

Learning by Ear – Girls' Rights

Episode 01

Title: Education for Girls - A story of Girls' Rights

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Characters:

SCENE 1: FATUMA'S HOMESTEAD

NARRATOR - 30S MALE

ELDER JACOB - 60: MALE: FATUMA'S FATHER

FATUMA - 14: FEMALE

SCENE 2: CIRO'S HOMESTEAD

CIRO - 15: FEMALE

MAMA CIRO - 50: FEMALE

UNCLE BABU - 60: MALE:

NARRATOR - 30S: MALE

SCENE 3: SCHOOL COMPOUND

FATUMA - 14: FEMALE

CIRO - 15: FEMALE

CHEPTOO - 15: FEMALE

TEACHER MONA - 35: FEMALE

NARRATOR - 30s: MALE

SCENE 4: TEACHER MONA'S OFFICE

TEACHER MONA	-	35:	FEMALE
FATUMA	-	14:	FEMALE
CIRO	-	15:	FEMALE
CHEPTOO	-	15:	FEMALE
NARRATOR	-	30S:	MALE

SCENE 5: FATUMA'S HOMESTEAD

CHEPTOO	-	15:	FEMALE
CIRO	-	15:	FEMALE
FATUMA	-	14:	FEMALE
NARRATOR	-	30S:	MALE
3-4 ELDERS	-		MIXED GENDER, 40-70S

01. MUSIC: THEME MUSIC

02. NARRATOR Intro Hello and welcome to Episode **One** of our new "Learning by Ear" **Girls' Rights** series. In the next ten episodes, we'll be following three friends - **Ciro, Fatuma** and **Cheptoo** - as they face teenage girl challenges. And as we follow them, we'll learn more about a girl's rights and increase our awareness of the issue. As they go through their experiences, they'll be finding out more about their rights and how to tackle difficult situations. So join them in their 'girl rights' journey and listen to Episode One of our story about the right to education.

SCENE 1: FATUMA'S HOMESTEAD

03. SOUNDS: UPCOUNTRY FARM SOUNDS

04. SFX: DOOR SLAMS. QUICK FOOTSTEPS RUSHING AWAY.

05. FATUMA Bye mum! See you in the evening.

06. SFX: HEAVY BREATHING AND STEPS. BUMP OF COLLIDING BODIES (studio)

07. **JACOB** Watch it young lady! Why all the rush.
Slow down!
08. **FATUMA** Sorry, dad... but I am late for school.
09. **JACOB** Slow down. You are a woman now, not a
child! What man would be interested in
marrying a woman who behaves like
a...a... a...rascal
10. **FATUMA** Marry, dad, surely, I am only 13 years
old.
11. **JACOB** Only 13! You are a woman and anyway,
where are you going in such a hurry.
12. **FATUMA** **(RUSHING)** It is the beginning of the
term father. I am off to school now, see
you in the evening... bye
- 13. SFX: FEET RUSHING OFF**
14. **JACOB** **(SNEERING and MUTTERING).**
School... hah! School, what a waste....

15. **NARRATOR.** What's up with elder Jacob? He does not seem too happy about Fatuma going to school. Fatuma has been sensing this for a while but so far she's brushed it off. Today, though, she wonders why her father is so sceptical about her going back to school.

In another homestead at the same time, one of Fatuma's best friends Ciro is having breakfast conversation with her mother and her Uncle Babu.

SCENE 2 CIRO'S HOMESTEAD

16. SFX: CLATTERING OF CROCKERY AS THEY TAKE BREAKFAST

17. **CIRO** (EXCITED) Mum, I am so excited. This is my last term in school. Soon I will be attending college.

18. **MAMA CIRO** Eat your breakfast. You will be late.

19. **UNCLE BABU** What college are you talking about?

20. **CIRO** But Uncle Babu, I work hard and want to go on to college. Then I can...

21. **UNCLE BABU** I have already put the deposit.
22. **CIRO** (EXCITED) Oh great, mum, isn't that great! What college?
23. **UNCLE BABU** Two acres of land.
24. **CIRO** What? A college on two acres of land.
25. **MAMA CIRO** No, your uncle means he is buying land - not paying for your education.
26. **CIRO** (ANGRY) but why? I am going to college, am I not?
27. **UNCLE BABU** We have a lot of land; we need more hands to till it.
28. **CIRO** (FRUSTRATED) Mum, please tell him. I must go to college.
29. **MAMA CIRO** Child, you have to learn to listen to your elders.
30. **UNCLE BABU** You will one day get married and go join another family. Your education is what I call a poor return on investment. We buy the land. You till the land. Discussion closed.

31. **NARRATOR** Ciro has a problem. She runs the risk of losing her opportunity for an education. Will she give up? Listen on and find out how she shares her challenge with her friends.

SCENE 3 SCHOOL COMPOUND

32. SFX: SCHOOL BELL RINGS. NOISE OF STUDENTS LEAVING CLASSES

33. **FATUMA** (EXCITED) Ciro, Ciro, over here.
34. **CIRO** (EXCITED) Fatuma, hi my friend. Seems your class was let out earlier than ours. Now..now...look at you. Did you grow an inch taller during the holidays? You are so...so... tall... so big...
35. **FATUMA** Don't you start my friend Ciro. My father this morning said "Hee, now you are a 'woman' not a 'girl'."
36. **CIRO** And my Uncle plans to invest in farmland and not in my education.
(INTERRUPTION)
Hey... guess who is here?

37. SFX: STEPS APPROACH

38. **CHEPTOO** What is this about land and education, you should spend time in the city like me!
39. **FATUMA/CIRO** Cheptoo! You are back!
40. **CIRO** Cheptoo, you are such a show off... (IMPRESSED). The fact that you have an Auntie in the city and that you spend your holidays and weekends there does not mean you forget us, your friends from the village.
41. **CHEPTOO** Well, I am here, back in the village, am I not?
42. **CIRO** (IMPRESSED).. ... Wow... wow...stop there.....look at you! The hair style. The clothes... you look fabulous.
43. **CHEPTOO** Don't I just? It's my new look. Its great, isn't it.

44. **FATUMA** Cheptoo... that hairstyle must have cost a lot. Look at your clothes. You have a new skirt... and shirt... you are the most modern girl in this school. But the school does not allow this manner of dress. You will get into trouble.
45. **CIRO** Yeah, you look good, but I wonder how you made it to class this morning unnoticed.
46. **CHEPTOO** Who cares? It's my hair, my clothes, my... well... my parent's money. It's my right.
47. **CIRO** But the school rules!
48. **FATUMA** Shhhh. (LOUD WHISPER). Come on; hide, here comes Teacher Mona.
49. **CIRO** Cheptoo... hide...quickly, you will be in so much trouble. Here is Teacher Mona.
50. **TEACHER MONA** Too late. She is already in trouble. Cheptoo. You know the school rules. You are not allowed such hair-dos in school.
51. **CHEPTOO** But Teacher Mona, It is my hair, my style...my

52. **CIRO** (URGENT WHISPER) Cheptoo... shhss.
53. **TEACHER MONA** All of you. To my office now!
54. **FATUMA** See what you have done, Cheptoo.
55. **NARRATOR** A simple conversation between girls has led to a summons to the class teacher's office. Is Cheptoo right to insist on her rights? How will her rights balance with the school rules? Teacher Mona will have something to say to them. Let's join them at the Teacher's Office.

SCENE 4 TEACHER MONA'S OFFICE

64.a SFX: Office sounds, people talking in the background...

56. **TEACHER MONA** Cheptoo, I don't know if I should punish or educate you. It is admirable that you are conscious of your own rights. But you are also wrong and must be punished.
57. **CIRO** Teacher Mona, now you are confusing us. You say Cheptoo has rights but you want to punish her.

58. **CHEPTOO** I guess I have the right to know why I have rights and also don't have them.
59. **TEACHER MONA** (STERNLY) maybe if you could stop acting so smart you might learn something. Show some respect, girl!
60. **CHEPTOO** (APOLOGETIC) I am sorry, Teacher Mona
61. **TEACHER MONA** Girls, listen very carefully. As young ladies, you should know you have rights. Rights to education, rights to have preferences, rights to make choices. But you also live in a society that has rules. Rules are made to ensure people live peacefully together. Your rights should not interfere with other people rights. If you keep wearing fancy clothes and expensive hair styles Cheptoo, other students will feel left out and inferior and it will affect their learning process negatively.
62. **FATUMA** Teacher Mona, Cheptoo is my friend but she makes me feel so poor. Look at my clothes, they are old and torn and hers are.....

63. **TEACHER MONA** My point. Cheptoo, everyone has a right to be here to get some education. So, could you follow the school rules...Strictly please? Next time, I will not be this lenient with you. As for the rest of you, I expect you to follow the rules as well. Am I clear?

64. **SFX: SCHOOL BELL RINGS**

65. **TEACHER MONA** Now...get out of here. Go back to class.

66. **NARRATOR** Will Ciro and Fatuma sit back and see their education interrupted? Listen on and find out how they resolve their problem.

67. **BRIDGE MUSIC**

68. **NARRATOR** A few weeks later, Fatuma has not turned up at school. Her friends Ciro and Cheptoo are very worried.

69. **CHEPTOO** (WORRIED) What could have happened? Do you think she might be unwell?
70. **CIRO** I don't know. Don't know what to think. If she was unwell, she would have sent a message to us. This is so unlike her.
71. **CHEPTOO** Let's go visit her after school.
72. **CIRO** Let's do so.
73. **NARRATOR** Later that day, the two friends arrive at Fatuma's home. They have no idea what will await them. But they must find out what could have happened to their friend. Let's join them and see what happens.

SCENE 5: FATUMA'S HOMESTEAD

74. **SFX: Sound outside atmosphere, birds, children playing in the background**
75. **CHEPTOO** Ciro, look, there are so many people in the compound.

76. **CIRO** oh no...I hope nothing bad has happened. Let's move closer.
77. **SOUND: MUMBLING OF ELDERS.**
78. **CHEPTOO** (WHISPERING) let's go peep in at her bedroom window.
79. **CIRO** Look, they are all old men and women, in such an intense discussion. What do you think they are discussing...
80. **CHEPTOO** Come, let's go look for her.
81. **SFX: WINDOW OPENING. CLOTHES RUSTLING.**
82. **CHEPTOO** (WHISPERING) ssssspppph....
Ssspppphh Fatuma, are you in there.
83. **CIRO** Can't you just check if she is in there?
84. **CHEPTOO** Can't you see it's dark?
85. **CIRO** Maybe she is dead and they are discussing her funeral
86. **CHEPTOO** Stop it... ooh there she is... Fatuma...
Fatuma... what is going on?
87. **FATUMA** (SCARED VOICE) Cheptoo, Ciro, is that you? Please, please get me out of here.

88. **CHEPTOO** Come... come to the window, we will pull you up.

89. **SFX: HEAVING HEAVILY (studio)**

90. **CIRO** (BREATHING HEAVILY) you are heavy

91. **CHEPTOO** I told you, you are growing big. Suck in your stomach.

92. **SFX: MORE HEAVING.**

93. **CHEPTOO** Have you pushed in your stomach?

94. **FATUMA** (OUT OF BREATH) mmmmmhh

95. **CIRO** Ok, hold her there... one two there

96. **FATUMA** (SIGHS OF RELIEF) oh thank you, thank you. Have you seen him?

97. **CHEPTOO** Who?

98. **FATUMA** My husband-to-be. He is one of those old men over there. That is why they locked me up. They are discussing my marriage to a very old man.

99. **CIRO/CHEPTOO** What?

100. **FATUMA** Ooh no, they are coming... run... let's run

101. **SFX: QUICK FOOTSTEPS AND PANTING**

102. **CIRO** (PANTING)... Cheptoo... where are we going?
103. **CHEPTOO** (PANTING) Let's take her to Teacher Mona's house. She will know what to do.
104. **CIRO** Ooh no, I'm so worried, first my Mother and Uncle tell me I can't go to college. Then Fatuma is marrying an old man and dropping out of school.
105. **CHEPTOO** We need to speak for ourselves. We need a voice. But I do not yet know how..
106. **CIRO** I am sure, Teacher Mona will be able to give us some advice.
107. **SFX: NO LONGER RUNNING, URGENT DISCUSSION**
108. **FATUMA** Please let's hurry. I can't get married. I want to go back to school.
109. **CIRO** (PANTING). This is just not right. Someone should talk for us.
110. **CHEPTOO** No Ciro, we must find our own voice. We must talk to others about our rights. We must know our rights and shout as loud as we can.

111. FATUMA (SADLY) Please, Cheptoo, Ciro... take me away from here.

112. CHEPTOO Sure, to Teacher Mona's

113. CIRO/FATUMA To teacher Mona's

114. RUNNING AGAIN

115. THEME MUSIC

OUTRO

116. NARRATOR The girls have sneaked their friend from her home. Have they done wrong or are they exercising their rights? But what right is this? Will Teacher Mona agree with their action? Where will they take Fatuma and what will her parents have to say when they discover she is no longer locked up in her room.

To find our more, join us in the second part of this drama.

If you want to listen to this episode again you can also visit our website at D W WORLD DOT D E SLASH L B E. Don't forget to send us your comments as well.