

Learning by Ear – Jobs and Education
Radionovela: Studying at University – The Story of Malaika / Episode Three

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Studying at University- The Story of Malaika / Episode 03

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CHARACTERS:

Announcer	- Male adult
Malaika	- A 19-year-old girl
Lecturer	- About 48 years old.
Daniel	- 20 year-old
Cindy	- 19 year-old

INTRO

MUSIC: THEME MUSIC

1. ANNOUNCER Hello and welcome to Episode Three of the “Learning by Ear” series on university education. In the last episode Malaika gets a tough introduction to studies at the university. She overworks herself to exhaustion. Cindy her roommate guides her on how to enjoy college life.

Malaika learns that there is stuff to learn beyond classroom work. However, she still faces the challenge about how to balance everything and not let herself down or the village.

SCENE 1: LECTURE THEATRE

SFX: NOISES OF CHAIRS AND DESKS AS MURMURING STUDENTS QUIT CLASS.

2. LECTURER ... not so fast! Assignments!

3. STUDENTS GROANING

4. LECTURER Read chapters 2,3,4 and 5. Answer questions 3 and 8. Each not less than 2,000 words. To be submitted during the next class. These results will contribute to your final grades.

5. STUDENTS MORE GROANING

SFX: AGAIN NOISES OF CHAIRS AND DESKS AS MURMURING STUDENTS QUIT CLASS.

6. MALAIKA (to herself) It is so hard. How will I manage? I'm drowning.

7. DANIEL Wow, you've got such a sad face. What makes such a pretty face so sad?

8. MALAIKA Oh, it's you, Daniel. How did you find me?

9. DANIEL Same department, same lecturers... I am a second year: Agricultural Engineering. What's the problem? You seem worried.
10. MALAIKA The assignments, they are so hard and I am studying a lot but I don't seem to be making any headway.
11. DANIEL You are doing it all wrong.
12. MALAIKA What do you mean?
13. DANIEL You must let me help you, or at least go and join a study group.
14. MALAIKA A study group?
15. DANIEL You see, when several students get together and share the workload, each researches and reads up on specific areas. Then, they meet up after classes and each student presents to the group. Then they talk it all over together and everyone learns more. You can't do it all alone.
16. MALAIKA Thanks. That is so helpful. But how do I find this group?
17. DANIEL Talk to any of your classmates. You must remember, they all have the same problems.

Learning by Ear – Jobs and Education

Radionovela: Studying at University – The Story of Malaika / Episode Three

Besides (*seductively*), I am always there to help you. So, let's see, what are you studying now?

18. ANNOUNCER

Malaika is learning the ropes from a genuine friend. Will she now begin to cope? Or are there other hurdles to overcome?

MUSIC BRIDGE

SCENE 2: CAMPUS GARDEN.

19. CINDY So, you think it is the end of the world because you failed your first continuous assessment?
20. MALAIKA Cindy, for you it's easy to brush this off. You just don't understand....
- 21 CINDY Understand what? That a 19-year-old has to carry an entire village on her shoulders?
22. MALAIKA I failed.
23. CINDY No, you did not fail. You did your best, given the circumstances. You've had a lot to cope with. And talk of coping with... here comes your man.
24. MALAIKA (*whispering*) Cindy! He is not **my** man.
25. CINDY (*cheeky*) Hi Daniel, see you Malaika.
26. DANIEL Hi Cindy, how are you Malaika
27. MALAIKA Are you following me?
28. DANIEL No, you just happen to be everywhere I go to. How about a movie tonight?
29. MALAIKA No, I couldn't. I have to study.
30. DANIEL You are avoiding me, aren't you.

Learning by Ear – Jobs and Education

Radionovela: Studying at University – The Story of Malaika / Episode Three

31. MALAIKA I will be honest with you. I came here to study not to have relationships.

32. DANIEL Forget the movie, how about me helping you with your current agro metrics assignment?

33. MALAIKA Daniel !!???

MUSIC BRIDGE

SCENE 2: LIBRARY

SCENE 2: LIBRARY

34. CINDY (rustling with books, paper) Hey... Malaika... ssssscchh...
Malaika what are you reading?

35. VOICE: SSSSHHHHHH...

36. CINDY (Louder) Malaika, what is wrong?

37. VOICE Silence please!

38. CINDY (CHAIR PULLS. APPROACHING WITH
CLOTHES RUSTLING)

39. MALAIKA (*whispering*) It's a message from administration. It's a fee
and costs schedule.

40. CINDY (*whispering*)

Yeah, the semester is coming to an end. We all
get a statement of accounts and a demand for
fees for the next semester. So, what's new?

41. MALAIKA Where do I get the money? I do not think the
village has any more chickens to auction?

42. CINDY (lightly) You auction chickens to pay school fees? That
must be loads of chickens!

43. MALAIKA I am serious, Cindy.

44. CINDY Ok, room-mate, you are my friend and at times you do need a bit of help. First things first; we will make an appointment to see the Dean.
45. MALAIKA How can he help me?
46. CINDY Firstly, the university will be aware of your plight. Then, we will ask for advice. You never know, the university might have bursaries for bright students from well....you know, what I mean..
47. MALAIKA ... poor backgrounds?
48. CINDY If you want to put it that way, but I prefer to say 'unfortunate backgrounds'. Right, but before we go to ask, let's surf the Internet.
49. MALAIKA Cindy, this is important for me, let's go see the Dean now.
50. CINDY Why do you think I want to surf the Net?For fun? No, we have to look for scholarships, you never know who has a website supporting female education or traditional male careers for women and all that social development stuff.
51. MALAIKA Cindy, you are indeed a friend, but tell me, how do you know all this?

52. CINDY Try reading the newspapers, watching good local TV programmes or just asking questions. The information is all around you.
53. MALAIKA My head is spinning.
54. CINDY We need to get you some school fees. Come on, let's go.
55. ANNOUNCER Malaika might be worried about next semester's (term's) school fees, but what she should be more worried about is her lack of knowledge about where to get information and help. She is learning fast, but will she get any sponsorship?

MUSIC BRIDGE

SCENE 3: CAMPUS GROUNDS

SOUNDS: BIRDS AND THE MUTED SOUNDS OF STUDENTS IN A RELAXED MOOD. MURMURS.

56. MALAIKA Oh, Cindy, there are so many people chasing after the same scholarships. It's so hard. The studies, the search for money, and my village; they expect so much from me and...

57. CINDY You should not put all your eggs in one basket. Continue following up on sponsorship, get the village to auction some more chickens (laughs) and then get a job.

58. MALAIKA Get a job? I will never give up my studies.

59. DANIEL (*approaching*) Who is giving up her studies?

60. CINDY/MALAIKA Hi Daniel!

61. DANIEL Hi ladies, why the gloomy mood?

62. MALAIKA Cindy thinks I should get a job to pay for my school fees. But if I do, when can I study?

63. DANIEL It's not a bad idea. Well, this is how it works: you get a part-time job, one that has flexibility, not a 9 to 5 job. It will not pay much but, at least you can offset some of your expenses.

Learning by Ear – Jobs and Education

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64. CINDY (*thoughtful*) I know someone who can interview you for a job working at a fast food restaurant here in town.

65. MALAIKA Really, who?

66. CINDY My father. Let's call him and make an appointment.

67. DANIEL There you are angel, now you can serve me my favourite chicken and chips.

68. CINDY/MALAIKA Daniel!!!!!!

MUSIC

OUTRO

69. ANNOUNCER Malaika is not only learning about the subject of agricultural engineering, she is also getting educated about how to survive as a student on campus. After a while in the new job she gets at the restaurant she can multi-task and also enjoy college life. She is fitting in well, but only after a struggle. Now, how well will she fit in back in her home village?

Part 2

Short Music break

Intro Part 2:

Find out how the story of Malaika continues in our next episode of

Learning by Ear. But now, stay tuned. In our upcoming interview you will learn more about how to organize your study life and personal life. Our reporter Kathy Sikombe talked to Sister Rose Nyondo, the Head of Department at the School of Mass Communication at the University of Zambia

Interview

Outro Part 2#

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That was SISTER ROSE NYONDO. The interview was conducted by our correspondent Kathy Sikombe And that's all for today. Remember:

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