

LEARNING BY EAR 2012

'Trust Betrayed – A Story of Sexual Violence in Africa'

EPISODE 5: 'Who Can I Trust?'

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List of characters by scene:

SCENE ONE: JUDY LEADS PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION

- **Judy (f, 40)**
- **5-8 demonstrators (mixed ages, mostly women)**
- **Narrator (m/f, around 30)**

SCENE TWO: MRS. RIMBA AND ALLAN AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE

- **Mrs. Rimba (f, 45)**
- **Allan (m, 10)**
- **Narrator (m/f, around 30)**

SCENE THREE: SEREFA VISITS PATO IN HER BOARDING SCHOOL

- **Serefa (f, 40)**
- **Pato (f, 16)**
- **Narrator (m/f, around 30)**

SCENE FOUR: NURU AT THE POLICE STATION

- **Nuru (f, 30)**
- **Officer (m, 45)**
- **Narrator (m/f, around 30)**

INTRO:

Hello and welcome to the fifth episode of our continuing radio drama, '**Trust Betrayed**', a story focusing on sexual violence in Africa, brought to you by the Deutsche Welle programme 'Learning by Ear'. In our last episode, we ended with Precious praising her boyfriend Joe for being a good stepfather to Allan. Little does she know that Joe has in fact been sexually abusing her ten-year-old son. Meanwhile, Nuru was in hospital, recovering from a violent rape, when she found out that she had lost her unborn baby as a result of the attack. And Pato, at home from boarding school for the weekend, surprised her mother, Serefa, by demanding to be left alone. Pato too has been abused - by her teacher, Mr. Maneno. So how will the story continue? We'll soon find out, in today's episode, called '**Who Can I Trust?**' We start off on the streets of the capital where Judy, the activist with the NGO Stand Up to Sexual Violence, has organized a peaceful demonstration.

SCENE ONE: JUDY LEADS PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION

1. SFX: STREET ATMO

2. JUDY: (through megaphone) We say no to sexual violence!

3. CROWD: (mostly women) We say no to sexual violence!

4. JUDY: We want justice!

5. CROWD: We want justice!

6. JUDY: **(addressing crowd)** My dear friends, it is time for action! We cannot wait a minute longer. We must bring an end to sexual violence. Because victims of sexual abuse and rape are crying out for justice, they are silently enduring these acts - feeling shame when others are to blame. We must provide support so that they can live healthy, normal lives again.

7. SFX: HUGE, ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE FROM CROWD

8. JUDY: Stand up to sexual violence!

9. CROWD: **(responds)** Stand up to sexual violence!

10. JUDY: If we stand together, we are strong in our numbers. There are too many victims out there invisible to services and our legal system - and we make no distinction here; victims are women or men, boys or girls, young or old. Our message to those in situations of abuse: you are not alone, help is available. Find the courage in you to get help. We can help you make a report to the police. We can get you the medical care you need. And we'll also help you deal with the psychological strain you may experience as a result. Our door is always open, and I promise to keep on fighting: for the rights of each of you, and for justice to prevail.

11. SFX: ANOTHER ROUND OF APPLAUSE

12. NARRATOR: As Judy is leading the demonstration in the capital, Allan is standing in the office of his class teacher, Mrs. Rimba. Allan has suddenly become completely withdrawn. He hardly speaks any more, he can't concentrate, and he's struggling to keep up in class. Mrs. Rimba has known Allan since he was seven. She knows this isn't like him. But she's also been trained as a counsellor, and after seeing the changes in Allan she's decided to try and find out what's troubling him.

SCENE TWO: MRS. RIMBA AND ALLAN AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE

13. RIMBA: Allan, I'd like you to do a little test for me, because you didn't finish your homework again.

14. ALLAN: But... I'm sorry, Mrs. Rimba.

15. RIMBA: (**calmly**) Allan, you never used to be like this. But don't worry. You can just do this little test instead.

16. SFX: PAPER BEING RIPPED FROM EXERCISE BOOK

17. RIMBA: On that piece of paper, I've written three questions. I want you to write your name at the top. Then the first question I want you to answer is: what do you like to do in your free time? Hmm? Is it playing football? Drawing? Or something else? Have a think and then write down your answer. The next question is: who is your best friend? And then the last question is: who don't you like? That's all. I'll give you some time to do it, and I'll be back in a few minutes.

18. SFX: FOOTSTEPS LEAVE, DOOR BEING CLOSED

19. ALLAN: (Thinking aloud) Ah... what do I like to do in my free time...? Hmmmm... listen to... No! I don't listen to music any more, since... **(swallows hard)**

20. SFX: PEN SCRIBBLING ON PAPER

21. ALLAN: (reads out) Who is your best friend? My best friend is... **(again swallows hard)**

22. SFX: PEN SCRIBBLING ON PAPER

23. ALLAN: (reads out) Who don't you like? **(takes deep breath)** Uncle...

24. SFX: PEN SCRIBBLING

25. ALLAN: **suddenly scared)** No! I can't tell. I mustn't tell. Otherwise he'll cut off my tongue and my ears. I can't tell. I have to cross out this answer...

26. SFX: PEN FRANTICALLY CROSSING OUT WORD

27. ALLAN: **(takes another deep breath)** That's better.

28. SFX: DOOR OPENED, STEPS APPROACH

29. RIMBA: So, Allan, how's it going?

30. ALLAN: I've finished, Mrs. Rimba.

31. RIMBA: Oh, now that was even faster than I expected.
Okay, then; give me the paper.

32. ALLAN: Can I go now, please, Mrs. Rimba?

33. RIMBA: Not yet, Allan. So... **(reading paper - pauses)** Are you sure you've finished? You can have some more time if you want.

34. ALLAN: **(scared)** No, no, I've finished. Can I go... **(sadly)** ... home?

35. RIMBA: Yes, Allan, you may go home. Say hello to your mother from me. Oh, and tell her I'd like to see her tomorrow.

36. SFX: FOOTSTEPS LEAVE QUICKLY. DOOR BEING CLOSED

NARRATOR: Mrs. Rimba stands for a while holding the piece of paper with the answers to her three questions. From what Allan has written, she knows something is terribly wrong. Elsewhere, Pato is back at her boarding school, and, as promised, Mr. Maneno has made sure that she came top in Biology. Her mother has come for a visit, and she's very happy about Pato's results.

SCENE THREE: SEREFA VISITS PATO IN HER BOARDING SCHOOL

37. SFX: GIRLS DORMITORY ATMO

38. SEREFA: (very excited) Pato, I'm so happy and proud of how well you're doing in school. You've got such good marks - especially in Biology, and that never used to be your strong subject. Perhaps you should think about becoming a doctor.

39. PATO: Mum, please! Give me a break! You've been going on and on about it ever since you arrived.

KW BEGIN

40. SEREFA: Your boarding master, Mr. Maneno, must be a very good Biology teacher.

41. PATO: (annoyed) Please, stop it! Okay? I've had enough.

42. SEREFA: Pato! What on earth is wrong with you? I'm just saying how proud I am of you! This result is something to be happy about... But you don't seem happy at all. Tell me, child, what's troubling you? Is there a boy at school who's making life difficult for you? I'm your mother. You can tell me.

43. PATO: Look, I think you should go now, Mum. I have to go to dinner in a minute.

KW END

- 44. SEREFA:** You know, before I came to see you, I had a little chat with Mr. Maneno.
- 45. PATO:** **(surprised)** You did? About what?
- 46. SEREFA:** **(excited)** About you, of course! He says you're his favourite student. And he says he's looking forward to having you in the school's athletics team.
- 47. PATO:** I'm not interested.
- 48. SEREFA:** **(shocked)** What?! Pato, this is your chance to prove what a good runner you are! It's an opportunity that could lead to bigger things, you know.
- 49. PATO:** **(emphatically)** I am not interested! Period!
- 50. SEREFA:** Really, Pato! What on earth has got into you?
- 51. PATO:** You don't understand. You simply don't understand.
- 52. SEREFA:** Understand what? Your teachers are all happy with you, you're doing really well in your studies - what more do you want? Tell me, my daughter.
- 53. SFX: SCHOOL BELL RINGS**

54. PATO: Goodbye, Mum. I'll see you in the holidays. I have to go for my dinner now.

55. SFX: FOOTSTEPS LEAVING FAST

56. NARRATOR: Serefa cannot understand her daughter. She thinks Pato should be the happiest girl in the school. But the opposite is true. Every day she seems to be getting more and more depressed, more isolated and irritable, and she's increasingly withdrawing from her mother. What on earth is the matter? Will Serefa ever find out the truth? As for Pato, who can she trust and open up to? It's important for victims of sexual abuse and rape to feel they're not alone. She may never forget such an experience, but with the help of friends, relatives or professional helpers it is possible to learn to live with, and overcome what has happened. Nuru is struggling to come to terms with her situation. Her doctor has encouraged her to make a statement to the police about the rape, and to fight for justice. But at the police station Nuru finds out that this too can be a very difficult experience.

SCENE FOUR: NURU AT THE POLICE STATION

57. SFX: POLICE STATION / OFFICE ATMO

58. NURU: (softly) Officer... Officer... Hello. My name is Nuru.

59. OFFICER: Yes, Nuru, what can we do for you?

60. NURU: I'm here to report a... an incident.

- 61. OFFICER:** **(indifferent)** So? Go on. We're very busy here, you know.
- 62. NURU:** Officer, this is very hard for me. It's also very personal.
- 63. OFFICER:** Madam, are you going to tell me your problem, or are you going to beat about the bush all day? I've already told you, we have a lot of work to do.
- 64. NURU:** **(starts to cry)** Officer, you have no idea what I've been through.
- 65. OFFICER:** **(sarcastic)** Oh, I'm sorry, madam, but there's no funeral here. If you want to cry, please go and cry outside. Come back when you've finished and you're ready to make your report.
- 66. NURU:** **(tries to calm down)** Okay... okay, I'll try to stop crying. Well, I've just come from hospital. I was... It happened at the waterhole. My friend Jena and I had gone to fetch water, but she left before me... and while I was there alone, the rebels came... and... and...
- 67. OFFICER:** **(interested in story)** And what? Go on... No! Wait a minute; I have to call my senior officer. He needs to hear this too.

68. NURU: No, no, please don't call him! It's hard enough opening up to you. I can't tell my story to everyone. It's too... too painful and embarrassing.

69. OFFICER: Nuru - that's your name, right? Listen, Nuru, you came to us for help. And if you want us to help you then you have to tell us what happened. If we end up going to court, you'll have to say this over and over again. So you'd better start getting used to the idea.

OUTRO:

That brings us to the end of the fifth episode of our radio drama on sexual violence in Africa. Instead of the police officer being sympathetic to Nuru and giving her some privacy, he actually seems to enjoy hearing her story. As a victim of sexual violence, getting justice can be a long, difficult and often unpleasant process. That is why it's usually a good idea to take a person you trust along with you for extra support. What will happen to Nuru now? Find out this and more in the next episode of our ongoing radio drama. You're also welcome to visit our webpage at dw.de/lbe, or discuss the issue of sexual violence on our Facebook page. Until we meet again - goodbye.