

LEARNING BY EAR 2011

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

EPISODE NINE: “I Do, But Who Are You?”

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List of characters by scene:

SCENE ONE: LINDA AND CHARLES AT THE REGISTRY OFFICE

- Linda (f, 20)
- Florence (f, 35)
- Charles (m, 45)

SCENE TWO: CHIVASI PAYS LINDA MARAGA'S FAMILY A VISIT

- Chivasi (m, 22)
- Mr. Maraga (m, 60)
- Mrs. Maraga (f, 55)

SCENE THREE: CHIVASI CALLS LINDA ON FLORENCE'S MOBILE

- **Chivasi (m, 22)**
- **Linda (f, 20)**
- **Florence (f, 35)**

INTRO:

Hello there, and welcome to Learning by Ear. This is the ninth episode of our ongoing radio drama about African migration to Europe, called “**The Promised Land**”. In the previous episode, things moved very fast for Linda. She was already worried that she didn’t have enough money, when she got a call from her father telling her that both he and her mother had been laid off work. Linda decided to accept her friend Florence’s offer of a job in a nightclub, and she’s even considering entering into a fake marriage. She hopes that this way she can get a work permit and begin to earn good money in Europe. But does Linda really understand the consequences of her decision? Elsewhere, in the north of Africa, Farahani and Sule seem to have parted ways after the outbreak of political unrest in their country. Will they be reconciled? Or is this the end of their friendship? Today’s episode is called, “**I Do, But Who Are You?**” We start off at the European registry office where Linda has just said “I do” to Charles, a man she has never met before, in a fake marriage arranged by Florence.

SCENE ONE: LINDA AND CHARLES AT THE REGISTRY OFFICE

1. **FLORENCE:** (very excited) Wow!! Linda, you did it! Congratulations to you and Charles! I wish you both a very happy life.

2. **LINDA:** (shortly) Thank you.

3. **CHARLES:** I’m sorry, ladies, but I have to go. Linda, you were a very beautiful bride. I guess Florence has filled you in on all details? As in, what’s expected of you?

4. **LINDA:** Yes, I think so. I have to show up at your place at least three times a week, so that we can prove that we really are married, and I have to pay you a monthly fee of eight hundred euros.

5. **CHARLES:** Perfect! Okay, so here are the keys to my house. Please call or text me before you come round, though. Good luck, and I’ll see you soon.

6. **FLORENCE:** So, Mrs. Charles! How does it feel to be married? And what do you think of your new husband?

7. **LINDA:** Florence, to be honest I feel disgusted by what I’ve just done. I feel like the worst traitor in history. I feel lost. I felt lost all through the ceremony. Even as I said, “I do”, I was thinking: who is this man?

8. NARRATOR: Linda arrived in Europe as an intelligent but naïve and innocent young woman. Just a few months later she's married to a man she doesn't know, and working long hours in a seedy nightclub to pay Charles back for helping her get her papers. The clients there like her, and she gets lots of tips. But back home in Africa Chivasi hasn't heard from Linda in a while, and he's starting to worry. To help put his mind at rest, he wants to find out what's really going on with Linda, and the only people he knows who can help are Linda's parents. One evening he decides to pay them a visit.

SCENE TWO: CHIVASI PAYS LINDA MARAGA'S FAMILY A VISIT

9. SFX: DOG BARKING LOUDLY

10. MR. MARAGA: Mama Linda, could you see who's at the door? The dog is going crazy. If he keeps barking like this we're going to have to take him to the dogs' home!

11. MRS. MARAGA: Oh, my husband! You don't mean that, do you?

12. SFX: METAL DOOR BEING UNLOCKED

13. MRS. MARAGA: **(pleased)** Oh it's you, Chivasi! Come on in. We've hardly seen you since Linda left for Europe.

14. CHIVASI: (nervously) I'm sorry to come round so late, and without calling you first. I won't disturb you for long - I just need some information.

15. MRS. MARAGA: Then come in. And stop being a stranger! This is your home. Come inside! Don't you know that Africans believe guests are angels, and that a guest brings blessings?

16. CHIVASI: Well... all right. Thanks, Mrs Maraga. But I really won't stay long.

17. SFX: METAL DOOR LOCKED

18. MR. MARAGA: Chivasi, my son! What a pleasant surprise! How have you been? You look a little worried. Is everything okay?

19. CHIVASI: It's Linda. I haven't heard from her for a couple of months now. It's not like her at all. When she first went to Europe we used to speak every day. So I came to find out whether perhaps you knew something I don't.

20. MRS. MARAGA: (excuses herself) I'll leave you two to talk. Chivasi, can I make you some tea?

- 21. CHIVASI:** No, thank you, Mrs Maraga. As I said, I won't stay long.
- 22. MR. MARAGA:** Erm... did you say you hadn't heard from Linda for two months?
- 23. CHIVASI:** Two months, nine days and... eighteen hours, to be exact. Tell me - is she all right?
- 24. MR. MARAGA:** She's doing very well. Maybe she just needed some time to herself, to focus on her studies.
- 25. CHIVASI:** Mr. Maraga, I know Linda too well. She would never do this to me... unless... **(swallows hard)** ...unless she'd found someone else in Europe.
- 26. MR. MARAGA:** **(comforting)** No, no! Come on, Chivasi. Linda loves you. And besides - if she had found someone else, we'd be the first to know. She never hides anything from us. I spoke to her just a few weeks ago. She seemed her usual self.
- 27. CHIVASI:** Can you give me a number where I can reach her? I really need to speak to her.
- 28. MR. MARAGA:** Well, it's not her number, it's her friend's. Her name is Florence. I think they must study together, but I've never asked.

29. CHIVASI: Then could you please give me Florence’s number?

30. MR. MARAGA: Of course! And when you speak to Linda, please send her our love. Wait a minute - I have to look up the number on my mobile phone.

31. SFX: MOBILE PHONE BOOK BEING BROWSED WITH BEEPING SOUNDS

32. MR. MARAGA: Ah - here you are. Do you have a pen to write it down?

33. CHIVASI: Yes, I do.

34. SFX: PEN SCRIBBLING DOWN ON PAPER

35. CHIVASI: Thank you very much. I’ll be on my way now.

36. MR. MARAGA: (*shyly*) Er... Chivasi, you know how my wife said earlier that guests are believed to bring blessings...? The truth is... well, the truth is that I’m afraid our family is going through a very difficult time at the moment financially. I... I was wondering whether you might be able to lend us some money? Just for a while, you understand.

37. CHIVASI: **(concerned)** Of course. I’m so sorry to hear it. Linda never mentioned anything to me. I don’t have much on me right now, but..

38. SFX: WALLET BEING OPENED; RUSTLING OF BANK NOTES

39. CHIVASI: ...maybe this will help for now? Please, let me know if there’s anything else I can do. And honestly - you don’t need to pay me back. Good night, Mr. Maraga.

40. MR. MARAGA: **(overjoyed)** Oh, Chivasi! Thank you so much. Thank you, my son. God bless you. Good night.

41. NARRATOR: Chivasi couldn’t believe what he’d just heard from Mr. Maraga. The fact that Linda had spoken to them recently and not to him was one thing. But to hear that the Maraga family was having financial problems and Linda hadn’t even mentioned it was even more puzzling. After leaving their house he went straight to a cyber café, where international calls are cheaper. Back in Europe it’s just the time of night when Linda starts work at the club. Florence is there with her, having a few drinks.

SCENE THREE: CHIVASI CALLS LINDA ON FLORENCE'S MOBILE

42. SFX: BACKGROUND TECHNO MUSIC PLAYING

43. SFX: MOBILE PHONE RINGING

44. FLORENCE: **(bit tipsy)** Hello, who's calling?

45. CHIVASI: Hello, Florence? My name is Chivasi. I'm Linda's fiancé - I got your number from her father. He tells me you two are friends from the university...? Is she is around? Could I speak to her?

46. FLORENCE: Chivasi? ...Ah yes, of course. You are THE Chivasi. Listen - Linda's busy at the moment.

47. CHIVASI: What's that music in the background? And what is it she's so busy doing that she can't spare a minute to talk to me?

48. FLORENCE: You ask too many questions! I don't like that. In fact, you know what? I don't like you. Here's a piece of advice for you. Forget about Linda. Find someone else.

49. CHIVASI: **(utterly shocked)** What?! How dare you! Listen, Florence, or whatever your name is: Linda and I are going to get married, whether you like it or not.

50. FLORENCE: Oh, really? Fine - I'll hand you over to her. Dream on! **(shouts)** Hey! Lindaaa... Chivasi's on the phone.

51. LINDA: **(surprised - in a low voice, so Chivasi doesn't hear)** Chivasi? How did he get your num... Ah - my father must have given it to him... **(urgently)** Tell him I'm not here!

52. FLORENCE: **(also in a low voice, humouring her)** I already did. He says you're going to be his wife. I guess he doesn't know that you're already married. **(laughs)**

53. LINDA: **(low voice)** Florence, please - just hang up on him. I can't talk to him now. I'm not ready yet.

54. FLORENCE: **(low voice)** Okay - as you wish, Mrs. Charles.

55. SFX: BEEP OF MOBILE PHONE CALL DISCONNECTING

56. LINDA: Florence, I think I need to go back home. I've earned enough already to buy a return ticket. I miss my parents, and I need to take a break.

57. FLORENCE: All right. But make sure you pay Charles before you leave. And you can only go for a week. Then you have to come back. Is that clear?

58. LINDA: Yes. Quite clear.

OUTRO:

As Linda returns to serving drunk Europeans in the nightclub, we conclude the ninth episode of this radio drama. So she's decided to go home for a week's holiday. What will it be like when she sees her parents and Chivasi again? Especially after Florence told Chivasi that he should forget about Linda? How far is he prepared to go to keep his childhood sweetheart? And what about Farahani, our North African friend? Remember him? With his country in turmoil, is he planning another attempt to enter Europe illegally? All this and more is coming up in the next episode. And you can join us to discuss the challenges of integration for African migrants to Europe by visiting our Facebook page, facebook.com/dw.lbe. If you'd like to listen to this episode again, just visit our Learning by Ear website at dw-world.de/destinationeurope. Until we meet again, take care and goodbye for now.