

LEARNING BY EAR 2011**“The Promised Land- A Story of African Migration to Europe”****EPISODE FIVE: “Is My Skin My Sin?”****AUTHOR: Chrispin Mwakideu****EDITORS: Katrin Ogunsade, Klaus Dahmann****List of characters by scene:****SCENE ONE: LINDA AT THE SECURITY GATE**

- Linda (f, 20)
- Security officer (m, 40)
- Airport announcer (m/f, 35)

SCENE TWO: FARAHANI AND SULE TALK TO SULE'S FATHER HAMAD

- Farahani (m, 19)
- Sule (m, 19)
- Hamad (m, 60)

SCENE THREE: LINDA AND FLORENCE HAVING A DRINK AT THE EUROPEAN AIRPORT

- Linda (f, 20)
- Florence (f, 35)
- Mr. Maraga

SCENE FOUR: ENCOUNTER BETWEEN FRONTEX AND ILLEGAL MIGRANTS AT SEA

- **Frontex Guard (m, 40)**
- **Farahani (m, 25)**
- **Small crowd of migrants**

INTRO:

Hello and welcome to Learning by Ear. This is the fifth episode of our radio drama called “**The Promised Land - A Story of African Migration to Europe**”. In the previous episode, Farahani came up with the idea of sneaking into Europe on the boat belonging to Sule’s father, who has been a fisherman all his life. Linda, on the other hand, is already in transit, on her way to start university. She had a bit of a culture shock on arriving in Europe, and right now, with only a few minutes left to catch her flight, she’s still trying to get to the departure gate. Will she make it in time? Let's find out in today's episode, called, “**Is My Skin My Sin?**”. We’ll join Linda first of all, and pick up the story as she goes through the metal detector at the security control.

SCENE ONE: LINDA AT THE SECURITY GATE

1. SFX: BEEPING SOUND AS WHEN METAL DETECTOR DETECTS METAL

2. SECURITY: Go back again and empty whatever is in your pockets - coins, rings, necklaces...

3. SFX: JINGLING OF COINS PLACED IN TRAY

4. ANNOUNCER: **(via speakers)** Final call for Miss Linda Maraga! Miss Linda Maraga! Boarding is already complete. Proceed immediately to gate number five, or we will offload your luggage.

5. LINDA: **(in tears)** Madam... I... I... please - that's my name they're calling! Please!

6. SECURITY: **(in a rush)** Then what are you waiting for? Go on! Go!

7. SFX: FUMBLING WITH PERSONAL BELONGINGS

8. LINDA: **(panicking and in a rush)** God help me, please! Please! I can't miss my flight - I can't...

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9. NARRATOR: Linda quickly gathers up all her belongings and rushes to her departure gate. Incredibly, her prayers have been answered - she gets there just in time! And as she sits down, guess who else she sees is on the flight? It's Florence! What a relief! Linda can't wait to tell her new friend about her nightmare in the transit airport. But before we hear what Florence has to say about it, let's join Farahani and Sule at the harbour, where they're telling Sule's father, Hamad, about their plan.

SCENE TWO: FARAHANI AND SULE TALK TO SULE'S FATHER HAMAD

10. SFX: sea breaking on the shore, harbour noise, e.g. people unloading their boats, busy talking, seagulls

11. FARAHANI: (calming) There's really no need to worry, Mr. Hamad. When we land in Europe and start working there we'll be able to buy you a better boat. The kind with an engine, that you can even sleep inside when it rains. You know the ones?

(Silence)

12. HAMAD: (clears throat) Sule, do you and your friend have no shame at all, that you come to me like this and ask me to give away our family's only source of livelihood? And for what? A dream of going to the white man's land? What is it that our young people think they see in Europe?

13. SULE: (whispering) Farahani, I warned you this wouldn't work with my dad.

14. HAMAD: (shouting) Stop talking when I am talking! Have you forgotten your manners as well? Is this the kind of thing you learn from Europe? Now, you listen to me very carefully. I have been at sea since I was twelve years old. The sea is not a playground! And my boat is not a toy! Get out of my sight, the pair of you!

15. FARAHANI: Mr. Hamad, maybe I didn't explain to you clearly the reason why we -

16. SFX: BOAT HIT HARD BY A WALKING STICK

17. HAMAD: (furious) Out! Get out! Before I lash your backs! Instead of looking for jobs and finding women to marry and have children, you're wasting your time and your youth just dreaming about Europe and building castles in the sea.

18. FARAHANI: (frustrated) In the air. You got it wrong, Mr. Hamad. It's 'building castles in the air', not in the sea.

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19. NARRATOR: Farahani leaves Sule's father at the harbour. He feels not angry, but frustrated. Is this the end of his dreams of going to Europe? But let's turn now to Linda and Florence who, after a short flight, have arrived at their final destination. Linda's had to go through another thorough clearance process at immigration before being allowed to enter the country, but now she's finally arrived at her destination, and Florence has invited her to sit and have a nice cup of tea.

SCENE THREE: LINDA AND FLORENCE HAVING A DRINK AT THE EUROPEAN AIRPORT

20. SFX: CAFE ATMO / AIRPORT

21. LINDA: (exhausted) Florence, I can't believe what I've just been through. This trip has been absolute hell! I never imagined it would be this way. People are so unfriendly; they don't seem to trust me, or even want to speak to me.

22. FLORENCE: Welcome to the real Europe! You know, I had an African friend here who used to say, “My skin is my sin”.

23. LINDA: What does that mean?

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24. FLORENCE: That it's because of our skin colour that we're treated like this. Of course, not everyone here is a racist. If they were, I wouldn't have married a European! **(laughs)** I'm so sorry you had such bad experiences on your very first day. But, you know, people here are more scared these days because of the risk of terrorism. And, even if that weren't the case, they're not nearly as friendly as people are back home. You'll have to get used to that.

25. LINDA: **(embarrassed)** Flo, thank you so much for your advice. Erm... look, I don't want to take advantage, but might it be possible for me to use your phone, very quickly? I just need to send my parents a text to let them know I've arrived safely. I know they must be worried.

26. FLORENCE: No problem. Go ahead and call them! I'm sure they'll be happy to hear your voice.

27. LINDA: Thank you, Flo. You're so kind.

28. SFX: DIALLING OF NUMBERS ON A MOBILE PHONE

29. MR. MARAGA: **(answers call)** Hello... Who's calling?

30. LINDA: **(thrilled)** Dad! It's me, Linda.

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31. MR. MARAGA: Linda! Oh, thank God! How are you? How was your journey? Whose number is this?

32. LINDA: I'm fine, Dad. I'm calling from a friend's phone. The journey was not so easy; I almost missed my connecting flight, and people here really aren't very friendly. But Europe looks beautiful.

33. SFX: BAD CONNECTION ON THE LINE

34. MR. MARAGA: Hello! Linda? I can't hear you clearly. Where are you calling me from?

35. LINDA: Sorry, Dad, I have to go. Tell Mum I got here safely. I miss you...

36. MR. MARAGA: Hello? Helloooo... Linda, are you there?

37. SFX: BEEP OF MOBILE PHONE CALL BEING ENDED

38. LINDA: Thank you, Flo. My parents will be relieved to know I've got here safely.

39. FLORENCE: Linda, let me give you a piece of advice. Never tell people back home that things are tough here, or that you're having difficulties. No matter what you go through, don't ever tell them the truth.

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40. LINDA: **(surprised)** What?! Whyever not, Florence? These are my parents. They need to know what's happening in my life!

41. FLORENCE: **(sympathetic)** Mmm... I don't need to tell you why, Linda. Just remember what I said. You'll work it out yourself soon enough.

42. SFX: MOBILE PHONE RINGING

43. FLORENCE: Oh - I have to go. My driver's here already. Here - here's twenty euros to pay for the tea. You can keep the change. Now remember: you have my telephone number, so if ever you need anything, just give me a call. It was great to meet you, Linda. Bye-bye, and take care.

44. SFX: LUGGAGE BEING WHEELED AWAY

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45. NARRATOR: Linda watches Florence wheel her luggage towards the car park, and for the first time ever in her life she feels scared. Scared, and lonely. She looks around, hoping to see a familiar face, but all the faces here are foreign. She pays for the tea and goes to airport train station, where she catches the train to her university. Let's leave Linda now as she embarks on her new life, and find out what's been going on with Farahani, back in North Africa. After Sule's father, Hamad, refused to lend him his boat, Farahani decided to join some other migrants who were trying to get to Europe in a small, overcrowded boat of their own. But this time he kept his decision secret - he hasn't even told his best friend Sule about his plans. Now, after many days at sea, Farahani and the others have managed to get within a few miles of the European coast,.

SCENE FOUR: ENCOUNTER BETWEEN FRONTEX AND ILLEGAL MIGRANTS AT SEA

46. SFX: ROUGH SEA WAVES HITTING ON BOAT

47. FRONTEX GUARD: (via megaphone) We are European border guards. Please remain calm! Do not jump into the water! Our officers will be escorting you from this point on.

48. FARAHANI: (shouts) Where are you taking us? We want to go to Europe. We know we're nearly there. We can even see the coast from here.

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49. **FRONTEX GUARD:** (via megaphone) We intercepted this boat in African territorial waters, so we shall be returning you there safely as soon as we have identified exactly where you have come from.
50. **FARAHANI:** We don't want to go back! We have no papers! We are stateless!
51. **FRONTEX GUARD:** Well, we'll see about that. All I know right now is that you were trying to cross into Europe illegally, and our duty is to make sure that our borders remain secure. Please co-operate with these officers, for your own safety.
52. **FARAHANI:** (adamant) I am not going back! I am not going back! You can't make me!
53. **SFX: FARAHANI DIVES INTO THE SEA**
- 53.a **FRONTEX GUARD:** (shocked) He's jumped off the boat! Quick, quick - get him out! The waves are too strong - he's drowning!
54. **SFX: MIGRANTS MAKING SHOCKED AND SCARED EXCLAMATIONS**
55. **FARAHANI:** (drowning) Heeelp!..Heeelp...!
56. **SFX: TWO MORE PEOPLE DIVE INTO SEA**

57. FRONTEX GUARD: Have you got him? Is he all right? (**deep breath**)

Okay. Now listen carefully. We don't want anyone to get hurt. So please, all of you, remain calm, stay on the boat, and all will be well.

OUTRO:

So Farahani is rescued from the sea by the lifeguards, and sent back to Africa against his will. But he still hasn't abandoned his dream... What will he do next? Keep listening, and you'll find out! We've reached the end of the fifth episode of this radio drama series, "**The Promised Land**", a story focusing on African migration to Europe. Tune in to the next episode to see how Linda tackles the challenges of studying in Europe. Meanwhile, do join us to discuss the issue of racism and intolerance on our Facebook page, [facebook.com/dw.lbe](https://www.facebook.com/dw.lbe). You can also listen to this episode again, and many others, by visiting our Learning by Ear webpage at dw-world.de/destinationeurope.

Goodbye for now!