

Learning by Ear 2011 – Road Safety

Episode 08 – Don't drink and drive

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CHARACTERS:

Scene 1:

- ♣ ALICE (FEMALE, 13)
- ♣ NANCY (FEMALE, 13, Alice's friend)

Scene 2:

- ♣ ALICE (FEMALE, 13)
- ♣ PAMELA (FEMALE, 30-40)

Scene 3:

- ♣ NANCY (FEMALE, 13)
- ♣ ALICE (FEMALE, 13)
- ♣ DOUGLAS (MALE, 18, Nancy's brother)

Scene 4:

- ♣ ALICE (FEMALE, 13)
- ♣ NANCY (FEMALE, 13)

♣ DOUGLAS (MALE, 18)

Scene 5:

♣ ALICE (FEMALE, 13)

♣ NANCY (FEMALE, 13)

♣ DOUGLAS (MALE, 18)

Scene 6:

♣ NEWSREADER (FEMALE OR MALE, ADULT)

Intro/Studio/Outro:

♣ PRESENTER BEATRICE (FEMALE, ADULT)

♣ GEORGE – ROAD SAFETY EXPERT (MALE, ADULT)

Intro:

1. Beatrice: Welcome to Learning by Ear and our radio drama series about road safety. My name is Beatrice.

Throughout our ten programs we are following the Wanjiru family and a period in their lives where they see and experience how dangerous the roads in Africa can be. I'm also going to be talking to a road safety expert to find out how we can make travelling on the roads safer and, crucially, save lives.

In this episode it's the final day of school for Alice and her friend, Nancy. They decide to go out and celebrate. But they underestimate the devastating influence of alcohol and other drugs on driving. Stay tuned and listen to the story about the day that started as a celebration and ended as a nightmare!

Scene One: leaving school

2. SFX Atmo: school bell, children chattering, laughing

3. ALICE: No more school for two months...thank god! And we all passed our exams, even you, Nancy, you passed the maths! It must have been all of my coaching. You owe me at least a few sodas!

4. NANCY: Hey forget sodas, let's go out tonight and celebrate! My brother has just passed his driving test, dad will lend him the car and he can even buy us some alcohol as he's over the age limit. What do you reckon?

5. ALICE: Great idea! Will your dad really lend him the car even though he's just passed? And he won't be drinking if he's driving will he?

6. NANCY: Yeah, my dad is totally cool about it. And you know Douglas doesn't really drink. He likes to smoke a bit. **(secretly)** You know marijuana... But that doesn't do anything to you. Cool we'll see you later, pick you up around seven?

7. ALICE: Perfect. See you later!

Scene Two: Alice's house

8. SFX Atmo: living room, cooking

9. ALICE: Hey mum do you think this dress looks ok?

10. PAMELA: Yes, dear. It looks lovely. Where did you say you're going?

11. ALICE: Oh I'm not sure, somewhere in town. Nancy and her brother are picking me up. Then we're meeting some friends in town... We shouldn't be too late back.

12. PAMELA: Ok, but be careful. And is Nancy's brother really fine to drive? Has he passed his test and had lots of experience?

13. SFX: **Car hooting from outside**

14. ALICE: Oh that must be them. We'll be fine mum, see you later!

15. SFX: **Slamming of door**

16. PAMELA: **(shouting)** Bye Alice, and don't forget to take care!

Scene 3: driving in the car

17. SFX Atmo: **driving along**

18. NANCY: Hey, isn't it so cool to have our own wheels and be independent!

- 19. ALICE:** Yeah. It's great. Douglas what are you smoking?
- 20. DOUGLAS:** Oh, you know just some weed, marijuana... Do you want some?
- 21. ALICE:** Errr, no thanks. Is it really ok to drive when you're smoking that stuff?
- 22. DOUGLAS:** No problem! It just makes my driving a bit more chilled. None of this road rage like all these other idiots on the road.
- 23. NANCY:** Hey, don't worry Alice. Hey, just have a beer and relax. Doug just bought them for us. Enjoy the beer and chill out. Aren't we supposed to have fun tonight?
- 24. ALICE:** Oh ok. Thanks.
- 25. NANCY:** Cheers then! Here's to the end of term and a great night out!

26. SFX: **clinking bottles**

27. NANCY: Hey look, there's Fred over there... Just going into the bar. Let's catch him up. **(honk and shouting)** Hey Fred, wait for us! We'll just park the car and see you in the bar.

Scene Four – outside the bar

28. SFX Atmo: **cars going past, people singing, people drinking**

29. ALICE: **(tired)** Hey Nancy, I feel a bit sick. Can't we go home now?

30. NANCY: **(slurring words)** What, already? But it's early, isn't it?

31. ALICE: No, Nancy. It's one in the morning and we're already out for six hours. I really need to go to bed. I feel very sick.

- 32. NANCY:** Ok, let me find Doug. You look for Fred as I said we'd give him a lift home.
- 33. ALICE:** I've been looking for him. The owner of the bar said he was totally drunk and went outside to get some air and lie down. I don't know where he is though.
- 34. NANCY:** Oh strange. Here's Doug so maybe we all get in the car and have a drive around to look for him... You are ok to go now Doug?
- 35. DOUGLAS:** **(talking in a slow manner)** Errr, sure. Where's the car?
- 36. ALICE:** Errrm... I think where we left it. Can't you remember where that was?
- 37. DOUGLAS:** Sure I can! Somewhere over there. Or maybe...
(surprised) No, just here! Come on Alice and Nancy, let's get in the car and we will find Fred.

38. SFX: **Car doors opening and closing. Motor starting.**

Scene Five – on the road searching for Fred

39. SFX Atmo: **Inside the car, driving, car motor sounds**

40. NANCY: So Doug, just drive round the block slowly and we'll see if we can spot Fred. Apparently he just left the bar to get some air and have a rest.

41. DOUGLAS: Ok, shout if you see him.

42. SFX: **Bump sound, car ran over something**

43. ALICE: Stop! What was that? We just went over something.

44. DOUGLAS: Hey calm down Alice. It's just a bump in the road, one of those speed bumps or something.

- 45. ALICE:** They don't have them on this road. Stop the car Doug.
We just went over something.
- 46. NANCY:** Maybe it was a dog. Doug, let me get out to take a look!
- 47. SFX:** **Car engine off**
- 48. SFX:** **Car door opens from inside**
- 49. NANCY:** **(Nancy gets out of the car, walks a couple of meters)**
(Screams) Oh no! No!!!
- 50. ALICE:** **(still inside the car)** Nancy, what is it?
- 51. NANCY:** Oh my god. It's Fred. We've just run him over.
(desperate) Help me Alice! Please, Alice, help me!
- 52. SFX:** **Car door opens**

53. ALICE: **(Alice gets out of the car and walks to Nancy)** Oh my god! Nancy, is he still breathing? Oh my god, we run him over. Douglas, get some help! We have to bring him to a hospital!

54. DOUGLAS: **(approaching Nancy and Alice, drunk and shocked)**
It's really Fred... He is bleeding... **(losing control, panicking)** Someone help him! Please help him!

55. SFX: **Police sirens**

56. ALICE: Oh my god, the police are coming too. We need an ambulance for Fred. Help, someone, please help!

Scene Six – radio broadcast

57. SFX: beeps for 9 o'clock news on the radio

58. NEWSREADER: Good morning and welcome to the 9 o'clock edition of our local news: Three teenagers have been arrested after they ran over and killed a young boy last night. According to the local police, the teenagers were driving under the influence of alcohol and other drugs. The driver of the vehicle has been charged with involuntary manslaughter. If found guilty, he could face up to eight years in prison. The other two teenagers arrested have been released on bail after interrogation and face a fine up to ... **(fade out) ... 1000 US Dollars. The boy who has been killed was only 15 years old. As a spokesman of the police said, the teenagers were all friends who have been out together to celebrate the end of the school term....**

END OF SCENE FIVE

SHORT MUSIC

59. BEATRICE: Welcome back again. With me in the studio now is George, our road safety expert. Welcome George!

60. GEORGE: Thank you.

61. BEATRICE: Well, George, a pretty sad end to what started as a celebratory night out...

62. GEORGE: Yes, Beatrice, tragic. But this sad ending serves to emphasize even more the danger of driving either whilst drinking or taking drugs. Alcohol and drugs like marihuana impair your judgement. They slow down your reactions and make you less able to clearly judge situations around you. Douglas thought he'd gone over a bump, but it was a person and he killed that person!

63. BEATRICE: Is driving whilst under the influence of drugs and drink a big problem in Africa?

64. GEORGE: Yes, a huge problem. In many African countries the police just don't penalize people caught drinking and driving. They are either allowed to get away with it or pay a bribe. But if you kill someone, like Douglas did, or if you seriously injure someone, it could affect the rest of your life. Indeed Douglas might have to spend some years in prison.

65. BEATRICE: So one night out drinking and driving could change your life?

66. GEORGE: Exactly. He's ruined not only his life, but also that of the boy's family whom he killed. There's no going back for him. So I can't emphasise enough the dangers of drinking or taking drugs and driving.

67. BEATRICE: But having one beer and driving is OK?

68. GEORGE: Even after one beer you start to react more slowly and your judgement is worse. So even if one beer doesn't make you drunk, it is better to stay away from alcohol if you are going to be on the road. You are more likely to cause an accident if you drink. It is quite simple: don't drink and drive.

69. BEATRICE: Thank you George.

MUSIC (FADE UNDER OUTRO)

OUTRO

70. BEATRICE: In the next episode it's Nelson's turn to act safely on the roads when he goes out on his bicycle. We hope you've enjoyed and learnt from our radio drama on road safety written by Victoria Averill.

If you want to hear this program again, please visit our website at www.dw.de/lbe. Thank you for joining us and keep safe on the roads!