

LEARNING BY EAR - “Girls’ Rights”

EPISODE 6:

Title: Domestic Violence and Corporal Punishment – A Story of Girls’ Rights

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Characters:

SCENE 1 At FATUMA’S PARENTS HOMESTEAD

Narrator - 30s Male
Fatuma - 14 Female
Elder Jacob - 60s Male
Mama Fatuma- 60s female

SCENE 2 FATUMA’S CLASSROOM

Narrator - 30s Male
Fatuma - 14 Female
Teacher Halima - 30s female
Class - 14 students

SCENE 3 PLAYING FIELDS

Fatuma - 14 Female
Ciro - 14 Female
Cheptoo - 15 Female
Narrator - 30s Male

SCENE 4 TEACHER MONA’S OFFICE

Teacher Mona - 30s Female
Ciro - 14 Female
Cheptoo - 15 Female
Fatuma - 14 Female
Narrator - 30s Male

SCENE 5 STAFF MEETING

Headmaster - 40s Male
3-4 Staff - 30s Male and Females
Narrator - 30s Male
Janet-Social Worker - 30s Female

SCENE 6 GIRLS PARLIAMENT

Cheptoo - 15 Female
Ciro - 14 Female
Fatuma - 14 Female
Abdi - 15 Male
Group of students (male, female 12-16)

Narrator

SCENE 7 FATUMA’S PARENTS HOMESTEAD

Elder Jacob - 60s Male
Fatuma - 14 Female
Janet-Social Worker - 30s Female
Narrator - 30s Male

INTRO

01. MUSIC: THEME MUSIC

02. NARRATOR

Hello and welcome to Episode **Six** of our “Learning by Ear” **Girls’ Rights** series.

In the last episode, the friends, Ciro, Cheptoo and Fatuma committed themselves to preventing child labour.

In today’s episode, the girls will call their parliament again to discuss domestic violence and corporal punishment. Let’s join them in another story of their girls rights journey.

SCENE 1: FATUMA’S PARENTS’ HOMESTEAD

03. SFX: NIGHT SOUNDS. HEAVY APPROACHING STEPS. HARD KNOCKING ON DOOR

04. SOUNDS: HEAVY BREATHING.

05. MAMA FATUMA

(SLEEPY) What... who... (SHOUTING) who is there? Who’s there?

06. **ELDER JACOB** (SHOUTING) Who is there! Who else did you expect, Mama Fatuma?
Nyenyenyeny...who is there. Open this door, at once. Wake up, woman. You lazibones. It is your husband, Elder Jacob... (hiccup..hiccup..) who else did you expect?
07. **MAMA FATUMA** It’s so late...we are all asleep...
(YAWNS) I’m coming..
08. **SFX: HEAVY KNOCKING**
09. **MAMA FATUMA** (ANGRY) Coming, coming
10. **SFX: DOOR OPENS WITH CREAK**
11. **ELDER JACOB** (SHOUTING) What took you so long, woman!
12. **FATUMA** Mother, mother, what is happening? Are you ok?
13. **ELDER JACOB** Fatuma.. is that you? You lazy girl! Get up and give me my food.
14. **FATUMA** It’s late, father. The food is cold.
15. **ELDER JACOB** (SHOUTING) Lazy child. Warm it up. My food!! Where is my food? (SHOUTING LOUDER).

16. **MAMA FATUMA** Child, wake up and warm that food.
Can't you see your father is very angry?
17. **FATUMA** (MURMURING) warm the food! Cook the
food! No sleep.. this is not...
(INTERRUPTS)
18. **SFX: LOUD SLAP**
19. **FATUMA** Waaaggggghhh.... (CRIES)
20. **ELDER JACOB** You will not argue with me, child.
Women cook for their men. I am your
father. The two of you, get on and give
me food. Noooooow. Do you hear me?
21. **NARRATOR** Whimpering and crying, and still sleepy,
Fatuma warms up her father's food. It is
late in the night and she has school the
following morning.

The slap from her father stings. But not
as much as the pain of deprived sleep.
Let's see how she copes at school the
following day.
22. **BRIDGE MUSIC**

SCENE 2: FATUMA’S CLASSROOM

23. SFX: FURNITURE SOUNDS/pupils chatting

24. **CLASS** Good morning, Teacher Halima

25. **TEACHER Halima** Morning, class. Sit down.

26. SFX: FURNITURE SOUNDS

27. **TEACHER Halima** Open your exercise books. Let’s see
your homework.

28. SFX: DOOR OPENS

29. **TEACHER Halima** Guess who has just walked in. Fatuma!
Why are you late?

30. **FATUMA** I am sorry, Teacher. I woke up late.

31. **TEACHER Halima** (INTERRUPTING) You did what? You
are late because you overslept. You are
lazy! How come all the other students
are in class on time?

32. **FATUMA** I am really sorry.. I had to...you see...

33. **TEACHER Halima** See what... ? Class Monitor.. bring me
that stick. Fatuma must be reminded that
she must come to class on time!

PAUSE

34. **TEACHER Halima** (COMMANDING) Now, get here, girl. 10 strokes for being late. Class, now count!!

35. **SFX: RHYTHMIC CRACKING OF WHIP**

36. **CLASS** One, two,

37. **FATUMA** SCREAMS RHYTHMICALLY

38. **SFX: FADE OUT OF WHIP SOUNDS AND CRIES**

39. **NARRATOR** Fatuma goes on crying out as the teacher meets out the punishment. She is in both emotional and physical pain.

She can’t wait for break time when she meets her friends Ciro and Cheptoo in the playing fields. She needs their comfort.

SCENE 3: PLAYING FIELDS

40. **SFX: School yard**

41. **CHEPTOO** Ciro, what do you think - it’s taking Fatuma too long. The break will soon be over.

42. **CIRO** You know what, Cheptoo, not everyone dashes out of their classroom like you do... oh.. there she is. (SHOUTING) Fatuma, Fatuma.. over here.

43. **CHEPTOO** Look at her.. she is walking like a zombie! Maybe she is sleep-walking. (SHOUTING) Hey.. Fatuma, are you sleep-walking?
44. **CIRO** Ooh no, she has been crying. Fatuma our friend, what is wrong?
45. **FATUMA** (BREAKS DOWN CRYING) I got beaten..
46. **CHEPTOO** Who beat you? We will go and knock some sense into them... we have girl power.
47. **CIRO** Cheptoo, be serious. She is in pain.
48. **FATUMA** Everyone is beating me, my father, now the teacher!
49. **CIRO** What did you do to deserve it?
50. **CHEPTOO** Hey... hey... hey.... The girl does not have to do anything to deserve a beating... You know in this crazy world, you only have to be a girl and you get beaten.
51. **CIRO** Who?
52. **FATUMA** Last night, father, today the teacher.

53. **CIRO** Cheptoo.. be serious. What did you do?

54. **FATUMA** All I wanted, all I needed was my 6 to 7 hours of sleep. But I couldn’t get them. I was up cooking for Dad, who came home late. He beat me. I overslept because Mum and I were up late. The teacher beat me for coming to school late. (CRYING) I am so tired.. my backside hurts so much... Why can’t a girl rest without being beaten?

55. **CHEPTOO** Indeed, but most important, why should a girl be beaten. I think it is time to summon the ‘Girls Parliament’. Let’s go talk to Teacher Mona to help us.

56. **NARRATOR** The girls have one key challenge. If a teacher is meeting out corporal punishment to the girls, as is still the case in some African schools, how can the girls stop it?

Let’s follow the girls into teacher Mona’s office and see if they do finally get her help.

Scene 4 TEACHER MONA’S OFFICE

**57. SFX: office sounds like people talking in the background,
typing, telephone**

58. TEACHER MONA Cheptoo, Ciro and Fatuma, you wanted to see me. What is this about?

59. CHEPTOO Teacher, we want the ‘Girls’ Parliament’ to discuss the issue of corporal punishment. But we thought we should first discuss the issue with you.

60. TEACHER MONA I’m listening.

61. CHEPTOO Fatuma was badly beaten by a teacher for arriving at school late. How can we girls stop teachers from handing out corporal punishment?

62. CIRO Also, how can parents be stopped from beating us?

63. TEACHER MONA mmmh... I don’t hand out corporal punishment? Do I?

64. FATUMA But other teachers do. The school allows teachers to do so.

65. CHEPTOO Teacher Mona, what is the point of debating this at our ‘Girls’ Parliament?’ We are helpless.

66. **TEACHER MONA** Girls, don’t give up. Let’s go see Janet the Social Worker. She will think of something.
67. **NARRATOR** Indeed, Teacher Mona and the Girls need additional help in finding out how to confront this prevalent problem. Social Worker Janet discussed the issue with the school’s headmaster. He called the staff to a meeting.

SCENE 5 STAFF MEETING

68. **SFX: teachers voices in the background (studio)**

69. **_HEADMASTER** And now, as your Headmaster, there is an important issue that has been drawn to my attention by the local Social Worker, Janet. This is an important issue for our agenda. I now call upon Social Worker Janet.
70. **JANET** Members of staff, it has come to our attention that students are very often given corporal punishment. You are not the only ones doing this. You too were beaten in school by your teachers.

77. **CHEPTOO** Silence all!! Boys and girls, the Girls' Parliament invites you all here because we no longer will take beating, smacking and kicking in the name of discipline.
78. **CHILDREN** Hear.. hear.....
79. **CHEPTOO** Fatuma, you recently received corporal punishment and also some beating at home. How would you rather be disciplined?
80. **FATUMA** First, I have a right to sleep enough hours like everyone else. Two, the teacher should first explain to me why she is punishing me. She should give me a moment to explain myself. Then, if I am really guilty of indiscipline, I think a parent should take_away a benefit like... like... say, keeping my good dress away from me for a few months.
81. **SFX: CLASS** **All CLAP**
82. **CHEPTOO** How about you Abdi?

- 83. ABDI** Well, I love to play football with the boys on the village path at home. I think if I have been naughty, my parents should refuse to let me go out and play for a few days. That way, I know I have been bad and will improve.
- 84. SFX: CLASS** **CLAP**
- 85. CHEPTOO** How about you Ciro?
- 86. CIRO** At class, if there is reason to punish me, since I like talking a lot, I think if the teacher puts me in the ‘quiet’ corner where I am not allowed to talk to anyone for say 1 hour, I will feel adequately punished.
- 87. CHEPTOO** It would seem we have plenty of ideas to give your teachers and parents. Now, Ciro, have you summarised all that?
- 88. NARRATOR** Who would have thought that the children would generate their own ideas on how they should be punished for their misdeeds!! Let’s hope the teachers replace the cane with the children’s ideas.

SCENE 7 FATUMA’S PARENTS HOMESTEAD

89. SFX: Outside Atmosphere, birds. People from afar

90. ELDER JACOB Janet.. you are Janet are you not? The Local Social worker? What brings you here?

91. JANET Elder Jacob, you know very well who I am and I promise you, I am not here to fight you.

92. FATUMA Father, Janet is here so we can share ideas on how you can punish me when I do things wrong.

93. ELDER JACOB That is easy. I slap you around and you get back your senses. Always worked, and it also worked on me when my father slapped and kicked me occasionally.

94. JANET Times have changed, Elder Jacob. There are other ways of disciplining without physical beating. Such physical beating is now seen as violence against the child.

95. ELDER JACOB Are you teaching me how to bring up my own child?

96. JANET No.. no.. no.. Elder Jacob. I would never pretend to do the parenting for you. All I ask is you let Fatuma and her mother discuss with you some other methods of disciplining her when the time comes. That is all I ask. All I ask is that you listen to her.

97. Theme music

98. OUTRO

99. NARRATOR The shift of attitude and behaviour may not happen immediately. It might be a gradual process but at least the children now know their rights. And they can make attempts to speak up. And that’s all from Learning by Ear for today.

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