

**LEARNING BY EAR 2011**

**“The Promised Land - A Story of African Migration to Europe”**

**EPIISODE SEVEN: “Survival in the Concrete Jungle”**

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**List of characters by scene:**

**SCENE ONE: LINDA AND FLORENCE AT A SHOPPING CENTRE**

- Linda (f, 20)
- Florence (f, 35)

**SCENE TWO: MR. MARAGA RETURNS HOME AFTER BEING LAID OFF  
WORK**

- Mr. Maraga (m, 60)
- Mrs. Maraga (f, 55)

## **SCENE THREE: LINDA AND FLORENCE AT A FAST FOOD RESTAURANT**

- **Linda (f, 20)**
- **Florence (f, 35)**

### **INTRO:**

Hello and welcome to Learning by Ear. We are on the seventh episode of this radio drama called “**The Promised Land - A Story of African Migrants in Europe**”. In the last episode Sule was shocked to see his friend Farahani on a news report about illegal migrants who were intercepted at sea by European border guards and sent back home. Meanwhile, Linda has been in Europe for four months now, and the reality of studying and living there is beginning to dawn. She chatted online with her fiancé Chivasi, but lied to him about how difficult she was finding things. Finally, Linda called Florence, a lady she met on the plane on her way to Europe. Florence has offered to help Linda find a solution to her money problems. So what’s in store for us today? Keep listening to today's episode, called “**Survival in the Concrete Jungle**”. We begin with Linda and Florence, who are meeting outside a shopping centre where they’re going to buy Linda some warm winter clothes.

## **SCENE ONE: LINDA AND FLORENCE OUTSIDE A SHOPPING CENTRE**

**1. SFX: Atmo street**

**2. LINDA:** Flo, I don't know what to say. Thank you so much for meeting me at such short notice. It's so kind of you. I've almost been going crazy - all I seem to do is study all the time. I've been feeling so lonely...

**3. FLORENCE:** Linda, it's not a problem. A girl like you needs to have fun once in a while. Shall we go in?

**4. SFX: HUGE SLIDING DOORS OPEN / ATMO SHOPPING CENTRE**

**5. LINDA:** **(awed by size of mall and range of products)**  
Wow! This place is absolutely amazing! So many shops all together in one big building - and so many beautiful things... This is the kind of stuff you see in fashion magazines, isn't it?

**6. FLORENCE:** **(happily)** Haha - you're so funny. Okay, let's go and make you into a European African lady.

**7. LINDA:** Florence, may I ask you a question? A rather personal one?

**8. FLORENCE:** Sure, go ahead.

- 9. LINDA:** How did you end up here? In Europe? Did you come to study? Or work? You seem to be doing really well. I'm quite envious.
- 10. FLORENCE:** Okay, Linda. First of all, never ask a migrant, especially from Africa, how they ended up here. It's taboo. Secondly, you don't need to envy me - you can have what I have, too. But you have to be patient, and you have to make some sacrifices.
- 11. LINDA:** **(curious)** Really? You mean I can have a car like yours? Clothes like yours? And wear nice jewellery like yours? In that case, I need to find a job like yours!
- 12. FLORENCE:** **(embarrassed)** Mmm... well, something like that. You're too young, though, really - I think it's better we leave it for now.
- 13. LINDA:** I am not too young! Otherwise I wouldn't be here in Europe. I'll turn twenty-one soon - I'm quite old enough to make my own decisions. What sacrifices would I have to make?

- 14. FLORENCE:** Linda - people think that you only find jungles in Africa, Asia and South America. But Europe is a jungle too. The difference is that this is a concrete jungle, but the rule of the jungle is the same wherever you are: survival of the fittest! We migrants need to do much more than the natives just in order to survive... Hey, do you like this dress?
- 15. LINDA:** **(excited)** Yes, it's beautiful. But I ...
- 16. FLORENCE:** Go and try it on. If it fits, I'll buy it for you.
- 17. LINDA:** **(disbelief)** You're not for real! Flo, thank you - I've never had a friend like you..
- 18. NARRATOR:** Florence is almost too generous and kind to be true, don't you think? After all, she hardly knows Linda. What can she really want from her? Linda tries on dress after dress, shoe after shoe, coat after coat - and Florence says she's happy to pay the bill. But as Linda is piling up her purchases at the shopping centre, her parents have been given some dreadful news. Let's join them as they arrive home from work.

## **SCENE TWO: THE MARAGAS RETURN HOME AFTER BEING LAID OFF**

### **19. SFX: DOG BARKING LIGHTLY**

**20. MR. MARAGA:** (angrily) Shut up, you stupid dog! You have no idea what we've just been through.

**21. MRS. MARAGA:** Hey, come on. The dog had nothing to do with us being laid off. Don't put the blame on him.

### **22. SFX: METAL DOOR BEING LOCKED**

**23. MR. MARAGA** (bitterly) Thirty years - thirty years we've been civil servants, working our fingers to the bone. Then all of a sudden we're told there's no work for us? It isn't fair, mama Linda.

**24. MRS. MARAGA:** You heard the director. He said this is happening all over the world. People everywhere are losing their jobs. Come on, darling, don't worry. We'll manage.

**25. MR. MARAGA:** (still bitter) How will we manage? Why is it always the little people who have to carry the burden? We didn't deserve this. No, my wife. We deserved better.

- 26. MRS. MARAGA:** Sit down, darling. I'll make you a nice cup of tea, and you'll soon feel better.
- 27. MR. MARAGA:** **(with rage)** I don't want a cup of tea! Why would a cup of tea make me feel better? I want my job back!
- 28. MRS. MARAGA:** Darling, I know this isn't easy for you. It's hard for me too. But you aren't going to make it any easier by getting angry with me and the dog. Let's talk it over and see where we can go from here. Would you like me to tell Linda what's happened?
- 29. MR. MARAGA:** Brenda, have you lost your mind? What do you want to tell Linda? That both her parents are now jobless, and will soon be homeless as well? You know that our daughter is trying to concentrate on her studies. This will only make her worry. She doesn't even know yet that we can't pay her fees for the rest of the course. No! You will tell her none of this!
- 30. MRS. MARAGA:** **(calmly)** Maraga, my dear husband, I'm afraid you're not thinking straight. Linda is our daughter. She's the only child we have. And so she needs to know what the situation is here at home. I think she's mature enough to cope with the news - and maybe... well, she might even be able to help us.

**31. MR. MARAGA:** (curious) Help us? How?

**32. MRS. MARAGA:** Financially, of course. I hear that most African students living in Europe find jobs they can do in their free time. Why shouldn't Linda do the same? It's obvious that we're going to need some financial assistance. There'll be no salary coming in, and we've spent all our savings on her studies.

**33. MR. MARAGA:** (thoughtful) Mmm... So she can work while she continues to study?

**34. MRS. MARAGA:** Yes. That's what I just said.

**35. MR. MARAGA:** (irritated) I know you did! Why didn't you tell me about this earlier? Does Linda know she can do this?

**36. MRS. MARAGA:** If she didn't know before she went, I'm sure she does now. In fact, I'd be surprised if she hasn't already found a job, in the university canteen or something.

**37. MR. MARAGA:** (fondly) Yes, you're right. Linda does love cooking. You know what, Mama Linda, that cup of tea is beginning to sound like a good idea after all.

**38. MRS. MARAGA: (jokingly)** I always have good ideas. I’ll be right back.

**39. NARRATOR:** Ask anyone who’s lost their job, and they’ll tell you It it’s not only a financial blow but also psychologically devastating. Luckily for them - or so they think - they have a daughter in Europe who can send them money once in a while. Back at the shopping centre, Florence has just finished paying for Linda’s goodies, and now they’re sitting in a fast food restaurant having a meal.

### **SCENE THREE: LINDA AND FLORENCE IN A FAST FOOD RESTAURANT**

#### **40. SFX: FAST FOOD RESTAURANT ATMO**

- 41. LINDA:**                   **(enjoying)** This chicken is yummy! Flo, this is the most fun I've had since I arrived in Europe. I'd like to live just like you. I'm ready to do whatever it takes.
- 42. FLORENCE:**           Are you sure, Linda? You know, once you decide, there's no turning back.
- 43. LINDA:**                   Nice dresses, fancy shoes, warm winter coats, and a tasty meal. What's there to turn back to?  
**(impatient)** Tell me, what do I have to do?
- 44. FLORENCE:**           What about your boyfriend?
- 45. LINDA:**                   Who? Chivasi? What about him?
- 46. FLORENCE:**           Yes - where does he come into your plans?
- 47. LINDA:**                   **(short silence)** Well... erm... he doesn't. I mean, I still love him, of course, but I have to think about my life here right now. He has his own life back home.
- 48. FLORENCE:**           Were you planning to get married?

- 49. LINDA:**                   **(surprised)** As a matter of fact, yes, we are! After I finish with my studies. But for now, I want to enjoy my time here and live like all the other students.
- 50. FLORENCE:**           Can you keep a secret, Linda?
- 51. LINDA:**                   Of course I can.
- 52. FLORENCE:**           I mean a real secret. From everyone. Everyone you know and trust.
- 53. LINDA:**                   **(suspicious)** Even my parents?
- 54. FLORENCE:**           Especially your parents. And Chivasi, too.
- 55. LINDA:**                   **(bit nervous)** Okay... I’m getting a bit nervous now. What is this secret? Do you deal in drugs?
- 56. FLORENCE:**           No! No, no! Do look like someone who’s into drugs?
- 57. LINDA:**                   No, but before I came here I was warned that drugs are a major problem here in Europe. Even with some of the people at my university.
- 58. FLORENCE:**           No, Linda, I don't do drugs and I don't deal in them either.

**59. LINDA:** So what can it be then? ...Is it prostitution?

**(PAUSE)**

**60. FLORENCE:** ...If I said yes, what would you say?

**61. LINDA:** I would say: **(acts it)** “Florence, it was a real pleasure meeting you, and thank you for spending such a wonderful time with me. But I’m sorry - I didn’t come to Europe to sell my body for money.”

**62. FLORENCE:** You’d really say that?

**63. LINDA:** Yes. There are some things I can compromise on, but some things are against my principles - and that’s something I could never, ever do.

**64. FLORENCE:** But you said you could keep a secret? Right?

**65. LINDA:** Yes, I can. As long as it doesn’t hurt me, or those I love and care for.

**66. FLORENCE:** All right, Linda. You say you want to live a life like mine? And you’re ready to do what it takes? So here’s the deal.

**OUTRO:**

Want to know what deal Florence is going to propose, and what Linda's response will be? And what about our North African friends Farahani and Sule? Remember them? Four months have passed since Farahani nearly drowned trying to cross into Europe illegally. Are they planning another attempt? Or has Sule lost patience with Farahani and his dreams of a better life abroad? Don't miss the next episode of “**The Promised Land - A Story of African migration to Europe**”. And join us online to discuss this episode, including what African migrants have to do to be granted the right to stay in Europe, by visiting our Facebook page, [facebook.com/dw.lbe](https://www.facebook.com/dw.lbe).

You can also listen to this episode again at [dw-world.de/destinationeurope](http://dw-world.de/destinationeurope).

Until we meet again - take care and bye bye.