

LEARNING BY EAR

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

EPISODE 4: “Reality and Fairy Tales”

AUTHOR: Mantegaftot Sileshi Siyoum

EDITOR: Stefanie Duckstein, Adrian Kriesch

PROOFREADER: Kate Hairsine

List of characters by scene:

SCENE ONE: AFTERNOON IN BEGIDU'S TOWN

- **Samy (m, 6)**
- **Begidu (m, 7)**
- **Narrator (m, around 35)**

SCENE TWO: AFTERNOON AT MR. KASU'S HOME

- **Papa Telahun (m, 76)**
- **Mama Beletu (f, 65)**
- **Mr.Kasu (m, 60)**
- **Narrator (m, around 35)**

SCENE THREE: AT NIGHT IN A LOCAL TAVERN

- **Jonas (m,15)**
- **Mekete (m,16)**
- **Challa (m,17)**
- **Drunkard Minabu (m, 55)**
- **Narrator (m, around 35)**

SCENE FOUR: AT NIGHT AT ASKALE’S HOUSE

- **Askale (f,21)**
- **Kassech (f, 22)**
- **Samy (m, 6)**
- **Narrator (m, around 35)**

INTRO:

Hello, dear listeners! You are listening our Learning by Ear radio drama “**The Lost Kid – the Story of Single Mothers in Africa.**” Today, we bring you episode 4 entitled “**Reality and Fairy Tales.**” Last time you tuned in, seven-year-old Begidu and his friend Samy who had just started school received their very first marks for the year. Begidu did terribly, earning the anger of his mother, Kassech. Begidu now believes his friend Samy had told his mum about his poor marks. That’s why Begidu, who is very angry, decides to confront Samy.

SCENE ONE: DAY TIME IN BEGIDU'S SUBURB

1a) SFX: OUTSIDE AMBIENCE, CHILDREN PLAYING

1. **Samy:** I didn't tell anybody.
2. **Begidu:** How did my mother know about that then?
3. **Samy:** I don't know! What I just told my mum was only about my marks.

KW BEGIN

4. **Begidu:** You're a liar!
5. **Samy:** I am not! **(Disappointed)** Don't insult me!
6. **Begidu:** Sorry! Why did you tell everybody that I begged for food?

7. **Samy:** I didn't tell anyone!
8. **Begidu:** **(Aggressive)** You're a liar! Wildcat!
9. **Samy:** **(Gets angry)** No, I'm not! You're a wildcat!
10. **Begidu:** You're a fatherless, rude boy!
11. **Samy:** You're also fatherless! But my mother is better than yours; everybody says that! I've never had to beg for food from anyone!

KW END

12. **Begidu:** I know you told my mother about my marks, you idiot!
13. **Samy:** You're the idiot, not me.
14. **Begidu:** Come and get me if you want! **(Starts fighting. Improvise this fight; in postproduction, we can mix it under the narration).**

15. **NARRATOR:** The fight between the two boys is escalating! Some other children gather around and egg on the fight, shouting and cheering them on. The two boys start throwing stones at each other and Begidu gets hit on the head. The cut starts to bleed and Begidu begins to cry; Samy immediately runs away. Meanwhile, in the next district, the landlords Papa Tilahun and Mama Beletu are currently guests at the house of wealthy Mr. Kasu.

SCENE TWO: AFTERNOON AT MR. KASU'S HOME

16. **SFX: RADIO MUSIC IN BACKGROUND**
17. **SFX: CUTLERY ON PLATE**
18. **Papa Tilahun:** The food was very delicious, Mr. Kasu!
19. **Mama Beletu:** Very delicious indeed!
20. **Kasu:** Thank you so much Papa Tilahun and Mama Beletu for being my guests today. So, let's open a bottle of wine and discuss your urgent case; apparently, you don't drink whiskey.
21. **Mama Beletu:** No, we don't.
22. **SFX: OPENING A BOTTLE OF WINE**
23. **SFX: LIQUID BEING POURED INTO GLASSES**

KW BEGIN

24. SFX: GLASSES CLINKING SOUND

25. Kasu: To your good health!

26. Papa Tilahun: And to the health of our families!

27. Mama Beletu: And to our children, too!

28. Papa Tilahun: **(With emphasis)** To our children, too!

29. Kasu: **(Not impressed at the same time)** To our children, too.

30. Papa Tilahun: It's been a long time since we've seen each other.

31. Mama Beletu: It's almost fifteen years.

32. Kasu: Yes, how time flies!

33. Papa Tilahun: That means the last time we saw each other was a few months after Jonas was born.

KW end

34. Kasu: How are my children?

35. Mama Beletu: Well, Kassech and Jonas need your urgent help - now more than ever before.

36. Papa Tilahun: Yes, that's why we came to visit you today.

37. **Kasu:** I guessed that, but we need to discuss the matter quickly. My wife and three daughters could come home at any time.
38. **Papa Tilahun:** Mr. Kasu, we know that you hide yourself away from your old family for the sake of your new family.
39. **Mama Beletu:** We understand and respect your new family, too.
40. **Papa Tilahun:** But Jonas and Kassech are also your family.
41. **Kasu:** **(Inhales deeply and exhales)**
42. **Mama Beletu:** And now they're in big trouble.
43. **Papa Tilahun:** They quarreled and fought at midnight and Jonas has now left home.
44. **Kasu:** Where did he go?
45. **Mama Beletu:** We heard he's living with a friend.
46. **Papa Tilahun:** You need to do something now, Mr. Kasu. If you wait, it might be too late. Please, come out of hiding and face up to your responsibilities to your old family.

47. Kasu: I can't. I simply can't, Papa Tilahun! You know I've a new family. After all these years, how can I go and tell them: "Hey, listen up! I have another two children." I can't do it! My marriage will be ruined immediately without a doubt! And Kassech and Jonas won't believe that I'm their father nor will they accept me as a father!

48. Mama Beletu: But Mr. Kasu, the children need you more than ever! It's no use crying over spilled milk!

49. SFX: OUTSIDE CAR HORNS

50. Kasu: Well, that must be my wife's car. We'll have to discuss it another time. Where is that lazy servant? **(angry and speaks to himself)** Should I open the gate myself!? **(to his guests)** Enjoy your drink, please! I am coming back soon.

51. Papa Tilahun: We'll wait.

52. Kasu: **(While he walks to the door, he calls out to the housemaid).** Hey! Azalu! Azalu!

53. SFX: OUTSIDE CAR HORNS AGAIN

54. NARRATOR: A long time ago, Mr. Kasu decided to keep quiet about his past because he didn't want to upset his new family. After he left his first wife and his children, Kassech and Jonas, many years ago, he married a rich woman and had three daughters. Kassech and Jonas don't even know that Mr Kasu is their father. And of course, Mr. Kasu doesn't have a clue about where his son Jonas spends his time.

SCENE THREE: AT NIGHT IN A LOCAL TAVERN

55. ATMO: MANY PEOPLE IN THE LOCAL BAR

56. SFX: HOMEMADE BIER BEING POURED INTO GLASSES

57. Jonas: **(Happy)** So, friends, let's enjoy some local beer.

KW Begin

58. Mekete: All right, Jonas. Let's go and take a seat over there.

59. Jonas: No! Can't you see drunkard number 1 over there? Mr. Minabu, who lives next door to my sister Kassech and me.

60. Challa: Let's sit next to him then. He's a really funny guy, and he might buy us a drink.

61. Mekete: Challa, we're not here for fun.

62. **Minabu:** (He is a bit drunk, and calls out the boys from a distance) Hey! Boys! Come over here!

63. **SFX: GLASS BEING PUT HARSHLY ON THE BENCH**

64. **Minabu:** I said, come over here, you three boys! **(Laughs)**. I know you're from my suburb.

65. **Challa:** **(To Minabu)** Just drink your drink!

66. **Minabu:** What! **(Pause)** OK, OK! **(laughs)** All right! If you don't want to come over here, then no problem, I'll ask you from here. **(laughs)** What are you doing in this bar instead of studying for school?

67. **Challa:** **(Mocking at him)** Mr. Minabu, we came here to buy you a drink.

68. **Minabu:** To buy me a drink? **(Laughs)**.

69. **Jonas:** Hey! Forget that drunkard, and let's sit here.

70. **ATMO: MANY PEOPLE IN THE LOCAL BAR**

71. **Minabu:** **(Continues speaking from a distance)**.

KW Ende

72. **Three teenagers:** **(Speaking in a low voice)**.

73. **Mekete:** So you said, they have a dangerous dog.

74. **Jonas:** Yes, that's the big problem.
75. **Mekete:** No, that won't be a big problem. We can simply throw the dog a poisoned piece of meat.
76. **Challa:** That's it!
77. **Jonas:** If we do that, then we can jump over the fence without any problems.
78. **Challa:** Yes, we can do that! What's his name?
79. **Jonas:** Whose name?
80. **Challa:** The guy with the dangerous dog (**Laughs sarcastically**).
81. **Jonas:** Hey boy! You have a bad memory. His name is Mr. Kasu. You haven't even started drinking yet but you've already forgotten his name.
82. **Challa:** Yes, yes, Mr. Kasu.
83. **Mekete:** So, let's start to drink for Mr. Kasu (**Laughs**).
84. **Jonas:** For Mr. Kasu!
85. **Challa:** Where is that waiter? (**calls out**) Hey! Waiter. (**Claps his hands**) Waiter!

86. **NARRATOR:** This is indeed a curious state of affairs! The son doesn't know that he is conspiring to rob his own father. Let's leave Jonas and his teenage friends in the local tavern for a moment, and go to Askale's home. Apparently, she doesn't know anything about her son's fight with Begidu and she is giving him a cuddle.

SCENE FOUR: AT NIGHT AT ASKALE'S HOUSE

87. **SFX: NIGHT AMBIENCE**

88. **Askale:** So, my dear Samy, today I am gonna tell you a fable about, "A foolish, greedy hyena; and a wise ape".

89. **Samy:** **(Happily)** OK, mum, tell me.

90. **Askale:** Good! Long ago, long ago, there was a greedy, foolish hyena and a wise ape.

91. **Samy:** O...K!

KW Beginn

92. **Askale:** The sun was slowly rising and turning the horizon a gentle red while the ape started his day, jumping from one tree to another. Suddenly, the ape looked down and saw the foolish, greedy hyena running swiftly across a field back to her den. She had to reach her darkened cave before the sun rose completely. The ape laughed out loud at the sight of the strange gait of the hurrying hyena. The hyena didn't respond, but glared at the ape angrily and continued running. The ape laughed again. The next day... **(interrupts her tale).**

KW Ende

93. **SFX: DOOR KNOCKED HARSHLY**

94. **Askale:** **(Surprised)** Who's that?!

95. **SFX: DOOR OPENED**

96. **Kassech:** **(Very angry)** Yes, you cuddle your well-behaved boy, while my child's head is bleeding!

97. **Askale:** Why, what has happened to Begidu?

98. **Kassech:** **(Warns her)** It's better to concentrate on bringing YOUR OWN child up the right way, instead of telling ME all the time that I should pay more attention to MY child.

99. **Askale:** I don't understand what you are talking about.
Kassech, please take a seat. Is something wrong?
100. **Kassech:** **(Repeating Askale's words)** Something wrong!?
(Laughs angrily and leaves).
101. **SFX: DOOR SLAMS**
102. **Askale:** **(Upset)** What've you done to Begidu?
103. **Samy:** He was the first to start the fight.
104. **Askale:** What! Did you two have a fight? Tell me! What did you do to him?
105. **Samy:** **(Scared)** He started throwing stones at me.
106. **Askale:** And then, you hit him on his head?
107. **Samy:** I didn't mean to hit his head.
108. **Askale:** Is throwing stones a good thing to do?!
109. **Samy:** No, mum. **(Starts crying).**
110. **Askale:** OK! There is no "Hyena and the Ape" or any other fable for today. You are going straight to bed!
111. **Samy:** Mum...
112. **Askale:** I said, go to bed! We'll talk about it in the morning.

113. Samy: (Goes to his bed).

114. SFX: NIGHT AMBIENCE

OUTRO:

That night, Begidu disappears from home for the second time. Initially, his mum Kassech thinks she will find him hiding at Papa Tilahun's house again, but Begidu isn't there. It seems Begidu has left home for good, just as his teenage uncle Jonas did. But where's Begidu? You will find out in the next episode. Remember, you can listen to this and other episodes on our website, dw.de/lbe. And you can share your opinions, comments and suggestions with us on our Learning by Ear Facebook page. Until next time – and good bye!