

## **LEARNING BY EAR**

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

**EPISODE 9: “Cutting one's own hand”**

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**List of characters by scene:**

### **SCENE ONE: NIGHT AT MR. KASU COMPOUND**

- Chala (m, 17)
- Mekete (m, 16)
- Jonas (m, 15)
- Mr. Kasu (m, 60)
- Narrator (m, around 35)

### **SCENE TWO: NIGHT AT PAPA TILAHUN'S HOUSE**

- Aster (f, 15)
- Narrator (m, around 35)

### **SCENE THREE: NIGHT AT KASSECH'S ROOM**

- Kassech (f, 22)
- Begidu (m, 7)
- Narrator (m, around 35)

**SCENE FOUR: NIGHT OUTSIDE MR. KASU’S COMPOUND**

- **Chala (m, 17)**
- **Mekete (m, 16)**
- **Police (m, 32)**
- **Narrator (m, around 35)**

## **INTRO:**

Hello, dear listeners, and welcome to our Learning by Ear radio drama called “**The Lost Kid – the Story of Single Mothers in Africa**”. This novella motivates single mothers to assist the development of their children starting from early childhood. As you know, children are our future. So they need our attention every single day. Today's episode nine is entitled “**Cutting one's own hand**”. It picks up the action right where our last episode stopped. If you remember, Jonas and his two friends were planning to break in to Mr. Kasu's house. But Mr. Kasu's dog wouldn't stop barking so the three boys decided to sneak around the back to see if there was another way to break in to the wealthy man's house. Now, at the back of the compound, we find the three teenagers having a whispered argument.

## **SCENE ONE: NIGHT AT MR. KASU’S COMPOUND**

### **1. SFX: DOG BARKING**

### **2. SFX: WIND BLOWS, NIGHT AMBIANCE**

**3. Mekete:**                   **(whispers throughout the conversation)** It's all your fault, Challa! If we had the poisoned meat, we could shut that nasty dog up.

**4. Challa:**                   How could I know that that stupid dog of mine would find it?

**5. Jonas:**                   Well, I hope he didn't eat it.

**6. Challa:** I don't care at all! I hate him.

**7. SFX: DOG BARKING STOP**

**8. Jonas:** Sshhh, listen! The dog in the compound's stopped barking.

**9. Challa:** **(In a hurry)** OK! Let's climb over the fence! Give me the rope.

**10. Mekete:** Wait, wait! Let's see what's happening inside first.

**11. Challa:** It's completely dark.

**12. Mekete:** That means the guy is snoring away in his bed **(laughs)**.

**13. Jonas:** Challa, are you sure Mr. Kasu is alone in the house?

**14. Challa:** Yes, I am! When I came past earlier today to bury the poisoned meat, I saw a woman and three girls leaving the compound in a pickup. It looked like they were going on holidays.

- 15. Jonas:** Well, I did some research on this family a couple of days ago - and the woman is the guy's wife, and the three girls are his daughters. The riddle is solved! **(Laughs)**
- 16. Mekete:** So, he's sent his wife and daughters on holidays so he can snore loudly in an empty house **(All laugh in a low voice).**
- 17. Challa:** Whatever! Let's raid the house now!
- 18. Jonas:** OK! I'll go first, give me a leg up.
- 19. Mekete:** All right, Jonas.
- 20. Challa:** Now, climb up on our shoulders.
- 21. Jonas:** All right! Wait... **(they hold him up)** Now, I can jump over. **(He jumps in the compound).**
- 22. SFX: SOMEONE LANDS ON THE GROUND**
- 23. SFX: DOG BARKS AT THE FRONT COMPOUND**
- 24. Jonas:** **(Whisper)** Hey, come on guys, hurry up!
- 25. SFX: THE HOUSE DOOR OPENS SUDDENLY**
- 26. SFX: GUN IS BEING CHARGED**

27. **Mr Kasu:**                   **(Loud)** Don't move! Who are you? Hands up!

28. **Mekete:**                   Oh shit! Let's get out of here! Fast!

29. **Challa:**                   Hurry up!

30. **SFX: DOG STILL BARKING**

31. **SFX: SOMEONE RUNS**

32. **Mr Kasu:**                   Don't move or I'll shoot. **(running continues)**  
I said, DON'T MOVE!

33. **SFX: GUN SHOTS**

34. **Mekete:**                   **(Very shocked)** Oh, my God! He's shot him!

35. **Challa:**                   Shit, shit, shit! Let's leave, go!

36. **Mr Kasu:**                   Stop! You two out there, stop now or I'll shoot!

37. **SFX: GUN SHOTS, TWICE**

38. **Mekete and Challa:**   **(scream while the gun shoots).**

39. **SFX: TWO PEOPLE JUMPING ON THE GROUND**

40. **SFX: THE WIND BLOWS STRONGLY**

#### **41. SOMEONE WALKING SLOWLY**

**42. Mr. Kasu**                    **(Shocked)** What!?! Jonas! My child, **(sobs)** I've cut my own hand! I've cut my own hand! **(More sobs, and after a while he cries out aloud)**  
Noooooooooooo!

**43.NARRATOR:** What an awful thing to have happened! Mr. Kasu has shot his own child. But ever since he left Kassech and Jonas' mother many years ago, Mr. Kasu has completely rejected these two children who besides weren't even aware that he is their father. It doesn't help to mourn now. Mr. Kasu thought he could run away from his responsibilities and start a new life with a new woman, but as you've just heard for yourself, his old life has caught up with him and brought him terrible misery. But has he really killed his son? And what about Jonas' two friends? Stay tuned to find out. Meanwhile, the young girl, Aster composes her first love letter.

#### **SCENE TWO: NIGHT AT PAPA TILAHUN HOUSE**

**44. SFX: NIGHT AMB FROM OUTSIDE, PAPER BEING RIPPED**

**45. Aster:**                    **(Monologue)** Oh! My God, what's wrong with me? What am I writing now? Am I really in love? No! **(She crumples the paper and throws it in a trash).**

**46. SFX: PAPER BEING CRUMPLED**

**47. SFX: PAPER BEING THROWN IN A WASTEPAPER**

**48. Aster:** No! I've got to write him a letter! I can't keep suffer like this anymore! OK! How shall I start it? **(Pause)** Dear Jonas... I love you so much! No! Not like that! OK... **(inhales and exhales deeply).**

**KW begin**

**49.SFX: WRITING FIRMLY ON A PAPER**

**50.Aster:** Always, when I think of you, my heart is set on fire, my soul begins to quiver like an earthquake, and my whole body starts to explode like a volcano! **(she breathes deeply in a stress)** Yes! **(Pause)** No! Words can't explain my feelings.

**51. SFX: PAPER BEING TORN**

**KW end**

**52. SFX: CELL PHONE DIALING**





59. **Begidu:** Yes, mama, it's cold!

60. **SFX: DOOR BEING CLOSED**

61. **SFX: CORN IS BEING BOILED**

62. **Begidu:** Mama?

63. **Kassech:** Yes, my dear Begidu?

64. **Begidu:** Can I have some corn when it's finished cooking?

65. **Kassech:** **(Joyfully)** Of course! It's all for you, my dear.

66. **Begidu:** Do you love me, mama?

67. **Kassech:** So much, my dear! **(She kisses him on his cheek repeatedly).**

68. **Begidu:** You won't hit me anymore?

69. **Kassech:** Oh! Begidu, my child. NEVER AGAIN!

70. **Begidu:** I love you, mama.

71. **Kassech:** I really love you too, my child!

72. **Begidu:** When will be the corn ready?

73. **Kassech:** Very soon! Let me turn over the coals in the stove.

74. **SFX: STOVE BEING SHAKEN**

75. **Begidu:** Can I fan it?

76. **Kassech:** Yes, use that straw fan.

77. **SFX: FANNING THE CHARCOAL**

**KW BEGIN**

78. **Begidu:** **(Fans the charcoal)** Mama, when will you stop selling charcoal?

79. **Kassech:** Why, Begidu?

80. **Begidu:** Some of the children tease me sometimes.

81. **Kassech:** Tell me, what do they say?

82. **Begidu:** Sometimes they call me 'the charcoal boy'.

83. **Kassech:** Forget about these children my boy. Every job is worthy of respect! **(thoughtful)** Though of course, by selling charcoal, I am helping ruin the environment – at the end of the day.

- 84. Begidu:** Why, mama?
- 85. Kassech:** **(Patiently)** Because charcoal is made of wood. And when the forest and the trees are cut down much faster than they grow, then after a while there is no forest left.
- 86. Begidu:** I don't understand.
- 87. Kassech:** OK! Look, we boil our corn on a charcoal fire.
- 88. Begidu:** Yes.
- 89. Kassech:** In order to make the charcoal, people cut down many trees and forests. This is only one reason why our forests are disappearing. Sometimes, a big agricultural company clears away a whole forest, including very old trees, with giant tractors, so that they can grow crops. This is another way that we are losing our forests.
- 90. Begidu:** Aha, but that means it isn't that bad because then we can boil our corn.
- 91. Kassech:** **(Laughs)** You're really a clever boy! Indeed, charcoal is very important but the fact that we are cutting down our forests is really not a good thing either.

- 92. Begidu:** You mean, charcoal is good.
- 93. Kassech:** What I mean is, charcoal or other kinds of fuels are very important to our life.
- 94. Begidu:** Why don't you buy another kind of fuel then?
- 95. Kassech:** At the moment, I use charcoal because I can't afford other kind of fuel or electricity. To buy electricity, you need money. And I'm a poor woman.
- 96. Begidu:** You're not poor, mama.
- 97. Kassech:** If you concentrate on your studies, then I won't be poor any more.
- 98. Begidu:** Yes! I'll concentrate. But mama, when will you stop using charcoal?
- 99. Kassech:** When I have extra money to use other kinds of fuel. I'm working hard, but you see, I have to start my evening class again very soon. If you are good at school, you can achieve what you want.

**100. Begidu:** So, I have to do well at school. When I grow up, I'm going to be a scientist and create a different kind of fuel and you won't have to sell charcoal any more.

**KW End**

**101. Kassech:** Very good boy! **(Kisses him on the cheek).**  
The corn's ready now.

**102.SFX: COOKING POT'S LID BEING LIFTED**

**103.SFX: BOILING**

**104. NARRATOR:** Kassech is realising how happy her son is when she pays more attention to him. An organization that cares for children is the United Nations Children's Fund, or UNICEF. They have a charter that says children need to have positive communication with their parents, family members or caregivers. They also say that every child is equal and should be treated equally, every child should have the chance to be healthy and stay healthy, and the child has the right to education. Especially young children, that is from birth to six years old, need special care. This early years are the most critical time in human development. If you miss that, you simply can't make it up later!

## **SCENE FOUR: NIGHT OUTSIDE MR. KASU’S COMPOUND**

105. **SFX: WIND BLOWS HARD AND THUNDER**

106. **SFX: TWO PERSONS RUN FAST ON A GRAVEL ROAD**

107.     **Challa:**         **(Still running fast)** Oh, my God! The guy shot Jonas, yeah?

108.     **Mekete:**       **(Out of breath)** Yeah! He shot him! But why did the guy start shouting AFTER he shot Jonas?

109.     **Challa:**         I don't know. Oh! I can't run anymore **(breaths hardly)**. Let's stop here. It's dark so no one can see us.

110.     **Mekete:**       **(Stops)** The guy is so stupid!

111.     **Challa:**         Yes, very stupid! He could have fired in the air first.

112.     **Mekete:**       **(Shocked)** Look over there, Challa! Isn't that your dog?

113.     **Challa:**         Forget about my dog!

114.     **Mekte:**         Your dog Bobbie's dead, too!

115. **Challa:** I don't care about him! If he hadn't eaten that poisoned meat, our friend wouldn't have been shot! **(between sobs)**

116. **SFX: GUN IS BEING RACKED**

117. **SFX: POLICE'S WALKIE TALKIE FEEDBACK SOUND**

118. **Police:** Police! Don't move either of you! Put your hands slowly on your head and lay down on the ground! Don't turn around!

119. **Mekete:** **(In a low voice)** Oh! What a misery!

120. **Challa:** **(In a low voice)** Shit!

121. **Police:** **(Talks in walkie talkie)** Yes! I've got them both!

122. **SFX: POLICE'S WALKIE TALKIE FEEDBACK SOUND**

### **OUTRO:**

And so we come to the end of our ninth episode. The two boys are under arrest but what about their friend, Jonas. Is he dead or alive? To find out this and much more, join us in our next and last episode.

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