

LEARNING BY EAR

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

EPISODE 2: “Looking for Begidu”

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List of characters by scene:

SCENE ONE: MORNING AT ASKALE’S HOUSE

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

SCENE TWO: MORNING AT BELETU’S HOUSE

- Papa Telahun (m, 76)
- Mama Beletu (f, 65)
- Drunkard Minabu (m, 55)
- Narrator (m, around 35)

SCENE THREE: MORNING IN THE SUBURB

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

SCENE FOUR: MID NIGHT AT BELETU’S HOUSE

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

INTRO:

Hello, everybody! This is our new Learning by Ear-radio drama called **“The Lost Kid – the Story of Single Mothers in Africa”**. In our last episode, Kassech had quarrelled with her younger brother Jonas because he left the house in the middle of the night. As she came back to her house and entered her room, she shouted out loud in shock! But why? You'll find out in our second episode entitled **”Looking for Begidu”**. Let's meet the two young single mothers, Kassech, and her friend, Askale. It's early in the morning and both of them are looking forward to a cup of hot tea at Askale's home.

SCENE ONE: MORNING AT ASKALE’S HOUSE

- 1. SFX:** **MORNING AMBIENCE FROM OUTSIDE**

- 2. SFX:** **TEA BOILING**

- 3. Kassech:** **(Cries)** My child disappeared, Askale, my only child disappeared! Oh! What a misery!

- 4. Askale:** Sit down , Kassech, please.

- 5. SFX:** **PULLING A CHAIR**

- 6. Kassech:** **(Cries)** When I woke up last night, my door was open!

- 7. Askale:** At night?!

8. **Kassech:** At midnight!
9. **Askale:** Who did that, a thief?
10. **SFX:** **POURING TEA IN THE CUP**
11. **Kassech:** No, it was my brother!
12. **Askale:** Jonas?
13. **Kassech:** Yes.
14. **Askale:** Why?
15. **Kassech:** I don't know why, Askale. He simply opened the door and went outside. I followed him but he refused to come back inside!
16. **Askale:** Astonishing! (**She sips the tea**) But why?
17. **Kassech:** He pretended to be a sleepwalker but I guess he'd planned to do something. Tell me, do I look after my brother Jonas and my son Begidu so badly?

18. **Askale:** No, that's not true at all, Kassech. And your son Begidu is safe, so stop worrying. He didn't really disappear yesterday. He just slept at our landlord Papa Tilahun's place.
19. **Kassech:** Oh, thank God. Let me go and see him.
20. **Askale:** Wait a moment! I know you want to be a good mother, but I must admit that you should take better care of your little boy. He needs your care, and above all he needs your love!
21. **Kassech:** What do you mean?
22. **Askale:** My child Samy told me that Begidu is always asking him to give him some of his sandwiches or fruit.
23. **Kassech:** What! You get me to sit here because you wanna tell me all of that? Thanks a lot, my friend. I have other things to worry about (**she stands up**).
24. **SFX:** **PULLING A CHAIR**
25. **Askale:** Wait, Kassech! I don't know why you always run away when we talk about your child?
26. **Kassech:** What do YOU want to tell me about MY child?

- 27. Askale:** I know both of us are poor, but still we have a lot to give them.
- 28. Kassech:** Do you think that I don't love my son?
- 29. Askale:** No, that's not what I mean. But you know, even though my son Samy is one year younger than Begidu, he is better at basic mathematics, he knows the alphabet, and he's better at expressing himself.
- 30. Kassech:** **(Angrily)** Great!
- 31. Askale:** I give him lots of attention. We do his homework together, I play his favorite game with him and he tells me if something is bothering him, or if he is proud of something he did.
- 32. Kassech:** **(Sarcastically)** So, congratulations on your well-behaved and clever son!
- 33. SFX: WALKING TO THE DOOR**
- 34. SFX: SLAMS THE DOOR**
- 35. ASKALE: (SIPS THE TEA)**

36. NARRATOR:

While Askale sips her tea, she thinks about her friend's behavior. She had also wanted to ask Kassech why she dropped out of evening classes, but Kassech stormed out of the room before she could tackle the subject.

SCENE TWO: MORNING AT BELETU’S HOUSE

37. SFX: MORNING AMBIENCE

38. SFX: DOOR KNOCKING

39. Papa Tilahun (Prays in a low voice).

40. Mama Beletu: Come in, the door's open.

41. Papa Tilahun: (Still praying in a low voice) Who is it?

42. Mama Beletu: Are you praying or watching the door?

43. Papa Tilahun: (Prays in a low voice).

44. SFX: DOOR OPENING

45. Mama Beletu: Oh! Minabu, there you are. Come over here.

46. Minabu: (In a low voice) Good morning, Mama Beletu!

47. Mama Beletu: Good morning!

48. **Minabu:** (whispers) Oh, Papa Tilahun is praying. I'll come back later.
49. **Papa Tilahun:** No, no, wait! I've finished.
50. **Mama Beletu:** But you just started praying!
51. **Papa Tilahun:** It's OK, I'll finish my prayers later.
52. **Minabu:** (In a polite manner) Good morning, Sir!
53. **Papa Tilahun:** He, he, he! At first light, you seem like an angel, but at night, you turn back into a devil!
54. **Minabu:** I came to tell you that I'm so sorry, Papa Tilahun.
55. **Papa Tilahun:** Look! Minabu, if you keep disturbing the neighbors at night, I can't keep you as my tenant! I mean it!
56. **Minabu:** I promise, I'll stop!
57. **Papa Tilahun:** Well, it's harder to search for a house to rent than it is to make such a promise. I've finished, you can go! (Minabu leaves).
58. **SFX:** DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

59. Mama Beletu: Minabu is an educated man; you shouldn't treat him like a child.

60. Papa Tilahun: It makes no difference to me if he keeps getting drunk and disturbing the neighbors. **(Prays in a low voice).**

61. Mama Beletu: But...

62. Papa Tilahun: No buts! Let me finish my prayers now. **(Prays in a low voice).**

63. NARRATOR:

It's always the same. Minabu gets drunk and annoys the neighbors at night; then the next day morning, just before the first rooster's shrill cry, he runs to landlord Papa Tilahun with his usual apologies and promises.

But now, let's take a look at the two teenagers, who the drunkard Minabu saw in the darkness yesterday. It's 16-year-old Mekete and his friend Challa, who is one year older. And guess who's with them - Kassech's brother Jonas.

SCENE THREE: MORNING IN THE SUBURB

64. SFX: MORNING AMBIENCES

65. SFX: DOG BARKS

66. Jonas Either feed that dog a piece of bread or some poison!

67. Challa: Hey! Bobbie, go away! **(Throws a stone and hits the dog).**

68. SFX: DOG WHINES AND RUNS AWAY

69. Challa: We can't plan anything with that stupid dog around!

70. Mekete: Last night, the drunkard almost detected us!

71. Challa: Just because of this hungry dog!

72. Jonas: One way or another, our plan didn't work.

73. Challa: **(Laughs)** But I like the way you pretended to be a sleepwalker last night. Nice acting, immediately after your nephew discovered the open door.

74. Mekete: **(Laughs)** Yes, that was cool! And now you're free from the prison of your sister's house. You can stay at our home as long as you want; I've already persuaded my father to let you.

75. Jonas: OK, we couldn't break into Papa Tilahun's house yesterday. I think we need to look for another rich man who lives in our suburb.

KW begin

76. Challa: Yes! I agree!

77. Mekete: Cool!

78. SFX: **DOG APPROACHES, BARKING**

79. Challa. Oh! This miserable dog, again... **(Throws a stone and hits the dog again).**

80. SFX: **DOG WHINES AND RUNS AWAY**

KW end

81. Narration: The three teenagers decided that for their next attempted robbery, they would break in the house of Mr. Kasu, a very wealthy man. Meanwhile, Kassech is on her way to the house of her landlords, Mama Beletu and Papa Tilahun, in search of her lost kid.

SCENE FOUR: AT BELETU’S HOUSE

82. SFX: MORNING AMBIENCES

83. Papa Tilahun: Well, Kassech, if you want to stay here as a decent tenant, you should know that we can't accept this kind of behavior anymore!

84. Mama Beletu: I already told her that while you were praying. She really regrets her behaviour.

85. Kassech: I beg both of you to accept my apologies. **(cries)**. It was just all too much for me yesterday.

86. Mama Beletu: Don't cry, my child, you told me everything.

87. Papa Tilahun: Whatever she told you, I can't allow the neighbors to be disturbed anymore! Besides, you have to treat your child properly! If our granddaughter hadn't found your son, Begidu, in the kitchen last night, what would have happened then?

88. Kassech: **(sobs then cries)** I work very hard every day to feed three mouths, and I also have to save some money so I can go back to evening school.

89. Papa Tilahun: Of course, my dear, we know how hard you work!

90. Kassech: I look after Begidu, I see that he has enough to eat. But he shouldn't need extra things that I can't afford! I grew up the same way!

91. Papa Tilahun: You see, that's the point!

92. Mama Beletu: Yes, we also grew up like that. But we shouldn't treat our children the same way that we have been treated, if we have the chance to do it better.

93. Papa Tilahun: Right! We shouldn't! Mama Beletu, don't you remember what our son told us last time we were in Europe on vacation? He told us how important it is for parents to bring up their children in a positive way.

94. Mama Beletu: I remember everything he said!

KW BEGIN

He told us about their kindergarten and how much the nursery school teachers encourage the children. Almost every little child there goes to kindergarten.

95. Papa Tilahun: Genau! (laughs)

96. **Mama Beletu:** By the way, our son told us the German word "genau" means "true".
97. **Papa Tilahun:** Exactly.
98. **Mama Beletu:** Properly,
99. **Papa Tilahun:** Accurately,
100. **Mama Beletu:** And correct!
101. **Papa Tilahun:** So, nurturing your child correctly doesn't depend on whether you're poor or wealthy, it depends on how you use your mind.
102. **Mama Beletu:** Genau! **(Both laugh).**

KW END

103. **Papa Tilahun:** If you want to raise your child to be strong and happy, you need to spend time with your child. Some of the most important ways you can support your child's mental early development is by answering all of the questions the child asks without being impatient, by telling fables and helping your child with his homework.

104. Mama Beletu: If we neglect our children today, later on they'll be a big burden to society.

105. Papa Tilahun: That is what we learnt from our son. By the way, Begidu is a very anxious child compared to other children. That is often a sign that a child is lacking confidence. You can make him confident by showing him your love!

106. Kassech: OK! Can I take him home with me now?

107. Papa Tilahun: Sure! He's playing in the room next door with Aster, our granddaughter.

108. Mama Beletu: **(Walks to the next room and calls)** Aster!
Aster! Aster!

OUTRO:

And so we end the second episode of this Learning by Ear-radiodrama called “**The Lost kid – the Story of Single Mothers in Africa**”. After all this advice from these two wise people, will Kassech find more time to spend with her child? And what exactly are those three teenage boys up to? To find out more, join us for our next episode. Remember, if you would like to listen to this episode again, or want to give us your opinions, comments and suggestions, just log on to dw.de/lbe or follow us on Facebook. Until next time – and good bye!