

## **LEARNING BY EAR 2011**

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

#### **EPISODE TEN: “Two Faces of Migration”**

**AUTHOR: Chrispin Mwakideu**

**EDITORS: Katrin Ogunsade, Klaus Dahmann**

**List of characters by scene:**

#### **SCENE ONE: LINDA HAVING SUPPER WITH PARENTS**

- Linda (f, 20)
- Mr. Maraga (m, 60)
- Mrs. Maraga (f, 55)

#### **SCENE TWO: LINDA, CHIVASI AND FRIENDS AT A LOCAL PUB**

- Linda (f, 20)
- Chivasi (m, 22)
- Dora (f, 20)
- 2-4 friends (m +f, 18-25)

### **SCENE THREE: FARAHANI CROSSES INTO EUROPE ILLEGALLY**

- **Farahani (m, 19)**
- **Frontex guard (m, 40)**
- **Human Trafficker (m, 45)**
- **3-5 migrants (mainly male, age not important)**

### **INTRO:**

Hello and welcome to Learning by Ear. This is the tenth episode of our radio drama series, “**The Promised Land - A Story of African Migration to Europe**”. We’re looking at the story of legal and illegal migration by Africans to what is seen as the “promised land”: Europe. Linda has been working illegally as a waitress in a European nightclub - a job her friend Florence got her into. Back home in Africa, Chivasi hadn’t heard from Linda in a long time and was starting to worry, so he went to her parents’ house to ask if everything was all right. While he was there, he discovered that Linda’s parents were having financial difficulties. They gave him Florence’s number to try to reach Linda, but when he called, Florence answered him rudely, told him he should forget about his fiancée, and hung up. It was a wake-up call for Linda though: she’s decided she should take a break and go home for a holiday. Meanwhile, our friends Farahani and Sule in the north of Africa had a big argument about whether to flee their country, which is troubled by political violence. Farahani has decided to make another attempt to get to Europe – leaving behind his best friend, Sule. Today’s episode, “**Two Faces of Migration**”, opens at the Maraga family home, where Linda has suddenly arrived from Europe for a surprise visit. Her parents are surprised by how much their daughter has changed; she seems like another person altogether. Let’s listen as they chat over supper.

## **SCENE ONE: LINDA HAVING SUPPER WITH PARENTS**

### **1. SFX: EVENING ATMO/ MOSQUITOES BUZZING**

- 2. LINDA:** (slaps her hand) Ah! These bloodthirsty mosquitoes!
- 3. MRS. MARAGA:** (takes a deep breath) I still can't believe my eyes! Linda, you're really here!
- 4. MR. MARAGA:** (laughs) When I opened the door and saw you standing there with all your luggage, I thought I must be dreaming. This is the best surprise of my life!
- 5. LINDA:** Dad, Mum, do you mind if I close the windows? The mosquitoes are getting in.
- 6. MRS. MARAGA:** Of course. Do whatever you like. This is your home, Linda. But tell us more about Europe: your studies, your job, your friends... You look so different!
- 7. MR. MARAGA:** Yes, you must be earning a lot of money - you're wearing such nice clothes and shoes. New mobile phone, new laptop, new wrist watch, new -

**8. MRS. MARAGA:** (cuts him short) New Linda! That's the best way to put it. A new Linda. So tell us: what have you been doing to be able to afford all this?

**9. LINDA:** Well, I'm in the service industry. And in Europe that pays well. Listen - I'm sorry, but if you don't mind I'd like to go out and meet my friends.

**10. MR. MARAGA:** (shy) Of course, of course. I realise things must seem rather different at home these days, Linda... It's since we lost our jobs. They've disconnected the electricity supply because we couldn't pay the bill. That's why we're sitting in the dark.

**11. SFX: HANDBAG BEING OPENED**

**12. LINDA:** Here - here's five hundred euros. That'll be enough for now, won't it?

**13. NARRATOR:** Linda is behaving like a rich, considerate, generous daughter. But she hasn't really explained to her parents what exactly she's doing to earn money like this. And her parents seem happy to not to ask. Later on Linda joins some of her old friends at a local pub - a place she never used to go to before. Among them are Chivasi and Linda's old school friend Dora.

**SCENE TWO: LINDA, CHIVASI AND FRIENDS AT A LOCAL PUB**

**14. SFX: LOCAL PUB ATMO WITH AFRICAN MUSIC PLAYING IN BACKGROUND**

**15. LINDA:** Oh, it's so good to be back! To see all of you. It's great that you could all come at such short notice.

**16. DORA:** You can thank Facebook for that.

**17. CHIVASI:** Yes, that was quite a surprise! I thought you must be joking when I saw your status update: “Back home for a week - let's all meet up tonight”! I thought I'd be the first to know if you were planning to come home...

**18. DORA:** Wow! Linda, you look so... so cool. I mean, I don't know what it is about Europe, but everyone who goes there seems to come back prettier, classier, and healthier.

**19. CHIVASI:** And richer, don't forget.

**LIGHT LAUGHTER AGAIN**

**20. LINDA:** Ah, well, what can I say. I have a good life there. I’m studying a subject I love, and earning good money in my part-time job. In other words, I’m having the time of my life! All the drinks and food are on me tonight, so please - eat and drink as much as you like.

**21. SFX: HUGE APPLAUSE, WHISTLES AND “WOWS” FROM CROWD**

**22. DORA:** Linda, I need to come out there and join you! Maybe you can help me find a family where I can work as a live-in au pair, or a college that offers exchange programmes.

**23. LINDA:** Dora, it's not that simple, you know - with the visa and everything...

**24. CHIVASI:** But you did it! And I must admit I never thought that after such a short time you’d be able to come back home, having earned enough to pay for your ticket. That is,.. unless somebody else paid it for you...?

**25. DORA:** Mmm... I sense some jealousy here from Chivasi!

**26. CHIVASI:** Jealousy? Me? No - I have no reason to be jealous, do I? I love Linda, and I would do anything to be with her. Even if it meant crossing the ocean.

**27. LINDA:** Really? Would you do that for me? I would be so happy if you did that. It would be wonderful to be together with you in Europe.

**28. DORA:** Okay, you two, that's enough - we came here to party, not to plan our futures! Come on, everyone - let's get up and dance.

### **LOUD REACTIONS FROM LINDA'S CROWD OF FRIENDS**

**29. NARRATOR:** As Linda and her friends dance the night away, drinking and partying at Linda's expense, back on the North African coast, Farahani has made up his mind. He and a small group of other migrants have paid a human trafficker to take them across to Europe, and they're now being tossed up and down on the stormy Mediterranean sea. They're all praying that the European border guards won't intercept their boat and send them all back. But a huge surprise is in store for them. The danger this time is much closer than they think... Listen on.

### **SCENE THREE: FARAHANI CROSSES INTO EUROPE ILLEGALLY**

#### **30. SFX: HIGH WAVES CRASHING DOWN ONTO A BOAT**

**31. SMUGGLER:** Okay. I've done my best to avoid all the border guards. We've crossed into European waters, and we're only a few kilometres from the shore. I can't go any further than this. From here on, it's up to you. You can see the coastline - over there, in the distance. All you need to do now is swim, until you reach the shore, or until they find you in the water.

#### **32. SFX: UPROAR FROM AN ANGRY GROUP OF MIGRANTS**

**33. FARAHANI:** You can't do this! We paid you for the full trip, not to take us halfway!

**34. SMUGGLER:** Get a move on! There's no time to waste. If they catch us here, we'll all be deported. Remember: don't tell them where you've come from, unless your country is a war zone. I have to go back! Decide for yourselves. It's up to you - jump in the water, or come back to Africa with me.

#### **35. SFX: PEOPLE DIVING INTO THE SEA - PANIC AND CRYING**

**36. FARAHANI:** God be with me...

**37. SFX: FARAHANI JUMPS INTO THE SEA - SWIMMING AND GASPING IN THE WATER**

**38. NARRATOR:** Farahani finds himself struggling against high waves and a current that’s trying to sweep him back out to sea. All around him he can hear the cries of his fellow migrants as they fight for their lives in the water. All he can think of is that he has to keep swimming, keep swimming until he reaches the promised land. Farahani keeps going for about two hours, longer than he ever thought possible - yet the shore seems as far away as ever. Just as his strength is finally at an end, he hears a motorboat coming closer, and a voice with a European accent calling out...

**39. FRONTEX GUARD: (via megaphone)** Grab the life jacket! Hey!  
Grab the life jacket!

**40. SFX: SHIP ENGINE REVVING IN THE SEA**

**41. FRONTEX GUARD:** Okay, pull him up! Come on, pull him up on deck.

**42. FARAHANI:** (breathing heavily) Who... who are you?

**43. FRONTEX GUARD:** We’re officers of Frontex, the agency in charge of securing the European border. You have crossed into our waters illegally. Who are you, and where do you come from?

**(silence)**

**44. FRONTEX GUARD:** Are you from Africa, Asia, or the Middle East?  
You look like an Arab to me. Am I right?

**(silence)**

**45. FRONTEX GUARD:** Are there more like you in the water?

**46. FARAHANI:** **(nodding)** Mmmh. Mmm-hmm.

**47. FRONTEX GUARD: (via megaphone)** There are more out there!  
More in the water! Keep going - take the boat  
further out! Quick - no time to lose!

#### **OUTRO:**

Farahani's dream has finally come true. Wet, cold, hungry, thirsty and exhausted, he's nonetheless managed to sneak into Europe. But what awaits him there? And what will Linda's visit home mean for her friends and family? Tune in again next time to find out. If you'd like to take part in a discussion about this episode on the different faces of migration, in Europe and in Africa, you can do so by visiting our Facebook page, [facebook.com/dw.lbe](https://www.facebook.com/dw.lbe). And to listen to this episode again, simply log on to [dw-world.de/destinationeurope](http://dw-world.de/destinationeurope). Until then, goodbye for now and take care.