

LEARNING BY EAR 2011

“The Promised Land - A Story of African Migration to Europe”

EPISODE ONE: “Dreams of a Sweet Tomorrow”

AUTHOR: Chrispin Mwakideu

EDITORS: Katrin Ogunsade, Klaus Dahmann

List of characters by scene:

SCENE ONE: CHIVASI AND LINDA IN A CAFETERIA IN TOWN

- Linda (f, 20)
- Chivasi (m, 22)

SCENE TWO: FARAHANI AND SULE COMING FROM PRAYERS

- Farahani (m, 19)
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SCENE THREE: EVENING AT LINDA'S HOUSE

- Linda (f, 20)

- **Mr. Maraga (m, 60)**
- **Mrs. Maraga (f, 55)**

INTRO:

Greetings and welcome to Learning by Ear. This is a brand new, fifteen-episode radio drama called “**The Promised Land – A Story of African Migration to Europe**”. People have always migrated in search of a better life. Lately, it seems hardly a day passes without news of the arrival on European shores of hundreds of illegal migrants from Africa and other regions. These people risk everything, including their own lives, to get to what they believe is the promised land. But it’s not only *illegal* migrants who are making their way to Europe. Some, of course, go to live there legally. But what is it that makes Africans to leave their continent? And what awaits them in Europe? For the answers to these questions and much more besides, stick with us, and listen to our first episode, called “**Dreams of a Sweet Tomorrow**”. You’ll meet four young people from different parts of Africa. Chivasi and Linda live in a country somewhere south of the Sahara. These two have been friends since they were children. Now they’re mature adults in a committed relationship, and they’ve just graduated from university. Chivasi wants to settle down - but Linda’s parents have other plans. How will Chivasi and Linda deal with this? Listen on as the young couple meet in a café in town.

SCENE ONE: CHIVASI AND LINDA IN A CAFETERIA IN TOWN

1. SFX: BUSY CAFE ATMO

2. CHIVASI: (eats and smacks his lips) Linda, what's on your mind? You seem to be lost in thought.

3. LINDA: Chivasi... I... I don't know how to tell you this news.

4. CHIVASI: (with his mouth full) Mmmh... is it good news or bad news? You sound so serious. Relax, my dear. We've just finished our studies, and we got good results. We shouldn't have a problem finding work.

5. LINDA: (cuts him short) I am going abroad.

6. CHIVASI: (swallows and coughs, shocked) What?!! Linda, what did you just say?

7. SFX: FORK FALLS ONTO PLATE

8. LINDA: Chivasi, calm down. I'm going to Europe to continue my studies.

9. CHIVASI: (utterly shocked) No, Linda. You can't do that to me. To us. Please, don't go abroad. You can study right here, at home.

- 10. LINDA:** It's already been decided, Chivasi. I can't go against my parents' wishes. They're convinced that studying in Europe will give me a better chance on the job market.
- 11. CHIVASI:** **(heartbroken)** But what about me? I love you, Linda! Am I supposed to put all that behind me and just forget you?
- 12. LINDA:** Chivasi! How can you even say such a thing? I'm not going for good! It's only three years. You know how much I want to be with you.
- 13. CHIVASI:** **(even more shocked)** Three years! Linda, three years would kill me.
- 14. LINDA:** Chivasi, stop being so negative. Come on - look, this will be good for both of us. For our future. Besides, we can always Facebook, and we can chat online. It'll be like I'm right there with you. The time will go so fast, and before you know it I'll be right back here with you.
- 15. CHIVASI:** How can I be sure? Unless...
- 16. LINDA:** Unless what?
- 17. CHIVASI:** Unless you promise me that you will marry me when you return.

18. LINDA: Chivasi, it’s not fair to ask me to make a promise like that.

19. CHIVASI: If you truly love me like you say you do, then promise me this. Only then will I be able to stand you being away for so long.

20. LINDA: **(confused)** Chivasi... I can't. I’m sorry, it's just asking too much of me. Everybody is expecting too much of me... **(almost in tears)**

21. SFX: DINING CHAIR BEING PULLED BACK

22. CHIVASI: **(shouts)** Linda! Linda! Where are you going? Linda!

23. SFX: HURRIED FOOTSTEPS LEAVING

24. NARRATOR: This is a dilemma faced by some African people every day. “Should I leave my country, my wife or husband, and my whole way of life, for a life I know nothing about, in a foreign world?” The truth is that, while some choose to stay, many do choose to go. So what will Linda do after storming out of her lunch date with Chivasi? Stay tuned to find out. But now, let's travel to North Africa, where we'll meet Farahani, a young man whose parents passed away, leaving him an orphan. With him is his friend Sule, a young North African man who comes from a family of local fishermen. Both of them are unemployed, and they have just one thing on their minds: Europe.

SCENE TWO: FARAHAANI AND SULE COMING FROM PRAYERS

25. SFX: Market atmosphere, maybe a muezzin calling from a mosque in the background

26. SULE: (cheerful) Farahani, what are you thinking?

27. FARAHAANI: (absent-minded) Huh? I... Never mind. It's not important.

28. SULE: (concerned) Sure it is. You've been very quiet lately. What is it?

29. FARAHAANI: Ah, Sule, sometimes I just sit and wonder... when will we ever find peace in our country? The violence, the hatred, the reprisals... I lost my parents because of it, Sule. I'm so sick of it all. Come on - let's go down to the -

30. SULE: (cuts him short) Shore? Again? Farahani, I know how much you enjoy fantasizing about Europe. I do too, but this is where our lives are.

31. FARAHAANI: (adamant) No! There is no life here. Europe is where people REALLY live.

32. SULE: What? We have no life here? Are you dead, Farahani? For someone who's dead, you look pretty alive to me!

33. FARAHANI: Sule, we’re not dead, but we’re not living either.
(pause) We’re just surviving.

34. SULE: Surviving.

35. FARAHANI: **(emphatic)** Yes. Every day here is a fight for survival. But from what I’ve heard, life in Europe is hundred times better. The future there is brighter than the sun over our heads. If you can make it to Europe, life really becomes *life*. Let’s go down to the shore and watch the lights of Europe.

36. SULE: Ah, you and your European lights. Okay, then, let’s go.

37. FARAHANI: Sule, one of these fine days I’ll cross over to the other side, and then I’ll really start living.

38. NARRATOR: This is what Farahani, Sule and many other young Africans dream of: migrating to Europe. Is it wrong for them to dream and hope? Judge for yourself, as our story continues to unfold. Later that same evening, at Linda's house, Mr. and Mrs. Maraga can't contain their joy.

SCENE THREE: EVENING AT LINDA’S HOUSE

39. SFX: HOT DRINK BEING POURED INTO A CUP

40. MR. MARAGA: Thank you, Linda. Now tell me: have you talked to Chivasi about you going to study in Europe?

41. MRS. MARAGA: Yes, I was wondering the same thing. You two had lunch together today, didn’t you?

42. LINDA: **(surprised)** Mum, how did you know? Are you following us?

43. MRS. MARAGA: Mmm... yes. On Facebook. It's there for all to see! Chivasi’s last status update proudly announced: **(mimics Chivasi's voice)** “Do not disturb - on a lunch date with my one and only”.

44. MR. MARAGA: Ah, this crazy generation. They just can't keep their private thoughts private.

45. LINDA: **(bitter)** This isn’t fair.

46. MR. MARAGA: Linda! What is it?.

47. LINDA: In sending me away, are you stopping to think about what I’m leaving behind?

48. MRS. MARAGA: Yes. Nothing! There’s nothing left here in our country. Just poverty, misery and despair.

49. MR. MARAGA: **(angrily)** Mama Linda, let us give our daughter time to explain herself!

50. (short silence)

51. MR. MARAGA: Linda, you were saying something...?

52. LINDA: Dad... Mum... I know that you two want the best for me, and I really do appreciate that. But my going abroad has already complicated things for me and Chivasi.

53. MR. MARAGA: **(curiously)** In what way, Linda? Did he threaten to leave you after you told him the good news?

54. LINDA: That’s the problem, Dad. This is good news to you, but not to everyone. Chivasi didn’t threaten to leave me; he asked me to marry him.

55. MRS. MARAGA: **(sarcastic sneer and laughter)** Typical African man.

56. MR. MARAGA: **(authoritative)** Mama Linda! Don't forget that I'm an African man, too. I know that times have changed - that's why I want to see Linda pursue her career as a lawyer. Linda, your mother and I aren't doing this to try and tear you away from Chivasi. We simply want you to have a better life than we do. You know very well that this is only possible if you go to Europe. There you'll get the best education, from the best tutors; you'll study with the best students, and...

57. LINDA: **(cuts him short)** But I could carry on studying here. Why send me off to that cold continent, Dad? Three years away from Chivasi... Yes, I might come home with a law degree, but I might lose the only man I've known and loved, ever since I was a child. Is it really worth it?

58. MRS. MARAGA: **(cold and hard)** Linda, your father and I have gone to great lengths to see to it that you can study abroad. We've spent every bit of our savings to pay for your education. For you to compare that with your relationship with Chivasi is not just ungrateful, it's disrespectful, too.

- 59. MR. MARAGA:** Your mother is right. Linda. There aren't enough opportunities here at home. But if you study hard and do well, everything changes. The jobs will come to you, there'll be plenty of opportunities, and a lot of money to go with them. Besides: who knows, maybe you'll like it over there? Think: your whole life is before you, my daughter.
- 60. LINDA:** But what about Chivasi? He asked me to promise that I'll marry him when I come back. What should I do?
- 61. MRS. MARAGA:** Tell him you'll give him an answer when you come back. And that he should not put this up on Facebook.
- 62. MR. MARAGA:** What is it with you kids and this Facebook?! Linda, you're an adult now. Please - try to think and act like one.

OUTRO:

With those calm, fatherly words from Mr. Maraga, we end our first episode of this new special edition of Learning by Ear on the subject of migration to Europe. What will Linda decide to do about Chivasi? And what awaits her in Europe, where she is to continue her law studies? And don't forget Farahani, our friend in North Africa. Will he take the risk and make the crossing? You'll find out all this and much more in our second episode. And please join us in our online discussion forum as we tackle this question: Is it true that there are no prospects of a bright future for young people in Africa? Send us your comments on our Facebook page, [facebook.com/dw.lbe](https://www.facebook.com/dw.lbe). You can also listen to this episode and others on our website at dw-world.de/destinationeurope. Until next time - goodbye.