

LEARNING BY EAR

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

EPISODE SIX: "Living in Harmony"

AUTHOR: Romie Singh

EDITORS: Thomas Mösch, Jan-Philipp Scholz

PROOFREADING: Natalie Glanville-Wallis

List of characters EPISODE SIX:

Narrator

SCENE 1 Chika (f, 18)

SCENE 2 Talib (m, 20) Chika (f, 18) Mother (f, 36)

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

SCENE 4 Mulogo (m, 22) Isi (m, 18)

**SCENE 5 Chief (m, 40) Mother (f, 36) Chika (f, 18)
"Themba" (f, 30) Group of Women**

SCENE 6 Akiki (f, 7)

INTRO

Welcome to *Learning By Ear* and episode six 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, Isingoma and Akiki are very disappointed that their siblings Kato and Sesi were not among the new arrivals at Dovani Camp. Akiki has a dream – she thinks it is a sign, but can it really tell her where her sister is? Join us now, as Chika praises the women for getting more involved in new farming techniques.

Episode SIX: “Living in Harmony.”

1.MUSIC UP

Scene 1

2.CHIKA NARRATOR: Dovani Camp is looking good. Talib and I have been working here as part of *Help Africa*. It is an organization that set up this camp in order to house refugees fleeing from the war that broke out six months ago. The men have been repairing fences; the youth group has been drawing posters warning about contaminated water; the woman’s group has been involved in agroforestry – that’s a way of preserving trees and growing food side by side. This morning we supervised the planting of soybeans with a group of women who fully support the work we are doing!

Scene 2

3.SFX morning ambience outside / women’s voices

4.MOTHER: Soya is so good. It also produces good cooking oil.

5.TALIB: Yes, and it’s very rich in iron.

6.CHIKA: We’re doing well. This method of alley cropping means we plant between the lines of trees.

- 7.MOTHER:** And soybean grows really well in these temperatures. We should have a big enough surplus to sell and make a living from what we grow.
- 8.CHIKA:** That’s the aim. Remember, MaKipko, we want to rotate the crops so that in seasons when there isn’t enough sunlight for soybeans, we will plant wheat in the alleys instead.
- 9.MOTHER:** But we still have the problem of wood fuel for cooking.
- 10.TALIB:** We have reserved a section of the forest for fire wood. But we will need to keep replacing the trees we use.
- 11.CHIKA:** That’s why we are building up a nursery of seedlings, so we can plant new trees. But we must also find ways of using less wood.
- 12.MOTHER:** We will be discussing that this afternoon.
- 13.CHIKA:** That’s right, and I can report back to everyone, how beautiful these alleys will look, with maize and soya and herbs in between the trees.
- 14.MOTHER:** Ai Chika. They will never want to return to their homes, if you do that. Anyway, I fear the military will have turned the forests and fields to a wasteland with their fires.

15.MUSIC UP

Scene 3

16.SFX Daytime ambience outside. Cows/ birds.

17.SFX: SOUND OF DRAWING WITH CRAYONS ON PAPER

18.AKIKI: I love drawing! Look! ...this shows my Kiroko and there's a big black cross over her head because she is drinking from water that is only meant for us.

19.ISI: That's good. Mine shows a girl drinking from a pond that is meant only for cows. I made her look just like you Akiki!

20.AKIKI: Oh that's very good Isi. I wish I could draw like that. Can I keep it? Please!

21.ISI: No. These posters must be finished and put up quickly. Too many children are getting sick from drinking contaminated water. But I will make a special picture, just for you. I promise.

22.AKIKI: Oh thank you.

23.ISI: Did you know you were talking in your sleep last night?

24.AKIKI: Oh! What was I saying?

25.ISI: Something about a Lenge tree and hiding inside.

26.AKIKI: Oh ...how funny...Ma has been telling me the story about an old man who hid in the Lenge tree.

27.ISI: What kind of tree is that?

28.AKIKI: It's used for making drums. It has special qualities.

29.ISI: OK. Well, anyway, you started to get loud at one point and then suddenly you screamed out Sesi's name.

30.AKIKI: I did? I don't remember anything.

Oh oh! Here comes Mulogo. I'll go and look for some wood and take Kiroko with me. See you later Isi.

31.FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING .

Scene 4

32.SFX Same ambience as Scene 3(Daytime ambience. Cows/ birds.)

(Throughout the following scene Isi is always negative and depressed. Mulogo is energetic and brash!)

33.MULOGO: Oh ... I sure scared her off!

34.ISI: I guess you are a bit over the top happy.

- 35.MULOGO:** Oh sorry! So, no news from your dad or brothers?
- 36.ISI:** Nothing. And nothing from Akiki’s family either. Agh!Llet’s not talk about it. **(Big sigh)** Your dad brought round a stove yesterday. My ma’s been cooking on it. That’s quite a breakthrough!
- 37.MULOGO:** What... the stove? Or the fact that our parents are finally talking after years of silence?
- 38.ISI: (soft laugh)** Both!
- 39.MULOGO:** And what’s special about this stove?
- 40.ISI:** Your dad made it. Anyone can put it together using local scrap metal and clay.
- 41.MULOGO:** There you go again. Getting all excited about an empty metal can and a clay chimney. Do you really believe that things like that will solve anything?
- 42.ISI:** That stove needs half the wood that the traditional metal stoves use. It’s still about saving the trees you know!
- 43.MULOGO:** Then why use a stove that still needs wood to burn? Can I tell you something Isi, something that will blow your mind?
- 44.ISI: (dry sarcasm)** You want to build a nuclear reactor in Abanto!

45.MULOGO: (upset) Very funny! If you're not going to take my ideas seriously I'll go and talk to someone who will.

46.ISI: Sorry.

47.MULOGO: I keep saying, you shouldn't be so negative. You'll never get anywhere Isi.

48.ISI: Look I'm allowed to feel sad .My father and brothers could be dead, OK?

49.MULOGO: Ok. OK. But life goes on. Look I'm sorry...Do you want me to go?

50.ISI: No. No. It's fine.

51.MULOGO: OK. Listen! I've got some great new ideas. I can share them with you if you want.

52.ISI: Yes. Go ahead.

53.MULOGO: I'll say one word to you Isi: "bioenergy"

54.ISI: Bioenergy?

55.MULOGO: Bioenergy, biogas, biofuel.

56.ISI: That's three words.

57.MULOGO: And they do three great things: they provide heat for cooking, light and a way to get rid of waste. Listen...China and India have been using biogas digesters for years.

58.ISI: Digesters? Sounds like a big stomach!

- 59.MULOGO:** Exactly! They are a proven method...you need the waste material from four humans and one or two cows and that's enough for one digester to produce enough energy for a household.
- 60.ISI:** You use the dung and our...our....? Eeeee yuk!
- 61.MULOGO:** Dung contains all sorts of useful minerals and gases, so does human waste. The digester processes all that muck...waste..old food...anything...everything! Don't worry, it's hidden underground but it produces enough fuel and energy. And you can use the left-over waste as fertilizer too...it is a multi-purpose, multi-functional process.
- 62.ISI:** Ai! How come you know all this stuff?
- 63.MULOGO:** I go to the library in the office. There are books and journals on bioenergy. If you're interested I'll show you.
- 64.ISI: (laughing softly)** I thought you only went when Chika was there!
- 65.MULOGO:** Hah! You misjudge me my friend. I am serious about everything I do! The beauty of this is, it has a future. It IS the future – and it already exists.
- 66.ISI:** This is a huge leap for our people who are used to burning wood and charcoal.

67.MULOGO: You say you want to save the trees? Then take that leap! Oh...and by the way...in case you think I am not...I am serious about Chika too!

68.MUSIC UP

Scene 5

69. SFX Daytime ambience (under a tree) Voices of women

70.CHIEF APALOO: (Whispering) Hallo MaKipko. Is it all right if I sit at the back and listen? I'm excited to hear what the women think!

71.MOTHER: (Whispering) Please. Be our guest. **(Louder)** Ladies. I'd like to declare the meeting open. I hope you will welcome Chief Apaloo who wishes to be an observer! He has come to learn how women conduct a democratic meeting!

72.POLITE LAUGHTER

73.MOTHER: And now, on our agenda today: posters warning about water contamination and new ways of cutting back on wood collection. Chika?

74.CHIKA: Here are the fifteen posters. Isingoma and Akiki drew most of them. How do you like them?

75.SFX: POSTERS BEING SHOWN AROUND.....VOICES APPROVING POSTERS

- 76.CHIKA:** Please tell your children to look at the posters and only to drink from the ponds marked for humans. The cows have their own demarcated ponds.
- 77.MOTHER:** We should all read them! So! On to our next item on the agenda. We want to talk about our stoves and the problem of wood collection. Who has anything to say? Anyone? Yes, Madam Themba?
- 78.THEMBA:** I hate looking for wood. I want to plant crops like we did this morning.
- 79.CHIKA:** I agree with Themba. It's a much better use of our time and energy. All that backbreaking work carrying wood for miles - it takes up a whole morning. Just for one day's cooking.
- 80.MOTHER:** I see young girls doing it. It is such a waste of their time and talents. They should be at school learning.
- 81.THEMBA:** We are all suffering. And the wood makes so much smoke. We all cough and are very sick.
- 82.MOTHER:** Yes. I also hate crouching over my three-stone stove. We should have more efficient stoves and use our time for more productive work like farming.
- 83.WOMEN APPROVE**
- 84.CHIEF APALOO:** Please excuse me. May I speak?

85.MOTHER: Of course. Go ahead.

86.CHIEF APALOO: I feel humbled hearing how difficult life is for you women. Wood was easy to collect for my mother but now you walk many miles and it is getting harder. Thank you MaKipko for accepting to demonstrate this stove. I hope you ladies agree, it could save you effort and fuel.

87.MOTHER: Thank you Chief Apaloo. So...may I present ...
The rocket stove

88.VOICES OF SURPRISE AND LAUGHTER

Scene 6

89.SFX Distant voices. Cow noises/mooing

90. LOW MUSIC UP SIGNALLING DANGER. HOLD UNDER **(OPTIONAL!)**

91.AKIKI: Kiroko. You must keep a secret. I am going to look for the Lenge tree. I had a dream. I am sure that my sister Sesi is there. I just have to find that tree again, like the old man in MaKipko's story. It is in the Abanto forest. And I know,...when I find that tree, I will find my Sesi.

92.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. In our next episode, the women begin to enjoy the fruit of their labour, and - high drama as Akiki runs away into a war zone to look for her sister in the forest.

Please join us and find out what happens in **Episode Seven, entitled “Local Solutions.”**

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

Goodbye for now!

END OF EPISODE 6