

Learning by Ear 2012 – Corruption – The Elephant in the Room

Episode 10 – "Tackling the Elephant"

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CHARACTERS:

- NARRATOR

Scene 1:

- Sylvia (FEMALE, 19)
- Isaac (MALE, 22)
- Lydia (FEMALE, 16)
- Crowd (about 5 persons, male and female mixed)

Scene 2:

- Jennifer (FEMALE, 55)
- Alfayo (MALE, 58)
- Jeffrey (MALE, 58)
- Sylvia (FEMALE, 19)

Scene 3:

- TV Anchor/Newsreader (FEMALE, 40)
- Sylvia (FEMALE, 19)
- Jeffrey (MALE, 58)
- Journalist 1 (FEMALE, 30)
- Alfayo (MALE, 58)
- Lydia (FEMALE, 16)
- Isaac (MALE, 22)
- Jennifer (FEMALE, 55)

Intro:

0. Narrator: Welcome to Learning by Ear and last episode of our radio drama on corruption, "The Elephant in the Room".

In the last episode, the anti-corruption activist Jeffrey Thiongo was threatened yet again while he was out campaigning for Parliament. And Alfayo Odhiambo has been told to expect the worst after helping to expose the energy scam.

In this final episode, called "Tackling the Elephant", it's election day, and the energy scandal involving government ministers is all over the news. What will happen to Energy Minister and presidential candidate John Maina? And will Jeffrey succeed in his bid to get into parliament? Keep listening and find out...

Scene One:

1. Atmo: **City ambience - Busy street, cars, people talking**

2. Sylvia: Take their money, but don't give them your vote! Here, take a flyer. Vote for Jeffrey Thiongo! Stamp out corruption - vote for Jeffrey Thiongo... Here, take a flyer. Take their money, but don't give them your vote!

3. Isaac: I wonder if Jeffrey really does have a chance of getting into parliament. I mean, look - there seem to be so many people taking flyers and saying they're going to vote for him.

4. Sylvia: Well, Isaac, we'll soon see. I tell you, we've been working flat out the last few weeks. And Jeffrey's message is so clear and simple. I think that's what people want.

5. Lydia: **(shouting)** Isaac, Sylvia, have you seen today's papers?
Look!

5a. SFX: newspaper noise

6. Isaac: Oh god, is it the energy scam? Why have they put a picture of Dad on the front page next to one of Energy Minister Maina? People will think our dad is part of it!

7. Sylvia: But Isaac, he *is* part of it... Okay, so he had no idea what he was involved in, but nonetheless it was his company that supplied the electricity meters. That's the only reason he was able to blow the whistle - because he knew so much about it. Look -, Dad and Maina are both on the front page, but the paper has made it clear that Dad's the whistleblower, and that he was dragged into the whole scam without realising what was going on.

8. Lydia: But still - it can go either way. You never know with the press. How they portray you depends on whom they support politically, and the media aren't above taking bribes. Tekla and I were very lucky no one revealed our names when they ran the story about corruption in our school.

9. Isaac: Sure. But still. Poor Dad! He's on the front page of a national newspaper, Lydia. People all over the country will see it.

10. Lydia: Ah - today's newspapers are tomorrow's bin liners. Honestly, I think the name people will notice in all of this is Energy Minister John Maina. I mean, look: he's exposed as the ringleader in a major corruption scandal on the very morning of the elections! It can't get much worse for him, can it?

11. SFX: **Police siren**

12. Crowd: **(shouting from far)** Thief! Thief! Thief!

13. Sylvia: Oh my god, what's happening?

14. Lydia: Look, it's the police! They've put John Maina in handcuffs! They're taking him away in the police car!

15. Isaac: Lydia, I don't like the atmosphere here. I think things could get nasty. Look, that crowd are already challenging the police. Do you think we should leave?

16. Lydia: Yeah, probably. The polls are closing in half an hour, anyway. Maybe we should get out of here before it really turns nasty.

17. Isaac: Come on, girls. Let's go and meet Mum and Dad and Jeffrey in the restaurant downtown. I wonder whether they've heard about the arrest?

End of Scene One

Scene Two:

18. Atmo: **Restaurant noises, TV on in the background**

19. Jennifer: Alfayo, are you sure we're safe here? You don't want to go back home, or to the Stop Corruption Now office, just in case...?

20. Alfayo: Just in case what, Jennifer?

21. Jennifer: Well, you know... You're on the front page of every newspaper, Alfayo. It's election day, a major corruption scandal has broken, and some people might try to get at you... Jeffrey's colleague Helen did warn us.

22. Alfayo: Jennifer, I can't stay in the house or the office any longer. It's driving me crazy. Look, I didn't go out onto the streets to campaign for Jeffrey. We left that to the kids. Now the polling stations have closed, and I want to be here with my family and friends to support Jeffrey when the results come in. Okay? ...Anyway, Helen says they've employed extra security guards.

23. Jennifer: **(sighing)** Okay. I'm just worried about your safety, that's all. - Ahh, here comes Jeffrey.

24. Alfayo: Mr. Thiongo! How's it going, my friend? How are you feeling?

25. Jeffrey: I'm okay, I think. A bit nervous. The polls have closed now and the votes are being counted. But we all know that the counting can be open to all sorts of abuse. I mean, when was the last time we thought we had a legitimate, clean, election result?

26. Alfayo: Mmmm... well, certainly not in our lifetime.

27. Jeffrey: Oh Alfayo, I forgot to mention. I saw they put your picture on the front page. It will blow over, you know. How are you feeling? Are you okay?

28. Alfayo: Thanks Jeffrey, yes! I know I did the right thing. I am worried about what will happen next, but so far it looks as if most of the attention is on you and that crook, Maina, rather than me and my family. Let's hope it continues like that.

29. Sylvia: **(just arriving out of breath at the restaurant)** Hello everyone. Sorry to interrupt, Jeffrey, but look - look at the TV! Look what's happening!

30. Jeffrey: They're arresting John Maina! John Maina in handcuffs! **(laughs delightedly)** I never thought I'd see that in my lifetime!

End of Scene Two

31. Narrator: Jeffrey's work is starting to bear fruit. He's worked tirelessly to take a stand against corruption, even losing his job in the process. But has he succeeded in winning over the electorate? Let's find out!

Scene Three:

32. SFX: TV-news opener, restaurant ambience in background

33. TV Anchor: The votes have now all been counted, and in a few seconds we'll be able to bring you the first results of this year's elections... **(pause)** Right - yes - I can announce that the current president has won another term in office. But his party has suffered heavy losses. And in an extraordinary turn of events, Jeffrey Thiongo and his new anti-corruption party have taken seats right across the country! Jeffrey Thiongo himself has won by a landslide in his own constituency. **(fade out)** As mentioned earlier, this are just the first results. The final results will be published within the next week. Stay with us, as we will have the first statements about the elections in a few minutes.

34. Crowd: (loud cheers, singing) Jeffrey! Jeffrey! Jeffrey!

35. Sylvia: (shouting) Jeffrey, you did it!

36. Jeffrey: WE did it, Sylvia! I couldn't have done it without your help. Thank you all so much! What an amazing result. What an amazing day. **(to everybody in the room)** Thank you everyone for all your hard work and support. And now - let the fight against corruption begin! Let's 'Stop Corruption Now'!

37. Crowd: (loud cheers, singing) Jeffrey! Jeffrey! Jeffrey!

38. Journalist 1: Mr. Thiongo, I'm from Capital Radio. You must be thrilled with the result. But are you surprised?

39. Jeffrey: Yes, I am surprised that we've taken so many seats around the country. It's a fantastic result for the party. But I'm not at all surprised that people are sick to death of corruption. Finally they have a party they can vote for - one that understands their pain.

KW begin

40. Journalist 1:What will you do first when you get to parliament?

41. Jeffrey: The first thing I'm going to concentrate on is stamping out corruption in schools. We'll pass new legislation to make it illegal to fake results, so that young people don't grow up believing that the only way to get on in life is through corruption.

KW end

42. Journalist 1:Thank you, Mr Thiongo. **(to Alfayo)** ...Excuse me, aren't you Alfayo Odhimabo, the whistleblower in the energy scandal?

43. Alfayo: Errmm... yes... Yes, I suppose I am.

44. Journalist 1: Aren't you afraid that life is going to be very tough for you now, Mr Odhiambo? I mean, even though the Energy Minister has been arrested, there are probably plenty of people who are out to get you...

47. Alfayo: Yes, I realise it might be dangerous. But once I found out what was going on, there was no way I could agree to be part of something so immoral - robbing my fellow countrymen of so much money, just to fill the pockets of these greedy men. I know there are tough times ahead, but I had to stand up for what I believe in. I just hope people will understand that... But tonight, right now, we're here to celebrate Jeffrey's success!

46. Atmo: **Crowd celebrating**

47. Sylvia: A toast! A toast! ... **(room quietens)** First of all - to Dad, for his courage, and for doing something so few people would be brave enough to do!

48. Sylvia/Lydia/Isaac/Jennifer/Jeffrey/Crowd: To Dad!/To Alfayo!

(clinking of glasses)

49. Lydia: And I'd also like to propose a toast to my mum, Jennifer. She's the one who made sure we grew up with strong principles, who taught us not to take the easy way out, not to give or take bribes, and to stand up to corruption.

KW begin

50. Isaac: Yes, Lydia - a toast to Mum for showing us the way! It's not easy to stick to your principles when there's corruption on all sides and no one is prepared to fight it head on. But she acknowledges the truth and stands up to corruption. She's not afraid to tackle the elephant in the room.

KW end

50. Sylvia/Lydia/Isaac/Alfayo/Jeffrey/Crowd: To Mum! / To Jennifer!

(clinking of glasses)

51. Jennifer: Thank you. You're right, Isaac, it's not easy. But Jeffrey and his party, and the NGO he set up, Stop Corruption Now, are all paving the way. We've taken the first steps towards a future without corruption - and the election has shown that the people of this country are behind us!

52. Everyone: To Jeffrey! To Stop Corruption Now! To a future without corruption! **(cheers)**

End of Scene Three

MUSIC (FADE UNDER OUTRO)

53. Narrator: And that brings us to the end of our radio drama on corruption, "The Elephant in the Room" based on actual events, and written by Victoria Averill.

If you want to hear this or any of the ten episodes again, please visit our website at dw.de/lbe

And please write in and tell us what you think about the fight against corruption! You can also join our Facebook page and share your comments there.

Goodbye, and thanks for listening!