to go crazy here. This is all for the better. When this whole affair blew up I saw that many people wanted my skin. Your witness report helped.
- (voice chokes up)**
- ...I've been in this village for ...10 years ...and I've never hurt anybody... I don't know why... But they almost lynched me! They wrote to the regional department demanding that I be posted elsewhere. But luckily you were the only witness. Thank you! I really am grateful!
- 56. KABO** I... er... I am... I ...
- 57. HADARI** Don't say anything! It's life. It's people. It's not serious! And you know your cooperative is the future. I can give you some tips so you can get some financial support.
- 58. KABO** Oh really?
- 59. HADARI** Yes, subsidies for smart new projects like yours. You'll have plenty of money. Nothing illegal, I promise!
- 60. KABO** Who should I turn to?
- 61. HADARI** To me. And I'll pass on the information.

62. **KABO** We're interested!
63. **HADARI** It's not only interesting! It's a godsend. You just have to fill out a few forms as soon as possible. Your young people are hardworking and talented. Moreover, they have a good eye!
64. **KABO** How come they don't know about this? Ben had some important posts at the ministry. How come he doesn't know about this?
65. **HADARI** You don't know people – they hoard information so that they can benefit from it themselves. But often they don't do the necessary work.
66. **KABO** And then nobody benefits.
67. **HADARI** Basically! Money is literally thrown out of the window!
68. **KABO** This is a serious matter!
69. **HADARI** Of course it is. Do you know that our village can't even use a quarter of the funds it has access to? I've been wanting to apply for these subsidies in the name of the village for three years now. But I miss the deadline each year. And if you don't make the most of it, this waste will continue...
70. **KABO** I will come and see you at the office tomorrow.
71. **HADARI** Yes, that's better. I'm exhausted. But everything I said is serious! Very serious! I promise! **(MORE DANCE MUSIC SOUNDS)** Real music at last... Sorry I have to dance... See you tomorrow in the office!



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**Scene 3: Clinic.**

**BAKI AND ZEINA**

- 72. ATMO**      **CLINIC SOUNDS. OBJECTS BEING PUT AWAY - SCISSORS, SYRINGE, MEDICINE. TROLLEY GOING BY.**
- 73. ZEINA**      Baki, you should ask the doctor to send you to the capital to be examined.
- 74. BAKI**      What are you worried about, Zeina? Even the doctor was surprised I was doing so well. And I feel much better too.
- 75. ZEINA**      You never know though – there could be complications...
- 76. BAKI**      What complications? I get headaches from time to time but they'll pass. It's over I'm telling you. What's going on in the cooperative?
- 77. ZEINA**      **(happily)** We got the approval!
- 78. BAKI**      Well that's good news at least!
- 79. ZEINA**      **(hesitantly)** And I've got an even better one. **(pause)** You won a green card for the United States!
- 80. BAKI**      Oh! **(after a pause)** Is it true that the villagers almost lynched Hadari?
- 81. ZEINA**      He had to run through the village. Luckily Kabo and some other dignitaries intervened. Apparently he left his shoe with some children...

- 82. BAKI** (laughter ... then a cry of pain) Aaah!
- 83. ZEINA** What's wrong?
- 84. BAKI** My headache... I shouldn't laugh.
- 85. ZEINA** You should go back to town to a real hospital and sort out the formalities. You have to confirm your visa within five days.
- 86. BAKI** Zeina! I'm not going. That's all in the past. Thanks to you! Tell me about Hadari and the villagers... I really missed out on something.
- 87. ZEINA** Thanks to Hadari the cooperative is going to have access to significant funds.
- 88. BAKI** Hadari? ... Really? Human beings are strange.
- 89. ZEINA** Baki, I've been thinking a lot about us recently. You are right. I was wrong to involve you in this nightmare.
- 90. BAKI** Without you, I wouldn't be here and I thank you. Do you realize what we're doing in this village, how much change we're triggering?
- 91. ZEINA** Please Baki, listen to me!

- 92. BAKI**           What do you want? I didn't want to come here. I was sure we couldn't do anything in our country but you insisted. You forced me to follow you. It was almost blackmail! And I came because I love you. So as not to lose you. I thought being here would open your eyes to reality. And now that we're on the path to success, you are asking me to leave?
- 93. ZEINA**        Yes! I don't want you to suffer because of me! As soon as you're settled over there I will join you. Please Baki, for me!
- 94. BAKI**           It's too late! If you love me, help me organize my life here. Our life!
- 95. ZEINA**        You really are a stubborn mule!
- 96. BAKI**           Proof of which is, that I still love you – the most unbearable girl on the planet!
- 97. ZEINA**        I hope you'll continue to love me and find me bearable though.
- 98. BAKI**           Is that a question or a prayer?
- 99. ZEINA**        Both! Yes or no?
- 100. BAKI**         No!
- 101. ZEINA**       Liar!
- 102. ZEINA & BAKI** (laughing... Then kissing)

**Outro:**

This is how *Learning by Ear* ends today, a series about urban exodus.

Thanks for your attention. Don't miss the next episode to find out if the cooperative has really managed to eliminate all the threats.

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Don't forget to tune in next time!

**END OF EPISODE 8**