

LEARNING BY EAR

“The Lost Kid – the Story of Single Mothers in Africa”

EPISODE 8: “Never say never again!”

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List of characters by scene:

SCENE ONE: DAY AT PAPA TILAHUN'S HOUSE

- **Papa Telahun (m, 76)**
- **Mama Beletu (f, 65)**
- **Kassech (f, 22)**
- **Begidu (m, 7)**
- **Narrator (m, around 35)**

SCENE TWO: NIGHT OUTSIDE THE LOCAL BAR

- **Mekete (m, 17)**
- **Challa (m, 16)**
- **Jonas (m, 15)**
- **Narrator (m, around 35)**

SCENE THREE: NIGHT OUTSIDE MR. MINABU'S COMPOUND

- **Drunkard Minabu (m,55)**
- **Papa Telahun (m, 76)**
- **Narrator (m, around 35)**

SCENE FOUR: NIGHT OUTSIDE MR. KASU'S COMPOUND

- **Mekete (m, 17)**
- **Challa (m, 16)**
- **Jonas (m, 15)**
- **Narrator (m, around 35)**

INTRO:

Hello, dear listeners! This is our Learning by Ear radio drama called **“The Lost kid – the Story of Single Mothers in Africa”**. In our last episode, Kassech's brother Jonas and his two teenage friends, made their final plans to rob Mr. Kasu, the richest man in the district. At the same time, Aster and her grandparents found Kassech's little boy, Begidu on a street of the capital as he was looking for some leftovers in a garbage container. Remember, Begidu had run away because his was treating him so badly. Stay tuned to our eighth episode called **“Never say never again!”** Kassech, who has no idea that her lost kid has been found, is on her way to visit her landlords, Papa Tilahun and Mama Beletu.

SCENE ONE: DAY AT PAPA TILAHUN'S HOUSE

1. SFX: DAYTIME AMBIANCE FROM OUTSIDE, DOOR KNOCKED

2. **Papa Tilahun:** Oh! Kassech, come in, the door's open.

3. **Kassech:** Thank you very much, Papa Tilahun.

KW Begin

4. **Papa Tilahun:** How's work?

5. **Kassech** It's not bad, but I'm sorry I still haven't paid all of the rent. I'll be able to pay you everything I owe in the next few days.

6. Papa Tilahun: It's OK, take your time. Why don't you sit down?

7. Kassech: **(Sits on the chair).**

8. SFX: CHAIR BEING PULLED

9. Papa Tilahun: You told me last time we talked that you were planning to start taking evening classes again.

10. Kassech: Yes! That's another reason why I haven't been able to pay the rent on time.

11. Papa Tilahun: Don't worry about the rent too much. I understand your problems.

12. Kassech: Thank you very much, Papa Tilahun! When Mama Beletu told me that you need to talk to me urgently, I immediately thought it was about the rent.

13. Papa Tilahun: **(Laughs)** Do you think that Papa Tilahun only worries about collecting the rent?

14. Kassech: No, no I didn't mean it like that.

KW End

15. Papa Tilahun: Oh, well! **(he laughs, and she laughs)** Is there any news of your son, Begidu?

16. **Kassech:** **(Very sadly)** Nothing, Papa Tilahun, nothing! I regret my behaviour so much! Apparently, everything I did was wrong! I thought being strict was the right thing to do. I treated Begidu like that because my mother treated me the same way. And – well – sometimes I don't know any better.

17. **Papa Tilahun:** You understand now that what you did was wrong. That is very important. **(Calls out)** Aster! **(Pause, someone appears).**

18. **SFX: FOOTSTEP APPROACH**

19. **Kassech:** Oh, good afternoon, Mama Beletu.

20. **Mama Beletu:** Good afternoon, Kassech!

21. **Papa Tilahun:** Where's Aster?

22. **Mama Beletu:** She's glued to her mobile phone. **(To Begidu)**
Come in, my boy.

23. **Begidu:** Mama! **(Runs)**

24. **Kassech:** **(Shocked)** Begidu!

25. **SFX: SOMEONE FALLS DOWN ON THE GROUND**

26. **Mama Beletu:** **(Frantically)** Oh, Lord! She's unconscious!

27. **Begidu:** Mama! **(Cries)**

28. **Papa Tilahun:** Run fast! Bring a glass of water.

29. **Mama Beletu:** Oh, Lord! **(Runs to the other room).**

30. **Papa Tilahun:** Kassech, Kassech, Kassech!

31. **Begidu:** **(Cries).**

32. **NARRATION:** The surprise was too much for Kassech. She's fainted. Later that same day, in the same neighborhood, Kassech's younger brother Jonas and his friends talk excitedly as they leave a local bar. They're not drunk, but they had a bit to drink, and they are ready to break into the house of Mr. Kasu, the richest man in town.

SCENE TWO: NIGHT OUTSIDE THE LOCAL BAR

33. **SFX: WIND IS BLOWING, NIGHT AMBIANCE**

34. **SFX: THREE PEOPLE WALK ON A GRAVEL ROAD**

35. **Challa:** I don't like that bar, especially when your drunken neighbor Minabu is there, Jonas.

36. **Jonas:** I don't know why but today he didn't drink as much as usual. Instead he spent most of his time staring at us.

37. **Mekete:** Forget that drunkard. Just give me a match.

38. **Challa:** Here it is, sir! **(Fires the match).**

KW begin

39. **SFX: FIRING THE MATCH**

40. **Mekete:** Hey! What did you do with the joint??

41. **Challa:** **(Joking)** The joint?

42. **Jonas:** Ah, quit joking and hand it over.

43. **Mekete:** Challa! Are you stupid or what? You know, in a minute we're going to Mr. RICHEST MAN IN TOWN.

44. **Challa:** OK, OK! Here's your spliff.

45. **Jonas:** Give it to ME!

46. **Mekete:** Nah, I get it first!

47. **Challa:** Cool down, guys. I've got enough for all of us.

48. **Mekete:** All right! Let's sit down here - there's no one around. **(They all sit)**

49. **SFX: DOG BARKING IN THE DISTANCE**

50. Mekete: Oh! Challa, I don't know why your dog is always following us especially when we're on a critical mission. Hey, Challa, what are you waiting for?

51. Challa: **(Laughs)** Oh, that dog again.

52. Jonas: **(Laughs)** You want a stone to throw at it? Here's one.

53. Challa: Give it to me.

54. SFX: DOG BARKING FROM DISTANCE FADEOUT

55. Challa: He's a quick learner. **(They all laugh).**

56. Jonas: He ran away before you even took the stone out of my hand.

57. Mekete: OK, pass me a light again.

KW end

58. SFX: FIRING MATCH

59. WIND IS BLOWING, THUNDERING

60. Mekete: Oh, this damn wind! I can't light the joint!

61. Jonas: Wait! I'll put my hands up as a windbreak.
(Pause)

62. SFX: FIRING MATCH

63. **Mekete:** Yes! **(Inhales the marijuana deep and exhales)**. Here! Challa, it's your turn.
64. **Challa:** Let's enjoy this first, and later at midnight we can simply jump over the compound fence. **(Inhales the marijuana deep and exhales)**.
65. **Jonas:** So, have we got everything?
66. **Challa:** Lighten up with all your lists! Let me enjoy the spliff first!
67. **Jonas:** I mean, did you remember to organize the meat and the poison?
68. **Challa:** Hey! Don't worry about the poison. I buried it next to the rich man's compound.
69. **Mekete:** Why did you do that? Why didn't you bring it with you?
70. **Challa:** Hey! Don't forget, it's poisoned meat! What I've done is the best solution. When we get there, we can dig up the poisoned meat and throw it to his damn dangerous dog! We shouldn't carry stuff like that around with us. That's why!
71. **Jonas:** That's true!

72. **Mekete:** Oh yes! (**Smokes the joint**). We shouldn't carry that kind of stuff around with us (**all laugh**).

73. **SFX: WINDS BLOWING, AND THUNDERING**

74. **NARRATION:** A little bit later that night, the drunkard Minabu comes home. He lives right next to Kassech and Papa Tilahun's house. Surprisingly, Minabu isn't drunk. He's been running fast because of the rain. He's puffed but doesn't say a word. While he searches for his keys, Papa Tilahun comes out and greets Minabu. He's very surprised to see the drunkard in such a sober state for this time of night.

SCENE THREE: NIGHT OUTSIDE MR. MINABU'S COMPOUND

75. **SFX: Night sounds, RAIN**

76. **SFX: CLINKING KEYS**

77. **Minabu:** Oh! Papa Tilahun, I didn't see you, good evening!

78. **Papa Tilahu:** Good evening, Mr. Minabu! You're home very early tonight.

79. **Minabu:** Yes, I am, Papa Tilahun.

80. **Papa Tilahu:** (**Hesitantly**) Is everything all right?

81. **Minabu:** Yes, why do you ask, Papa Tilahun?
82. **Papa Tilahu:** It's very strange not to hear your voice booming through the darkness like we normally do!
83. **Minabu:** Oh! Papa Tilahun, I've told myself, "It's enough!" And I think if you honestly decide to change, then nothing can stop you from making that change.
84. **Papa Tilahu:** You're right, Mr. Minabu! Many people suffer because they don't understand what you've said right now.
85. **Minabu:** Yes, Papa Tilahun! But for me, it's an honest decision!
86. **Papa Tilahu:** That's a result of my daily, early morning prayers.
87. **Minabu:** **(Laughs)** Thank you very much, Papa Tilahun!
88. **Papa Tilahu:** No problem at all!
89. **Minabu:** I realized that I had become a bad example, especially for the teenagers in this town, so I decided to minimize my alcohol consumption.
90. **Papa Tilahu:** Minimize? Why don't you stop drinking completely?

91. Minabu: I'll stop drinking sometime in the near future.

92. Papa Tilahu: Good to hear! The main point is that you plan to stop.

93. Minabu: For sure!

KW begin

94. Papa Tilahu: **(Speaks in low voice)** Did you see your neighbor, Kassech, today?

95. Minabu: No! Has her kid disappeared again?

96. Papa Tilahu: No, he hasn't.

97. Minabu: Her light's out.

98. Papa Tilahu: Yes, I told her to take a rest. She might be asleep already.

99. Minabu: Oh! I understand.

100. Papa Tilahu: You should also switch your light off and take a rest.

101. Minabu: I'll do that, Papa Tilahun, now I've found my key.

102. SFX: CLINKING KEYS

KW end

103. **Papa Tilahu:** Good night, then!

104. **Minabu:** Good night!

105. **SFX: DOOR BEING UNLOCKED AND OPEN**

106. **SFX: DOOR BEING CLOSED**

107. **SFX: DOOR BEING LOCKED**

108. **NARRATION:** Minabu goes straight to bed. Except for the soft patter of falling rain, the night is very quiet. However, there is something stirring in the neighborhood. The three teenage boys are standing in front of Mr. Kasu's compound, utterly dumfounded by what's has just taken place right before their eyes.

SCENE FOUR: NIGHT OUTSIDE MR. KASU'S COMPOUND

109. **SFX: DOG BARKING INSIDE THE COMPOUND**

110. **SFX: ANOTHER DOG BARKING OUTSIDE THE COMPOUND**

111. **Challa:** Stop that dog!

112. **Jonas:** What?

113. **Mekete:** **(In a low voice)** Keep quiet!

114. **Challa:** Oh no! The stupid dog has taken off with the poisoned meat.

115. **Mekete:** You said you buried it!

116. **Challa:** I did but as you saw that stupid dog dug it up and run off with it.

117. **Jonas:** What shall we do now? We don't have any more poison to knock out the dog in the compound!

118. **SFX: DOG BARKING INSIDE THE COMPOUND**

119. **Mekete:** **(In a low voice)** Forget the front gate! Let's try the back.

120. **SFX: THREE PEOPLE WALK ON A GRAVEL ROAD**

121. **SFX: DOG BARKING STOP**

OUTRO:

And that's the end of episode eight of the radio drama “**The Lost Kid – the Story of Single Mothers in Africa**”. After all that barking, is Mr. Kasu still in bed? What is going to happen to him and his family? To find out this and much more, join us for our next episode. Remember, if you wish to listen to this episode again, or to send in your opinions, comments and suggestions, just log on to dw.de/lbe. You can also follow us on Facebook! Until next time – and good bye!