

LEARNING BY EAR 2012

“Trust Betrayed – A Story of Sexual Violence in Africa”

EPISODE 1: “Innocence”

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List of characters by scene:

SCENE ONE: PATO AND SEREFA AT MR. MANENO'S OFFICE

- **Pato (f, 16)**
- **Serefa (f, 40)**
- **Mr. Maneno (m, 45)**
- **Narrator (m/f, around 30)**

SCENE TWO: NURU AND JENA AT A DISTANT WATERHOLE

- **Nuru (f, 30)**
- **Jena (f, 25)**
- **Narrator (m/f, around 30)**

SCENE THREE: ALLAN, PRECIOUS AND JOE IN CAFETERIA

- **Allan (m, 10)**
- **Precious (f, 30)**
- **Joe (m, 45)**
- **Narrator (m/f, around 30)**

SCENE FOUR: NURU AT THE WATERHOLE

- **Nuru (f, 30)**
- **4-5 rebels (m, 15-50)**
- **Narrator (m/f, around 30)**

INTRO:

Greetings and a warm welcome to a new series of ‘Learning by Ear’. Stay with us for the next ten episodes of our new story, called “**Trust Betrayed**”. It’s about a very hard topic that affects every country in the world: sexual violence. Sexual violence means any sexual activity where consent or permission is not given, or is not given freely. As we will hear in the course of this series, this is not only an issue in war-torn areas; it’s something that can happen anywhere. We’ll get to know three characters who live in a country called Baruti: Pato, a sixteen-year-old girl at a mixed boarding school; Allan, a young boy aged ten who is being raised by a stepfather he calls Uncle Joe; and lastly Nuru, a woman who lives near a forest where rebels are hiding out. All of them will find themselves sexually abused or assaulted, and will have to try and cope with the painful consequences. Later, though, we’ll also meet Judy, who works for an organisation called ‘Stand Up to Sexual Violence’. This is the first episode, called ‘**Innocence**’. We begin our story with Pato, who’s about to start at a mixed boarding school. Her mother Serefa has brought her to the office of the boarding master, Mr. Maneno.

SCENE ONE: PATO AND HER MOTHER IN MR. MANENO'S OFFICE

1. **MANENO:** Welcome to Kilindi High School! Your name is Pato Serefa, right?

2. **PATO:** Yes, sir, my name is Pato Serefa.

3. **MANENO:** Please could you open your suitcase? I would like to see what you have brought with you.

4. **SEREF A:** (shocked) What?! Excuse me, Mr....
5. **MANENO:** (calmly) Maneno.
6. **SEREF A:** Mr. Maneno, I find this rather inappropriate. My daughter’s sixteen years old. Isn’t she entitled to some privacy? I mean, she’ll soon be an adult!
7. **MANENO:** Madam, this is nothing unusual. I just need to check that she doesn't bring in anything that isn't allowed here. It's normal school procedure. Every boy and girl who comes to Kilindi boarding school has to go through this inspection. Now, you can either agree to follow the rules, or you can take your daughter to another school. It's as simple as that.
8. **SEREF A:** Pato, go ahead and open your suitcase... But does she have to show everything in the bag?
9. **SFX: SUITCASE BEING OPENED**
10. **MANENO:** Well, normally I would make a thorough inspection of everything she’s brought with her, yes. But I tell you what: this time I’ll make an exception. You can close the suitcase again. My instincts tell me you’re a good girl who can be trusted.
11. **SFX: SUITCASE BEING CLOSED**
12. **PATO:** Thank you, Mr. Maneno.

KW BEGIN

- 13. SEREFA:** Pato is a *very* good girl! She is not only an excellent student, she’s also a very fast runner... Please make sure she joins the athletics team.
- 14. PATO:** **(embarrassed)** Mum... I’m not that good. I like running, but not in competitions.
- 15. MANENO:** Our school is the best in the country when it comes to athletics. We’re always happy to have some new blood on the team. Right, Pato - let me show you where you’ll sleep.
- 16. SEREFA:** **(interrupts)** Erm... Mr. Maneno, before you go, I just have one question that’s been bothering me... Tell me, how safe is my daughter? With all the boys around, I mean. This is a mixed boarding school, after all - should I be concerned?
- 17. MANENO:** Madam, you are one of many parents who ask the same question. But you have nothing to worry about. Yes, this is a boarding school for both girls and boys, but they’re separated by a fence. And there’s a guard who keeps watch at night to make sure no one can sneak in. I can assure you that your daughter’s in safe hands.

18. **SERFEA** Oh good - that is a relief.

KW END

19. **MANENO:** Pato, follow me. I'll take you to your dormitory.

20. **PATO:** **(as she hugs and kisses her mum)** Goodbye,
Mother. I'll write to you soon.

21. **SERFEA:** Goodbye, my dear Pato. I'll see you very soon. Be
a good girl, won't you!?

NARRATOR: Serefa has left her daughter Pato in the care of Mr. Maneno, the boarding master. But do you think it's wise to have girls and boys living alongside each other in the same boarding school? And can you always trust the teachers? For now, though, let's leave Pato to settle in, and go and meet Nuru and Jena. These two married women have been friends since they were children. They live in a part of the country Baruti that's often attacked by rebels. Jena has a little baby, and Nuru is five months pregnant. The two of them have just walked a long way to the waterhole to fetch water.

SCENE TWO: NURU AND JENA AT THE WATERHOLE

22. **SFX: FOREST AMB**

23. **SFX: SOUND OF WATER POURING INTO A BUCKET**

24. **NURU:** So how’s your little Chambo, Jena? Is he feeling better now?

25. **JENA:** Nuru, Chambo is as strong as an elephant. I left him playing with his father. How about you? Is everything all right with the baby?

26. **NURU:** **(tired)** I’m fine - just a little tired. Oh Jena, I can't wait for the baby to arrive. Dulu is really looking forward to being a father. He wants us to have a girl... but I think it’s a boy.

27. **JENA:** Your husband wants a daughter rather than a son?

28. **NURU:** **(sarcastic)** Yes... Is there something wrong with that?

29. **JENA:** **(with emphasis)** Something wrong? Of course there’s something wrong with that! African men always want to have boys. That Dulu of yours! I think he’s too westernized.

30. NURU: No; I think he just realizes that it really doesn't matter whether it's a boy or a girl - the important thing is that it will be our child. Can you pour the water please? The bucket's full.

31. SFX: WATER BEING Poured INTO A JERRY CAN

32. JENA: Nuru... I'm afraid can't wait for you today. I have to take some water to my sick aunt. She lives down there, so we can't go back together today. I'm sorry - I forgot to tell you.

33. NURU: **(scared)** No...! Please, Jena... You can't leave me alone here. It's too dangerous!

34. JENA: Hey, relax! Nothing's going to happen to you. You'll be fine. I'll come by your hut tomorrow morning, and we'll come and fetch water together as usual. Bye, Nuru... Say hi to your husband Dulu from me.

(Jena acts out carrying a heavy jerrycan of water on back)

35. NURU: Okay... Say hi to your aunt as well.

36. SFX: JENA WALKING AWAY, singing under her breath

37. NURU: **(whispers)** I have to hurry... I don't like being here alone. The rebels hide out in the forest just over there...

38. SFX: WATER BEING HURRIEDLY POURED INTO CONTAINER

39. NARRATOR: Nuru is clearly terrified, but what of? Is she right to be afraid? Stay with us to find out. But first let's go to another part of the country where ten-year-old Allan is sitting silently in a café, sipping a soft drink. He's with his mother, Precious, who's a single parent. Precious has brought along a man Allan hasn't seen before. Who is this stranger?

40. SCENE THREE: ALLAN AND HIS MOTHER IN CAFE WITH JOE

41. SFX: CAFE ATMO

42. PRECIOUS: Allan, there's someone I want you to meet...

43. SFX: DREGS OF SOFT DRINK BEING SLURPED THROUGH STRAW

44. PRECIOUS: **(shouts)** Allan, stop that! Hey, this boy! He's got no manners at all. Now listen. This here is Uncle Joe. Say hello to him.

45. ALLAN: **(disinterested)** Hmm?

46. PRECIOUS: Say hello to Uncle Joe!

47. ALLAN: Hello. - What happened to the other uncle?

48. **PRECIOUS:** (embarrassed) Which...?... Erm... I... I don't ...

49. **JOE:** The other uncle is gone.

50. **ALLAN:** I liked him more than all the others.

51. **PRECIOUS:** (at a loss for words) You... Er... Allan, I'm sure you'll like Uncle Joe too.

52. **JOE:** Here, Allan, why don't you go and get yourself another soda?

53. **SFX: COINS IN HAND**

54. **PRECIOUS:** What do you say?

55. **ALLAN:** (bored) Thank you.

56. **SFX: CHAIR MOVES, ALLAN LEAVES**

57. **PRECIOUS:** Joe, I'm sorry. I am so sorry about that. I hope you're not offended.

58. **JOE:** No, not at all. I think he's an honest boy, and that's a good start. But don't you think it would be better to tell him the truth? I'm not really his uncle. I'm going to be his stepfather.

59. PRECIOUS: No, no, I think it's better to wait... We'll tell him later, when he's got to know you a bit. Thanks for understanding. I hope you two will get along well.

60. JOE: **(charmingly)** Oh, you don't have to worry about that, Precious. I have a way with kids.

61. NARRATOR: Joe's reassuring words are exactly what Precious wants to hear. But is she right to trust Joe so quickly and easily? We'll soon find out... But now let's go back to Nuru, who's just finished filling her container at the well.

62. SCENE FOUR: NURU AT THE WATERHOLE

63. NURU: Okay, the container's full. Quickly now - I need to hurry home before...

64. SFX: PICK-UP VAN APPROACHING ON ROUGH ROAD

65. NURU: **(scared stiff)** Oh no! Please let it not be them... Let it not be the rebels!

66. SFX: AUTOMATIC WEAPON - GUN SHOTS

67. SFX: NURU RUNNING

68. NURU: **(spurring herself on)** Run Nuru! Run!... No - no, they'll see me... What if they shoot me? Hide - quick - where can I hide - ??!

69. SFX: NURU DIVES INTO WATERHOLE

70. NURU: Please God, don't let them come for water. Please, let them just drive by...

71. SFX: PICK-UP VAN COMES TO A HALT. DOORS OPEN

72. (mean laughter from couple of men)

73. NURU: Oh no...!

OUTRO:

And so we leave Nuru, hiding in the waterhole, at the end of this first episode in our ‘Learning by Ear’ radio drama. The series is called ‘Trust Betrayed’, and it focuses on sexual violence in Africa. Will Nuru manage to escape the rebels? What will happen to Pato at her new boarding school? And how will Uncle Joe get along with little Allan? For all this and more, don't forget to tune in next time. If you'd like to listen to this episode again, or send us comments or feedback, you can visit our webpage at dw.de/lbe or join our page on Facebook. Until then, goodbye.