

## **LEARNING BY EAR 2012**

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

#### **EPISODE 6: 'Searching for Healing'**

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**List of characters by scene:**

#### **SCENE ONE: MRS. RIMBA MEETS PRECIOUS AT THE SCHOOL**

- Precious (f, 30)
- Mrs. Rimba (f, 45)
- Narrator (m/f, around 30)

#### **SCENE TWO: JUDY AND HER TEAM AT KILINDI HIGH SCHOOL**

- Judy (f, 40)
- Maneno (m, 45)
- Mixed voices (boys and girls 14-18)
- Pato (f, 16)
- Narrator (m/f, around 30)

## **INTRO:**

Hello and welcome to 'Learning by Ear'. This is the sixth episode of our continuing radio story '**Trust Betrayed**', focusing on sexual violence in Africa. In our last episode, Nuru went to the police station to report her rape ordeal but was shocked to meet with an insensitive police officer who showed no concern for her feelings. Serefa, Pato's mother, went to visit Pato at her school. She was so delighted by Pato's results that she didn't pick up on what her daughter was going through. Elsewhere, Mrs. Rimba, Allan's school teacher, decided to ask the boy to do a little test as a way of exploring what might be upsetting him. Where will the story take us next? Find out in today's episode, '**Searching for Healing**'. We start off at Allan's school, where Mrs. Rimba has asked the boy's mother, Precious, to come in for a chat.

## **SCENE ONE: MRS. RIMBA MEETS PRECIOUS AT THE SCHOOL**

### **1. SFX: SCHOOL BELL RINGS, OUTSIDE THE ROOM**

**2. PRECIOUS:** So, Mrs. Rimba, why did you ask to see me so urgently?

**3. RIMBA:** Well... I wondered whether you had noticed that Allan has been acting rather strangely lately.

### **KW Begin**

**4. PRECIOUS:** What do you mean? Has something happened?

**5. RIMBA:** Well, I was hoping you might be able to tell me that... Basically, Allan is not at all himself. He's just not the boy I know. Until a few weeks ago he was always sociable, cheerful, and very good in school; he always did his homework, and he always paid attention in class. Now he seems to be lost in a world of his own. He's withdrawn, he doesn't want to mix with the other children, and he rarely does his homework any more.

**6. PRECIOUS:** So what do you want me to do about it? Should I do his homework for him?

**7. RIMBA:** Well, Mama Allan, first of all I would recommend you change your attitude. All I'm trying to do is to help your son. What I mean to say, is that a sudden change like this, might indicate a serious problem. I've done what I could to find out what's been bothering him, and I'm quite concerned.

**KW End**

**8. PRECIOUS:** **(shocked)** Really? What on earth could it be? The boy gets everything he needs from us.

**9. RIMBA:** Well, I'm not exactly sure what the problem is, but I have to say that from my experience and observations of Allan, I believe something may have happened to him - physically or emotionally which is having a real impact on him.

- 10. PRECIOUS:** What are you suggesting?
- 11. RIMBA:** Mama Allan - is there any chance he could have been abused... possibly physically, or even...
- 12. PRECIOUS:** **(defiant)** What?! How dare you! I can't believe my ears! Are you accusing me of neglecting my only son? And – what was the other thing? *Abusing* him? No... No, no, no, Mrs. Rimba, I think you've crossed a line this time. You have absolutely no right to...
- 13. SFX: SHUFFLING OF PIECE OF PAPER**
- 14. RIMBA:** **(interrupting)** Take a good look at this test I asked Allan to do, to try and find out what was happening. Look at the answers he wrote to my questions.
- 15. PRECIOUS:** **(reads out)** 'What do I like to do in my free time?'... **(Allan's answer)** 'Nothing.' 'Who is my best friend?' 'No one!' 'Who don't you like?' Well, he didn't answer that one.
- 16. RIMBA:** Yes, he did. You can see he started writing something, and then he crossed it out completely.
- 17. PRECIOUS:** So? Maybe he likes everyone and doesn't hate anyone.

- 18. RIMBA:** It's true that he's an adorable little boy. That's why I'm trying to help him. Children are usually happy to tell you what they like and don't like, but from the answers Allan gave, it seems there's something he's trying to hide. It's like he's afraid of something... or someone.
- 19. PRECIOUS:** **(shocked)** This is unbelievable! Mrs. Rimba, the last time I looked you were a teacher. When did you become a private detective?
- 20. RIMBA:** Mama Allan, I realise that this is a very difficult subject, and I'm sorry to have to raise it with you, but perhaps you're not aware that most sexual abuse is carried out by acquaintances or family members. Unfortunately, in the past we have even had cases in this school where a teacher has abused a child. Of course, we wanted to do everything we could to prevent such things happening again, and one of the measures we took was to choose a teacher to undergo intensive training on how to recognize child abuse and neglect, and offer counselling and support where appropriate. That teacher is me. Now, Mama Allan, please think: is there anyone Allan is terribly afraid of? Another child at home, perhaps? Maybe even an adult?

- 21. PRECIOUS:**       **(angrily)** No! Allan gets along very well with his Uncle Joe. As a matter of fact, since Uncle Joe came to live with me the boy has been much better behaved than before.
- 22. RIMBA:**           I know this may sound ridiculous to you, and of course I could also be wrong, but I would ask you please to try and find out whether this Uncle Joe, or anyone else, is abusing your son. Because judging by the change in Allan's behaviour, I'm almost certain that something is going on which we should both be concerned about.
- 23. PRECIOUS:**       **(totally shocked)** This is crazy! You are crazy! I can't stand this any more. No - ah, ah - what are you telling me?! Joe is the sweetest, kindest person I've ever known. He's like a father to that boy. Either you've lost your mind, or you ... you're just jealous! Goodbye, Mrs. Rimba. In future, I would ask you to focus on your job - which is *teaching* my son!
- 24. SFX: STEPS LEAVE, DOOR CLOSSES ABRUPTLY**

**25. NARRATOR:** It's only human to want to deny such things. But that's no excuse for ignoring them. Allan's teacher seems to have picked up on something with Allan that even his mother couldn't, or wouldn't let herself see. By refusing to acknowledge what Mrs. Rimba is telling her, Precious is putting her own child at risk. Yet hers is a very common reaction. Many people can't believe or accept that their children are being abused by a partner, relative or neighbour. What price will Precious pay for sticking her head in the sand? We'll soon find out. But now, we're off to another school: Pato's boarding school in Kilindi, where Judy and her organization "Stand Up to Sexual Violence" have come to talk to the pupils about this sensitive issue.

## **SCENE TWO: JUDY AND HER TEAM AT KILINDI HIGH SCHOOL**

### **26. SFX: NOISY MIXED HIGH SCHOOL ATMO**

**27. MANENO:** Hey, hey - quiet, everyone! Silence! I want to be able to hear a pin drop in this hall.

### **Silence**

**28. MANENO:** As you all know, the principal is away on leave, so I'm in charge of running the school at the moment. Okay - now, today we have some visitors who are here to talk about a very important topic. I want you all to listen carefully to what they have to say. And remember, I'll be watching you all to make sure you pay attention. Madam Judy, over to you.

**29. SFX: LOW NOISES AND MURMURS IN THE BACKGROUND**

**30. JUDY:** Thank you, Mr. Maneno, and thank you all for attending. As you've just heard, my name is Judy, and my colleagues and I are here to talk to you about sexual...

**31. SFX: WILD CHEERS AND UPROAR FROM MAINLY BOY STUDENTS**

**32. JUDY:** Okay. So, now that we have your attention, let's get serious. We're here to talk to you about sexual violence. Does anyone here know what exactly sexual violence is?

**Total silence**

**33. JUDY:** To put it simply, sexual violence refers to any sexual act where consent is not given, or is not given freely. Anyone can be a target, but the majority are female. The person responsible for the violence is usually an acquaintance or even a relative: it could be a friend, a classmate, a neighbour, a family member, or even a teacher.

**34. SFX: SHOCKED, MIXED REACTIONS FROM STUDENTS**



**35. JUDY:** Yes, I know it's hard to believe, but it happens all the time, and we need to talk about it. Well, there are many types of sexual violence - and not all of them involve physical contact between the victim and the abuser. For example, sexual harassment, threats, and voyeurism.

**36. SFX: BOY STUDENTS REPEATING THE WORD "VOYEURISM?"**

**37. JUDY:** Boys... boys, if you didn't know this before, you know it now. Voyeurism, or spying on girls, is a form of sexual violence. As I said earlier, it's always sexual violence if one partner has not consented to the activity. I doubt whether the girls will be smiling when they find out that their privacy has been violated.

**38. SFX: STRONG AFFIRMING 'NO' REACTION FROM GIRLS**

**39. JUDY:** Anyway - we're not here to accuse anyone. We just want to make you aware of what sexual violence is, so that you can help us to prevent it happening. Research has shown that, for most girls, their first sexual experience is often unwanted and forced upon them. But many cases are simply not reported, because the victims of such violence are too scared or embarrassed to inform the police, or tell their friends or family about the abuse.

**40. (Mr. Maneno coughs several times and clears throat)**

**41. MANENO:** Excuse me... I didn't mean to interrupt. Please go on...

**42. JUDY:** Yes - thank you. Victims of sexual abuse and rape are also afraid that they won't be believed, that they might be blamed, or that no one will be able to help them. Many feel ashamed and embarrassed. Some even keep quiet because they've been threatened with further harm if they tell anyone.

We're here today to let you all know that help is available and that no one should ever experience sexual violence, without also finding support and services. At SUSV, we provide that help. We will support and provide assistance to anyone and everyone who may have experienced a form of sexual violence, including rape and abuse. We care - we'll listen, and we can help. We even support people when they make a report to the police, because unfortunately many police officers are still insensitive when dealing with victims of sexual violence. We want to encourage you all not be afraid, and to Stand Up to Sexual Violence!

**43. SFX: SEVERAL PEOPLE CLAP THEIR HANDS**

**44. JUDY:** I appreciate those few claps. I also want to explain to you why it is so important to support survivors of sexual violence. These events can have long term health impacts, beyond physical injuries, they could possibly lead to sexually transmitted diseases or pregnancy in women and girls. Emotionally, survivors may struggle with making sense of these experiences which have changed the way they see the world. They may feel frightened and anxious. They may find themselves unable to keep negative thoughts out of their minds, be easily distracted, and may relive the abuse over again in their heads. Negative emotions are sometimes even expressed in physical pains - headaches, stomach pains, eating disorders, sleep changes, or chronic pain. Without support, many may face severe depression and could even think of committing suicide.

**45. SFX: SHOCKED AND DISBELIEF REACTION FROM STUDENTS**

**46. JUDY:** Not only that: there's a strong connection between a history of sexual violence and substance abuse, other high risk behaviors, depression and anxiety.

**47. SFX: SCHOOL BELL RINGS**

**48. JUDY:** Sorry I took up so much of your time, but it is important to explain to you that sexual abuse can happen to anyone, and I want to make sure you all understand that you can do something about it - either by supporting someone who has experienced it, or ending abuse which you yourself have endured. I'll leave my contact details with Mr. Maneno. If anyone has a question, you're very welcome to get in touch. Once again, thank you all for listening.

**49. SFX: HUGE ROUND OF APPLAUSE FROM STUDENTS**

**50. NARRATOR:** Judy and her colleagues leave the hall and head for her car, which is parked outside the school gates. Just as they're about to drive off, Pato comes running out of the school towards them.

**51. SFX: CAR STARTING AND ABOUT TO DRIVE OFF**

**52. PATO:** **(panting and crying uncontrollably)** Miss Judy, wait! Please stop! Don't go... Don't go...

**OUTRO:**

Those desperate cries of Pato's bring us to the end of the sixth episode of our drama about sexual violence. What will happen next? Will Pato be brave enough to confide in Judy, a total stranger? Join us next time to find out. You can listen to this episode and others in the series by visiting [dw.de/lbe](http://dw.de/lbe). We'd also very much like to hear your opinions on this topic on our Facebook page. Till next time - bye bye.