

LEARNING BY EAR

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

EPISODE 6: “Dead End”

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List of characters by scene:

SCENE ONE: DAY AT ASKALE’S HOME

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

SCENE TWO: DAY AT PAPA TILAHUN'S COMPOUND

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

SCENE THREE: DAY IN THE LOCAL MARKET

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

SCENE FOUR:NIGHT IN THE VILLAGE

- **Jonas (m, 15)**
- **Mekete (m, 16)**
- **Challa (m, 17)**
- **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**”. By now, we are in episode six entitled “**Dead End.**” As you remember, in our last episode, the little boy Begidu had disappeared almost a week before. Aster, the granddaughter of Papa Tilahun, received some news about Begidu on the phone and was shocked. What was that news? We'll find out very soon. But before that, let's meet Askale at her home as she tries to cheer up her son, Samy, who is very sad about his friend Begidu's disappearance.

SCENE ONE: DAY AT ASKALE’S HOME

1. **SFX: TEA BOILING**

2. **Samy:** Mama, when will they find Begidu?

3. **Askale:** I don't know exactly, Samy, but they'll find him.

4. **Samy:** Did Begidu disappear because of me?

KW Beginn

5. **Askale:** No, Samy, who said that?

6. **Samy:** Nobody said that! But he disappeared from his home just after I'd been fighting with him. If I hadn't hit him, he wouldn't have disappeared.

KW Ende

7. **Askale:** Samy, my dear, he didn't disappear just because of you. You shouldn't feel so guilty about it. That doesn't mean though that you can do it again.

8. **Samy:** All right mum! I won't fight anymore.

9. **Askale:** Good boy. I'm sure the police will find Begidu soon, so don't worry too much. Now, eat your breakfast.

10. **Samy:** But mum, when Begidu comes back, can I go to his place and apologise to him?

11. **Askale:** Sure! That's a good thing to do! We'll go together then.

12. **SFX: TEA POURING IN A CUP**

13. **Askale:** Here is a cup of tea for you.

14. **SFX: CUP BEING PUT ON THE TABLE**

15. **Askale:** And here is some bread that I baked early this morning. And some fruit to give you some vitamins.

16. **SFX: PLATE BEING PUT ON THE TABLE**

17. **Samy:** Thanks, mama!

18. **Askale:** You're welcome, my dear!

19. **Samy:** Aren't you going to have some breakfast, mum?

20. **Askale:** Yes, I will. But first, while you eat your breakfast, I'm going to tell you a fable.

21. **Samy:** **(Curiosity)** Mum, are you going to tell me the fable about "the foolish, greedy hyena and the wise ape"?

KW Beginn

22. **Askale:** **(Happy)** Sometimes you're too clever for your own good! Do you want to tell me the fable?

23. **Samy:** **(He recites the fable)** The sun was slowly rising and turning the horizon a gentle red ...

24. **Askale:** Wow! Even after a week you haven't forgotten a single word.

25. **Samy:** 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.

26. **Askale:** Very good my child; you're really clever!

27. **Samy:** Yes, mum. But tell me first, why did the hyena have a strange gait?
28. **Askale:** Alright! Look, a hyena has four legs, and its hind legs are much shorter than its front legs; and that's why hyena walks and stands so weirdly.
29. **Samy:** Got you, mum!
30. **Askale:** Good, now, let me finish the story.
31. **Samy:** OK, mum!
32. **Askale:** The hyena didn't respond, but glared angrily at the ape and continued running. The ape laughed again.

KW End

The hyena vowed to herself: "I'm gonna catch that ape very soon, and I'll eat him up!" Some days later, the hyena spotted the ape playing on the ground; but he didn't notice the hyena. The hyena ran up silently, seizing the ape from behind in a surprise attack! The ape started shaking like a leaf, and said to the hyena : "Oh! Madam, you are sending shivers up and down my spine." The hyena laughed at the ape sarcastically, and said, "You're scared stiff!"

33. **Samy:** Oh! Poor ape.

34. **Askale:** Be patient. Samy, can you guess what the ape says to the hyena?
35. **Samy:** Maybe, he says, "don't eat me, madam"?
36. **Askale:** He could say that, but the ape is very wise. He said: "Oh! Oh! Oh! Madam, look over there, beyond the hill. The food is much better over there. And you know what, the fence isn't made out of stone or wood; rather it's made out of stomachs and intestines!" That sounded very tempting so the hyena let the ape go and ran as fast as she could to feast on the better food. But she came away empty handed.
37. **Samy:** **(Laughs).**

KW begin

38. Askale: **(Laughs)** The hyena became even angrier. Some days later, she caught the ape a second time: "Now, I am going to gobble you up straight away! I've been searching for food all night and all day and I am starving," said the angry hyena. The wise ape was very relaxed despite his predicament "Oh! Madam, what a pity you didn't catch anything else. If you want to gobble me up, I suggest you throw me up in the air and open your mouth as wide as you can! And then I'll fall directly down into your stomach and not get stuck in your throat on the way!" The foolish, greedy hyena agreed and threw the ape up into the air. However, the ape easily grasped a nearby tree branch and swung himself out of danger all the while laughing at the foolish hyena. He had tricked her twice. From that time onward though, the ape lived cautiously. Did you understand the story, my dear Samy?

KW end

39. Samy: The hyena was very foolish and the ape was very wise.

40. Askale: Great! That means?

41. Samy: That means, we shouldn't be foolish like a hyena.

42. **Askale:** More or less. You shouldn't be foolish and greedy like the Hyena. You have to respect others as well.
43. **Samy:** OK, mum.
44. **Askale:** I'll tell you another story tomorrow . Would you like some more tea?
45. **Samy:** No thanks, mum.
46. **Askale:** All right! Give me a hand by carrying those glasses back to the kitchen.

47. **SFX: PICKING PLATE AND GLASSES**

48. **NARRATION:** Samy seems to be very happy after listening to the fable. In fact, many experts believe that listening to stories is a marvelous way for children to learn how to express themselves well. The simple structure of fairy-tales makes it easy for children to easily understand important details. Traditional storytelling provides information and opens up discussions such as we've seen today with Askale and her son, Samy. As Africa is extremely rich in oral tradition and storytelling, we need to sustain this valuable tradition.

SCENE TWO: DAY AT PAPA TILAHUN'S COMPOUND

49. SFX: PLOUGHING THE GARDEN BY HAND

50. **Mama Beletu:** **(Ploughing the garden by hand)** Oh, no! The whole garden is full of weeds!

51. **Aster:** **(Arrives, delighted)** Granny! I know where we can find Begidu.

52. SFX: STOP PLOUGHING

53. **Mama Beletu:** What did you say? You found Begidu?

54. **Papa Tilahun:** **(From inside the room)** What's this all about?

55. **Mama Beletu.** **(Replies him loudly)** She says she has found the lost kid.

56. **Aster:** Granny!

57. **Papa Tilahun:** **(Approaching)** Who did she find?

58. **Mama Beletu:** She found Begidu.

59. **Aster:** Granny, I said, I know where we can find Begidu. I didn't say that I'd found him.

60. **Papa Tilahun:** **(Laughs sarcastically)** Oh! Beletu, you are getting older and older.

61. **Mama Beletu:** And you are growing younger and younger **(all laugh)**.

62. **Aster:** But, Grandpa, I promise you, we will be able to find Begidu soon.

63. **Papa Tilahun:** So, tell us then where we can find him?

64. **SFX: ASTERS CELLPHONE RINGING**

65. **Aster:** **(In a hurry)** I'll tell you in detail later; I have to answer this call. It's from my best friend, Semira **(walks away)**.

66. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS LEAVE**

67. **Aster:** **(Picks up call from a distance)** Hello! Semira...

68. **NARRATION:** Aster seems to be very worried about Begidu. Is that because she's in love with Begidu's uncle, Jonas? Well, in one sense, that's true, but there is also another reason. In countries across the African continent, many children live with their grandparents. There are many reasons for this. Maybe their parents are dead, maybe their single mother can't support them, or their parent's marriage has collapsed. As long as these children get proper love and care, they will share their love with others. Aster is cared for by her grandparents so she wants to help them, too. Let's go now to the local market, where the two friends Kassech and Askale work.

SCENE THREE: DAY IN THE LOCAL MARKET

69. SFX: MARKET AMBIENCE

70. ATMO: MANY PEOPLE IN THE MARKET

71. Kassech: No, both my grandparents are long dead.

72. Askale: What about your father? You've already told me about your mother.

73. Kassech: I don't know who my father is but I know he's alive. Soon after my mama's death, I got pregnant and then I had a child who doesn't have a father just like me **(she laughs sarcastically)**. My life is full of fun, my dear friend.

74. Askale: Mine too, my dear.

75. Kassech: Do you know the mistake that I made? I trusted my boyfriend too much.

76. Askale: Why did he betray you?

77. Kassech: He's from a conservative family, and he told me his family didn't accept my pregnancy and our relationship. And I was simply too childish and inexperienced. **(she inhales deeply and exhales)**.

78. **Askale:** That age was very dangerous for both of us; and we can't reverse the mistakes that we committed back then.
79. **Kassech:** You're right! We can't reverse them, but there is still one thing that we can do. We won't be dependent on men anymore!
80. **Askale:** Yes! Because we are strong women.
81. **NARRATION:** Indeed, they have to be strong women. Askale has also told Kassech about her background and their stories are very similar - and are very similar to many other African teenagers, too. After Askale realised she was pregnant, she fled her home to avoid her parents' disgusted gaze; at the same time, her boyfriend refused to see her anymore.

SCENE FOUR: NIGHT IN TOWN

82. **SFX: NIGHT AMBIENCE**

83. **Jonas:** I think we've remembered everything.
84. **Challa:** Everything!
85. **Mekete:** Knives?
86. **Challa:** I've got them!
87. **Mekete:** Jonas, have you got the rope?

88. **Jonas:** Yes!
89. **Mekete:** And the fake pistol?
90. **Challa:** We've got everything!
91. **Mekete:** So, it seems we're ready for the break-in.
92. **Jonas:** Yep!
93. **Mekete:** What about a piece of meat and some poison?
94. **Jonas:** What do you mean meat and poison?
95. **Mekete:** Why...!? Didn't you tell us last time that the wealthy guy has a dangerous dog in his compound!
96. **Jonas:** Ah, yes, yes! Sorry, I completely forgot.
97. **Challa:** That means the robbery is off for today.
98. **Mekete:** Damn! Let's meet at our usual bar late tomorrow afternoon; and don't forget to bring everything.

KW Beginn

99. **Mekete:** Everything means everything, except that stupid dog of yours!

100.SFX: DOG APPROACHES, BARKING

101.Challa. (Throws a stone and hit the dog).

102.SFX: DOG WHINES AND RUNS AWAY

KW Ende

OUTRO:

So will the three teenagers really turn their hand to crime? For this and more, stay tuned to the next episode of our novella, “**The Lost Kid – the Story of Single Mothers in Africa**”. And don't forget, if you want 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 join our online discussion on our Facebook page. Goodbye for now!