

Learning by Ear – HIV

“An Angel in Everyone” Episode 06

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CHARACTERS:Jet, Annie Angela, Djamila, Traditional Healer(Male 50)
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INTRO TO EP. 6.

Welcome to Learning By Ear and a new episode in our radio drama series,
“An Angel in Everyone.”

Young Angela is facing up to the consequences of her unplanned pregnancy but is keeping her positive HIV test result a secret from her mother who is already angry at her for the shame she feels. Djamila tried to ask her own family about HIV testing but comes up against a wall of silence, and her Uncle’s unwanted sexual advances.

In today’s episode, Angela takes another positive step towards changing while her friend Annie and her older boyfriend face a different kind of problem.

Find out as we listen to Episode Six of “An Angel in Everyone.”

Scene One. At home

SFX **NIGHT SOUNDS**

1. ANGELA: (To herself) So Pinto has asked me to come and stay. That takes the sting out of the whole moving out. But I need to know what this test result means, for me – and Pinto – because HE must have infected me. There **was** no one else. He was my very first. Shoo..my hands.. I’m shaking so much. Doctor Majoro at Matula clinic told me nothing. **(Sigh)** I can’t talk to my mother. She knows I’m pregnant. But a voice deep inside me tells me “Say nothing to her about the HIV test. She will freak out.” Ooh – I think my baby just moved. I’m so scared. I’ve got to talk to someone or else I’ll go mad.

SFX: **PAMPHLET NOISE**

2. ANGELA: It says here, **(Reading)**”There is someone who can help you 24 hours a day with

"Education, Referral and Counseling."

At least if I phone the AIDS Helpline they can't see me. I'll be invisible. I think it will be easier talking to a stranger that you can't even see.

SFX: **CLOCK CHIMES**

It's nine 'clock. Ma's asleep.

It's time to act Angela! Where are those questions?

SFX: **DIFFERENT PAPER NOISE**

Ah! Here they are.

SFX: **DIALLING PHONE NUMBER**

0800 0123 22

If only my hands would stop shaking..

Scene Two. Int. Night

SFX: In bed. Heavy breathing.

1. **JET: (in bed)** Arrghh ! Annie – this is hurting. Jeees.
2. **ANNIE:** What's the matter Jet. You complained last time too.
3. **JET:** Shine the torch on me and have a look.
Ouchhh
4. **ANNIE:** There's a red sort of spot just there. Does it hurt?
5. **JET:** Red spot? No. It doesn't hurt now.
But it was stinging like mad just now.
6. **ANNIE:** There's another one. You've got a few.
7. **JET:** And this morning when I peed, it burned like crazy.
You gave this to me.
8. **ANNIE:** What? Why do you say that?
9. **JET:** You women. Who knows what you get up to.
10. **ANNIE:** Men blame us for everything. Where do you think we get our infections from? From men.

- 11. JET:** Eeh! There’s a strange pus.
- 12. ANNIE:** Hmmm. If it is what I think it is..
- 13. JET:** Meaning?
- 14. ANNIE:** Well – if it’s an STI –
- 15. JET:** A sexually transmitted infection? Is that what you’re saying I’ve got?
- 16. ANNIE:** I’m saying IF.
- 17. JET:** And how come you know so much about this eh?
- 18. ANNIE:** For heavens’ sake Jet! There are posters up in the clinic. Don’t forget, I go regularly - for my contraception, and I can read you know. There’s information everywhere.
- 19. JET:** If you gave this to me I’ll ..aiiii
- 20. ANNIE: (Patiently)** If I’m infected then I think we should both go to the clinic, don’t you think?
- 21. JET:** You won’t get me to go to any clinic.
- 22. ANNIE:** Why one earth not? Why are you men so afraid of the doctor?
- 23. JET:** I’m not afraid? Who said I’m afraid. Stupid girl. I go to our traditional doctor. Always

have done. Always will. Anyway – all you women go to Matula clinic. Someone might recognize me.

24. ANNIE: So! You’re afraid of another woman recognizing you? Why Jet? Have you got another girlfriend? Hmmm?

25. JET: Annie- you’re getting too cheeky.

26. ANNIE: Because that’s where STIs come from Jet – from sleeping around.

27. JET: **(Threatening)** Just be careful what you say, girl, before **you** accuse me.

28. ANNIE: Ouch! Jet stop it! You’ve already bruised my arm blue.

29. JET: Well then watch what you say. **(BEAT)** Anyway, there is nothing wrong with traditional medicine.

30. ANNIE: No – but STIs need anti-biotics.

31. JET: Hah! You know. So you **HAVE** had it before!

32. ANNIE: Agh! Jet! I give up. I'll go to Central clinic where nobody knows me. You do what you want.

33. JET: Ooohhhh let me get to the toilet quick...oooh....it burns...ooohhhh (**fade out**)

Scene Three: At the traditional healers

SFX Daytime sounds

(FADE IN TRADITIONAL MUSIC)

1. HEALER: This should help to take away the rash.
Rub it on three times a day after washing.

2. JET: Thank you. What about when I pee.
It still burns like a furnace.

3. HEALER: All the men who come to me take this
"Imbiza." They say it works. It cleans
them out and they feel stronger.

4. JET. Imbiza? Do I take it all?

5. HEALER: A spoonful at night. It cures everything-
even AIDS.

6. JET: (sounding panicked) But I only have an STI.

7. HEALER: It cures EVERYTHING. Three hundred Rands (Local currency)

SFX: COUNTING PAPER MONEY AND COINS

*Translate into local word for "magic potion" with cleansing powers.

TRADITIONAL MUSIC FADE UNDER> FADE IN ANGELA

Scene Four: Int. Bedroom

1. ANGELA: Excited. And the man was so helpful Djamila!

2. DJAMILA: (Laughing) Ai Angela! For a helpline that's pretty much a must!

3. ANGELA: Yeah right! But he put things so clearly. I wrote it down. He said (Reading) , "To build a good house that protects you from heat, cold, wind and rain you need good materials, a sound foundation a firm roof and solid walls. Think of your body as a house. When given the right materials you

too can protect yourself from the harsh germs and viruses that attack the body.”

He said I must be prepared to make big changes in my life style.

4. DJAMILA:

Such as?

5. ANGELA:

Eat more fruit and veg. milk, honey, nuts and grain, cereals and meat.

6. DJAMILA:

Gee- that’s going to cost you. Can you afford it?

7. ANGELA:

I’ll save by cutting out sweets and junk food. And body exercise he said especially after the birth.

8. DJAMILA:

Wow- that IS a WHOLE change in lifestyle.

9. ANGELA:

Basically- I just have to keep it strong enough to keep this virus “at bay” as he put it.

10. DJAMILA:

But that’s not just true for you- that’s true for everybody. Hey Angie – I’ll join you. We’ll diet and exercise and train together!

11. ANGELA:

(Sadly) Except I’m moving to Newtown on Sunday to Pinto’s.

12. DJAMILA: Ai! I had forgotten. Well at least he’s accepting responsibility for what’s happened. But are you moving in with him without getting married?

13. ANGEL: I have no idea what’s going to happen.

(Silence)

(Brighter) But the plus side is that Newtown is much closer to Central Clinic. They have a new ante-natal section. I’ve been referred there by the AIDS Helpline. So I’ll get the best counseling and advice for me and my baby.

14. DJAMILA: I can’t believe you’re going to be a mother.

15. ANGELA: And a good one. I’ll talk to my child! You wait and see.

16. DJAMILA: What time are you leaving?

17. ANGELA: After church. Hey – don’t look so sad. I’ll be back. I’m 18 in a few months and then I can do what I want. Maybe Pinto will turn out OK. We might learn to love each other.

18. DJAMILA: **(Laughing)** You’re beginning to sound like my mother talking about an arranged marriage for me!

19. ANGELA: Exactly!

20. DJAMILA: **(Suddenly serious)** I just wish she would see that her own brother is a pest.

21. ANGELA: Eh? Who?

22. DJAMILA: Uncle Imrat. I can’t describe it – he’s just gets too close. Everyone in the family just acts like they can’t see. Like ostriches – with their collective heads in the collective sand. **(BEAT)** What am I supposed to do?

END OF EPISODE SIX

OUTRO.

"An Angel in Everyone" was written by Romie Singh.
That brings Learning By Ear to a close for another day. Please
tune in again when Tom faces pressure from his friends to prove
he is a man, but ends up giving Annie a piece of his mind.
Meanwhile Angela is about to take a step into a new life.

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Godbye