

LEARNING BY EAR

"If a tree falls... - Deforestation in Africa"

EPISODE THREE: "Women have their say"

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List of characters EPISODE THREE:

Narrator

SCENE 1 Mother (f, 36)

SCENE2 Chika (f, 18) Mother (f, 36)

SCENE 3 Akiki (f, 7) Isi (m, 18)

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

SCENE 5 Mulogo (m, 22) Chika (f, 18)

SCENE 6 Mother (f, 36) Chika (f, 18) Group of Women

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

INTRO

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

Set within the dramatic backdrop of civil war, this 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.

Camp leaders Talib and Chika have got the two previously warring communities together in discussion groups, but Chika is finding the Mulogo's flirtatious advances difficult to handle. Join us now, as missing Chief Kipko's wife explains how things will never be the same again and how Chika gives her new hope.

Episode THREE: "Women Have Their Say."

1.MUSIC UP

Scene 1

2.SFX Day time ambience (inside / late afternoon)

3.MOTHER: I am Chief Kipko's wife and mother of three sons. That includes twin boys, Isingoma and Kato. War broke out in our district six months ago. My husband and my eldest son, Jamal went into hiding. Isi's twin, Kato, disappeared somewhere into the forest. Isi and I had to flee the village without them. We were brought here to Dovani Camp. It is run by an African NGO, *Help Africa*, and they have been wonderful in helping us to build a new life here. What is clear though, is that things back home will never be the same again. Ai! And my husband, what happened to him? I pray he and the boys were not captured by the rebels.

Scene 2

4.SFX Footsteps approaching. Knocking on door, then opening

5.CHIKA: Ko ko! Hallo Madam! What are you doing all alone in the dark house?

6.MOTHER: Oh! Hallo Chika. **(big sigh)** I was thinking of my family and what we have lost.

7.CHIKA: Ai Madam, I'm sorry. **(Coming closer)** Men do turn up again after the fighting stops. We must hope they made it safely to a refugee camp.

8.MOTHER: And what about our homes and land? None of us will have anything when we go back. We hear that between them, the government and the rebel forces burned down the forests and set fire to crops.

9.CHIKA: I know. But...let's look on the positive side and see it as a new beginning. I lived in Abanto and I remember Banega and Abanto District were feeling the strain of deforestation and there were clashes over pasture rights.

10.MOTHER: That's true. My husband was very active in promoting land clearance. Against Chief Apaloo's wishes. But he had been promised new jobs and more wealth for the community.

11.CHIKA: Well. That's all in the past. It's a great opportunity to work together now in Dovani Camp and find ways of rebuilding your communities.

12.MOTHER: (Sigh) The land will be dead.

13.CHIKA: It can recover. That's what we are here for - to find out how... Come outside Madam and rest under the Agba tree. It's so beautiful in the shade.

14.MOTHER: Alright. Thank you Chika.

15.CHIKA: I will see you later at the women's forest committee meeting. Look up ! There's your son Isi, up in the hills with Akiki.

16.MOTHER: (Laughing softly) Ah yes! Thank God I still have Isi. And I always wanted a daughter! It is a blessing having that little one in our care. Until her family is found.

17.MUSIC UP

Scene 3

18.SFX: Field - Sound of cows mooing and eating

19.AKIKI: (talking softly) Sshh. Come! Let me get on your back. You have such beautiful horns. Come!

20.ISI: (gently) Are you happy with your new cow Akiki?

- 21.AKIKI:** Oh Isi. Can I really keep her?
- 22.ISI:** Yes – our cow gave birth to two calves. It is our custom to pass on a gift to a relative. And now you are my little sister! She seems to love you! Have you thought of a good name for her yet?
- 23.AKIKI:** Kiroko, because she’s got white patches on her face!
- 24.ISI: (laughing)** Good Akiki! Kiroko! That’s a very pretty name. It’s a valuable old Ankole cow. Look at its horns. There aren’t many of these cows left you know.
- 25.AKIKI:** Why?
- 26.ISI:** Well, they don’t give as much milk as the new breeds. Also, our African cows like to wander and graze miles away and that causes problems.
- 27.AKIKI:** Why would that be a problem?
- 28.ISI:** Well, for example, my father began cutting back on our grasslands in order to grow more cash crops. So our cows began wandering into Abanto territory to find grass and of course Chief Apaloo’s people were not happy about that at all.
- 29.AKIKI:** Why? How can you be mad at a cow?

30.ISI: (laughing) They were mad at us, not at the cows, because we were driving them onto their grasslands. They need so much grass. And what would be left for their cows to eat?

31.AKIKI: But why couldn't you share? They get your crops, you get their grass?

32.ISI: Hey Akiki – you are quite the economist! Of course you are right but we didn't see it like that. It was 'us and them'. Perhaps we will now work better together here. Look- there is Talib ...he's talking to Chief Apaloo. How small they look from up here! I wonder what they are talking about?

Scene 4

33. SFX Day sounds outside

34.CHIEF APALOO: I read an astonishing fact in your office library Talib.

35.TALIB: Glad to hear you are making use of it Chief Apaloo. And? What did you discover?

36.CHIEF APALOO: Well- did you know that one rural community like Abanto harvests about 300 donkey loads of firewood...per month. No wonder our forests have degraded so fast. We cut and chop, slash and burn, because we think about the money we will get. And we only get a few US dollars per cubic metre on the open market. That's nothing compared to the damage we do.

37.TALIB: You know, your son wants modern day solutions- hydroelectricity for example, so that we rely less on wood fuel.

38.CHIEF APALOO: Argh! My son just wants to flirt with big business and become powerful. He thinks it is a way to get rich quickly.

39.TALIB: Maybe. But there are plenty of people out there suggesting that dams and reservoirs are the future. One has to examine each case on its merits and be well-informed if we are going to win the argument for local solutions.

40.CHIEF APALOO: Well I AM informed about my community in Abanto. We need to get back to the basics, to understand the soil, speak to the trees and listen to the forest. The spirits are trying to tell us something. We must let the forest dance again! Sow the seeds that will feed the earth and our stomachs.

41.TALIB: Hey chief. You are a poet!

42.CHIEF APALOO: And a scientist! Talib! I am developing something which I think you will like!

43.TALIB: Oh? What is it?

44.CHIEF: (Laughs) Woa! Not so fast! It's still at the research and development stage but you'll be the first to know when I've finished! And then I'll take it to the women's committee and see what they think! I am VERY excited! It could be a small breakthrough.

45.MUSIC UP

Scene 5

46. SFX By water pump - Sound of water, washing and singing.

47.MULOGO: Boo!

48.CHIKA: Ai! I've got soap in my eyes. Who is it? Is it you Talib?

49.MULOGO: (changing his voice to very deep) No it's not! It's me!

50.CHIKA: Who's me? Is that you, Talib?

51.MULOGO: (still very low voice) Oh No! Don't make me jealous.
I am the man!

52.CHIKA: Ouch...my eyes are stinging! Hah! Mulogo! You devil! Now my eyes will be all red!

53.MULOGO: (normal voice but very flirty) Oh no! Not those beautiful black eyes. Please don't say I have robbed the world of such beauty!

54.CHIKA: What do you want Mulogo? It's rude to disturb a woman while she's washing. I have a right to privacy.

55.MULOGO: Yes, maam. But that's what I want too- some privacy with you. Not always these public meetings and public discussions. Can't we have a private moment – together?

56.CHIKA: I am here to work. I do not intend to mix business with pleasure.

57.MULOGO: Hah! So it WOULD be a pleasure to be with me! I knew it!

58.CHIKA: Ai Mulogo! Go now. Shoo!

59.MULOGO: (Walking away) We are from the same district. I know where you live. When we return to Abanta I will visit you and we will have privacy. That I promise you. Goodbye for now, oh girl with the black star in her eye.

60.MUSIC UP

Scene 6

61. SFX Day time sounds

62.MOTHER: (FADE IN) We planted the soybeans because we know they are nutritious and grow well in this soil. We can sell the surplus. Now, we women need to have a say in how we use the forest and how to conserve it.

63.CHIKA: Yes, Madam... because we are the ones who go out to collect wood. We also collect water and these resources are ever harder to find. We are killing ourselves just to get hold of the basics.

64.Women's voices express approval

65.MOTHER: We need to start with the aims of our committee. Don't you think so, Chika?

66.CHIKA: Yes, first we need to find out the legal status of our forest. In other words, identify who owns what...and clarify OUR rights.

67.MOTHER: I realize my husband, Chief Kipko sold some three thousand hectares to the BigWood Corporation. Our government owns another large chunk; there is land owned by the Chiefs in the communities, but how much?

68.CHIKA: Once we know, we can begin to negotiate with the owners about preserving forests and farmlands for our use and livelihoods.

69.MOTHER: We want the income from the things we grow, but no more wild harvesting of firewood. It is stealing and there will be nothing left if we do not stop. We need to plant trees to replace what we take. We need to become farmers not plunderers; owners not thieves.

70.MUSIC UP

Scene 7

71. SFX: Field - Cows mooing and eating

72.ISI: Here's a riddle for you Akiki; If a tree falls in a wood and no one is there to hear it, does it make a noise?

73.AKIKI: If a tree falls it makes a noise...yes...it's like the sound of a cow dying...(makes a wailing sound)

74.ISI: And if my twin brother Kato falls and calls out many miles away, will I hear him?

75.AKIKI: (softly) In your heart maybe Isi. That’s where I hear my mother and my father, and my Sesi. In my heart. Isi. Please sing that song again. Maybe they will hear us!

76.ISI and AKIKI hum song softly.

77. 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. We found out that a typical rural community uses 300 donkey loads of firewood...per month. So Chief Apaloo is very excited when he finds a way of reducing fuel by 50%.

Please join us and find out how in **Episode Four: “The Rocket Stove.”**

Remember, if you want to hear the programme again or tell friends about it, please visit our website at www.dw-world.de/lbe

www.dw-world.de/lbe

Goodbye for now.

END OF EPISODE 3