

LEARNING BY EAR 2011

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

EPISODE FOURTEEN: “Doing It Right”

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- Linda (f, 20)
- Mrs. Maraga (f, 55)

SCENE TWO: CHIVASI WORKING ILLEGALLY AS A GARDENER

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- **Farahani (m, 19)**
- **Immigration officer (m, 40)**

INTRO:

Hello and welcome to Learning by Ear. This is the fourteenth episode of our ongoing radio drama series “**The Promised Land – A Story of African Migration to Europe**”, in which we are looking at what drives Africans to migrate to Europe, and the experiences some of them have to go through. In the previous episode, Chivasi failed to convince the immigration officials to grant him asylum. He managed to escape from the detention centre after Farahani advised him that the only way he’d be able to stay in Europe was by living under the official radar. Chivasi made it into the centre of town and met Rhoda, who offered to help him. Elsewhere, Florence and Charles were arrested on suspicion of being involved in a sham marriage racket, and Linda was left wondering what she should do. It seems all our characters are facing difficult challenges. But is this the case for all migrants? How can they really make a successful life for themselves in Europe? Today’s episode is all about “**Doing It Right**”. We start off with Linda, who’s making a frantic phone call.

SCENE ONE: LINDA CALLS HER MOTHER FROM HER MOBILE

1. SFX: BEEPING SOUNDS OF DIALLING ON A MOBILE PHONE

2. LINDA: (nervous) Pick up the phone, Mum, please pick up the phone...

3. MRS. MARAGA: (sleepy voice) Hello? Linda - what is it, my daughter? It's past midnight here.

4. LINDA: (breaks down in tears) Mum... I'm... I...

5. MRS. MARAGA: (fully awake) Linda! Are you all right? What's the matter? What's going on?

6. LINDA: I can't do this any more, Mum. I want to come home! I want to come back.

7. MRS. MARAGA: Linda, listen to me. If it's about your father, you don't have to worry. The doctors have confirmed that he's on the road to recovery now, after his operation. So there's really no need to panic. And you know we couldn't have done it if it weren't for you.

8. LINDA: Mum, I'm very happy to hear about Dad. But this has nothing to do with him.

9. MRS. MARAGA: Then what on earth can it be? You can't be homesick again - you've only just got back. And things seem to be going so well for you in Europe...

10. LINDA: Mum, I'm sorry to bother you so late. Please forgive me for everything I've done.

11. MRS. MARAGA: (**concerned**) Linda, my daughter – what have you done? Talk to me! I'm your mother. Whatever it is, even if you're pregnant, we can find a solution. Don't do anything stupid.

12. LINDA: No, I'm not pregnant... Mum - I'm sorry, I can't tell you this over the phone. I have to go. Good night and sleep well. Tell Dad I love him.

13. MRS. MARAGA: Linda, wait!

14. SFX: CALL DISCONNECTED WITH A BEEP

15. NARRATOR: Linda's mum is left with just the dial tone in her ear, She tries to call back several times, but Linda doesn't answer. All night Mrs Maraga tosses and turns, unable to sleep. She knows something is terribly wrong with her daughter. But what on earth can it be? She can only pray that, whatever it is, it will quickly sort itself out. But now let's find out what's happened to Chivasi. After escaping from the detention centre he was rescued by Rhoda. a passer-by who offered to help him. But when he left her house Chivasi didn't know what to do or where to go. He had no money at all, and ended up sleeping rough for several days, with other homeless people - in the train station, on street corners, and in parks. Another homeless man helped him get an illegal cash-in-hand job as a gardener. Chivasi has been working for a man named Ralph, who's agreed to pay him at the end of the week. Let's join Chivasi as he works.

SCENE TWO: CHIVASI WORKING ILLEGALLY AS A GARDENER

**16. SFX: ELECTRIC HEDGE TRIMMER TRIMMING A BUSH / BIRDS
OUTSIDE**

17. RALPH: **(angry)** Hey! Hey! What do you think you're doing?

18. SFX: ELECTRIC HEDGE TRIMMER SWITCHED OFF

19. RALPH: I told you not to trim the hedge so low. Now look what you've done! All the neighbours and passers-by can see right into my windows.

20. CHIVASI: **(polite)** But sir, I trimmed it to exactly the point you asked me to. Not higher, not lower.

21. RALPH: What? What?! Are you trying to tell me that I don't remember what I told you to do? You Africans never even learn to follow simple instructions. Well, I'm sorry, but I can't pay you now. You've completely ruined my hedge.

22. CHIVASI: **(protesting)** No! You can't do that! I've been working in your garden for ten hours a day, every day this week! I did everything you asked me to, exactly the way you said. You have to pay me what we agreed.

23. RALPH: Oh, are you threatening me now? What’s this agreement you’re talking about? I don’t know what you mean. I never signed anything. If you keep insisting that I pay you for damaging my property, I’ll go to the police and tell them you’re working here illegally.

24. CHIVASI: I worked hard for you all this week, Mr Ralph. I deserve to be paid.

25. RALPH: Okay, have it your way! I’ll call the police, and you’ll be sent back to Africa!

26. SFX: ELECTRIC TRIMMER SWITCHED ON AGAIN

27. RALPH: What are you doing? Put that down! (**screaming in fear**) Help! Heeeeeelp!

28. SFX: SOUND OF FEET RUNNING AWAY, CRIES FADING

29. NARRATOR: Luckily, Chivasi controls his anger in time. When he comes to his senses he can’t believe he reacted like that. What on earth is happening to him? The harsh experiences he has gone through since he decided to cross into Europe are starting to take their toll. In a panic, Chivasi runs away and is soon standing outside Rhoda's house, ringing her doorbell as hard as he can.

SCENE THREE: CHIVASI AT RHODA'S HOUSE

30. SFX: RINGING ON DOORBELL SEVERAL TIMES

31. RHODA: (answers through entryphone) Yes, who is it?
Why are you ringing my doorbell like that?

32. CHIVASI: (panting) Rhoda, it's me. Chivasi. Please let me in.

**33. SFX: BUZZING OF ENTRYPHONE AND DOOR BEING PUSHED
OPEN**

34. RHODA: Chivasi! What's happened? You look as if you've
just run a marathon.

35. CHIVASI: Rhoda, I almost did something extremely stupid. I
really scared myself... I just ran away, and I didn't
know where else to come.

36. RHODA: Is everything okay? Has something happened?

37. CHIVASI: I was working for this man all week, and he refused
to pay me. I got so angry that I... I threatened him. I
didn't hurt him, though.

- 38. RHODA:** Okay, now listen, Chivasi. You'd better tell me a bit more about yourself, because when I helped you the other day you didn't want to say anything at all. What's the story? Are you on the run? Have you committed a crime? Or are you here in Europe illegally?
- 39. CHIVASI:** **(catches breath)** Yes, I am. I came to Europe from Africa, as a stowaway on a cargo ship. They said they were going to send me back, and so I ran away.
- 40. RHODA:** But why? Why risk your life like that, only to end up living like this? I don't understand.
- 41. CHIVASI:** What do you mean? This is how everyone does it. How did you come to Europe? Were you born here?
- 42. RHODA:** **(laughs)** No, I wasn't born here. I came here as an au pair. When I finished high school I registered with an au pair agency, and few weeks later they found me a job in Europe.
- 43. CHIVASI:** **(surprised)** Really? You mean, if I'd done that, I could have avoided all those awful things I went through to get here?

- 44. RHODA:** Well, I don't think au pair agencies usually employ men, but there must be agencies that deal with other kinds of work, especially if you have professional qualifications. Anyway, I was lucky, because my employers here were very kind to me. They treated me like one of the family, and they even encouraged me to start studying here. Living with them helped me improve my language skills, which made it much easier to integrate, make friends, and, ultimately, to go to university.
- 45. CHIVASI:** You really were lucky. If I'd known it was possible to do it that way, I would have told Linda.
- 46. RHODA:** Linda? Is she your sister?
- 47. CHIVASI:** No. Never mind - just go on...
- 48. RHODA:** Well, after I graduated from university, I found a job here as a pharmacist and got a working permit. Since then, I've been able to live here and support my family back home.
- 49. CHIVASI:** That's wonderful. Do you ever plan to return home? I see you've settled down here, but you don't have a husband, do you?

50. RHODA: No, I don't. I am engaged though, and my fiancé lives and works in Africa. We're getting married at the end of the year. Then we'll decide where we want to start our new family life.

51. CHIVASI: Rhoda, I really appreciate everything you've done for me. You've been so kind. I wonder if I could ask you for a really big favour...? You see, I've been working all week in that man's garden, trying to earn the money for a train ticket to the capital. But now he's refused to pay me, and I still have nothing. Could you possibly help me out with a little cash? I know it's a lot to ask, but I have to get there. I need to get to the university.

52. RHODA: Sure. You know, I often meet people who ask me for money. But you seem genuine, Chivasi. I believe you're a good man. I don't know what it is that's made you take all these risks to come here, but it must be something very important.

53. SFX: DRAWER BEING OPENED

54. RHODA: Here's one hundred euros. This should be enough to get you where you want to go. And here's my card - if you need anything else, you can call me.

55. CHIVASI: Thank you so much. I don't know how I can ever repay you.

56. RHODA: Don't mention it. Chivasi. Whatever you do from now on, just do it right. It will pay off eventually.

57. CHIVASI: I'll bear that in mind. Just pray that I make it there without being arrested for being here illegally. There's someone I have to meet. Someone who means the world to me.

58. NARRATOR: Chivasi wastes no time. After Rhoda gives him the money, he goes straight to the train station and buys a ticket to the capital, where Linda is studying at the university. Meanwhile, back in the detention centre, a decision has been made on Farahani's request for asylum. Does this mean that his dream of living the good life in Europe is finally about to come true? Listen on.

SCENE FOUR: FARAHANI IS GRANTED ASYLUM

59. SFX: FILE BEING OPENED

60. IMM. OFFICER: Farahani, I have good news for you. The immigration department has carefully studied and reviewed your application, and a judge has now agreed that you should be granted asylum. Here is a document identifying you as a legal refugee in our country. How do you feel?

61. FARAHANI: **(choking with happiness)** Thank you, thank you so much. This means so much to me. Can I go and start working now?

62. IMM. OFFICER: Not so fast, young man. This is only the first step. Let me explain the rules that apply to refugees in this country. You will be assigned to a refugee facility, where you will be required to live. You are not allowed to move outside the area to which you are assigned. You must abide by the rules at the refugee centre. The state will provide you with food, accommodation, and a small amount of spending money. You may be given this in cash, or it may be in vouchers that can be used only in certain shops. You are not allowed to take on any paid work anywhere at all while you are living here as a refugee. If you do look for work, you may lose your right to asylum. Have I made myself clear?

63. FARAHANI: **(dumbfounded)** Ah... ah... could you please repeat what you just said? I don't think I understood you correctly...

OUTRO:

And so we leave Farahani at the end of this fourteenth episode, shocked and astonished by the realities of life as a refugee in Europe. Linda has no idea that Chivasi is only a few miles away and on his way to see her. What will happen when he turns up on her doorstep? Don't miss the final episode of our radio drama about African migration to Europe. What do you think? Are the restrictions on refugees in Europe fair or unfair? You're welcome to join our online discussion forum at [facebook.com/dw.lbe](https://www.facebook.com/dw.lbe) where we invite you to share stories about African migrants who have come to Europe legally and made a success of things. If you'd like to listen to this episode again, just go to our web page at dw-world.de/destinationeurope. Until next time, it's goodbye from us.