

## **LEARNING BY EAR 2011**

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

#### **EPISODE TWO: “Different Routes, Same Destination”**

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**List of characters by scene:**

#### **SCENE ONE: LINDA BEING INTERVIEWED FOR HER STUDENT VISA**

- Linda (f, 20)
- Embassy official (m, 45 - European accent)
- Mixed crowd (3-4 people, age and gender not important)

#### **SCENE TWO: FARAHANI AND SULE BY THE SHORE**

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

### **SCENE THREE: LINDA AT HOME WITH HER PARENTS**

- **Linda (f, 20)**
- **Mr. Maraga (m, 60)**
- **Mrs. Maraga (f, 55)**
- **Chivasi (m, 22)**

#### **INTRO:**

Greetings and welcome to Learning by Ear. We’re on the second episode of our radio drama, **“The Promised Land - A Story of African Migration to Europe”**. In the first episode, we caught a glimpse of the lives of four young people: Farahani, who lives in North Africa and dreams of migrating to Europe; Sule, his friend; Chivasi, a young man from another African country who has just finished university; and finally Linda, Chivasi’s fiancée, who faces a difficult decision. We were also introduced to Linda’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Maraga, who are spending all their savings to send Linda to Europe to study international law. Where will the story take us? Keep listening to find out, in today’s episode: **“Different Routes, Same Destination”**. We begin with Linda being interviewed for her student visa by an embassy official.

**SCENE ONE: LINDA BEING INTERVIEWED FOR HER STUDENT VISA**

**1. SFX: OFFICE ATMO, THEN DOOR OPENS**

**2. EMB. OFFICIAL:** (calls out) Miss Linda Maraga!

**3. SFX: MURMURS FROM MIXED CROWD**

**4. EMB. OFFICIAL:** (calls out again) Linda Maraga! Last call!

**5. LINDA:** (waking up) Me! I'm here, sir. Sorry.

**6. EMB. OFFICIAL:** Miss Maraga, this is not a hotel room. Please follow me.

**7. SFX: DOOR BEING OPENED AND CLOSED**

**8. LINDA:** I'm sorry about that, sir.

**9. EMB. OFFICIAL:** (calm) Are you sick, Miss Maraga?

**10. LINDA:** No sir, it's just that the queue was so long that I had to sleep outside the Embassy compound to be sure of getting an interview. I didn't sleep very well.

**11. EMB. OFFICIAL:** More and more people are applying for visas every year. You can imagine how much work that makes for us. (changes tone) So - why do you want to go to my country?

**12. LINDA:** (nervously) To... to study.

**13. SFX: FAINT TYPING ON A COMPUTER KEYBOARD ON BACKGROUND**

**14. EMB. OFFICIAL:** Hmm... to study. And what precisely are you going to study?

**15. LINDA:** I'll be studying International Law. Everything is here in the -

**16. EMB. OFFICIAL:** (plainly) I know what's in your file, Miss Maraga. Just answer my questions, please. Couldn't you find a university here, or in another African country, that offers the same course? I imagine that would be much cheaper.

**17. LINDA:** It's true that there are some, but they don't have the same prestige or reputation as those in Europe. If I get my degree in Europe, I stand a much better chance of getting a well-paid job.

**18. EMB. OFFICIAL:** Who is paying for your tuition fees and accommodation?

**19. LINDA:** My parents. They've already paid the tuition fee for the first term. As for accommodation, I'll be living in the university's student halls of residence.

**20. EMB. OFFICIAL:** Your course lasts three years. Who will pay for the rest of it?

**21. LINDA:** Well, my parents, I guess, since they're the ones who are sending me to study abroad.

**22. EMB. OFFICIAL:** (**sternly**) You guess? Miss Maraga, this is not a guessing matter. I need to know for sure who will be responsible for your upkeep while you are in my country. What do your parents do for a living?

**23. LINDA:** They're both civil servants.

**24. EMB. OFFICIAL:** Do you have any idea what their combined income is each month?

**25. LINDA:** (**puzzled**) Ah... ah... I'm not sure, sir. But the salary slips of both my -

**26. EMB. OFFICIAL:** I told you before, I've already gone through your file. I need you to answer my questions, Miss Maraga. So you don't know how much your parents earn?

**27. LINDA:** Sir, with all due respect, what my parents earn is really none of my business. I've never asked them, and they've never told me.

**28. EMB. OFFICIAL:** Do you intend to come back here when you have finished your studies?

**29. LINDA:** Yes, I do.

**30. EMB. OFFICIAL:** How can I be sure of that? How can I be sure that, if I give you a visa, you won't overstay it?

**31. LINDA:** **(takes a deep breath)** Because I am engaged.

**32. EMB. OFFICIAL:** **(changes to happy tone)** Oh, really? Congratulations! When is the wedding, Miss Maraga?

**33. LINDA:** **(tired and exasperated)** After I finish my studies....  
**(pause)** ...sir.

**34. EMB. OFFICIAL:** Good! Well, that will be all.

**35. LINDA:** **(surprised)** So...

**36. EMB. OFFICIAL:** I will give you a visa, Miss Maraga, but first you have to pay the standard charge of 60 euros. You need to go and see the cashier, and she will give you a receipt. Once again, congratulations on your engagement, and good luck with your studies.

**37. LINDA:** **(relieved)** Thank you - thank you so much!

**38. SFX: DOOR OPENS**

**39. NARRATOR:** Ask anyone who has applied for a visa to Europe and they'll tell you how tough it was. Huge numbers of applicants are rejected, but this doesn't stop people trying. Linda's one of the lucky ones. Just as she's leaving the embassy, full of joy and expectation, elsewhere, in North Africa, Farahani is meeting up with his friend Sule. He has some news to tell him.

### **SCENE TWO: FARAHANI AND SULE BY THE SHORE**

#### **40. SFX: WAVES GENTLY HITTING THE SHORE**

**41. SULE:** *(in disbelief)* Farahani! You must be out of your mind!

**42. FARAHANI:** Listen, Sule, it's the only thing left to do. Will you come with me or not?

**43. SULE:** I want to, but I'm scared. Aren't you scared, Farahani?

**44. FARAHANI:** Scared? Scared of what? We've got nothing to lose, but if we make it, we have EVERYTHING to gain!

**45. SULE:** You're sure this will work?

**46. FARAHANI:** No, I'm not sure, Sule. But we should at least try. If we get caught, it's just back to square one.

**47. SULE:** Let's take another route then, one that's not as risky. What you're proposing is very dangerous, Farahani.

- 48. FARAHANI:** The other routes are too well known. Just the other day some migrants were caught in a boat off the European coast, and guess what?
- 49. SULE:** They were shot?
- 50. FARAHANI:** No, they weren't shot. They can't just kill them! Migrants are not criminals. No - they were sent back.
- 51. SULE:** (**realising**) Oh... Now I get it. So you want to go under the radar, which is why you've chosen this new route. Very clever. And what about our families? Relatives? Should we tell them?
- 52. FARAHANI:** We'll tell them when we're in Europe.
- 53. SULE:** And what if we don't get there? What if we don't make it?
- 54. FARAHANI:** Then we'll have to keep on trying.

**NARRATOR:** Farahani seems to have found a new way of sneaking illegally into Europe. But what exactly is his idea? Will he succeed? And will Sule go along with him, or will he change his mind? The saga continues... Meanwhile, Linda has picked up her visa and is now at home, showing it to her proud parents.

### **SCENE THREE: LINDA AT HOME WITH PARENTS**

**(Joy, laughter and excitement in the air from the Maraga family)**

**55. MRS. MARAGA:** Ah Linda, today you have made me a very proud mother.

**56. MR. MARAGA:** And I'm a very proud father, as well. Show me the visa again ...

**57. LINDA:** Dad - you've seen it so many times already! ...Okay...

#### **58. SFX: PASSPORT PAGES BEING SHUFFLED OPEN**

**59. MR. MARAGA:** (reads out) Linda Maraga, student visa. Validity, three years. Multiple entry. What does multiple entry mean? Does it mean we can travel to Europe on your visa as well?

**60. LINDA:** No, Dad, it means I can use it several times, to keep entering and leaving the country for as long as the visa is valid.

**61. MR. MARAGA:** Aha, I see. That's a pity. Anyway, Linda, I've already booked a flight for you. You'll be leaving for Europe this weekend.

**62. LINDA:** (shocked) This weekend? Dad - I have so much to do! I have to go shopping, I have to pack, and say goodbye to...

**63. MR. MARAGA:** Don't blame me. It was your mother's idea.

**64. MRS. MARAGA:** Sorry, dear, but we have to act fast, in case those people at the embassy change their minds. From what you told us, it sounds as if it's possible.

**65. SFX: MOBILE RINGTONE WITH COOL MUSIC**

**66. LINDA:** Excuse me, I have to take this call in private.

**67. MRS. MARAGA:** No problem, dear. Say hi to Chivasi, and tell him he should come and see us soon. It's been quite a while... **(voice gets quieter)**

**68. SFX: DOOR BEING opened and CLOSED**

**69. LINDA:** **(on phone)** Hello, Chivasi, how've you been?

**70. CHIVASI:** **(on phone)** You want the truth, or just a polite reply?

**71. LINDA:** The truth, as always. I am sorry I left like that the other day. But...

**72. CHIVASI:** Forget it, Linda. Tell me - did you get a visa? A friend of mine who applied for a visa for Europe was refused recently. I hear they've become very strict nowadays.

73. **LINDA:** That's true. But I got my visa, Chivasi. And my parents have just told me that I'm leaving for Europe this weekend.
74. **CHIVASI:** (**shocked**) What?! You are kidding, right? This weekend is only a few days away.
75. **LINDA:** I know, Chivasi. I'm so sorry - lately all I ever seem to do is say goodbye to you.
76. **CHIVASI:** (**trying to be strong**) It's all right, Linda. I want you to know that I'm very happy for you. Extremely proud, and happy for you.
77. **LINDA:** Thanks, Chivasi. That means a lot, coming from you.
78. **CHIVASI:** (**deep breath**) Does that mean I we have to say our goodbyes now? Like this, on the phone?
79. **LINDA:** (**supportive**) No - actually my mother has invited you to come and have a meal with us. And I would love to see you before I go. I have a confession to make.
80. **CHIVASI:** (**doubtful**) Is it a good or a bad confession?
81. **LINDA:** (**chuckles**) Mmmm... A good one, I think. A very good one.

**82. CHIVASI:**      **(sigh of relief)** Phew! Thank God. Okay, tell your mother that I’m honoured to be invited. I’ll come for supper tomorrow if that’s okay with her.

**83. LINDA:**      Okay. So I’ll see you tomorrow, then.

**84. SFX: MOBILE PHONE BEEP AS WHEN CALL DISCONNECTS**

**OUTRO:**

And the end of Linda and Chivasi’s phone call is also the end of the second episode of this radio drama, called “**The Promised Land - A Story of African Migration to Europe**”. Now Linda has her visa, and her flight has been booked - but what awaits her in Europe? How will Chivasi cope with her departure? And on Africa’s northern coast, will Farahani and Sule go through with their plan to migrate to Europe illegally? You’ll hear the answers to this and much more in the upcoming third episode. Join us in our online discussion at [facebook.com/dw.lbe](https://facebook.com/dw.lbe) to air your views on the various methods of legal and illegal migration. And remember that you can also listen to this episode again simply by visiting our web page at [dw-world.de/destinationeurope](http://dw-world.de/destinationeurope). Until we meet again - take care.