

LEARNING BY EAR

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

EPISODE EIGHT: "FARM is born"

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List of characters EPISODE EIGHT:

Narrator

SCENE 1 Isi (m, 18)

SCENE 2 Isi (m, 18) Mother (f, 36)

SCENE 3 Talib (m, 20) Chika (f, 18)

SCENE 4 Akiki (f, 7) Chief (m, 36) Sesi (f, 18)

SCENE 5 Chika (f, 18) "Themba" (f, 30) Talib (m, 20)
Chief (m, 40) Mulogo (m, 20) Mother (f, 36)
Group of Men/Women

SCENE 6 Akiki (f, 7) Isi (m, 18) Sesi (f, 18)

INTRO

Welcome to *Learning By Ear* and episode eight 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 two conflicting communities are finding ways to farm in harmony with nature and to cook with less fuel. Meanwhile Isi is afraid that being a twin has brought a curse on his family.

Episode EIGHT: “FARM is Born.”

1.MUSIC UP

Scene 1

2.ISI NARRATOR: It has been a strange week. It started with high drama when Akiki ran away from the camp. I could only think it was because of a dream she had had- that her sister was hiding in a tree in the forest back home in her village. But how Akiki knew which tree to look for in a forest of trees, is nothing short of a miracle. She and Sesi turned up back in Dovani refugee camp safe and sound, much to everyone’s relief. But Sesi is in a state of trauma. I have tried singing to her. But it hasn’t helped. She is unable to speak, or refuses to speak – I’m not sure which. I can’t get any response from her. I am so afraid of what she might know.

3.MUSIC UP

Scene 2**4. SFX Morning ambience. In the kitchen. Sound of stove, fire crackling**

5.ISI: Ma? Do you think bad things happen because of what our ancestors did? Or our parents?

6.MOTHER: What are you talking about? We haven't done anything bad.

7.ISI: I'm only thinking Ma, don't get angry, but Kato and I are twins. Back home, some people said that twins have supernatural powers, that we could bring on luck or evil, depending on our parents' omens. I never really understood that.

8.MOTHER: Twins are wonderful, Isingoma. You and Kato are no evil spirits. You brought love and music into our lives.

9.ISI: But maybe we're being punished. Maybe Kato has to suffer, because our father caused conflict among our people. He gave our forest over to commercial loggers. They killed our trees and now we must pay.

10.MOTHER: Your father was trying to bring wealth to our people when he made that decision. He didn't do it to enrich himself. But he was tricked by the BigWood Company. He had no experience in contracts and agreements.

11.ISI: He just made a mistake, is that it?

12.MOTHER: Yes. Your father is human. Humans make mistakes. Our ancestors do not punish us. We punish ourselves! Oh Isi. Believe me, poverty and war are the guilty ones here, not you, not Kato, not your father.

13.MUSIC UP

Scene 3

14. SFX: Office sounds / Machine noise of fax.

15.TALIB: Ah! Here's a fax coming through Chika. From *Help Africa* headquarters.

16.CHIKA: Oh! What does it say?

17.TALIB: (trying to understand the print) Um...Can you read it? Your eyes are better than mine!

18.CHIKA: Oh my goodness. It's not your eyes Talib! Our printer is running out of ink! But ..um...Let me see. This cover page says, it's a field manual.

19.CHIKA: (Reading slowly) “Aim: To establish community-based forest management.”

20.TALIB: Oh, I've been waiting for this! This is the handbook we need to train people who have been fighting over grassland and forest rights.

21.CHIKA: Oh? Just like those living here in this camp from Banega and Abanto District!

22.TALIB: Exactly. Participatory forest management. It encourages maximum participation from all sides, especially from women, to take ownership of their resources by finding ways to manage them better,-forests, crops and water. It is grass roots stuff. Go on! What does it say?

23.CHIKA: (Reading slowly and clearly) “Part one: How to create a broad-based community organization with maximum participation to be responsible for forest management; Part Two: How to identify all forest users and what they use the forest for. Part Three: How to carry out forest mapping, an assessment of resources; Part Four: How to negotiate agreements and implement the plans of action.”

24.SFX FAX MACHINE STOPS

25.TALIB: Hmm. Fifteen pages! There’s a lot of stuff there to understand, Chika! But before we can explain it all to the others, we need to study it first.

26.CHIKA: Oh! How exciting Talib! Come! Let’s get started!

27.MUSIC UP

Scene 4

27a. SFX Daytime ambience inside

28.AKIKI: Sesi? Are you awake?

29.SESI: (breathes more heavily in response)

30.AKIKI: Chief Apaloo has come to visit you and see how you are.

31.SESI: (breathes louder)

32.CHIEF APALOO: (gently)Hallo my dear. MaKipko asked me to come because we are from the same community, you and I. She thought it might help. So, no need to do anything! I'll just talk to you. You too Akiki! Lie next to Sesi and let me tell you something about that remarkable Abanto forest. Picture those trees. They are so thick and so tall. Their canopy is like a roof overhead. Everything is in perfect balance. There is no wastage in nature. Mother Nature is naturally wise.

33.SESI GIVES A BIG SIGH

34.AKIKI: (softly) That's right Sesi! Relax!

35.CHIEF APALOO: That tree my dear, that Akiki found you in, – it is still standing because I too hid in it once! Just like you did!

36.SESI (gives an approving grunt) Hmmm

37.CHIEF APALOO: I was sleeping in the tree as I often did, when one day some loggers came by. I overheard them discussing who was going to climb up and start cutting down the Lenge.

38.AKIKI: They wanted to cut down that enormous tree by hand?

39.CHIEF: Yes! Crazy fools. Illegally! They had a buyer in town who wanted the wood to make drums. But I too had a small drum that I always carried with me.

40.SFX AFRICAN DRUMMING

41.CHIEF APALOO: I began drumming and making scary noises like a ghost. Woooooooooooo....

42.AKIKI: (laughing) That's not scary!

43.CHIEF APALOO: It is, if you are in the dark forest! They must have thought it was the spirit of the tree. I tell you, I never saw grown men look so afraid and run so fast!

44.SESI: Happy whimpering sound

45.CHIEF APALOO: Hah! Sesi! I see you are smiling! You like the picture too! Well there are more stories like that one. I'll go now. But may I come and see you again?

466.AKIKI: (softly) Please Chief, come again!

47.MUSIC UP

Scene 5

48. SFX Day time ambience outside

49.FADE IN MEN AND WOMEN’S VOICES

50.CHIKA: So that is the broad idea. As I said, this is no longer just a woman’s group. This is a CBO- a community-based organization with elected members to run various committees which you will have to form. Managing a forest is a big venture. Yes Themba?

51.THEMBA: You want us to register this CBO and make it official? And it should have a good name, right?

52.TALIB: That’s absolutely right! And? Any ideas?

53.THEMBA: (saying each letter) F A R M. It spells Farm but stands for Forest and Rural Management.

54.CHIKA: Themba! That sounds perfect! Any objections?

55.MEN/WOMEN APPROVE: I like it! Good idea! Well done Themba!

56.CHIKA: FARM! Excellent! When we are ready, we will register ourselves as FARM and then we can negotiate a Forest Management Agreement. This is very important. It makes us legal partners with other forest owners- even the government! We are involved in democratic decision-making on how to use the forest resources without damaging the environment.

57.EXCITED VOICES

58.TALIB: I think first, we should focus on these stakeholders- the people who use the forest or any products of the forest.

59. VOICES OF APPROVAL

60.CHIKA: Here is a table for you to fill in. In the left hand box, please list the groups in order of size. So “Stakeholder 1” will be the largest group that uses the forest on a regular basis.

61.CHIEF APALOO: I would say the forest gatherers- those who collect wood.

62.MULOGO: And those who collect honey.

63.CHIKA: And the traditional medicine gatherers.

64.TALIB: Excellent. Fill in their activity in the next box.

65.MOTHER: And then, in the right box we list the products we get from these activities right?

66.TALIB: That is correct. So for income or revenue from ‘stakeholders one’, we have firewood, honey, medicine and herbs sales.

67.CHIEF APALOO: And then ‘stakeholders two’ refers to the next biggest group that benefits from the forest.

68.MOTHER: Forest grazers, I guess -the ones with livestock.

69.MULOGO: And ‘stakeholders group 3’ are maybe the timber cutters- the loggers.

70.CHIKA: OK. Cool! Please work in groups and agree on each column. We can meet in half an hour and share our ideas.

71.MUSIC UP

Scene 6

72. SFX Night time ambience outside

73.AKIKI: Tell her the riddle, Isi. It's good.

74.ISI: You tell it Akiki!

75.AKIKI: OK. Listen Sesi! If a tree falls in a forest, and no one is there to hear it, does it make a noise?

76.ISI: (gently) What do you think the answer is, Sesi?

77.SESI MAKES A HAPPIER SOUNDING NOISE

78.AKIKI: (happy) Oh Isi, It's coming back! Her speech! She will be able to speak soon.

79.ISI: (worried) But what will she say when she can!

80. 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. The communities are creating a forest management organization FARM for their future, but will Isingoma find peace?

Please join us and find out in our ninth **episode, entitled “Sesi’s Dark Secret.”**

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 8