

## **LEARNING BY EAR**

### **"If a tree falls... - The Rocket Stove"**

#### **EPISODE FOUR: "Rocket Stove"**

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#### **List of characters EPISODE FOUR:**

**Narrator**

**SCENE 1            Chika (f, 18)**

**SCENE 2            Mulogo (m, 22)    Chika (f, 18)**

**SCENE 3            Mother (f, 36)    Talib (m, 20)**

**SCENE 4            Talib (m, 20)    Chief (m, 40)**

**SCENE 5            Akiki (f, 7)        Isi (m, 18)**

## **INTRO**

Welcome to *Learning By Ear* and episode four of our new drama series about deforestation.

Set within the dramatic backdrop of civil war, this story reveals how deforestation - the loss of trees and grasslands - has destroyed rural life and created conflict between two farming communities. Now, thrown together as refugees in Dovani Camp these people are beginning to find common solutions for the future.

Chief Apaloo needs to persuade the women to try out a new stove he has built. Meanwhile, Chika is thinking up ways to put Mulogo off, for he does not stop flirting with her.

**Episode FOUR: "Rocket Stove."**

## 1.MUSIC UP

### Scene 1

#### 2. SFX Day time sounds - outside

**3.CHIKA NARRATOR:** That Mulogo worries me. His ideas are poles apart from mine - he thinks of top down solutions - building a hydroelectric plant with dam and reservoir! I mean really - for whom? For the rogue businesses to run their rogue timber mills and deplete our forests even further? And on top of that, he keeps flirting with me. Well – the only way to get him off my back is to put him off me, so that he will never want to come near me again. That's why I asked him to join me for a walk. I was soon on to my favourite subject: Saving the trees...

### Scene 2

#### 3a. SFX Day time sounds - outside

**4.MULOGO:** Argh Chika! Don't waste your breath! Let's sit here and sing your favourite song! **(Laughing)**  
You can sing! I've heard you!

**5.CHIKA:** Are you saying "Don't worry, be happy"?  
**(singing)** Cut down the forests and don't worry about climate change on this lonely planet, Mulogo? God, you are so shallow!

**6.MULOGO:** Well YOU say there is a link. I don't see it. Climate change is happening, yes, but who says it's because of us cutting down trees?

- 7.CHIKA:** Not only...Obviously driving cars, heavy industry, burning wood all add up.
- 8.MULOGO:** Look- We have to clear forests. We have mouths to feed. I suppose you think, people dying of starvation improves the quality of air too.
- 9.CHIKA:** That is a very cynical thing to say and I do not appreciate being accused of such an awful thing. You are just not facing the facts – if we keep cutting down trees we increase the amount of carbon dioxide in the air. They're called carbon emissions.
- 10.MULOGO:** I know what they are called. Trees absorb those toxic gases and with sunlight turn them into oxygen. It's called photosynthesis.
- 11.CHIKA:** Right!
- 12.MULOGO:** How does deforestation increase carbon emissions? Is that proven?
- 13.CHIKA:** Yes and it is logical. With increasing levels of carbon dioxide from our cities and fewer trees to absorb them, we are increasing the layer of gases.
- 14.MULOGO:** ...so-called 'greenhouse gases'.
- 15.CHIKA:** Right... You know all this! Why am I wasting my breath!

**16.MULOGO: (impatiently)** OK but who says that we humans cannot adapt. We adapted to other climate changes didn't we?

**17.CHIKA: (raising her voice)** So who is being cynical now? What sort of planet do you want? A treeless one? If Mount Elgon isn't proof enough for you, I don't know what is. It is not ME who wants people to starve. But if we go on madly cutting down trees our crops will die, either from severe drought or extreme flooding.

**18.MULOGO:** But Europe has lost most of its trees and I don't see them starving. It's just a plot to keep us poor and slaves to their economies.

**19.CHIKA:** Europe isn't near the equator. They don't have rainforests. They have a temperate climate and lots of rain. But they are already experiencing floods and extreme water shortages. The USA too. We in Africa lose so much of our water to the heat, but our wonderful rainforests return that lost moisture. Without the balancing power of trees, we cannot survive.

**20.MULOGO:** We need to connect our villages to power stations and cities. We can't live by scraping a living together in the jungle.

**21.CHIKA:** Do you want to shift millions of people out of the forests? For what? For a life in the city. Go there! What do you see?

**22.MULOGO:** Roads, shops, decent housing.

**23.CHIKA: (loud)** And you don't see the slums? People from rural areas, over 14 million of them, crammed into our African cities surviving from rubbish of the streets, living hand to mouth.

**24.MULOGO: (gently)** Calm down, Chika! You'll have a heart attack! You are so beautiful. You could be anything you wanted. Why do you work in a refugee camp?

**25.CHICKA: (softer)** Ai! Mulogo! I love this work and I'm sorry if I shouted. I just see how important trees are. Africa was so rich in trees, plants, animals, flowers. We are losing them all...in our life time. We need clean air, safe water, fuel, medicine and shelter. Trees provide us with all that. We should respect them. Look around you and wonder at the role they play. Come. I challenge you to open your mind.

**26.MULOGO: (laughing)** Challenge accepted. But you'll have to talk to me a lot more to persuade me! In private!

**27.MUSIC UP**

**Scene 3**

**28. SFX Daytime Outside / Babies/children crying**

**29.MOTHER:** Ten more children have gone down with severe diarrhoea, Talib. The water sources are contaminated. We must identify them and put a fence around them.

**30.TALIB:** I've already planned to go out with the youth group and collect water samples. We can check them in our mini lab. Let's draw posters to remind people not to let children play and drink water where the cattle are. Oh! By the way, *Help Africa* has got funding for a new deep well. And we are all going to take part in building it. Here are some photos of what it will look like.

### **31.SFX PAPER NOISE**

**32.MOTHER:** What a wonderful sight – fresh water coming out of the tap. But people might misuse it.

**33.TALIB:** Which is why before we install it, we want to conduct classes on how to use the well and conserve water. It links wonderfully into our work on forest conservation.

**34.MOTHER:** Oh Talib! I really admire the work you and Chika do. You are really opening my eyes to my environment. It's not just about scraping and surviving from the earth. It's about making the earth rich again.

**35.TALIB:** Chief Apaloo says the same thing.

**36.MOTHER:** Ai! Chief Apaloo. I think every time he sees me, he sees my husband. They fought bitterly you know over land rights.

**37.TALIB:** Yes, I know but you are very respected here by your community and you really inspire other women here too. You have become quite a role model you know! And I think Chief Apaloo sees that. Which reminds me., he asked me to come by his house. Can you organize a poster drawing session with the ladies and put them up around the water sources? I'll see you later!

### **38.MUSIC UP**

#### **Scene 4**

#### **39. SFX Children playing outside, goats /cows**

**40.TALIB: (excited)** Hey this looks really interesting.

**41.CHIEF APALOO: (proudly)**Yes- it's a highly efficient wood burning stove. I made it myself.

**42.TALIB:** Cool! Show me how it works.

**43.CHIEF APALOO:** Well – first I want to stress, that it's really cheap to make – you just need local materials – nothing imported.

**44.TALIB:** I can see that. You've got clay bricks and a metal cylinder, - oh- it's an old bucket – hmm- you can find stuff like that anywhere.



**45.CHIEF APALOO:** Exactly. Now (**Breathing with a groan as he bends down**) Ai! My old bones – they are not what they used to be!

**46.TALIB: (laughing)** Oh come on! You are NOT old! You must join me for a jog around the camp every morning! You chiefs are too used to sitting on comfy high cushions!

**47.CHIEF APALOO: (laughing)**That's what you would like to think! Anyway...see these six bricks?

**48.TALIB:** Yes

**49.CHIEF APALOO:** They fit into a semi-circle (**breathing heavily as he bends**) Like this. See?

**50.TALIB:** Right.

**51.CHIEF APALOO: (Speaking slowly as he demonstrates)** Now, I place this round metal cylinder...like this... on the bricks. And...this... fits inside the stove...like a chimney. See! It is made of clay which is excellent insulation material, very porous and very light. ...Now...

#### **52.SFX Dried grass**

**53.CHIEF APALOO: (slowly)**Here I have some dry wood.....dried leaves and grass. I place them here in the large opening. You see the small hole at the bottom?

**54.TALIB:** Yes.

**55.CHIEF APALOO:** Well that's where the air comes in underneath. Now ...

#### **56.SFX rustle of sticks / strike of match**

**57.CHIEF APALOO:** I place sticks and tinder on top of the grass. And then look – the flames are beautifully contained.

**58.TALIB:** And the fire is protected inside the cylinder.

**59.CHIEF APALOO:** Exactly, which means you need less fuel. Now, let's leave it to burn for a little while, so that it gets nice and hot.

**60.TALIB:** A round metal cylinder on bricks...it looks like a small rocket!

**61.CHIEF:** That's it. The rocket stove! **(laughing loudly, then dropping his voice)** But to tell you the truth, I didn't invent it! They are on sale at Abanto market!

**62.TALIB:** Hah! So there is a patent. We can't make and sell them!

**63.CHIEF: (more cheerily)** No! But we can make these to use ourselves! That's what I wanted to show you! And it saves up to 50 per cent wood. That helps to save our forests, doesn't it!

**64.TALIB: (Triumphant)** Sir. I congratulate you! Let me go and get some water. We don't want to waste that lovely fire. Let's boil up a big pot of tea!

**65.MUSIC UP**

## **Scene 5.**

### **66.SFX Evening sounds outside. Dog barking in the distance**

**67.AKIKI: (excited)** Isi. The truck is coming! I can hear the dogs barking in the distance. Look- see that cloud of dust.

**68.ISI: (over excited)** Where’s my pen? Akiki – my papers...my shoes...oh goodness (**panting heavily**). Let’s run. I have to register the new arrivals with Chika. What if Kato is there? I’ll be too happy and nervous to write down any names! I’m shaking already! Hurry..Keep up!

**69.AKIKI: (breathless)....** Isi! Please..Wait for me!

### **70.MUSIC UP**

## **OUTRO.**

And that’s all for today from our *Learning By Ear* series “If a tree falls...”, written by Romie Singh, which tackles the question of deforestation.

In our next episode, Akiki reveals a secret about her sister and Isi’s twin brother. And we think about how nature is like a bank! Join us and find out more in our fifth

**episode called “Timber and Conservation.”**

Remember, if you want to hear the program again or tell friends about it, please visit our website at [www dot dw – world dot d e slash l b e](http://www.worlddeleahibe.com)

Goodbye for now.

**END OF EPISODE FOUR**