

LEARNING BY EAR

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

EPIISODE 7: “Promise”

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List of characters by scene:

SCENE ONE: DAY IN THE CITY

- **Papa Telahun (m, 76)**
- **Mama Beletu (f, 65)**
- **Aster (f, 15)**
- **Narrator (m, around 35)**

SCENE TWO: DAY AT ASKALE’S HOUSE

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

SCENE THREE: DAY IN THE CITY

- **Papa Telahun (m, 76)**
- **Mama Beletu (f, 65)**
- **Aster (f, 15)**
- **Narrator (m, around 35)**

SCENE FOUR: DAY IN THE CITY, AT A GARBAGE CONTAINER

- **Papa Telahun (m, 76)**
- **Mama Beletu (f, 65)**
- **Begidu (m, 7)**
- **Street boy (m, 12)**
- **Aster (f, 15)**
- **Narrator (m/f)**

INTRO:

Hello, everybody! Welcome to our Learning by Ear radio drama called “**The Lost Kid – the Story of Single Mothers in Africa**”. This is our seventh episode entitled “**Promise.**” Remember, Kassechs little son Begidu has been missing for more than a week now. Last time, we heard from Aster that she knew where to find Begidu. But where exactly? Stay tuned to find it out. The landlords Papa Tilahun and Mama Beletu as well as their granddaughter Aster are waiting for a taxi to take them into the capital.

SCENE ONE: DAY IN THE CITY

1. SFX: TRAFFIC NOISE (next to busy street)

2. Papa Tilahun: So, do you know exactly where this place is?

3. Aster: Yes, I know.

4. Mama Beletu. **(Hesitant)** Was your friend Semira sure?

5. Aster: I trust her. She's never tells lies.

6. SFX: CAR APPROACHING

7. Papa Tilahun: **(In a hurry)** Well, stop that taxi then. We shouldn't be too late.

8. Aster: **(Calls)** Taxi! Taxi! **(runs)** Taxi! Stop!

9. SFX: CAR BRAKING AND STOPPING

10.NARRATION: Papa Tilahun and Mama Beletu rent out a room to Kassech, so they know her child Begidu very well. They want to surprise Kassech by bringing home her lost kid. That's why they decided not to tell Kassech what their granddaughter has already told them. But what exactly do they know? While the three are racing from their suburb into the centre of the capital, Kassech and her friend Askale are sitting together at Askale's house. Kassech is amazed by how good Askale's son's homework is.

SCENE TWO: DAY AT ASKALE'S HOUSE

11. SFX: PAPER IS BEING TURNED

12. Kassech: I can see that Samy is very good at spelling.

13. Askale: Yeah!

14. Kassech: Oh! Your handwriting is also so neat, Samy.

15. Samy: **(Laughs joyfully).**

16. Askale: What do you say when someone gives you a complement?

17. Samy: Thank you very much, Mrs. Kassech!

18. **Kassech:** You're welcome, Samy! You're a very good boy!

19. **Askale:** I always check on his homework and keep track of his behaviour.

20. **Samy:** Mama, can I show my paintings to Mrs. Kassech?

21. **Askale:** **(Motivating)** Sure! Please, bring your pictures out here and show Kassech.

KW Begin

22. **Kassech:** Yes, show them to me. **(He walks away joyfully).**

23. **Askale:** He likes painting very much.

24. **Kassech:** Oh! That's lovely. **(Regretfully)** I never spent time with my son or encouraged him the same way you do. I thought that as long as he wasn't hungry or thirsty, then that was more than enough. But he was hungry and thirsty - for my love!

25. **Askale:** But you love him so much. Now you just have to show Begidu that.

26. **Kassech:** But how, Askale? I don't know how. It's almost been two weeks, but still no one has found him. **(Sobs)** I'm not sure whether I'll ever see my son alive again **(more sobs)**.

27. **Askale:** Oh! Kassech, don't worry. We will find him very soon, I'm sure. **(Samy comes back)**.

28. **Kassech:** Oh! Samy.

29. **Samy:** Here are my pictures, Mrs. Kassech.

30. **SFX: SHUFFLING PAPER**

31. **Kassech:** Ah! This one is very beautiful.

32. **Samy:** Do you like it?

33. **Kassech:** Yes, I do.

34. **Samy:** Me too!

KW END

35. **Askale:** Let me see, **(pause)** wow! You're a very good painter **(Samy laughs joyfully)**.

36. **Kassech:** Tell us about the two boys in the picture?

37. **Samy:** Those two boys are best friends.

38. **Kassech:** What are they doing?

39. **Samy:** **(Proudly)** They're embracing each other. This one is Begidu and this one is me.
40. **Kassech:** **(Sobs).**
41. **Samy:** Mum, why she's crying? Mrs. Kassech, don't you like my paintings?
42. **Kassech:** **(Sobbing stops)** Yes, yes, I love them. They're really very pretty! I had no idea that you're such a good painter.
43. **Samy:** If you like my pictures, I can draw you one, too.
44. **Kassech:** Thanks, Samy.
45. **Askale:** Be a good boy, Samy, and go to your room and paint us another picture, OK.
46. **Samy:** OK, mum. **(In hurry)** Shall I take all these pictures back to my room?
47. **Askale:** Sure! You can take them back with you.
48. **SFX: SHUFFLING PAPER**
49. **Samy:** **(Joyful)** OK mum, can I also use the new bright red paint you bought for me yesterday?
50. **Askale:** Of course, you can. **(He goes).**
51. **Kassech:** Amazing! You're so completely different to me. What amazing patience you have!

- 52. Askale:** Yes, children need a lot of patience!
- 53. Kassech:** I miss my child a lot! I promise, if the police manage to find him, I'll give him all of the love I have. And I'll do many things better than before. I promise.
- 54. Askale:** That's the second time that you've promised.
- 55. Kassech:** **(Laughs)** Here's the third one. I PROMISE!
- 56. NARRATION:** As Kassech promises for the third time to raise her child properly, the old couple and their granddaughter, Aster have already travelled a long way. After their taxi ride, they arrive in the capital and can't believe what they are seeing on the other side of the road.

SCENE THREE: DAY IN THE CAPITAL

- 57. SFX: CITY NOISES (traffic, people)**
- 58. Aster:** Oh my God! There he is, didn't I tell you?
- 59. Papa Tilahun:** **(Surprise)** Is that really him?
- 60. Mama Tilahu:** What do you mean, Papa Tilahun? He's indeed Kassech's son, Begidu.
- 61. Papa Tilahun:** So, what are we waiting for?

- 62. Mama Tilahu:** No, no! Wait, we need to see what he's going to do over there. He might run away if he spots us.
- 63. Aster:** Yes, it's better to wait a bit.
- 64. Papa Tilahu:** There are some other children with him.
- 65. Mama Tilahu:** They're all wearing dirty, ragged clothes! **(feels a great deal of pity)** Oh! Poor Kassech, if you could see your child now.
- 66. Papa Tilahu:** Aster, your friend was right!
- 67. Aster:** Yeah! Semira has never lied to me.
- 68. Papa Tilahu:** You have a good friend there.
- 69. Mama Beletu:** Why didn't she try to talk to him when she saw him the other day?
- 70. Aster:** Actually, she tried to approach him but he immediately dashed away.
- 71. Papa Tilahu:** Oh, look over there! They're going to the garbage container.
- 72. Aster:** Oh my God! They're all jumping into the garbage container!
- 73. Mama Beletu:** Look what they are doing!

74. Papa Tilahun: Now we've to do something! Hurry up!

75. NARRATION: Begidu and some of the other street children have started scavenging through the garbage container in search of food. Unfortunately, this is a common sight all over Africa. According to the United Nations Children's Fund, or UNICEF, there are more than a 100 million street children around the globe; with 30 million of them living on the streets across the African continent. And there are a multitude of reasons why these kids are on the streets. Some don't have a home because of poverty, war or the death of their parents from HIV/ AIDS. Others are fleeing homes racked with alcoholism, domestic violence or negligence such as in Begidu's case.

SCENE FOUR: DAY IN THE CITY, AT A GARBAGE CONTAINER

76. SFX: TRAFFIC NOISES

77. SFX: SEARCH IN RUBBISH

78. Street boy: What's that, a banana? Give it to me, you little rat!

79. Begidu: But I haven't eaten anything all day.

80. **Street boy:** That's not my problem, I also haven't eaten. I said, give it to me!
81. **Begidu:** I won't give it to you, I'm starving. **(Starts to eat fast)**
82. **Street boy:** **(Hits Begidu's head)** I'll teach you a lesson!
83. **SFX: BANG ON HEAD**
84. **Begidu:** Ouch! **(Cries).**
85. **Papa Tilahun:** **(Approaching)** Hey! Stop it! Don't hit him!
86. **Street boy:** Mind your own business! **(He hits Begidu again and runs away)**
87. **SFX: SOMEONE RUNS AWAY**
88. **Begidu:** **(Cries more).**
89. **Mama Beletu:** He was beating him on his head!
90. **Papa Tilahun:** Wait! I said, stop!
91. **Street boy:** **(Laughs from a distance)** Try to catch me, old man! Run! I could still beat you even if I ran on one leg. Ready, one, two, three, run, run **(laughs and runs).**
92. **Mama Beletu:** Those poor children!
93. **Aster:** Come over here, Begidu. I'll hold you.

94. **Begidu:** Aster! **(Cries)**.
95. **Aster:** It's OK! How lucky we are to have found you.
96. **Papa Tilahun:** Oh! This place stinks! Let's get away from here. Come with us, Begidu.
97. **Mama Beletu:** You're safe now. We'll take you back home.
98. **Begidu:** No! I don't want to go home.
99. **Aster:** It's OK, come with us.
100. **Papa Tilahun:** Why don't you want to go home, my child?
101. **Begidu:** **(Cries)** Mama will beat me. She's always being nasty to me.
102. **Mama Beletu:** She won't hit you anymore!
103. **Aster:** No one will be nasty to you anymore.
104. **Papa Tilahun:** Your mother loves you so much, my boy. She's been regretting how she has treated you. She cries every day because she misses you so much.
105. **Begidu:** **(Sobs)** Mama.

KW begin

106. **Mama Beletu:** Oh! My poor boy! Let's go home now.

107. **Begidu:** I'm so hungry.
108. **Aster:** Of course you are. We'll give you a big, big sandwich at home!
109. **Mama Beletu:** That's why we're here, my little darling, come with us now.
110. **Begidu.** **(Smiles)** OK! I'll go back with you.

KW end

111. **Papa Tilahun:** Let's leave now.
112. **SFX: THREE PEOPLE FOOTSTEPS**
113. **SFX: ASTERS CELLPHONE RINGS**
114. **Aster:** **(Joyfully)** Oh! Semira!...Yes, we've found him!...Yes, at the place you told me about. ... You explained exactly where we could find him.
(Excited) Thank you so much, my dear friend!...Of course, Jonas will also be very glad...Thanks, my dear...It's gonna be a surprise to his mother, Kassech, too...I'll call you later, bye!

OUTRO:

With this, we end the seventh episode of our story “The Lost Kid – the Story of Single Mothers in Africa”. Aster has succeeded in finding the lost kid. But why did she worry and care so much? Was little Begidu the only reason? You will find out more in 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.

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