

## LEARNING BY EAR

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

#### EPISODE SEVEN: "Local Solutions"

**AUTHOR:** Romie Singh

**EDITORS:** Thomas Mösch, Jan-Philipp Scholz

**PROOFREADING:** Natalie Glanville-Wallis

#### List of characters EPISODE SEVEN:

**Narrator**

<b>SCENE 1</b>	<b>Talib (m, 20)</b>	<b>Mother (f, 36)</b>	<b>Isi (m, 18)</b>	<b>Group of Men/Women</b>
<b>SCENE 2</b>	<b>Chika (f, 18)</b>	<b>Mother (f, 36)</b>	<b>Isi (m, 18)</b>	<b>Group of Women</b>
<b>SCENE 3</b>	<b>Mulogo (m, 22)</b>	<b>Chika (f, 18)</b>	<b>Talib (m, 20)</b>	
<b>SCENE 4</b>	<b>Mulogo (m, 22)</b>	<b>Talib (m, 20)</b>		
<b>SCENE 5</b>	<b>Mother (f, 36)</b>	<b>Chika (f, 18)</b>	<b>Group of Women</b>	<b>"Themba" (f, 30)</b>
<b>SCENE 6</b>	<b>Mulogo (m, 22)</b>	<b>Chika (f, 18)</b>	<b>Talib (m, 20)</b>	
<b>SCENE 7</b>	<b>Isi (m, 18)</b>	<b>Mother (m, 36)</b>	<b>Chika (f, 18)</b>	<b>Akiki (f, 7)</b>
<b>SCENE 8</b>	<b>Mulogo (m, 22)</b>	<b>Chika (f, 18)</b>		

## **INTRO**

Welcome to *Learning By Ear* and episode seven 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.

In today's episode, the women report on the planting and the valuable medicinal herbs that are still in the forest. Meanwhile there is high drama in Dovani Camp. Little Akiki has disappeared. Will she find her sister?

Join us now as Talib explains how little Akiki was suddenly nowhere to be found.

**Episode SEVEN: "LOCAL SOLUTIONS."**

## **1.MUSIC UP**

### **Scene 1**

**2.TALIB NARRATOR:** The news hit us all like a bombshell. Akiki had run away. The first thing we heard last night was MaKipko and Isingoma screaming....

### **3.INSERT: FADE IN SFX EVENING AMBIENCE/HOLD MUSIC UNDER**

**4.MOTHER: (very upset) Akiki? (sobbing) Isi?** Where is she? It is dark. Her cow is here but she is not.

**5.ISI:** I don't know ma. I'll go and look for her. Don't worry!

**6.ISI RUNNING CALLING OFF MIC:** AKIKI! AKIKIKI!

**7.MOTHER CALLING OFF MIC:** AKIKI! AKIKI

### **8. Background voices of men and women asking what's wrong**

**9.MOTHER: screaming** Akiki's gone! She's gone!

### **10.FADE SOUNDS. END OF INSERT**

**11.TALIB NARRATOR:** ...We alerted the rest of Dovani refugee camp and everyone joined in a massive search. But we couldn't find her. MaKipko and Isingoma are of course especially upset because they had adopted Akiki. Now all the mothers are rallying round to support them both and Chika is with them.

### **Scene 2**

### **12.SFX Morning ambience outside**

**13.WOMEN'S VOICES CONSOLING MAKIPKO:** Don't worry ma; she'll be alright; she's smart.

**14.MOTHER:** But why did she run away? Where has she gone?

**15.ISI:** Ma, I think she got an idea from the story you told her about the old man hiding in the Lenge tree. Akiki thinks that her sister could be hiding in that big Lenge tree in Abanto .

**16.MOTHER:** Oh my goodness. Has she really gone there?

**17.CHIKA: (gently)** No one knows MaKipko but standing here won't help. The men are out searching in jeeps. Please go home.

**18.CHORUS OF WOMEN ALL AGREEING NOT TO WORRY**

**19.CHIKA:** Ai. Ladies. We said we would collect medicinal herbs and roots for our clinic. We need to report back on our findings. Are you willing to go out without me? I need to write up the last meetings minutes.

**20.WOMEN** Yes Chika. We can go. No problem. Let's go.

**21.MUSIC UP**

**Scene 3**

**22.SFX Morning ambience outside**

**23.MULOGO:** Hallo Chika. You look miserable. Can I cheer you up?

**24.CHIKA:** Oh hallo Mulogo! I need to write up the minutes from the last meeting. But you can make me some tea if you like.

**25.MULOGO:** On that rocket stove?

**26.CHIKA: (laughing)** Yes...we are passing the stove around so everyone can get to use it. It's my turn today. Can you work it?

**27.MULOGO:** Of course. You do your work. I'll get this going!

**28.SFX: Grass, wood, striking of match**

**29.MULOGO:** I'm impressed! It's cleaner than the old metal charcoal stove we had back home. My father's quite clever after all!

**30.SFX flames burning sticks**

**31.MULOGO:** Listen Chika? I know maybe now is not the right time...

**32.CHIKA:** Oh?

**33.MULOGO: (laughing)** I am actually busy thinking about the future....

**34.TALIB (OFF MIC)** Hah. There you are Chika! Oh...hallo Mulogo! Making tea? Great! Or am I disturbing?

**35.CHIKA: (embarrassed)** Uh..um...no..no Talib. Not at all! Umm.. Look.I really have to work! The women's meeting is soon. I'll go and work inside. You guys talk here outside!

**36.SFX: FOOTSTEPS DEPARTING**

**Scene 4**

**37. SFX Same ambience as Scene before (morning ambience)**

**38.TALIB:** Sorry. I came at the wrong time. I didn't know that you and she...um...well...it's none of my business. Well actually it is my business. Chika and I work and get on very well together. I would hate that to change.

- 39.MULOGO:** Oh? And why should it change?
- 40.TALIB:** Look...I...I like Chika very much.
- 41.MULOGO:** Woa..stop. Too much information. I came to talk to Chika .... to say that I have plans for the future...
- 42.TALIB:** Well then I am right...and I DO have a reason to worry.
- 43.MULOGO:** What? Oh no! I'm not talking about THAT! I'm talking about setting up a meeting.
- 44.TALIB:** A meeting?
- 45.MULOGO:** Yes, with you guys!
- 46.TALIB:** With us?
- 47.MULOGO:** Yes! With *Help Africa*. I think Chika took it the wrong way.
- 48.TALIB:** Oh. And why would she do that?
- 49.MULOGO:** That, my friend, is something that you will have to ask her. Look....let me put some more sticks on the flames.
- 50. SFX: Sticks/flames**
- 51.MULOGO:** Right! Now! This is what I am trying to say. I need to understand how you guys work. I have some great ideas! ONE great idea! I need to know if *Help Africa* can really HELP!
- 52.TALIB:** Then let's talk later when Chika has more time, after her women's meeting.
- 53.MUSIC UP**

## **Scene 5**

**54. SFX Daytime ambience**

**55.MOTHER:** Ladies. Welcome. And thank you for all your support this morning. I can't sit at home crying.

**56.WOMEN MURMUR IN APPROVAL**

**57.MOTHER:** Who will volunteer to take the minutes?

**58.WOMEN MURMUR:**

**59.CHIKA:** Themba? Do I see your hand up?

**60.THEMBA:** Yes! I'll do it.

**61.CHIKA:** Oh thank you! That's great! All of you will need to have these skills later when you start negotiating with the forest stakeholders and government over land rights. So start practising now! You do it next time, Alice, OK?

**62. SOFT LAUGHTER AMONG WOMEN**

**63.MOTHER:** Now! According to our agenda we have two reports: one from the soya planting group and one from the medicinal herbs group. Chika. I believe you are first.

**64.CHIKA:** Yes! Right! Well, we had a planting session this morning and finished ten rows of soya. It's just the right time of year. The soil is warm and loose. It is better since we added organic mulch and sand. The clay was too hard before for planting.

**65.THEMBA:** You cannot believe how neat the rows look!

**66.MOTHER:** When the plants are fully grown the canopy will completely cover the spaces between the rows. That's good for growth.

**67.CHIKA:** And the oil press that *Help Africa* is making available to the camp will help us to manufacture soya cooking oil.

**68.MOTHER:** It is all excellent news! Thank you. And from the women who went into the forest?

**69.CHIKA:** I can report that the ladies brought back six large baskets of kapok bark, mint and ginger. We can definitely be happy that the fauna and flora in the forests to the west are still intact. As long as we keep the forests intact too we should have plenty of herbs for all our needs.

**70.MOTHER:** Congratulations ladies, on a wonderful day's work.

### **71. FADE ON WOMEN CLAPPING**

### **Scene 6**

### **72. SFX Daytime ambience outside**

**73.MULOGO:** Hah, here comes Chika. How was the meeting?

**74.CHIKA:** Oh it was great! We have made a lot of progress. Am I disturbing anything?

**75.MULOGO:** No, not at all. Please Chika. Sit down. I want to ask you and Talib if *Help Africa* also helps local community enterprises to get started on a development program that is meant to bring profit and income to the community.

**76.CHIKA:** I don't think we have the funds. We too need funding and we rely on the bigger fish to finance our projects, you know.

**77.TALIB:** But we do talk about forming partnerships. What exactly do you have in mind Mulogo?



**78.MULOGO:** We know the use of traditional firewood for fuel is depleting our forests, and that burning wood indoors causes serious breathing problems especially for the women who do the cooking.

**79.CHIKA:** And for their children.

**80.TALIB:** Right, but there are also environmental reasons. Don't forget how valuable our trees are for our water, for sheltering or plants and cattle. They give off moisture and oxygen.

**81.MULOGO:** You and Chika convinced me on that a long time ago Talib. But to save the trees, we need clean alternative fuels. I've been reading that we can burn waste products- cow dung, human waste, old crops – on a scale that benefits a small community. I can show you. Here.

## **82.SFX PAPER NOISE**

**83.CHIKA:** Yes. Talib and I have often talked about biodigesters. We visited a project once. The biodigester was built underground and the methane gas that came out of the process of burning waste was used for heat, light and cooking.

**84.MULOGO:** The beauty of it is, it is clean, easy fuel for rural communities, it is good for the atmosphere too. Look! According to these figures, it takes a total investment of between 400 and 800 EUROS for one biodigester in Africa.

**85.TALIB:** Hmm. What you are asking is whether *Help Africa* would invest in a biodigester scheme..

**86.CHIKA:** ... and support a profit-making social enterprise.

**87.MULOGO:** In a nut shell, yes.

**88.CHIKA:** As with all these things Mulogo, one has to come up with a careful business plan, a cost-effective analysis.

## **89.MUSIC UP**

### **Scene 7**

#### **90. SFX Evening ambience / Sound of lorry approaching**

**91.ISI:** What's going on? A lorry? At this time?

#### **92.ISI PANTING AND RUNNING / LORRY ENGINE BECOMES LOUDER**

**93.MOTHER: (OFF MIC)** I heard it too. There's the driver. Ask him.

**94.ISI: (shouting above the engine)** Hey...did you see a young girl?

**95.MOTHER:** He can't hear you. Look...over there! There she is - .It's Akiki ....someone else is with her...and another girl.

#### **96.SFX RUNING AND PANTING**

**97.CHIKA:** MaKipko...Isi...she's safe. Akiki is safe....

**98.ISI:** Oh thank God.

**99.MOTHER: (sobbing)** Akiki my darling!

**100.AKIKI: (joyful)** Ma! I found her...like in my dream...the driver took me there!

**101.ISI:** Sesi? You found your missing sister Sesi?

**102.MOTHER:** And my husband? My sons?

**103.ISI:** Kato? Did you see my brother Kato?

**104.CHIKA:** Shh. I'm afraid you will have to wait. Sesi's in shock. She can't speak. The driver told me they found her huddled inside a tree in the forest. Akiki knew exactly where to look.

**105.AKIKI: (sounding very weak and tired)** Yes. I knew where she was. Oh Isi, I found her. Like Ma said. In the Lenge tree!

## **SCENE 8**

### **106. SFX Same ambience as before**

**107.MULOGO: (gently)** Come Chika.

**108.CHIKA: (Gentle/surprised)** Mulogo!

**109.MULOGO:** I'll make tea for us and we can warm up a bit.

**110.CHIKA:** Yes.. thank you. I would like that. It's been a long long night! Thank God it ended happily!

**111.MULOGO:** Yes..but you and I need to talk...about us.

### **112.MUSIC UP**

## **OUTRO.**

And that's all from today's *Learning By Ear* series "If a tree falls...", written by Romie Singh, which tackles the question of deforestation. So Sesi has returned safely but is too traumatized to speak. In our next episode, Isi feels being a twin has brought a curse on the family. But the women go from strength to strength to form a new united community organization.

Please join us and find out more in our eighth **episode entitled "FARM is born."**

And remember, if you want to hear the program again or tell friends about it, please visit our website at [www.dw.de/lbe](http://www.dw.de/lbe). Goodbye for now!

**END OF EPISODE 7**