

Learning by Ear – HIV**“An Angel in Everyone” Episode 10****Text: Romie Singh****Redaktion; Maja Dreyer**

CHARACTERS: Angela, Pinto, Djamila, Annie, Sister.
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INTRO TO EP. 10.

Welcome to Learning By Ear and the last in our 10 –part radio drama series,

“An Angel in Everyone,” which has been looking at the lives of four teenagers and their attitudes to sexuality and risky behaviour.

Angela wants to give birth safely and plan a future with Pinto and their baby but how, if they are both HIV positive? There is a way. Find out and tune in to the last part of “An Angel in Everyone.”

Scene One. In the garden

SFX: BIRDSONG. MORNING AMBIENCE

SFX: OPENING BISCUIT TIN

1. **ANGELA:** Here Djamila! Have another cookie! Your story's incredible It's just like in a movie.
What happened next?
2. **DJAMILA:** I bit him Angela!? **(Laughing)** And ran!
3. **ANGELA:** What? Well done gal!
4. **DJAMILA:** I had to get him off me. I'm sure he would have raped me. He stank of whisky
5. **ANGELA:** Urgh! How horrible! **(BEAT)** Just out of interest- did you draw blood?
6. **DJAMILA:** Huh?
7. **ANGELA:** When you bit him? Did he bleed?
8. **DJAMILA:** No – it wasn't that hard. Why?
9. **ANGELA:** No it's fine. If he **had** bled then...
10. **DJAMILA:** Oh my God Angela- you don't mean my uncle could have AIDS?
11. **ANGELA:** Well not AIDS. AIDS is the last stage when the

immune system finally gives up. But anyone can be carrying the HI virus and look perfectly strong and healthy. That's why paramedics, doctors and dentists wear gloves, because HIV is transmitted through blood. Even through saliva! And after being raped a girl should get onto anti HIV treatment within 72 hours.

12. DJAMILA: Thank God it didn't get that far. But my mother would kill me if she thought I was accusing anyone in our family of being infected with HIV. Oh! I'm sorry Angela – I didn't mean...

13. ANGELA: No it's OK. But you see - it shouldn't be an accusation Djamilia. The fact is that in some areas as many as one in five is infected. We need to stop accusing and blaming and talk openly. Not all of us get infected because WE did something.

14. DJAMILA: You're right – girls get raped every day, sometimes because they are virgins. It's a

sick idea some men have that they can cure themselves. And that is definitely not the girl's fault.

15. ANGELA: Not at all. Or if you're given contaminated blood in the clinic by mistake. Everyone thinks it's only bad girls that get HIV. But I was a virgin and you certainly are not bad. It takes ONE incident.

16. DJAMILA: I know you're right. I also think you're so brave – from a mouse that didn't even know what a pregnancy looked like to a glowing mother-to-be! You know so much - you've just transformed Angela, and become an angel!

MUSIC BRIDGE

Scene Two Int. Early evening.

SFX: KITCHEN. CLEARING DISHES. WASHING UP. PINTO

COUGHING

1. ANGELA: (Off mic) Pinto. I'll be going in for the caesarian on the 25th/

- 2. PINTO:** **(Clearing the table)** That's in two weeks!
And you'll be coming out when?
- 3. ANGELA:** **(Off mic)** If all goes well within a couple of days.
- 4. PINTO:** Well everything's ready here for our son!
Tumelo [Use local name for faith]!
Where do you want this tablecloth?
(Cough)
- 5. ANGELA:** **(Off mic)** In the drawer there. **(On mic)** Ah.
I mustn't forget my anti HIV pills.

SFX **GULPING WATER**

- 6. ANGELA:** Phew! Let me sit down. **(BEAT)** Pinto.
Have you thought what could happen
to us in a few years time?
- 7. PINTO:** No. Please. I don't want to think about it.
- 8. ANGELA:** I'm HIV positive. You are too. We might get
sick
and no longer be able to look after our
baby. **(Softly)** We need family, but the
point is my mum doesn't know. Nor does
Uncle Billy.

- 9. PINTO:** What are you suggesting? Tell them we're HIV positive? Oh God no! They'll never speak to us ever again. **(cough)**
- 10. ANGELA:** We are going to have to tell them to prepare them. Our baby needs to be taken care of if anything happens to us.
- 11. PINTO:** **(Choking back tears)** Angela. I can't. I want to but I can't.
- 12. ANGELA:** **(Warmly)** There's a support group called Positive Living.
- 13. PINTO:** Oh not these touchy feely sharing types, please.
- 14. ANGELA:** They're not like that at all.
- 15. PINTO:** How do you know?
- 16. ANGELA:** I met them at the clinic. There are several couples, one is HIV negative, the other positive – sero-discordant they call it. Another couple – they are both positive, just like us.
- 17. PINTO:** What do they talk about?

18. ANGELA: All sorts of things. And they laugh a lot too. We could join them for a trial period. We need support Pinto from people who've had kids and already know what to expect, parents living with HIV just like us.

19. PINTO: I know. I know.

20. ANGELA: **(Softly)** Pinto- you have to look this virus in the eye and take charge. We can put off getting Aids for many years if we are open and honest. Please- before it's too late. Get tested, if not for yourself, if not for me, then for your son. It will change your life.

MUSIC BREAK CROSS FADE WITH CUE 3

Scene Two. At the clinic in the office.

1. SISTER: Now Angela – we know your CD4 count, but until Pinto comes in to get tested we don't know how high or low his levels are. We mustn't presume they're like yours.

2. ANGELA: The man at the Positive Living support group said the same. I think Pinto is very

close to coming in sister. He was so impressed at how happy and NORMAL everybody was, and how people spoke so openly about their status.

3. SISTER:

It's good to get him thinking but,- no pressure. He needs to come voluntarily for the full VCT – pre-test counseling, testing **and** post test counseling. If his test shows he has to go on to antiretrovirals, then you will be able to encourage each other. And cook together! And always

4. SISTER AND ANGELA TOGETHER : Practise safe sex.

(Laughing)

Scene Three. Interior

SFX: MAKING TEA ALUMINIUM CUPS

1. ANGELA:

See- it's not such a long trip to come and see me!

2. DJAMILA

No! Just over 45 minutes. Hey ! you look so huge!

- 3. ANGELA:** Pinto wants to call him Dorgba because he kicks so hard!
- 4. ANNIE:** **(Off Mic)** Here-tea's ready! **(On mic)** I like your kitchen!
- 5. DJAMILA:** It's a cute house Annie. I agree!
- 6. ANGELA:** Thanks! **(Stirring sugar in tea)** So what's new Annie? Djamila?
- 7. DJAMILA:** Well –I phoned the AIDS Helpline!
- 8. ANGELA:** No kidding! Why?
- 9. DJAMILA:** Well I was really worried my mum would take her brother's side against me, if I told her how he had jumped on top of me. So I thought, let me ask the AIDS Helpline people for advice.
- 10. ANGELA:** And?
- 11. DJAMILA:** The woman recommended a Muslim Helpline especially for Women. I was amazed that such a thing existed.
- 12. ANNIE:** It's good! We all need to know where we can talk safely, no matter what culture or

religion we belong to. There are so many taboos everywhere. It is scary!

13. ANGELA: I agree. And your Uncle Imrat?

14. DJAMILA: **(Sipping tea)** He seems to have disappeared!

5. ANNIE: With a chunk of his right hand missing!

ALL LAUGH

6. ANNIE: Jet- my older boyfriend- he's disappeared too.

7. DJAMILA: She has so calmed down since she left that guy!

8. ANNIE: **(Laughing)** Djamila's happy because now we get to work together on our science project. Spike – you remember my taxi driver friend? Well he got caught for cell phone theft, so everything's conspiring to make me focus on my matric.

9. DJAMILA: And Tom! You won't believe it! He's helping us on our project and keeping Annie on the straight and narrow! I keep them apart too!

- 10. ANGELA:** I'm amazed. But Tom always did have a soft spot for you Annie. And you for him?
- 11. ANNIE:** Strictly friends. Abstaining is like de-toxing! I feel great.
- 12. ANGELA:** They say you should abstain for six weeks before getting tested. They call it a window period!
- 13. ANNIEL:** **(Pained voice)** OK! Then I will - I promise!
- 14. DJAMILA:** And MaTilly's TV is broken so no more soapies!
- 15. ANNIE:** Yes Poor ma. But we're better off now she's got a day job. She can pay my school fees so that's a relief! AND she's cooking again for me!
- 16. ANGELA:** We're getting there gals! Living safely in a world of HIV and AIDS. And hopefully my Pinto will go for VCT soon too. Then we can plan for Tumelo's future.
- 17. DJAMILA:** Tumelo – Faith! What a gorgeous name!
- 18. ANNIE:** He'll be an angel just like you!
- 19. ANGELA:** Like I keep saying -

20. ALL TOGETHER: "There's an angel in everybody!"

FADE ON LAST LINES

21. ANGELA

LAUGHING How did you know I was going to say that? Come! Let me show you where he's going to sleep. He's so big. I can feel him kicking –

END OF EPISODE TEN

OUTRO.

That was the last in our drama series "An Angel in Everyone."

The parts of the main characters were as follows:

Angela.....

Djamila.....

Annie.....

Jet.....

Tom.....

Pinto.....

Other parts were played by

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"An Angel in Everyone" was written by Romie Singh, adaption to was done by