

LEARNING BY EAR

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

EPISODE TEN: "A blessing"

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List of characters EPISODE TEN:

Narrator

SCENE1: Isi (m, 18)

INSERT: Isi (m, 18) Sesi (f, 18)

SCENE 2 Akiki (f, 7) Sesi (f, 18)

SCENE 3 Talib (m, 20) Chief (m, 40) "Themba" (f, 30)
Mulogo (m, 22) Group of Men/Women

SCENE 4 Akiki (f, 7) Mother (f, 36)

SCENE 5 Sesi (f, 18) Mother (f, 36) Akiki (f, 7) Isi (f, 38)

SCENE 6 Mother (f, 36) Isi (m, 18)

SCENE 7 Mulogo (m, 22) Chika (f, 18) Talib (m, 20)

SCENE 8 Akiki (f, 7)

INTRO

Welcome to *Learning By Ear* and the last episode 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.

Our drama has seen the two conflicting communities set up FARM - a participatory forest management organization. Mulogo has learned that local solutions are less costly and more likely to succeed, but is excited at starting a social enterprise to produce biofuels. But what has Akiki known all this time, that now is revealed? Join us now for the last and final episode.

Episode TEN: “A BLESSING.”

1.MUSIC UP

Scene 1

2.ISI NARRATOR: Two months have passed since that awful day when I asked Sesi that fateful question....

3. INSERT WITH APPROPRIATE SAD MUSIC (OPTIONAL)

4.SESI: (soft whimper) Hmmm

5.ISI: Did you see Kato? Sesi, please,. Is my twin brother alive?

6.SESI: (whimpers louder, clearly upset) Hmmm

7.ISI: What? You want to hold my hand? Here you are.

8.SESI: (Whimpers) Hmm

9.ISI: You are crying. Why are you stroking my hand? Oh Sesi **(starts sobbing)** Is that why you are looking at me like that? Is that what your hand is trying to tell me? Oh God! My brother! **(sobs uncontrollably)** Kato!

10.SESI: **WHIMPERING SOFTLY**

11.SAD MUSIC UP AND FADE (OPTIONAL)

12.ISI NARRATOR: ...That pain has not gone and Sesi still cannot speak. But my mother's grief has brought it home to me: she needs me now more than ever. I must stay strong to help her get over our loss. Papa, and my elder brother Jamal ...I dare not even think they might be alive. The disappointment would be unbearable. It is Sesi and Akiki I worry about. They are so secretive and strange. Maybe because they have lost everything.

13.MUSIC UP

Scene 2

14.SFX Daytime ambience inside

15.DRAMATIC MUSIC UP. HOLD UNDER.

16.Sesi whimpers throughout scene.

17.AKIKI: Sesi, you can't just not tell anyone....
How long do you think you can hide it under a loose shirt? And you know who the father is...you must tell Ma...and IsiIt's not fair on them not to be told. .. Please Sesi tell them...soon... today.....now.....

18.DRAMATIC MUSIC UP AND OUT

Scene 3

19. SFX Daytime ambience outside

Women/men and boys voices

20.TALIB: Residents of Dovani Camp. Thank you for gathering today for our FARM meeting. I am so thrilled that so many of you have come. It is not easy trying to raise a family, earn a living and then find time for meetings.

(VOICES OF APPROVAL)

Let us be clear- you do not gain financially by being part of FARM. But just remember- you are receiving valuable experience in forest management, managerial skills, basic property law, legal rights and negotiation strategies. Others must pay college fees for such an education! **(Laughter)** You will graduate for free! You can become masters in the science of agroforestry, experts in bio diversity, knowledgeable about trees and plants, the value of their bark, seeds and fruit. And all that will provide us with an income. Chief Apaloo! Please tell us what our next step should be. You have given it some thought. Then everyone should contribute.

22.CHIEF APALOO: Thank you Talib. You are a leader of exceptional qualities! **(Applause)**

And you have inspired the youth here to understand climate change and to look for ways to live in harmony with nature. For my part, I would like any volunteers to help me to produce rocket stoves here at the camp and to sell – yes sell them to households here. If you own one you will look after it better.

24.THEMBA: How much Chief? **(Laughter)**

25.CHIEF APALOO: In the camp we can only barter – vegetables and milk, nuts and fruits for a stove. But back in our communities we will link into a FARM credit initiative. Of course we need support from a big funder first. But once we start making money we will attract funders and repay our loans.

26.MULOGO: We do not have to reinvent the wheel! We can learn from other people’s experience and improve on it. **(Applause)**

There is a future in a FARM credit scheme.

29.THEMBA: Sounds like a family enterprise? **(Embarrassed hush)**

30.MULOGO: Only if you do not take part!

31.CHIEFAPALOO: I have a duty as Chief to work for you all.

32.MULOGO: But it is entirely up to you all not to allow any form of power games, be it nepotism or other corrupt practices. You will vote in leaders and if they fail, you will vote them out. But to do that, you must take part! Democracy demands it!

33.MUSIC UP AND FADE ON APPROVING MURMUR OF VOICES

Scene 4 34. SFX daytime ambience inside

35.AKIKI: Ma? Sesi has something to tell you.

36.MOTHER: Sesi? Can she speak?

37.AKIKI: No. But she can say a lot with her hands.

38.SESI: **soft whimpering**

39.MOTHER: Sesi? What is it my daughter?

40.SESI: **soft whimpering**

41.MOTHER: You want me to touch you? Where? Here?

42.AKIKI: Do you feel something ma?

43.SESI: **whimpers more urgently**

44.MOTHER: What is it? What's wrong?

45.AKIKI: Follow where she puts your hand.

46.MOTHER: Ai Sesi! You ...you are pregnant!

- 47.SESI:** **Whimpers softly**
- 48.MOTHER:** What? But how? When? Who's the father?
- 49.AKIKI:** Ma. Haven't you noticed how agitated Sesi gets when Isi is in the room? He knows ma.
- 50.MOTHER:** Knows what? Isi? You mean Isi did this?
- 51.SESI:** **more agitated whimpering**
- 52.AKIKI:** No Ma. Not Isi. His twin brother.
- 53.MOTHER:** Kato? When? How?
- 54.AKIKI:** They had a hideaway in the Lenge tree where I found Sesi. Kato ...Kato is the father, ma.
- 55.MOTHER: (Begins to sob)** What? And where is he now?
- 56.SESI: sobbing/whimpering**
- 57.AKIKI:** Look.Sesi drew this picture ma
- 58.SFX PAPER/SESI WHIMPERING**
- 59.MOTHER:** A man being killed by soldiers?
- 60.AKIKI:** Yes ma. Kato was killed. Sesi hid in the Lenge tree. Like the old man in your story. And the child...
- 61.MOTHER: (sniffing, quietly, in awe)** ...is my grandchild.
Oh dear God.
- 62. MUSIC UP**

Scene 5

63. SFX. EVENING AMBIENCE OUTSIDE

64.MULOGO: Chika! You are exhausted. Sit down!

65.CHIKA: I just helped the midwife deliver my first baby!
And it's Kato's! Sesi screamed his name in pain
as the baby was born, but it has released her
tongue! Mulogo! Sesi can speak! It's
unbelievable!

66.MULOGO: YOU are unbelievable! That black star in your
eye is shining so bright! Oh Chika!

67. SFX: KISSING

68.CHIKA: MaKipko is so relieved that the birth went well.
They want to call the baby boy Lenge, after the
tree that saved Sesi's life.

69.TALIB (Running over) Chika! I heard the news. This is amazing.
But even more amazing news has just
come through! Chief Kipko and Jamal are
on the next truck coming tomorrow
evening. It's official! I got the fax just now.
Isi's father and elder brother are alive!

70.SILENCE / MUSIC UP

Scene 6**70b. SFX OUT IN THE FIELDS**

71.AKIKI: Ai Isi! We have so much to celebrate!

72.ISI: I want to celebrate too! My brother Kato lives in the little boy. He is alive! And tomorrow night there will be a huge fire, dancing and celebration in Dovani Camp!

73.KIROKO MOOS

74.AKIKI: Ai Kiroko!

75.ISI: Do you ever think about that riddle I asked you? If a tree falls in the forest and there is no one there to hear it, does it make a noise?

76.AKIKI: I don't know the answer! What do you think?

77.ISI: Well ...I think maybe if there are no humans left on this planet to hear it, then it would be, as if there is no sound. Because who would say that they heard it?

78.KIROKO MOOS SOFTLY

79.AKIKI: (Laughing) There's your answer! Kiroko would hear it!

80.ISI: (Laughing) Ah! Right! Well - she would certainly feel the effect of that tree falling because there would be no more grassland, just deserts covered in dead wood.

81.AKIKI: We must stop them killing our wonderful giants!

82.ISI: Right, Akiki! When this war is over, we will fight an even bigger war against global warming, dried up lakes and treeless mountain slopes.

83.KIROKO MOOS

84.AKIKI: I found my sister in the forest. Her baby was born in a forest. We must save the forests!

85.ISI: And we will all go back to our forests and farms and build a new community. Come Akiki! Come Kiroko. At last I know what we have to do!

86.AKIKI:_ Come Kiroko! **(Clicks her tongue several times to move the cow.)**

87. Cow moos

88. FADE INTO HAPPIER MUSIC (HOLD UNDER CREDITS)

OUTRO.

You have just listened to the final episode of our ten-part radio drama: "If a tree falls...", written by Romie Singh.....(MORE CREDITS?)

We have shown how rural communities can work together to manage local resources, such as forests, farms and grasslands, even water. Only our committed fight against deforestation and global warming can save this planet. Africa has an important role to play in preserving its forests and developing agricultural practices that reduce carbon emissions and work in harmony with nature.

We hope you have enjoyed the series. Remember, if you want to hear the program again or tell friends about it, please visit our website at www.dw.de/lbe.

Goodbye!

END OF EPISODE TEN