

LEARNING BY EAR 2012

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

EPISODE 9: 'No Excuses'

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List of characters by scene:

SCENE ONE: SEREFA AND PATO AT HOME

- Pato (f, 16)
- Serefa (f, 40)
- Presenter (m, 25)
- Narrator (m/f, around 30)

SCENE TWO: PATO AND SEREFA AT JUDY'S CENTRE

- Judy (f, 40)
- Serefa (f, 40)
- Narrator (m/f, around 30)

SCENE THREE: PRECIOUS AND ALLAN AT HOME

- Precious (f, 30)
- Allan (m, 10)
- Presenter (m, 25)
- Narrator (m/f, around 30)

INTRO:

Hello and welcome to 'Learning by Ear'. This is the ninth episode of our ongoing story, '**Trust Betrayed**', focusing on sexual violence. In the previous episode, the activist Judy rescued Pato from her teacher Mr. Maneno, who was about to molest the teenage girl. Mr. Maneno was later forced to resign from the school. Judy's now planning a conference to persuade parliament to toughen up the laws on sexual violence. She is asking victims of sexual violence from her centre, who are ready to share their stories to speak out publically. Nuru, much to her own surprise, was inspired by the idea and has volunteered to speak. Meanwhile, Uncle Joe was sentenced to five years in prison for sexually abusing his girlfriend's son, Allan, who's only 10. Allan's been trying to recover from this horrible experience, but it hasn't been easy. Today's episode is called '**No Excuses**', and it begins with Pato and her mother Serefa at home for the weekend.

SCENE ONE: SEREFA AND PATO AT HOME

1. SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR

2. PATO: (Pato enters, panting from jogging) Hi, Mum!

3. SEREFA: It's so good to see you getting back to your normal self, Pato. How was the jogging?

4. PATO: Good. I think I'm getting there...

5. SEREFA: Pato, I'm so, so glad you finally spoke out about Mr. Maneno. I never imagined he was the kind of person who could do such awful things! Men like that shouldn't just be put in prison - they should be castrated!

6. PATO: **(shocked)** Mum!

7. SEREFA: I'm sorry, Pato - I just can't bear to think of what he did to you - the abuse he put you through. It makes me so angry, and I feel so bad that I didn't help you...

8. PATO: Please, Mum - let it rest. I'm trying to put it all behind me. Judy's filed a report with the police; they're dealing with it now and she's helping me to get through some of my fears. Oh - talking of Judy. I have to go to the centre later. Did I tell you she's organizing a huge conference?

9. SEREFA: No? What kind of conference?

10. PATO: She wants survivors of sexual violence to share their stories with the public. She thinks this might persuade the government to revise the laws on sexual abuse. She says the punishments need to be more severe if they're going to act as a deterrent.

11. SEREFA: She didn't ask you to talk about your experience, did she? I really don't think we should tell too many people this.

12. PATO: No, she didn't ask me directly. But she has asked people to volunteer. I think only one lady has, so far.

KW BEGIN

13. SEREFA: I'm so sorry, my daughter, that I didn't read the signs... Maybe things would have been different if only I'd realized what was wrong... Tell me, how do you feel now? After everything that's happened? Are you coping?

14. PATO: I just want to forget it all, Mum. That's all I wish for. I want to get on with my life, and never have to think about what happened.

15. SEREFA: Hmm... I understand. Pato, I promise I'll do whatever it takes to help you. But right now you need to go and take off those sweaty clothes you're wearing.

16. PATO: Yeah, yeah, I know... Mum, can you please switch on the radio? Find some relaxing music... **(as she leaves)** I'll be right back.

17. SFX: FOOTSTEPS LEAVE, RADIO TURNED ON

18. PRESENTER: ... And this just in: The organization Stand Up to Sexual Violence is holding a major conference this weekend, at a time when cases of sexual violence seem to be on the increase. The organizers of the conference say their main aim is to make the public aware of the true extent of the problem, which is believed to affect more than 25 percent of the population. They hope to highlight the experiences that victims of sexual violence have endured, and encourage others to be more understanding, tolerant and supportive. The NGO also plans to pressurize the government to introduce tougher sentences for those found guilty of sexual abuse and rape. Some of the speakers at the conference...

19. SFX: RADIO TURNED OFF

20. SEREFA: **(disbelief)** What on earth is happening to our country?! Who's to blame for all of this? Where did we go wrong?

21. PATO: I'm back, Mum... Oh - isn't there anything good on the radio?

KW END

22. SEREFA: No... Listen, you know what? I think it's better if you get ready to go and meet Judy. I'll take you there myself.

23. PATO: Mum, are you okay? You look like you're in shock!

24. SEREFA: I think I am... I can't believe the things I've been hearing... Come on, Pato. Let's get going.

25. NARRATOR: Serefa isn't the only one asking these questions. Many people wonder why sexual violence is so prevalent in many African countries. Is it a cultural thing? Perhaps because in African societies men tend to have a lot of power over women? Serefa still hasn't come to terms with the fact that her daughter was sexually abused by her teacher, Mr. Maneno. But after hearing this news on the radio she decides to go with Pato and pay a visit to Judy's NGO.

SCENE TWO: PATO AND SEREFA AT JUDY'S CENTRE

26. SFX: FEMALE VOICES COMPLAINING AND MURMURING

27. JUDY: Okay... Are we all ready for the meeting? Good. Welcome everybody. Now perhaps one of you please remind the rest what to do if you find yourself in a situation where you feel threatened?

28. SEREFA: **(clears throat)** Erm - Excuse me... My name is Serefa - I'm Pato's mother. I'm not really here for the same reasons as all of you - I just came to accompany my daughter - but... I... I just wanted to say that I had no idea there were so many cases of sexual abuse in our country.

- 29. JUDY:** Actually, there are far more than we know about. Most victims just suffer in silence. Did you know, for example, that in South Africa about a hundred and fifty women are raped every single day?
- 30. SEREFA:** **(shocked)** What?! That's impossible... How do women survive in such a country?
- 31. JUDY:** Good question. But it's not the only African country with a bad record of sexual and gender-based violence. In eastern Congo the prevalence and severity of rape and other sexual violence is described as the worst in the world. It's estimated that there are as many as 200,000 victims of rape living in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- 32. SEREFA:** **(shocked)** No way! 200,000 rape survivors?! And here I was thinking Pato was one of the few... I'm so sorry, I don't mean to take up your time - I only came here with Pato because I was...
- 33. JUDY:** Because you're afraid something else might happen to her? Or that it could happen to you? I know. We're all afraid. The question is, what can we do about it?
- 34. SEREFA:** I don't know... I... I just want my daughter to grow up in a safe and secure environment. That's all I can think about.

35. JUDY: Then come and join us at the conference! We need everyone's support. This battle has to be fought together. It's a battle for a better, safer society - it has to be fought by everyone.

36. NARRATOR: Judy keeps explaining how important it is to stand up to sexual violence. She talks about the long-term psychological consequences it can cause and how a single incident can have significant impacts on someone's life. The key message for Serefa is that she needs to be there for her child and help her get through this difficult time. People who have survived sexual violence need people they trust around them to help them cope with the trauma, and re-establish trusting relationships. Meanwhile, Precious is at home cooking supper for Allan. Allan has also started going to Judy for counselling. He's just finished a piece of work he promised to write for her, and now he's sitting listening to the radio.

SCENE THREE: PRECIOUS AND ALLAN AT HOME

37. SFX: MUSIC INTERLUDE.....INTERRUPTED

38. PRESENTER: Hello again - we're interrupting the music to bring you the latest update on the wave of sexual violence that has been sweeping the country. According to reports just in, Shoka, the rebel leader whose movement has been accused of carrying out gang-rapes, torture, and other forms of violence, has finally been arrested. Shoka is also wanted by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity, and is due to appear in court later this week. We'll bring you more on this story as it unfolds, but for now: back to the music.

39. SFX: MUSIC INTERLUDE

40. ALLAN: **(shouts)** Mama! Mamaaa! They caught the rebels! They just said on the radio...

41. PRECIOUS: Oh, that's good news, my boy! All those poor people living near the border - especially the women... Now they won't have to live in constant fear of being attacked. Come to the table now, food is ready. And then you need to get ready to go and see Judy. Did you finish writing the thing she asked you to do?

42. ALLAN: Yes, I finished.

43. PRECIOUS: **(fondly)** I'm so proud of you, Allan.

44. ALLAN: Mum... I still have a stomach ache...

45. PRECIOUS: I know, my child... The doctor said it'll be a while before the pain goes away. You will feel all right again soon, I promise. Come - let's eat. I cooked your favourite dish for you! And as soon as you've finished we'll go over to Judy's centre, otherwise it'll be getting late.

46. ALLAN: **(starting to eat)**

OUTRO:

Allan tucks in to the delicious meal his mother has prepared, bringing us to the end of this, the ninth episode of our series on sexual violence. Will Judy succeed in forcing the government to toughen up the law on sexual abuse? And will Nuru really have the courage to speak out about her experience of rape? Will Pato be all right at her boarding school, now that Mr. Maneno has resigned? Find out in our final episode.

Remember, you're welcome to send in your comments and suggestions, or even to share your own experiences on our website: dw.de/lbe. You can also check out our Facebook page. Until we meet again, take good care.