

LEARNING BY EAR 2011

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

EPISODE FIFTEEN: “Reverse Migration”

AUTHOR: Chrispin Mwakideu

EDITORS: Katrin Ogunsade, Klaus Dahmann

List of characters by scene:

SCENE ONE: CHIVASI ARRIVES AT THE TRAIN STATION IN THE CAPITAL

- Chivasi (m, 22)
- Information desk worker (m, 50)
- Linda (f, 20)

SCENE TWO:

- Farahani (m, 19)

SCENE THREE: CHIVASI AT LINDA'S PARENTS IN THE EVENING

- Chivasi (m, 22)

- **Linda (f, 20)**
- **Mr. Maraga (m, 60)**
- **Mrs. Maraga (f, 55)**

INTRO:

Hello and welcome to Learning by Ear. This is the fifteenth and final episode of our radio drama entitled, “**The Promised Land – A Story of African Migration to Europe**”. In the previous episode, Linda called her mother at midnight in distress to ask her forgiveness, but she wouldn’t tell her mother what was wrong. After escaping from the detention centre, Chivasi was working illegally as a gardener for a European man named Ralph. When Ralph refused to pay him, Chivasi fled to Rhoda's house. She gave him money to buy a train ticket to the capital, where Linda is studying. Meanwhile, back at the detention centre, Farahani was finally granted asylum, but couldn’t believe his ears when he was told about the restrictions on refugees in Europe - not least that they are forbidden to do any paid work at all. The stage is set for the end of our story! What will happen to all our friends and their dreams of migrating to Europe? Stay tuned to find out in today’s episode, called “**Reverse Migration**”. We pick the story with Chivasi at the train station near the university campus, where he goes to the information desk to ask for directions.

SCENE ONE: CHIVASI ARRIVES AT THE TRAIN STATION IN THE CAPITAL

1. SFX: EUROPEAN TRAIN STATION ATMO

2. CHIVASI: Hello. Could you please tell me how I get to the university campus? I need the faculty of International Law.

3. INFO. MAN: Sorry, but but this is a train station information desk, not a tourist office. I can only give you information about train times and ticket prices. If you want directions, or a map of the city, I suggest you go to tourist information.

4. CHIVASI: **(adamant - at the end of his tether)** Listen. I have been through a lot lately. So please, if you know the way to the university, why don't you just tell me! Do I look like a tourist to you?! I'm not here to go sightseeing! Don't tell me to go to some tourist office.

5. INFO. MAN: **(nervous)** Okay, okay... The university isn't far from here. When you come out of the station, turn left, walk to the end of the road, then turn right on the main road and keep walking. After about five minutes you'll see the campus in front of you.

6. CHIVASI: Thank you for the information. Have a good day.
(aside) Europeans and their crazy rules...

7. NARRATOR: Chivasi's heart is thumping as he runs up the street, so close now to his beloved fiancée, Linda Maraga. A security guard at the campus gates tells him the way to her halls of residence. Images from their childhood keep flashing through his mind as he reaches the building and takes the stairs two at a time. Soon he is standing outside room 316. There is a little label on the door: Linda Maraga.

8. SFX: GENTLE KNOCKING ON DOOR

9. LINDA: Who is it?

10. SFX: SAME GENTLE KNOCKING ON DOOR

11. LINDA: Okay, okay...

12. SFX: DOOR BEING UNLOCKED

13. CHIVASI: **(softly)** Hello, my one and only.

14. LINDA: **(total shock and disbelief)** Chivasi! This can't be real! You came - ! You -

15. CHIVASI: **(still soft)** ...crossed the ocean for you. Linda. Like I said I would. Can I come in?

16. LINDA: (in tears) Oh my! Oh my ... You came! You actually came. How did you do it?! Chivasi... come in, yes, please, come in. I have so much to tell you.

17. CHIVASI: Really? I have a lot to tell you too...

18. NARRATOR: Chivasi and Linda take time to tell the stories of all their encounters and experiences in Europe. Chivasi is sad to hear about Linda's father's accident, and Linda is moved by Chivasi's account of everything he's gone through in order to be with her in Europe. Finally she opens up and tells him about her fake marriage to Charles in order to get a work permit. Thank God she can put that behind her now. Just this morning she received a letter informing her that the marriage had officially been annulled.

19. LINDA: (regretfully) I'm so sorry, Chivasi. I put you through all those awful experiences, and all the time I was married to someone else and never had the courage to tell you. I don't deserve you or your love. I thought what I was doing was for the best. I never had any kind of relationship with Charles; but I betrayed your trust and broke my commitment to you. I'm so, so sorry. But now we can start again... The letter from the court says that I'm no longer married.

- 20. CHIVASI:** (bitter) But why, Linda? The question is, why? You promised that you would be my wife. Why did you go ahead and marry someone here?
- 21. LINDA:** (breaking down) I had to. I had no other way. I needed to earn money. Oh, Chivasi, I've said I'm sorry ... Please forgive me.
- 22. CHIVASI:** I'm going to turn myself in to the authorities, Linda. I don't know what they will do to me. I hope they don't send me to prison - that they'll simply deport me. I met someone who told me I should do it right. I think it's about time.
- 23. LINDA:** Chivasi - do you still want to marry me?
- 24. CHIVASI:** Linda - don't ask me that right now. I feel very confused. I don't know what I want any more. I do know that I have to go home. If you want to, you can come with me.
- 25. NARRATOR:** What do you think? Should Chivasi still take Linda as his wife, after all that's happened? A few days later, Chivasi gives himself up to the authorities, and sure enough he is deported immediately. Meanwhile, Farahani has been transferred to the refugee facility, where the new life he dreamed of for so long is finally beginning - the life of a refugee in Europe...

SCENE TWO: FARA HANI AT THE REFUGEE CENTRE

26. SFX: SAD MUSIC

27. FARA HANI: This is not at all how I imagined. There’s no freedom here. I thought everything would work out as soon as I got to Europe. But it seems I still have a very long way to go. I have no friends here. I feel like I don’t belong. But I can't go back. Everyone there would laugh at me. I suppose it's okay here... When I finally qualify for an apartment of my own, maybe things will get better. But I’ve no idea when that will be. I’ve still got no money - and it’ll be years before I’ll be allowed to work...

28. NARRATOR: Farahani is pretty disillusioned by the reality of his European dream. Meanwhile, back in Africa, Chivasi is back at his old job and going about his daily life. But it’s not always easy, because Linda is still in Europe, and people keep telling him how stupid he was to decide to come back home. It’s got so bad that he’s had to block his Facebook page. Right now he’s round at Linda's parents’ house, visiting her father, who has fully recovered from his accident, and telling them how everyone’s been reacting.

SCENE THREE: CHIVASI AT LINDA'S PARENTS IN THE EVENING

29. SFX: EVENING ATMO IN AN AFRICAN NEIGHBOURHOOD

(Light laughter from Chivasi, Mr & Mrs Maraga)

30. CHIVASI: I'm serious! People think I'm crazy because I've chosen Africa over Europe.

31. MRS. MARAGA: Well, I can't blame them.

(More laughter from them)

32. MR. MARAGA: **(coughs)** What I still don't understand is why, after you went through all that and finally managed to find Linda, you didn't marry her after all. I thought that was what you went there for? Or was I wrong?

33. CHIVASI: **(mumbles, embarrassed)**

34. MRS. MARAGA: Well, Chivasi, I'm happy that you're doing so well. It's a good thing you only took time off from your work, otherwise it would have been very hard for you to find another job.

- 35. CHIVASI:** That's true. But I do believe that there are all kinds of opportunities in Africa that often aren't fully exploited. I keep wondering why it is that so many of us want to go somewhere where these things are already up and running? We should start them up right here in Africa!
- 36. MR. MARAGA:** Well, we used to think the same way too, but then we realized it was just a pipe dream. Africa does indeed have many opportunities, but they're only given to a select few. Look at Linda - if she hadn't been in Europe, who would have paid my hospital bill?
- 37. CHIVASI:** I'm sorry, Mr Maraga, but I beg to differ with you. I still believe it would have been better if Linda had finished her studies right here. She could still have got a good job at a good law firm. She could even have started a practice of her own.
- 38. MRS. MARAGA:** An international law firm, here? And where would she have got her clients?
- 39. CHIVASI:** Oh, that would never have been a problem. Look at all those cases of African politicians and leaders accused by the International Criminal Court in the Hague, for example. And the court has several offices in Africa. Believe me, those lawyers earn a *lot* of money.

40. MR. MARAGA: All right - you do have a point, Chivasi. But I'm still glad she went abroad. Even though her studies cost us everything we had.

41. SFX: DOG BARKING LOUDLY OUTSIDE

42. MRS. MARAGA: Are we expecting another guest?

43. MR. MARAGA: Not that I'm aware of. It's a bit late for visitors. Chivasi, would you mind seeing who's at the door?

44. CHIVASI: Sure.

45. SFX: METAL DOOR BEING UNLOCKED

46. LINDA: Hello, my one and only...

47. CHIVASI: **(surprised)** Linda! What are you doing here?

48. MRS. MARAGA: Linda! Is that you?

49. MR. MARAGA: What?! Linda's back?

50. LINDA: Hi everyone. Yes, I'm back. If that's okay with you.

51. CHIVASI: You mean you're back - for good?! But what about your law studies?

- 52. LINDA:** I want to finish my studies right here at home, among the people I love, who love me. Dad - how are you feeling?
- 53. MR. MARAGA:** What? I'm fine... What do you mean, you'll finish your studies here? You have only a year and a half to go!
- 54. LINDA:** Dad, I'm sorry to disappoint you. But I've made up my mind. I'm going to finish my studies here.
- 55. MRS. MARAGA:** (**furious**) Is this what Chivasi told you to do when he came to see you? To abandon your life in Europe and come back here, to this godforsaken continent? For what? So that the two of you could marry, and you end up in the kitchen?
- 56. CHIVASI:** What?!!
- 57. LINDA:** Mum, please stop saying that. This has nothing to do with Chivasi. At least, not in the way that you think. For your information, I only wish that what you said was true.
- 58. MR. MARAGA:** All right, everyone, let's just calm down. Linda's just got home, and she's had a long journey. She's obviously very tired. We can talk about this again in the morning. Welcome back, my daughter - it's always good to see you.

59. CHIVASI: I think it's better if I go now. You need time to catch up. Linda, it's nice to see you. Welcome home.

60. LINDA: Thank you, Chivasi, but if you don't mind, please close the door and stay a while. What I have to say to Dad and Mum involves you too. It's about time I did it right, as well.

61. SFX: METAL DOOR BEING LOCKED

OUTRO:

Chivasi closes the front door to listen to what Linda has to say... and with that we close the curtains on this fifteenth and final episode of our radio drama, **“The Promised Land - A Story of African Migration to Europe”**. What do you think will happen to Linda, Chivasi and Farahani? Do you think Florence and Charles should be freed, or sent to prison? Most importantly, what's your opinion about migration to Europe and the issues we've addressed in this series? We welcome all your opinions, comments and feedback. Do visit our online discussion forum at [facebook.com/dw.lbe](https://www.facebook.com/dw.lbe). And, as always, if you wish to listen to this episode or any part of the series again, you can do so on our web page at dw-world.de/destinationeurope.

That's it from us, until we meet next time to tell you another story. From all of us - goodbye, and take care.