

LEARNING BY EAR

**“THE UNWELCOME EVENING GUESTS - ONE FAMILY’S FIGHT
AGAINST MALARIA”**

EPISODE FOUR: "IF SYMPTOMS PERSIST..."

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SCENE ONE: LAKESIDE, MASIKA FISHING.

List of characters:

- MASIKA (m, 40)
- BETTINA (f, 34)
- ZAWADI (INFANT, no actor)
- KAREMBO (f, 14)
- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

SCENE TWO: MASIKA AT MAMA DAVID’S HOUSE

List of characters:

- MASIKA (m, 40)
- MAMA DAVID (f, 43)
- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

SCENE THREE: AT KAREMBO’S SCHOOL, H/TEACHER IN CLASS

List of characters:

- DAVID (m, 14)

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- H/TEACHER (f, 34)
- KAREMBOS CLASS (14+)
- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

SCENE FOUR: AROUND THE TABLE AT MASIKAS HOME

List of characters:

- MAMA DAVID (f, 43)
- BETTINA (f, 34)
- ZAWADI (INFANT, no actor)
- DAVID (m, 14)
- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

INTRO/NARRATOR (same voice)

Hello and welcome everyone, welcome to ‘**Learning by Ear**’ and the fourth episode of our radio drama: “The Unwelcome Evening Guests - a family’s fight against malaria”

In the previous episode, Karemba developed a high fever prompting Bettina, her mother, to seek advice from their neighbour, Mama David, who is very much against modern medicine. At the same time her father, Masika, made off with the new mosquito net and used it to go fishing, exposing little Zawadi to the malaria-transmitting mosquitoes found in their area. Will Karemba’s fever get better or worse by staying warmly tucked up in bed after taking chloroquine? Let’s find out now in today’s episode entitled "**IF SYMPTOMS PERSIST**".

MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE ONE: LAKESIDE, MASIKA FISHING.

A-SFX: FEET MOVING IN WATER

1. MASIKA: (PULLING NET)

My oh my! Is this net magnetic or what? I’ve never caught so many fish in my life...but many of them look soooo small. Oh well, fish are fish whether they are big, small, round, square, silver or yellow. And now’s time to go and sell them; and then I can go home to see how my son and daughter are getting on.

2. B-SFX: FEET SPLASHING THROUGH LAKEWATER

(AT MASIKAS HOME)

3. C-SFX: SOUND OF BABY CRYING/ZAWADI.

4. BETTINA: (TRYING TO CALM BABY ZAWADI)

Sssssh... Zawadi... sssssh. Stop crying, now what is wrong? What's happening in my house? Everyone seems to be getting sick and I'm getting sick of it!

5. D-SFX: DOOR OPENS, FOOTSEPS

6. BETTINA: Karemba! How are you feeling my daughter? Do you need something?

7. KAREMBO: (WEAK SICKLY VOICE)

No, Mum... I couldn't sleep last night; I shivered and trembled all night. And, of course, Zawadi kept crying too, what's wrong with him?

8. BETTINA: I don't know, he just started to cry all night. He doesn't want my milk, and feels warm on his forehead.

9. KAREMBO: Ooh, I feel so weak... and dizzy.

10. BETTINA: That's because you have hardly eaten anything. And you were sick... but Mama David said you'll feel better again soon.

- 11. KAREMBO:** Mama David? Since when did she become a doctor? And how can she say that without even having seen or examined me?
- 12. BETTINA:** She is... she knows a lot. She has experience. You see, your temperature has gone down a bit, right?
- 13. E-SFX: BABY CRYs AGAIN.**
- 14. BETTINA:** HUUUSH my baby, stop crying... Karembu... go and take a bath, I'll make some food for you.
- 15. F-SFX: DOOR OPENS, CLOSES**

NARRATOR: As with any illness, if symptoms persist, seek medical attention, and then you have a better chance to recover. Especially with malaria, due to the fact that it can progress very quickly and if it is not treated promptly and effectively with the correct medicine, it can lead to kidney failure, coma and even death. However, if it is treated promptly, within two days of the beginning of fever, malaria need never be fatal. Let's join Masika as he delivers his fish to Mama David.

SCENE TWO: MASIKA AT MAMA DAVID'S HOUSE

- 16. G-SFX: DOOR BEING KNOCKED.**
- 17. MASIKA:** Hello Mama David... fresh fish for you... straight from the lake into my net and now heading into your frying pan...

(CHUCKLES LIGHTLY)

18. MAMA DAVID: Oh, come in Masika, come in...

19. MASIKA: **(SHY)**

I don't think that's a very good idea. I mean uh... you know, we shouldn't give the neighbours any reason to gossip.

20. MAMA DAVID: **(NOW SHE LAUGHS)**

That's right... well, suit yourself. So, let me see... what have you got for me?

21. H-SFX: BASKET BEING OPENED

22. MAMA DAVID: **(SHOCKED)**

Hey! These are tiny, little fish. Where are their parents? **(LAUGHS MORE)**

23. MASIKA: **(GETTING IMPATIENT AND AGITATED)**

Look, are you going to buy or just sit there and admire them! I'm sorry but I have a sick daughter and have to rush home and see how she's doing.

24. MAMA DAVID: I was only joking... it's still too early to be so angry.

25. MASIKA: No! Not when you got a sick girl, a son who cried all night and not enough time to sell your fish because you have to take care of them.

- 26. MAMA DAVID:** You mean Karemba is still sick? Didn't she go to school?
- 27. MASIKA:** It's been almost a week now, I gave her some malaria tablets but I don't know. She just gets weaker and weaker.
- 28. MAMA DAVID:** I need to come with you, I promised Bettina I would stop by. So, I'll buy some of your fish and then come with you to your place.
- 29. MASIKA:** So, which ones do you want?
- 30. I-SFX: BASKET/PLASTIC BAG BEING OPENED**
- 31. MAMA DAVID: (SELECTING)**
This one, this one here...and that one...oh and... no, this one has an ugly mouth... yes, that one too. That'll be enough.
- 32. J-SFX: SOMETHING BEING WRAPPED IN PAPER.**
- 33. MASIKA:** That will be 20... but since you lent us kerosene the other day, I'll make it five less... just give me 15.
- 34. MAMA DAVID:** All right. I'll get the money and then we will go.
- NARRATOR:** As Masika and Mama David went to Masika's home to see

Karemba, at Karemba's school, the Headteacher was getting worried because her favourite student had not shown up for lessons for about a week.

SCENE THREE: AT KAREMBO'S SCHOOL, H/TEACHER IN CLASS

35. K-SFX: NOISY VOICES FROM YOUNG STUDENTS

36. H/TEACHER: Silence! Can anyone tell me how Karemba is? It's been a week now and I've heard nothing from her. David, you live near her. Any news?

37. DAVID: No Madam, I haven't seen her lately.

38. H/TEACHER: Now, that is strange, I thought you two always went home together?

39. L-SFX: CHEERS AND CLAPS FROM CLASS

40. H/TEACHER: Silence. Karemba didn't seem well, and all of you know that we have lost several students due to malaria. And we also have students who have been made orphans due to Malaria. It would be terrible if anything were to happen to Karemba as we prepare for final exams.

41. DAVID: I will pass by her place and see her today after classes, then, tomorrow I will bring you how she is.

- 42. H/TEACHER:** Good. In the meantime, I would advise each of you to be as the rainy season continues, and see that you don't catch malaria.
- 43. DAVID:** I always burn mosquito coils at home, but my mother doesn't like that. Is there any other way of keeping the mosquitoes away?
- 44. H/TEACHER:** I'm not an expert in these matters and I promise to invite someone soon to talk with all of you, but I know that you can spray your home with an insecticide, like the one called Pyrethrum. You should sleep under mosquito nets treated with insecticide, and make sure that they don't have any holes. If you don't have a mosquito net, always wear long sleeves and trousers especially in the evening. Spraying of DDT is not advisable, because this insecticide has dangerous side effects, especially for little children. So keep them far away from any DDT.
- 45. K-SFX: SCHOOL BELL RINGS/NOISE FROM STUDENTS**
- 46. H/TEACHER:** One more thing. If you live near a swamp or lake, or your home is surrounded by bushes and long grass, then you need to take extra care because this is where the mosquitoes like to breed. You have to cut the grass, drain away all the stagnant water and cover any water tanks.

NARRATOR: After the final bell, David flung his backpack over his shoulders and quickly set off... to Karembu's home. Meanwhile, Mama David and Bettina were already at home trying to figure out what to do next because Karembu didn't seem to be improving.

SCENE FOUR: AROUND THE TABLE AT MASIKAS HOME

47. L-SFX: VEGETABLES BEING CHOPPED ON A BOARD

48. MAMA DAVID: May I help with the onions? I hate to just sit around and watch another woman work.

49. BETTINA: Maybe you can watch Zawadi for me. He only slept for a few minutes before you arrived with my husband. He kept me busy the whole night.

50. MAMA DAVID: I told you. A new born baby must be protected from evil spirits. Otherwise, he will really suffer. I suggest you take him to Mizanja, you know, the witchdoctor. He will give him charms and protection and then you won't have to fear for anything.

51. BETTINA: **(UNSURE)**
I... I really don't know. My husband doesn't agree with that. And, besides, what spirit would want to harm an innocent child like Zawadi?

52. MAMA DAVID: Huh? Listen to yourself! Bettina, don't be naïve. There are evil spirits and evil eyes everywhere so

if you want to lose your kid, that's up to you, but I'm telling you now, take Zawadi and Karemba to Mizanja.

- 53. BETTINA: (SHOCKED)**
What? Karemba, too? No! She's grown up and she's... eh... educated. She won't go.
- 54. MAMA DAVID:** She doesn't have to know where you are going until you get there. Listen, your home is under attack. If you wait much longer, it might be too late. I saw Karemba and she doesn't look well at all.
- 55. BETTINA: (THINKING, TAKES DEEP BREATH)**
You are right. I'll do it. But I'll have to keep it from my husband.
- 56. MAMA DAVID:** Everybody has got secrets. By the way, where is he?
- 57. BETTINA:** I think he is in our room listening to the radio.
- 58. M-SFX: BABY STARTS TO CRY AGAIN**
- 59. BETTINA:** Here we go again. He's been like this since yesterday.
- 60. N-SFX: KNOCKING ON DOOR**

61. **MAMA DAVID:** Oh, are you expecting visitors?
62. **BETTINA:** Not that I'm aware of. Who is it?
63. **DAVID:** It's me, David. I'm here to see Karemba. May I come in?
64. **MAMA DAVID:** Mmmh (**WHISPERS**)
My son David?... And Karemba?
OK, I had no idea.
65. **BETTINA:** And I don't have one either, they go to school together and live near each other, that's all!
66. **MAMA DAVID:** Ok, ok... I won't say anything more. Well, aren't you going to let him in then?
67. **BETTINA:** Come in. How are you, David? How was school?
68. **DAVID:** Fine, just that I miss Karemba.
(**REALISES IT MIGHT HAVE SOUNDED AMBIGUOUS**)
I mean today at school... we learnt something that I'd like to share with Karemba. May I see her?
How is she?
69. **BETTINA:** Not so well. Excuse me and I'll go check on her and Zawadi and then come back.
70. **MAMA DAVID:** Aha! So, this is where you normally stop off before you come home?

71. DAVID: Mum, let's not start...

72. O-SFX: SOUNDS OF MOSQUITOES BUZZING AROUND

NARRATOR: And there we end our fourth episode . Will David share his knowledge about how to fight against the mosquitoes? Will Bettina manage to outwit her husband and take the children to the village witchdoctor? To find out more, please join us in a week's time for the next episode in our story **"The unwelcome evening guests" all about one family's fight against malaria.** To listen to this episode again or send in your comments please visit our website at: dw-world.de/lbe
Until next time, good-bye!

(END)