

\*PART 1\*

00:00:50.21\00:00:51.07

I'm Mendivee  
and I live in Athens.

00:01:27.10\00:01:30.06

I speak Greek  
and a bit English.

00:01:30.07\00:01:32.29

Greek language is the first  
language I was taught.

00:01:33.00\00:01:36.25

I am a Greek, I was born here  
and I go to a Greek school.

00:01:36.26\00:01:41.14

I've never been in Africa.  
So, I feel I'm a Greek girl.

00:01:41.15\00:01:47.10

We are in the ancient Agora,  
at Hephaestus' temple...

00:01:48.14\00:01:51.12

in front of Acropolis.

00:01:51.13\00:01:53.16

For me it's an important monument,  
it shows the history of Greeks.

00:01:53.17\00:01:59.11

After school I help my mother  
with her work at the nursery.

00:02:10.09\00:02:15.03

I take good care of them,  
but I don't like children.

00:02:20.03\00:02:24.12

I watch my mother  
working with children.

00:02:27.10\00:02:29.18

They always obey her, but  
I don't know how she manages it.

00:02:29.19\00:02:33.02

Immigrants' children  
go to my mother's nursery.

00:02:44.06\00:02:47.12

They're from Albania, Romania,  
mulattoes from Africa.

00:02:47.13\00:02:50.21

They go along well  
with each other.

00:02:50.22\00:02:53.04

When I was at grammar school  
there weren't any differences.

00:03:00.13\00:03:04.09

All the children were  
good friends with each other.

00:03:04.10\00:03:08.13

I never felt  
the sense of racism.

00:03:08.14\00:03:12.22

When I went to high school,  
they treated me badly,

00:03:12.23\00:03:17.06  
but I gave them a good lesson!  
00:03:17.07\00:03:20.23  
My mother is from Sierra Leone.  
My father is from Liberia.  
00:03:22.20\00:03:26.13  
We children were born  
in Greece.  
00:03:26.14\00:03:28.12  
This is my whole family,  
with a friend of ours.  
00:03:28.28\00:03:31.15  
This is my father.  
00:03:33.08\00:03:34.18  
He's a bit of everything.  
00:03:35.03\00:03:37.17  
He's strict and funny  
and polite... all together!  
00:03:37.18\00:03:40.20  
This is my sister Christine,  
the smart guy of the group!  
00:03:41.14\00:03:45.20  
This is Christos,  
a mischief maker.  
00:03:47.06\00:03:50.06  
But there is no bigger  
troublemaker than this one!  
00:03:50.18\00:03:54.07  
He's Antonis or else Junior.  
00:03:54.21\00:03:57.08  
That young lady over there  
is my sister Alexandra.  
00:03:57.26\00:04:01.01  
The crazy girl of the group  
and this is me.  
00:04:01.02\00:04:03.20  
And over there is my Mum.  
00:04:04.12\00:04:06.18  
She's the same with my Dad:  
strict, funny, polite...  
00:04:06.19\00:04:13.01  
but that's enough talking  
for now, I want to eat!  
00:04:14.12\00:04:18.17  
This is my room.  
00:04:22.11\00:04:24.02  
This photo was taken at school...  
00:04:24.19\00:04:28.09  
when I was a color-bearer  
at the 5th grade.  
00:04:28.22\00:04:32.07  
I was an A student.  
00:04:32.08\00:04:34.12  
This photo was taken during  
a ballet show.  
00:04:34.18\00:04:37.09  
I like dancing.

00:04:38.06\00:04:39.22  
Since I was little girl,  
I liked dancing and singing.  
00:04:39.23\00:04:42.19  
But due to a knee problem  
I was forced to stop dancing.  
00:04:42.20\00:04:46.05  
Hopefully it won't last for long.  
I look forward to dancing again.  
00:04:46.06\00:04:48.23  
For me, Africa  
is a distant continent.  
00:04:52.14\00:04:55.17  
Greece is here...  
00:04:56.06\00:04:57.21  
and Sierra Leone here.  
00:04:58.24\00:05:01.16  
I'm going to visit it.  
00:05:02.05\00:05:04.07  
What hair is this?  
00:05:06.03\00:05:07.20  
Yesterday, I changed  
my hairstyle.  
00:05:07.21\00:05:09.24  
I forgot to tell the production  
about it, and they got frightened!  
00:05:09.25\00:05:12.15  
This is my first visit  
at the airport...  
00:05:17.03\00:05:19.00  
my first flight on board  
a plane, and then on a helicopter.  
00:05:19.01\00:05:22.06  
A 14-hour-flight  
from Athens to Freetown.  
00:05:22.07\00:05:25.01  
I'm frightened! I think  
I suffer from hypsophobia...  
00:05:31.05\00:05:34.05  
but it's OK,  
it's all over now.  
00:05:34.06\00:05:36.06  
Freetown is the capital,  
a strange city.  
00:05:56.12\00:05:59.07  
This is the rain season, but people  
have no running water at home.  
00:06:25.07\00:06:29.00  
The streets are damaged  
and there are no lights at night.  
00:06:33.13\00:06:36.22  
The war destroyed everything!

00:06:37.14\00:06:39.27  
I'm afraid to go out on my own.

00:06:40.23\00:06:43.00

Tomorrow, I'll meet my grandma  
for the first time.

00:06:48.20\00:06:51.13

I don't know how to speak to her,  
in what language.

00:06:51.20\00:06:54.16

I said to my son Daniese,  
four years ago...

00:06:57.12\00:07:01.02

that I want  
my grand-daughter.

00:07:01.03\00:07:03.22

The last time I saw him  
I told him that...

00:07:03.23\00:07:06.13

I wanted her here,  
with me. He said no.

00:07:06.14\00:07:09.08

Grandma hasn't changed at all.

00:07:37.04\00:07:39.04

She's very beautiful!  
But I don't look like her.

00:07:39.05\00:07:42.11

I asked her to go with us...

00:07:43.15\00:07:46.04

She can't, because  
she had a car accident.

00:07:50.12\00:07:54.08

She can't...

00:07:55.07\00:07:56.15

Something for you!

00:08:01.02\00:08:02.11

I have a dress like this at home.  
I was wearing it when I was little.

00:08:44.03\00:08:47.04

I like this better!

00:08:48.04\00:08:49.08

All dresses  
suit her nicely!

00:08:49.19\00:08:51.18

I don't want to live  
with my grandma...

00:08:56.13\00:08:59.02

nor with my uncles  
and aunts.

00:08:59.03\00:09:01.16

This is a different environment  
from the one I'm used to live in.

00:09:01.17\00:09:04.20

For me, they are strangers.  
I should stay here for long...

00:09:04.21\00:09:07.22  
to get to know them  
and learn their language.  
00:09:07.23\00:09:11.01  
So, it's too difficult  
for me to stay here.  
00:09:11.03\00:09:14.12  
Most children here  
are parentless.  
00:09:19.01\00:09:21.11  
They've lost one of their parents  
at war and live with their siblings.  
00:09:21.12\00:09:25.14  
The war lasted ten years.  
It was a civil war.  
00:09:29.01\00:09:33.09  
Although 5 years have passed  
since the end of the war...  
00:09:34.15\00:09:38.02  
misery and poverty  
is what remained in the country.  
00:09:38.03\00:09:41.10  
If I lived here, I'd like to know  
how children live here.  
00:09:45.13\00:09:49.01  
But I'm not going to stay,  
so I'm not really interested.  
00:09:49.02\00:09:52.22  
I miss my friends in Athens.  
00:09:52.23\00:09:55.03  
OK, they're also on vacations,  
but they'll be back in a week.  
00:09:55.04\00:09:58.25  
How long it takes you  
to fix your hair?  
00:10:07.02\00:10:09.16  
About six hours.  
00:10:10.15\00:10:12.21  
I need less time for  
my hair, thank God!  
00:10:13.22\00:10:16.21  
What music do you like?  
00:10:18.28\00:10:21.05  
You know AMB?  
"God Knows It"?  
00:10:21.23\00:10:25.02  
And you?  
00:10:25.14\00:10:26.19  
You know Jimmy Boo?  
00:10:26.20\00:10:28.20  
I don't know anything  
from here. Nothing!  
00:10:28.21\00:10:31.03  
Can you sing it for me?  
00:10:32.02\00:10:33.22  
And you? Can you sing  
something for me?

00:11:09.02\00:11:11.06  
What is your principal name?

00:11:40.15\00:11:42.08  
-My principal name?

-Yes.

00:11:42.09\00:11:45.00  
-Mandivee Koyloropoulou.  
-What?

00:11:45.14\00:11:48.23  
Mendivee Koyloropoulou.

00:11:51.12\00:11:54.16  
-Can you say it?

-Yes.

00:11:55.17\00:11:57.04  
-Say it.

-Koyloropoulou.

00:11:57.05\00:12:00.14  
And yours?

00:12:02.03\00:12:03.00  
My name is Maiamaya.

00:12:03.05\00:12:07.22  
-What?

-Maiamaya.

00:12:08.23\00:12:11.01  
We visited Makeni, a town  
that wasn't destroyed from war...

00:13:22.04\00:13:25.06  
because this is where  
the guerrillas lived...

00:13:25.07\00:13:27.15  
who fought against  
the capital of Freetown.

00:13:27.16\00:13:30.01  
Many guerrillas, former fighters  
live here now.

00:13:30.19\00:13:34.03  
Many children are parentless  
and suffer from various disease...

00:13:34.04\00:13:38.03  
with malaria the most  
lethal one.

00:13:38.04\00:13:40.19  
They have no food,  
no one to take care of them.

00:13:40.22\00:13:44.28  
This is a station of Unicef...

00:13:44.29\00:13:47.13  
where they help mothers  
and children to survive.

00:13:47.14\00:13:50.28  
The operation of this Station  
is funded till the end of August.

00:13:54.23\00:13:59.18  
Their funds, food and medicine  
will last for one more month.

00:14:03.04\00:14:07.07

No one knows what these  
children would become next.

00:14:08.11\00:14:11.19

This is my first time ever  
I see the ocean.

00:14:27.02\00:14:29.11

I can't swim, but some day  
I'll learn how to.

00:14:30.06\00:14:34.16

What impressed me most  
till now...

00:14:36.04\00:14:38.20

are the children at Unicef  
Station in Makeni.

00:14:38.21\00:14:41.25

There, I met a 2-year-old boy  
but he seemed like 6 months old.

00:14:41.26\00:14:46.22

I think that I wouldn't face  
these problems, as the girls do...

00:14:48.03\00:14:53.15

unless I was born here.

00:14:53.16\00:14:57.13

What can I say?

Fate spared me from all this?

00:14:58.10\00:15:02.19

I've never experienced a war  
and I think I'm blessed...

00:15:02.20\00:15:07.21

'cause the other way around, I'd be  
in a worse condition than the girls.

00:15:07.22\00:15:12.17

I couldn't stand it.

00:15:13.03\00:15:15.05

I'm looking forward to  
going back home.

00:15:16.11\00:15:19.07

As much an African

I was in Greece...

00:15:19.08\00:15:22.07

now that I'm here

I feel less than an African.

00:15:22.08\00:15:25.06

I'm used to live

in a different environment...

00:15:25.07\00:15:28.14

with different people;

I speak a different language.

00:15:28.15\00:15:31.23

I feel like a stranger here.