

## **LEARNING BY EAR 2011**

### **“The Promised Land - A Story of African Migration to Europe”**

#### **EPISODE ELEVEN: “Detention Centre”**

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**List of characters by scene:**

#### **SCENE ONE: FARAHANI AT THE DETENTION CENTRE IN EUROPE**

- Farahani (m, 19)
- Camp officer (m, 45)
- 3-5 migrants (mainly male, age not important)

#### **SCENE TWO: FLORENCE AND LINDA AT CHARLES HOUSE**

- Linda (f, 20)
- Florence (f, 35)
- Charles (m, 45)
- MRS. MARAGA

### **SCENE THREE: CHIVASI MEETS THE HUMAN TRAFFICKER AT A BUS STATION**

- **Chivasi (m, 22)**
- **Smuggler (m, 45)**

### **SCENE FOUR: AT THE DETENTION CENTRE OVER SUPPER**

- **Farahani (m, 19)**
- **Min. 5 migrants (mainly male, age not important)**

### **INTRO:**

Hello there, and welcome once again to Learning by Ear. This is the eleventh episode of our ongoing radio drama, “**The Promised Land - A Story of African Migration to Europe**”. In the past ten episodes we’ve been following the lives of three young people, Farahani, Chivasi and Linda, as they struggled with the issue of migration to Europe. In the previous episode, Linda surprised her parents and friends by arriving home unannounced, and treated her friends to an all-night party. Meanwhile, Farahani finally managed to sneak himself onto a boat with other migrants, but when they got within sight of the shore, the man they’d paid to smuggle them in told them all they had to swim the last few kilometres. Many people drowned in the stormy sea, but Farahani was lucky - he was rescued at the last minute by guards with the European border agency, Frontex. So has he finally made it? What will happen to him now? And how is Chivasi taking Linda’s return to Europe? Keep listening to today’s episode to find out. It’s called “**Detention Centre**”, which is where Farahani the other illegal migrants who survived the crossing have been taken.

## **SCENE ONE: FARAHANI AT THE DETENTION CENTRE IN EUROPE**

### **1. SFX: METAL BARRICADED DOOR OPENS**

**2. CAMP OFFICER:** **(points out)** You, you, you there... and you - yes, you. This is where you'll be kept for now. When we've processed you, you'll be given you a document allowing you to stay here for thirty days. After that you'll most likely be deported back to your home countries.

### **3. SFX: COMPLAINTS AND MURMURS FROM CROWD**

**4. FARAHANI:** **(shocked)** What! No, this must be a mistake. This place looks like a prison! It's cold, we're surrounded by a barbed wired fence - and how are four of us supposed to fit into this one little room?

**5. CAMP OFFICER:** Did you think you'd be taken to a five-star hotel? Listen, you all came here illegally! You should be glad that you have a roof over your heads at all. Until we identify your nationalities, this will be your home. Get used to it.

**6. FARAHANI:** I want asylum. That's all. I'm from a war zone in the Middle East. How long will it take for me to be granted asylum?

**7. CAMP OFFICER:** **(cold)** Who knows. One month... two... three... a year... or even ten years. You wanted to come to Europe? Well, this is Europe. Breakfast is served here at seven in the morning, lunch at one pm, and dinner at six-thirty in the evening. If you're late, you'll miss it. Do not try to escape from this centre. We're watching your every move on camera. Any other questions?

**(silence)**

**8. CAMP OFFICER:** Good. A doctor will come to examine each of you in turn. In the meantime, I suggest you all think very hard about whether you really want to go ahead and apply for asylum, or whether it wouldn't be easier just to go back home. **(orders)** Close the door!

**9. SFX: METAL BARRICADED DOOR CLOSES**

**10. FARAHANI:** **(takes deep breath)** This can't be right. It can't be. This is not what I imagined at all.

**11. NARRATOR:** Farahani can't believe what he's seeing and hearing. After all the risks he's taken to enter Europe - after risking his life and finally making it - he finds himself under the watchful eye of a camera, in a small, overcrowded room, with three other migrants, all from different parts of Africa. The camp officer seems rough and unsympathetic, too, not at all like he imagined. What will he decide to do? Will he be able to persuade the authorities with his application for asylum? We'll soon find out. Meanwhile, Linda has left her country of origin to go back to her life in Europe. Her short visit, and her apparent success over there, have made all her friends desperate to go to Europe so that they can have a life like hers. But what kind of life is it really? Let's follow Linda as she meets her friend Florence and Charles, the stranger she married to get a work permit, at Charles' house.

**SCENE TWO: FLORENCE AND LINDA AT CHARLES HOUSE**

**12. SFX: SOFT MUSIC PLAYING IN THE BACKGROUND**

**13. CHARLES:**           **(firmly)** That's it, Florence! I can't do this any more!  
That's it!

**14. FLORENCE:**       **(calm)** Charles, we've been through this many  
times. You don't have to worry. Everything will be  
fine.

**15. CHARLES:**       No, it won't, not this time! You weren't here when  
they came. I'm so stupid!

**16. LINDA:**           **(confused)** I'm sorry - I just got back from my  
homeland and I'm a bit confused. What's going on  
here? What's the problem?

**17. CHARLES:**       **(furious)** *You* are the problem! You shouldn't have  
left!

**18. LINDA:**           **(surprised)** Excuse me? I thought our marriage  
was a... I mean, I thought I was free to do as I  
wished. Wasn't that the agreement, Flo?

**19. FLORENCE:** Yes, yes... Charles is only worried because while you were away the immigration officials came round unannounced and wanted to know why you'd gone back to your country without taking your husband along.

**20. LINDA:** **(now shocked)** Oh my goodness! What happened? What did they want? Have they found out?

**21. CHARLES:** They suspect us. They told me that they'd caught several couples who had faked a marriage to help a foreigner stay and work in Europe. They want us to go for an interview.

**22. LINDA:** Another one? Florence, what do I do? I can't afford to be sent back home. I can't!

**23. FLORENCE:** Relax, both of you. This is what they always do. They want you panic, so that you'll make mistakes during the interview. Just act cool and confident. Linda: you'll have to lie to them and say that there was a family emergency back home.

**24. SFX: MOBILE PHONE RINGS**

**25. LINDA:** Excuse me, I have to take this in private.

**26. FLORENCE:** No, Linda! We're talking about a serious issue. You will take the call right here. And make it quick.

**27. LINDA:** **(takes call quickly)** Hello, Mum? I arrived back safely. I already sent you a text - didn't you get it?

**28. MRS. MARAGA:** **(breaks down in tears)** Linda... it's..

**29. LINDA:** Mum - what's going on? Are you all right?

**30. MRS. MARAGA:** **(controlled weeping)** It's your father. He was hit by a car.

**31. LINDA:** **(shocked)** What?! No, that can't be! **(crying)** How is he, Mum? Is he okay? Tell me he's okay, please!

**32. MRS. MARAGA:** He's in intensive care. The doctors have said it's too early to say whether or not he'll make it.

**(silence)**

**33. MRS. MARAGA:** ...Linda? Are you still there?

**34. FLORENCE:** Are you okay, Linda?

**35. CHARLES:** She's in shock! She's going to faint! Quick, grab her before she falls!

**36. NARRATOR:** The lie that Linda was supposed to tell the immigration people - that she'd gone home without Charles because of a family emergency - has just come true. When she heard that her father was seriously ill in hospital, Linda was so shocked that she passed out. Charles and Florence were just in time to catch her and lay her on the couch. What will happen now? Meanwhile, Chivasi is desperately missing Linda. His application for a European tourist visa has been denied, because he doesn't have enough money in the bank. So he decides to keep his promise. He's going to cross the ocean to be with the girl he loves. Chivasi takes leave of absence from his job and catches a bus heading north. After travelling for several days, he reaches the North African coast - and meets the same human trafficker who smuggled Farahani into Europe. Let's listen on.

### **SCENE THREE: CHIVASI MEETS THE HUMAN TRAFFICKER AT A BUS STATION**

#### **37. SFX: BUS STATION AMBIENCE**

**38. SMUGGLER:** (discreetly) Hello. You're not from here, are you?

**39. CHIVASI:** Erm... no. It is my first time in this country.

**40. SMUGGLER:** So what brings you here? Are you a tourist? You know it's not safe here any more, what with all the riots and political protests.

**41. CHIVASI:** I know. But my country isn't any better.

- 42. SMUGGLER:**       **(excited)** Aha... so... I'm guessing you might be looking for a ride?
- 43. CHIVASI:**         A ride? I don't get you. What ride?
- 44. SMUGGLER:**       Are you trying to get to Europe?
- 45. CHIVASI:**         **(timid)** Yes. Can you help me?
- 46. SMUGGLER:**       Ha! You're talking to exactly the right person. And you are a very, very lucky man. Today a cargo ship arrived from Europe bringing aid for refugees. A friend of mine works on it, and he says there's space for just five people on board for the return journey. You're the last one!
- 47. CHIVASI:**         Ah... okay... So this ship will take me to Europe? It's not one of those small boats, is it?
- 48. SMUGGLER:**       No small boats. It's a big ship - good ship - very good. Takes you right to heart of Europe.
- 49. CHIVASI:**         How much would I have to pay?
- 50. SMUGGLER:**       Two thousand euros. It's a good price. Think - it's a fantastic opportunity.

**51. CHIVASI:** Two thousand euros! This is more than the return air ticket!

**52. SMUGGLER:** So go by plane, if you can! You want this or not? I have a lot of work to do, my friend.

**53. CHIVASI:** Okay. I have the money. Here...

**54. SMUGGLER:** No, no! Not here! You give me the money in safe place. Come - follow me.

**55. NARRATOR:** Chivasi follows the human trafficker to a secret location, where he's prepared for the coming journey. He pays the transportation fee and is taken out alongside the ship in a little fishing boat, before being snuck aboard. There he and the four other migrants are hidden inside empty wooden crates. A few hours later he hears the ship's horn signalling that it's about to depart, and soon Chivasi is on his way to Europe... Farahani, meanwhile, is already there, but he's getting increasingly frustrated, stuck in the prison-like detention centre. That evening over supper he feels he just has to do something.

**SCENE FOUR: AT THE DETENTION CENTRE DURING SUPPER**

**56. SFX: CANTEEN ATMO**

**57. FARAHANI:**       **(addresses fellow migrants)** Listen! My fellow brothers and sisters!

**58. SFX: METAL PLATE BEING HIT BY SPOON TO DRAW ATTENTION**

**(silence)**

**59. FARAHANI:**       Thank you. I don't know how many of you can understand me, since we all come from different countries. But it doesn't matter; I have to try. What matters is that we're all here together, facing the same difficulties. We've been here a whole week now, and nobody has told us anything at all about what's going on, or what's going to happen to us.

**60. SFX: LIGHT APPLAUSE WITH CLAPS HERE AND THERE**

**61. FARAHANI:**       **(charismatic)** I know we came here illegally, but we're not criminals! So why have they caged us here like animals and abandoned us? We are all human beings! All we want is to live in peace!

**62. SFX: MORE APPLAUSE AND SHOUTS**

**63. FARAHANI:** I say we should all go on a hunger strike! Until our cases are heard and we are given asylum we will eat no food, and drink nothing but water. How many of you are with me?

#### **64. SFX: WILD APPLAUSE NOW FROM MIGRANTS**

#### **OUTRO:**

And with wild cheers and applause in the detention centre canteen we've reached the end of the eleventh episode of our radio drama series, “**The Promised Land - A Story of African Migration to Europe**”. Farahani has just persuaded the other migrants to go on hunger strike with him until their cases are heard. But will this actually work? Meanwhile, Chivasi is on his way to Europe as a stowaway on board a cargo ship. The human trafficker said this was a sure way of getting in - but was he telling the truth? And how will the news about her father change Linda's perception of Europe? Don't miss the next episode to find out. Meanwhile we hope you'll join in the discussion about European detention centres for illegal migrants. You can share your views and stories on our Facebook page, [facebook.com/dw.lbe](https://www.facebook.com/dw.lbe). And to listen to this episode again simply go to [dw-world.de/destinationeurope](http://dw-world.de/destinationeurope). Until next time, goodbye and take care.