

LEARNING BY EAR

“Africa’s physically challenged people”

EPISODE 2: "I am sorry..."

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Narrator

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- Chitoto (m, 19)

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- Kangwa (f, 18)
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- Oluanda (m, 18)
- Tofa (f, 40)

INTRO:

I greet and welcome you warmly to another episode of Learning by Ear. We are on the second episode of our new radio drama entitled, **“Africa’s physically challenged people”**. In our first episode, Oluanda fell from a tree and then his leg was run over by a racing car. This happened after he lied to his mother, Tofa, telling her that he was going to his classmate Chitoto’s house to fetch his history book. We also got a glimpse of how his friend Karemi and his sister Zabibu, who is an albino, live with their aging grandmother Theresa. We left the story in the evening at Fagilio’s house as Tofa stood right in front of Chitoto and his father, demanding to know the whereabouts of her son, Oluanda.

Sit back, relax, listen and learn in today’s episode that contains three of the most difficult words to say: **“I am sorry”**.

SCENE ONE: EVENING AT FAGILIO'S HOUSE

1. **ATMO:** **EVENING AMBIENCE / MOSQUITOES, CRICKETS etc.**
2. **TOFA:** **(agitated)** Chitoto! Are you going to tell me where my son is or just stand there gaping like a shocked bush baby!
3. **FAGILIO:** Tofa! That is enough! My son has no idea where Oluanda is. I wouldn't worry about him anyway if I were you. He is a grown up, he is probably out with a girl somewhere.
4. **TOFA:** **(cuts Fagilio short)** I want to know where he is! And for your information, Fagilio: There is a big difference between Oluanda and Chitoto, Oluanda has never lied to me. Chitoto, start talking.
5. **CHITOTO:** **(Scared voice)** I.. I.. I don't know where Oluanda is. The last time I saw him was after class. Maybe he is with Karemi or Magoto. I heard them talking about going to see the safari rally.
6. **FAGILIO:** There, you have it! Now please vacate my homestead. And next time you come, bring me something to drink.

- 7. SFX:** **TOFA'S FOOTSTEPS GOING AWAY,
WOODEN DOOR WITH HINGES CLOSED**
- 8. TOFA:** **(Nervously talking to herself)** So, Oluanda wants to make a fool of me. Okay, we will see who has the last laugh. I know where Karemi and his sister live. Oluanda has no idea what kind of the trouble awaits him.
- 9. SFX:** **HURRIED FOOTSTEPS ON DUSTY RUGGED
PATH**
- 10. NARRATOR:** Angry, nervous and worried, Tofa hurriedly left Fagilio's house and headed straight to Karemi's house. A sudden panic had slowly started gripping her, but she was not aware of what still lay ahead. Beside the great baobab tree Oluanda still lay unconscious until Porojo, the village traditional healer, who was picking herbs and putting them in his wheelbarrow, accidentally saw him.

SCENE TWO: EVENING BY THE BAOBAB TREE

- 11. ATMO:** **OUTSIDE AMBIENCE, BIRDS; CRICKETS;
WIND IN THE TREES; WHEELBARROW
BEING PUSHED**
- 12. POROJO:** **(Surprised)** Father of my fathers! What is the meaning of this? Boy, wake up! You must live, wake up boy!

- 13. SFX:** **GENTLE TAP ON FACE SEVERAL TIMES**
- 14. OLUANDA:** **(In agony)** Arrrgh!... Where am I? Oh my leg, I can’t move it... it hurts so badly.
- 15. POROJO:** Oh yes, your left leg is badly crushed. How long have you been lying here? Can you remember what happened?
- 16. OLUANDA:** **(In agony)** Please help me, take me to my mother. Do something please, take this pain away!
- 17. POROJO:** Don’t worry son, I am a traditional healer and my name is Porojo. Your leg is terribly injured, so first I’ll try to make your leg stable, with some flat sticks and a piece of cloth to tie them to your leg and hold it steady. My shawl will do.
- 18. SFX:** **BREAKING OF STICKS AND TEARING OF OLD MATERIAL.**
- 19. POROJO:** This will hurt a bit, so bite your teeth hard!
- 20. NARRATOR:** And as Porojo administered first aid, which was long overdue, to secure Oluanda’s heavily injured leg, Tofa, Oluanda’s mother, and Karemi were approaching the baobab tree, and with an oil lamp in hand, Tofa was the first to see her beloved son being attended to by Porojo.

- 21. TOFA:** **(Shouts)** Hey! Get away from my son! Who do you think... My goodness! Oluanda what happened to you? **(tearful voice)**
- 22. OLUANDA:** Mama, mama, I'm sorry. Please forgive me. I am so sorry.
- 23. POROJO:** Madam, your son is badly hurt, I found him lying here unconscious and I think you had better rush him to hospital. I can't do more than I have.
- 24. TOFA:** It's okay son, everything will be fine. Just be strong. How do we get to the hospital now without transport, he is not able to walk.
- 25. POROJO:** Well, you can use my wheelbarrow. I will just leave my herbs here until tomorrow. If you wish I can accompany you to the hospital as well.
- 26. TOFA:** No, thank you. You have been helpful enough. Karemi please help me to lift Oluanda into the wheelbarrow.
- 27. POROJO:** Be careful not to move the leg. Let me help.
- (They act out lifting Oluanda)**
- 28. SFX:** **Boys body being lifted and put down**

29. POROJO: The emergency unit is always open 24 hours so they should be able to help. May the spirits of our ancestors guide you.

30. KAREMI: Oluanda I am sorry, mama Oluanda I can explain everything to you on the way. But it’s better we leave now.

31. TOFA: Yes, I will lead the way since I have the lamp. And Karemi I want to know every detail.

32. SFX: **WHEELBARROW BEING PUSHED**

33. NARRATOR: They walked carefully with Oluanda as Karemi explained to Tofa the whole saga about the bet and the rally. Finally they reached the hospital and once there, Oluanda was quickly taken in for an x-ray. Later, after what seemed like eternity to Tofa, Doctor Esther, who was in charge of emergency that night, came out of the examination room.

SCENE THREE: EMERGENCY UNIT AT THE HOSPITAL

34. ATMO: **HOSPITAL AMBIENCE**

35. DR. ESTHER: I am Dr. Esther, and I...

36. TOFA: How is my son? What is his condition?

- 37. DR. ESTHER:** Ehhm....I'm sorry, but it doesn't look good. His leg was smashed so badly. He told me it was a hit-and-run race car driver. Unfortunately it seems like he can not use it again...
- 38. TOFA:** Wait a minute, Doctor - what are you saying?
- 39. DR. ESTHER:** You have to be strong now and support your son, we have to amputate the leg, the x-ray photos have shown that there is no other solution.
- 40. TOFA:** Amputate? You mean like cut off his leg? No! No way! My son needs that leg. What is wrong with you? How can you even think of doing such a thing?
- 41. DR. ESTHER:** It is the only solution madam; there is nothing else we could do. We need to act now. I need your consent before we can proceed.
- 42. TOFA:** Can I at least talk to him? **(in tears)**
- 43. DR. ESTHER:** He is under sedatives so he can't respond. I know that this is a hard decision to make. But it is vital for your son's survival.
- 44. TOFA:** What happens next? After he wakes up and sees that he has no left leg? How do I explain that to him? My boy will become a cripple. Oh no, why is this happening to me, to my son?

45. DR. ESTHER: Your son will definitely face a new challenge, that of movement. But there is no reason why he should not have a normal life like before. So should we proceed or not? If yes, please sign the forms here and hand them to the duty nurse. I have to check in on him and other patients.

46. SFX: **SHUFFLING OF PAPERS, PEN SCRIBBLING**

47. TOFA: Doctor wait, **(pause)** please go ahead. God forgive me.

48. DR. ESTHER: This isn't your fault; you are doing what is best for him at this time. He will understand.

49. NARRATOR: And with that signature of consent, Tofa had given permission to the surgeons to amputate Oluanda's heavily injured leg. It was a difficult operation, but after a few hours Oluanda was taken to the recovery ward under the watchful tear filled eyes of his mother. The next morning in Oluanda's classroom, Mrs. Nina the class teacher was about to begin her lesson.

SCENE FOUR: AT OLUANDA'S CLASSROOM

50. ATMO: **NOISY CLASSROOM DISCUSSING ABOUT OLUANDA'S ACCIDENT**

- 51. MRS. NINA:** Good morning class!
- 52. CLASS:** Good morning madam Nina.
- 53. MRS. NINA:** Where is Oluanda? He rarely misses school. Chitoto, you, Karemi and Magoto are his friends do you know why he is absent?
- 54. KAREMI:** Teacher, Oluanda is in hospital. He had a very bad accident yesterday after he fell from the baobab tree. His mother and I took him to hospital yesterday.
- 55. MRS.NINA:** That is terrible. But it is a lesson for all of you. Don't think you can outsmart monkeys. They were born to climb trees. You weren't!
- 56. KANGWA:** Well, madam what we have heard so far is that, Chitoto here...
- 57. CHITOTO:** Kangwa shut up! You don't know anything.
- 58. MRS. NINA:** Eh, eh stop it, Chitoto another word from you and you will be out of this class! Let's hope Oluanda recovers quickly and resumes school. Now turn to page... **(voice fades out)**
- 59. NARRATOR:** The news about Oluanda's accident spread like wildfire in Maganye but little did they know that by then Oluanda was in a hospital bed awakening to a shocking reality he had neither prepared for nor anticipated.

SCENE FIVE: RECOVERY HOSPITAL WARD

60. **SFX:** **HOSPITAL AMBIENCE**
61. **OLUANDA:** **(Sleepy voice)** Mmmh
62. **TOFA:** Ssssh, Oluanda. My son. I am sorry. I am so sorry.
63. **OLUANDA:** Mum what...nooooo! **(painfully)** please... noooooo!
64. **TOFA:** They had to... son, they had to do it. I know it’s painful, but they had to cut it off, your leg was badly injured after that car accident. How come you never told me? But don’t worry, I will take care of you. I promise you I will.

OUTRO:

With those reassuring words coming out of a devastated mother, seated next to a leg-amputated son, we wind up the second episode of our radio drama entitled “**Africa’s physically challenged people**”. What awaits Oluanda as he begins a mobility-challenged life? How will his friends, his school and even the society treat him now? For this answer and more tune in next time. And if you’d like to share your opinion, comments and suggestions or even personal experiences about the physically challenged people in your country, please log on to: www.dw-world.de/lbe. We love to hear from you. Until next time, goodbye and take care!