

Learning by Ear 2011 “The promised land – A story of African migration to Europe”- Episode 8

LEARNING BY EAR 2011

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

EPISODE EIGHT: “Life in a Bubble”

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List of characters by scene:

SCENE ONE: LINDA AND FLORENCE IN A FAST FOOD RESTAURANT

- Linda (f, 20)
- Florence (f, 35)
- MR. MARAGA

SCENE TWO: FARAHANI AND SULE WALKING ON THE BEACH

- Farahani (m, 19)
- Sule (m, 19)

SCENE THREE: LINDA AND FLORENCE AT A NIGHTCLUB

- Linda (f, 20)

- **Florence (f, 35)**
- **Client (m, 40)**
- **Sandra (f, 30)**

INTRO:

Greetings and a warm welcome to Learning by Ear. Thank you for joining us for this eighth episode of our ongoing radio drama series **“The Promised Land - A Story of African Migration to Europe”**. In the last episode, Linda was taken shopping by her suspiciously generous friend Florence, who seems to be plotting something. Back home in Africa, Linda's parents were laid off from work. Mr. Maraga was totally devastated, until his wife suggested that Linda could help them financially now that she's in Europe. Linda and her parents seem to be living in two different worlds - all of them keeping secrets from each other. What will happen now as the plot continues to thicken? Let's find out in today's episode, which is called **“Life in a Bubble”**. We join the story right where we left it, with Linda and Florence sitting together talking in a fast food restaurant.

SCENE ONE: LINDA AND FLORENCE AT A FAST FOOD RESTAURANT

1. SFX: FAST FOOD RESTAURANT ATMO

2. FLORENCE: If you want to make it here in Europe as a migrant, then you need to legalize yourself. People do it in different ways.

3. LINDA: **(curious)** Legalize myself? I don't understand. I came here legally, on a student visa. I wouldn't be able to study here otherwise.

4. FLORENCE: **(loud whisper)** Ssh! Keep your voice down, Linda. I know you came here as a student. But there are a lot of restrictions on foreign students, what they can and can't do. What I meant is that you need to get the same status as any citizen of this country. You need to get a work permit. Only then can you really begin to live a good life.

5. LINDA: All right. And how do you suggest I should go about this?

6. FLORENCE: By saying, “I do”.

7. LINDA: You mean by getting married? But how will marrying Chivasi help to legalize my status here? I don't get it.

- 8. FLORENCE:** **(laughs out)** Chivasi!? Hahaha! You're even more naïve than I thought. From now on, Linda, Chivasi is out of the picture. You said it yourself - he isn't part of your life over here. You have to marry a European.
- 9. LINDA:** **(shocked)** What? No! Florence, how can you suggest such a thing? I may be a long way away from Chivasi, and yes, I know I lied to him about how difficult things are here. But I still love him!
- 10. FLORENCE:** Hey, relax... It's okay - you can keep on loving him. No problem at all. I can arrange for you to marry someone discreetly. You don't even have to meet him before the wedding, and you don't really have to get to know each other at all. All you have to do is act as if you're a married couple. Before long you'll have your work visa, and then you can do whatever you want.
- 11. LINDA:** Just like that? I don't believe you. What's the catch? Earlier on you talked about having to be patient and make sacrifices. How long am I supposed to be patient, and what sacrifices will I have to make?

- 12. FLORENCE:** **(thoughtful)** Hmm... okay, you're right. There is a small catch. But nothing you won't be able to handle. You'll have to pay the fake husband a little money.
- 13. LINDA:** Pay him? I thought men were the ones who were supposed to pay a dowry for their brides? And how am I supposed to raise the money to do that when I don't have a job?
- 14. FLORENCE:** Don't worry. If you decide that this is really what you want, the rest will take care of itself. You'll pay the money in instalments every month, from the day you marry to the day you get your papers. For that period, you'll need to be very patient. I'll find you a job. It's that simple.
- 15. LINDA:** **(thoughtful)** So, in other words, it'll be like I've really bought the papers, but through a fake marriage. Right?
- 16. FLORENCE:** Right.
- 17. LINDA:** But Flo, what if the man wants more than just the money? How would I handle that? I mean,... legally, after all, we'll be married.

18. FLORENCE: He won't do that. He has no right. And if he does - well, then it's up to you. Some people have gone through with a fake marriage and later they've fallen in love. It's possible.

19. LINDA: **(scared)** No! Not me. I came here to study. And if I do decide to do this, it will only be because I want to earn some extra money for my studies, and have a good life here.

20. FLORENCE: Good. So, does that mean you're in? Are you ready to take the chance?

21. LINDA: I don't know yet, Flo. This is a big decision! I mean, you're talking about me getting married. It's not something you do lightly... I need some time to think.

22. FLORENCE: Okay. But just remember, there are sisters back home who would die for an opportunity like this.

23. SFX: MOBILE PHONE RINGING

24. FLORENCE: Oh - excuse me, it's a call from home. Hello, Florence speaking?

25. MR. MARAGA: Hello - I'm very sorry to bother you, but I'm Linda Maraga's father. She called me from your phone when she first arrived in Europe, and I thought that, since you two are friends, perhaps I could give you a message for her?

26. FLORENCE: What a coincidence! Linda is sitting here right next to me. I'll pass you on to her. - Linda, it's your father. He has a message for you.

27. LINDA: **(nervous)** Dad! Is everything okay?

28. MR. MARAGA: **(takes deep breath)** Yes, Linda. We're fine.

29. LINDA: Thank God. I thought something awful must have happened. So - what is it you wanted to tell me?

30. MR. MARAGA: Linda, I don't want to worry you, but your mother and I were... well, we've been laid off from work. Please don't worry - we'll manage somehow. But I thought you ought to know.

31. LINDA: **(shocked)** Oh no! Dad, I'm so sorry. How are you taking it? It must be very hard.

32. MR. MARAGA: **(sadly)** We... we're ok. Don't worry. Linda, I can't talk for long, I'm almost out of credit. I'll -

33. SFX: TELEPHONE CONNECTION DISCONNECTED ABRUPTLY

34. LINDA: Dad! Dad! Hello...? Dad, are you still there...? -
He's gone.

35. FLORENCE: Linda, is everything okay?

36. LINDA: (**emphatically**) Find me a job Florence. Quickly.
And while you're at it, find me a European husband,
too.

37. NARRATOR: The news that her parents have been laid off work seems to Linda to justify what she's about to do. She knows she has to make a choice, and listening to her father trying to hide his fear has made things seem even more desperate. So what does Florence have in store for Linda? Keep listening to find out. Meanwhile, in the north of Africa, there have been increasing political protests, and now violence has broken out, displacing thousands of people from their homes and forcing them to seek shelter in refugee camps. Farahani and Sule are among those caught up in the chaos, and it's beginning to take a toll on their friendship...

SCENE TWO: FARAHANI AND SULE WALKING ON THE BEACH

38. SFX: OCEAN WAVES HITTING HARD ON SHORE

- 39. SULE:** Farahani, even the sea is not as calm as it used to be. I'm afraid for my family, for my country, and for us. Let's flee now, while we still can.
- 40. FARAHANI:** And go where?
- 41. SULE:** Where? Anywhere but here. Many people have fled to our neighbouring countries.
- 42. FARAHANI:** Neighbouring countries? Sule, we see violence all around us on a daily basis. What's going on now is bad, but it's only going to get worse. How do we know the fighting won't spread across the border? This would be the best time for us to migrate to Europe.
- 43. SULE:** **(irritated)** Farahani! Wake up! Stop living in this dream of yours. Our country is descending into civil war, and all you can think of is Europe? Africa might not be the easiest place to live, but this is where you belong. The least you can do is show it some loyalty.

44. FARAHANI: **(angry)** Don't you talk to me about my moral duties! If you want to go to another African country, then be my guest! Just leave me out of it, Sule. Is that clear? Leave me alone!

45. SULE: **(furious)** You know what? I will leave you alone. I should have done so a long time ago, but better late than never. Good luck with your European dream, Farahani!

46. SFX: FAST WALKING ON SAND

47. FARAHANI: **(calling after him)** Sule! Sule, I'm sorry. Hey, wait for me! We're brothers, remember?

48. SULE: **(from afar)** Brothers stick together. You only want what's best for you!

49. FARAHANI: **(shouting)** Sule! Sule!

50. SFX: OCEAN WAVES HIT HARDER AND LOUDER ON SHORE

51. NARRATOR: Farahani stops and gazes out to sea, towards the lights of Europe. He has to make a choice: stick with his friend, or pursue his European dream alone. What will he decide? Stay tuned and you'll find out... Meanwhile, Florence has wasted no time finding a job for Linda, who desperately needs to earn some money, not only to support her life in Europe, but also for her unemployed parents back home. We join Linda on her first day at work, where Sandra, another African migrant worker, is there to welcome her.

SCENE THREE: LINDA AND FLORENCE AT A NIGHTCLUB

52. SFX: EUROPEAN NIGHTCLUB ATMO - LOUD TECHNO MUSIC

53. FLORENCE: *(trying to speak loudly)* So, Linda! So far, things seem to be working out really well for you. This is your new workplace. You'll be taking orders from the clients and going to the bar to get their drinks. It's as simple as that. If you have any questions, ask Sandra here. She's been working here for three years now. Good luck!

54. LINDA: *(uncertain)* But... this place is...

55. SANDRA: Hi, I'm Sandra. Don't worry - you'll get used to it. The first few nights might be a bit tough, but as soon as you find your feet you'll be amazed how much money you can earn in a night, just in tips!

56. **LINDA:** **(still doubtful)** Hi Sandra, I'm Linda. Do you know how late we have to work? I'm a university student, you see, and I have to study tomorrow.
57. **SANDRA:** We work until the last client leaves the club. It's the weekend, so the place will be full tonight. I reckon we'll be here till the morning.
58. **LINDA:** And the pay? How much do you earn?
59. **SANDRA:** That depends. Look, Linda, I shouldn't tell you this, but I'm working here illegally. I have no papers, so I rely on getting tips from the clients. The actual wages are pretty bad. Sometimes I don't get paid at all. But let's get to work now - there is a client waving at us. You go over and serve him.
60. **SFX: LINDA WALKING ACROSS THE CLUB - MUSIC SWELLS AND FADES - LAUGHTER AND VOICES**
61. **LINDA:** Good evening, what can I get you?
62. **CLIENT:** **(flirtatiously)** Oh a new face! And a pretty one, too. Come here, Pretty Face. You're so young, so fresh, so cute... No, come closer - that's it...
63. **LINDA:** **(screaming)** No! Take your hands off me!

64. SFX: BOTTLE FALLS TO FLOOR AND BREAKS

65. CLIENT: **(laughing)** Hahaha... I like you, Pretty Face - you've got spirit. Here - get me a beer, and keep the change.

66. SANDRA: **(furious)** Linda! What are you doing? Do you want to chase away the clients?

67. LINDA: **(trembling)** Sandra, didn't you see what he was trying to do? I couldn't let him do that! If this is what the job is about, I'd rather quit.

68. SANDRA: Linda, I told you the first nights would be tough. But you need to remember the golden rule: the customer is always right. What did he want, to drink?

69. LINDA: A beer. He gave me twenty euros and said I should keep the change.

70. SANDRA: **(enthusiastic)** See! You're a very lucky lady. Your first client, and you get such a big tip! Go ahead and get him his beer. If you keep on like this, you might earn enough for the whole month in just one night.

71. LINDA: Sandra, I have a question.

72. SANDRA: Now? We're at work, Linda. People in Europe work hard. Every minute counts. Okay, quick - what is it you want to know?

73. LINDA: Who is the owner of this club?

74. SANDRA: Why do you ask that? It doesn't matter who owns it. Come on - time to work now.

OUTRO:

That brings us to the end of the eighth episode of our radio drama series "**The Promised Land – A Story of African Migration to Europe**". Is it true that life will get better for Linda now that she's got a job? And will she still go ahead with a fake marriage in order to get her papers, or will she change her mind after her first day at work? What exactly does Florence get out of helping her? And is this the end of Farahani and Sule's friendship? Don't miss the next instalment...

Meanwhile, join us on facebook.com/dw.lbe to air your views on the financial pressures facing African migrants in Europe, and the need to send money home. You can also listen to this episode again by logging on to our website at dw-world.de/destinationeurope.

Until next time - goodbye.