

## **LEARNING BY EAR 2012**

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

#### **EPISODE 10: 'This Is My Story'**

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**List of characters by scene:**

#### **SCENE ONE: PATO JOINED BY BOMBA WHILE RUNNING**

- Pato (f, 16)
- Bomba (m, 18)
- Narrator (m/f, around 30)

#### **SCENE TWO: NURU AND JUDY IN A COUNSELLING SESSION**

- Judy (f, 40)
- Nuru (f, 30)
- Pato (f, 16)
- Dulu (m, 40)
- Narrator (m/f, around 30)

**SCENE THREE: SEXUAL VIOLENCE CONFERENCE**

- **Judy (f, 40)**
- **Allan (m, 10)**
- **Narrator (m/f, around 30)**

## **INTRO:**

Hello and welcome to 'Learning by Ear', Deutsche Welle's educational radio drama series. This is the tenth and final episode of our story about sexual violence in Africa, '**Trust Betrayed**'. In the previous episode, the rebel leader responsible for the brutal gang-rape of hundreds of women, including Nuru, was arrested. He'll soon be answering to charges at the International Criminal Court. Pato's mother, Serefa, has decided to support her daughter by attending the conference which Stand Up to Sexual Violence is organizing; and young Allan is starting to recover from the abuse inflicted on him by his stepfather. So how will our story end? Keep listening to this last episode, called: '**This Is My Story**'. We begin at Pato's school, where she's started to go jogging again in the early mornings before class. Bomba, her fellow student and the high school athletic champion, has been waiting for this chance.

## **SCENE ONE: PATO JOINED BY BOMBA WHILE RUNNING**

### **1. SFX: EARLY MORNING ATMO**

**2. PATO:** (stretching and warming up)

**3. BOMBA:** Hey, Pato...

**4. PATO:** (screams) Wooooi...! Don't frighten me like that!  
What do you want from me?

**5. BOMBA:** What do I want? (chuckles) That's a silly question.

**6. PATO:** I really don't know. The latest mobile phone, maybe.

**7. BOMBA:** **(laughs)** You're funny... Listen, why don't we go for jog together in the forest? I know a very good place where...

**8. PATO:** **(cuts him short)** No! I don't feel like running with anyone. I want to run alone today. Please don't come any closer.

**9. BOMBA:** Hey, come on, relax... I'm not going to hurt you  
**(steps closer)**

**10. PATO:** Don't come near me. I'm warning you.  
Please - go away, or I'll scream.  
**(screams)** No, don't touch me!

**11. SFX: FOOTSTEPS RUNNING AWAY**

**12. PATO:** **(running away)** Heeeeeelp! Somebody heeeeeelp!

**13. BOMBA:** **(shocked)** Wow! That girl is crazy. She's totally crazy. What did I do? I just touched her shoulder. Why did she run off like that?

**14. NARRATOR:** Pato isn't crazy and she was very clear with Bomba that he shouldn't come any closer. Pato is recovering from a trauma - which means, understandably, that she feels more nervous and fearful than she did the last time Bomba approached her. Her experience with her teacher Mr. Maneno is still fresh in her mind. Judy is working with Pato to feel more comfortable asserting control of situations, and to be clear when she doesn't feel safe. When she feels truly threatened, Pato makes sure she gets herself out of that situation fast. And so she runs... Pato runs and runs, away from Bomba, away from the school, away from everything... Before she knows it she's standing in front of Judy's recovery centre, gasping for breath and wondering how in the world she got here. Her school is ten kilometres away! Inside the centre, Judy is in a private counselling session with Nuru.

## **SCENE TWO: NURU AND JUDY IN A COUNSELLING SESSION**

**15. JUDY:** Nuru, I just want to say how impressed I am by your commitment to counselling. You know, this is a very hard part of your life to work through. It can take some survivors years to get to where you are now, and some people never do.

**16. NURU:** Thank you, Judy. I really owe it to you. You know, when I came here I was even thinking of taking my own life after everything that had happened. Even my own husband Dulu left me. You gave me the courage to move on. And meeting all these other survivors, having a support group - it's helped me so much. It's shown me that I'm not alone.

**17. JUDY:** Nuru, how are you feeling about the conference coming up? Have you thought further about speaking and sharing your story?

**18. NURU:** Yes, I have, and I'm sure I want to do it. I feel that I'm strong enough now in my mind, to give some hope to other women who have gone through something similar. I want people to hear my story.

**19. SFX: DOOR BEING OPENED**

**20. JUDY:** **(surprised)** Pato! What's happened? Are you all right?

**21. PATO:** **(catching her breath)** Yes... I ran... just like you told me... I ran all the way here. I felt threatened, and you said to run... Now I'm thinking that maybe my schoolmate just wanted to ask me for a date. But I can't – not yet...

**22. JUDY:** Don't worry. It'll all be okay.

**23. NURU:** Here, come take a seat here, I was just finishing, and I can get you a cup of water - you look exhausted.

**24. PATO:** Yes, please, water would be great. Thanks, Nuru.

**25. SFX: CHAIR BEING DRAGGED, FOOTSTEPS, DOOR OPENING**

## KW Begin

**26. JUDY:** So tell me, Pato; what happened?

**27. PATO:** It's this boy, his name is Bomba... First he asked me to go with him to the forest, then he was getting closer and closer and I felt really uncomfortable... Then when he reached out to touch me, I felt like throwing up, and I ... I panicked...and I ran. I just kept running. I didn't even know where I was going until I found myself standing outside the centre.

**28. JUDY:** I'm proud of you Pato. I'm glad you came.

## KW End

**29. PATO:** Judy, If I speak at the conference on Saturday... do you think it will help other girls in my situation?

**30. JUDY:** Pato, I'm pretty sure that it will. They need to know - like you did - that what's happening to them isn't their fault - that they should speak up and get help! But it is your decision, no one will push you. You are the only one who knows if you are ready to tell your story.

**31. NARRATOR:** As Pato and Judy are talking in the counselling room, Nuru has gone out to get Pato a glass of water. Little does she know that Dulu, her husband, is on his way to the centre. He's been looking for Nuru for weeks, after he went back to their village and discovered that she had gone. Finally he remembered what he told her about Judy and her organization... He's hoping and praying that Nuru did decide to come here after all. So what does Dulu have to say to his wife after all this time? Let's find out...

**32. SFX: TAP WATER RUNNING AND FILLING A GLASS**

**33. DULU:** Nuru!

**34. SFX: GLASS FALLING AND BREAKING**

**35. DULU:** Nuru, I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to scare you like that.

**36. NURU:** What do you want, Dulu?

**37. DULU:** Can we sit down somewhere and talk?

**38. NURU:** I'm... there's... This isn't the time or place... What do you want from me, anyway? You left me! You said it was too hard being married to me, and you wanted to get your life back. Well, did you?!



- 39. DULU:** (sorrowful) Nuru, what can I say... I was stupid. I left because you'd been raped, and society was pushing me away from you. Everybody shunned us after the terrible thing that happened, and I ... I just couldn't live with it... It took me a while to realize that you *are* my life. There's nothing else out there for me.
- 40. NURU:** Oh, really? Dulu - you left me, at a time when I desperately needed help. I needed you, and you abandoned me!
- 41. DULU:** Nuru, please, I beg you... We can start again. It was so hard - losing our baby because of the rape... But we can still be a family again. Please - give me a second chance.
- 42. NURU:** I don't know, Dulu... I really don't know. This whole horrible experience has completely changed the way I look at men. I don't trust men any more. Not even you. I'm sorry, but that's how I feel.
- 43. DULU:** It's okay. I understand... Nuru, we can get through this together. I'll be patient, I promise. I'll try to support you as best I can with whatever you need. Just - please - let me back into your life.
- 44. NURU:** I never kicked you out of my life. You did that yourself!

**45. DULU:** Oh, Nuru - I just want you back. Please, can't you try to forgive me? Whatever it takes, I'll do it.

**46. NURU:** Well, first of all it takes time. I can't decide something like that just from one moment to the next. And there's another thing you should know. Judy has organized a conference this Saturday, to raise awareness about sexual violence and pressurize the government to introduce tougher punishments for sexual abuse and rape. I've volunteered to speak at the conference.

#### **KW BEGIN**

**47. DULU:** (**proudly**) Nuru, that's wonderful! This conference is all over the news. You'll be speaking in front of so many important people - the conference is even being shown on television! Have you prepared for it? Do you need me to help you write a speech?

**48. NURU:** I won't be giving a speech, Dulu.

**49. DULU:** What? What do you mean, you won't be giving a speech? What are you going to say?

**50. NURU:** I'm going to tell my story.

#### **KW END**

**51. DULU:** **(shocked)** Noooo... Nuru, you can't! Do you have any idea what that means? The whole country will know exactly what has happened to you! No, Nuru! Don't do this to yourself.

**52. NURU:** But that's precisely what we want. People need to hear our stories. They need to hear what we go through - psychologically, physically and emotionally. They need to know what happens to our families, how we're treated by society - they need to understand how that feels. Only then will they understand how to help and why that help is so important. I volunteered to speak, on behalf of the thousands of other African women who've been through similar experiences. Many of them didn't survive to tell the tale.

**53. DULU:** **(resigned)** You're not going to change your mind, are you... **(sighs)** Nuru, I'm afraid for you... but if this really means that much to you, then... then I'm with you. I'll support you in whatever you decide to do.

**54. NURU:** Thanks, Dulu. But I still don't know what will happen between us. As I said: you need to give me time.

**55. NARRATOR:** Dulu is very relieved to see Nuru, and to know that she's doing okay. He realizes that she feels betrayed: he left her when she needed him most, and he will have to prove to her that she can trust him again. It'll be difficult for both of them. But in time he hopes that they can be a family again. Together they go to speak to Judy, who suggests that Dulu too should seek counselling on how to cope with what's happened to his wife. When a victim of sexual violence opens up to someone, they need their confidante to listen carefully, be very patient with them, and treat them seriously. But at the same time, that confidante must also be sensitive to the fact that the victim may feel embarrassment and shame. They should never ask *why* the rape happened, or push for details. The survivor of these crimes is *never* responsible for the abuse! All these are things that Dulu still has to learn.

Just a few days later, Judy's organization is hosting the big conference on sexual violence. It's attracted a huge amount of attention, especially after the arrest of the rebel leader accused of organizing a series of gang-rapes and other violent attacks. The conference hall is packed with government officials, VIPs, journalists, and the public. Judy is overwhelmed by the response.

### **SCENE THREE: SEXUAL VIOLENCE CONFERENCE**

#### **56. SFX: ATMO OF LARGE CROWD IN HALL**

**57. JUDY:** (testing mic) Hello... On behalf of my organization "Stand Up to Sexual Violence", I'd like to welcome you all to this conference. My name is Judy, but I won't be saying much myself. Every speaker after me is a survivor of sexual violence. The stories you'll hear today are disturbing, and some of them are almost unbelievably cruel. As you'll find out, it's not just women who are the victims of sexual violence. You'll hear stories from a young boy, a teenage girl, a wife who was gang-raped, and many others. These are their stories, and our hope is that, after hearing them, the government and everyone in this country will be inspired to take action to address this very serious problem. Our first speaker is a young boy I met recently. He's written his story as a composition, and he's going to read it out for us... Please welcome Allan...

#### **58. SFX: RESERVED APPLAUSE FOLLOWED BY CAMERA FLASHES**

**59. ALLAN:** My name is Allan. I just turned 11 today, and this is my story...

**OUTRO:**

One by one the survivors go up to the stage and tell their stories. Everyone listening is deeply moved. The government finally acknowledges the need for new laws to protect young people and to hand down proper punishments to sex offenders. At last there's a glimmer of hope. People are starting to realize that sexual violence affects their brothers, sisters, wives, neighbours, friends - and that they need their support and encouragement. The health department has promised to employ more professionals to work with those who have suffered abuse; and police officers are also being trained in how to deal sensitively with survivors. As for Dulu ... during the conference he was sitting right there in the audience. When Nuru started telling her story, all he could see was her incredible strength and courage. He felt so proud of his wife, and so ashamed of himself for having left her at such a terrible time. He's going to do everything he possibly can to try and regain her trust.

And with that, we've reached the end of this 'Learning by Ear' radio series on sexual violence. The play was written by Chrispin Mwakideu. If you'd like to listen again to the whole series, you can visit our webpage at [dw.de/lbe](http://dw.de/lbe). You're also welcome to take a look at our Facebook page. Until we meet again for another series of 'Learning by Ear' - goodbye, and take care.