

HOME - ERT

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

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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.

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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.

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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 Daniel,
call your sister...

00:06:57.12\00:07:01.02

I want to hear the voice
of 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

but my aunt can't go with us,
'cause 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 stay
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

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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 even for one day.
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 I'll be back in a week.
00:09:55.04\00:09:58.25
How long does it take your

hairdresser 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 RMB?
Rock music?
00:10:21.23\00:10:25.02
And you?
00:10:25.14\00:10:26.19
You know Jimmy B.?
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?

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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

-Mendivee 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 Maiamara.

00:12:03.05\00:12:05.22

-What?

-Maiamara.

00:12:05.22\00:12:07.22

-And yours?

-Tamara.

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 rebels 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 rebels, 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.

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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 baby
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

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with different people;
I speak a different language.

00:15:28.15\00:15:31.23
I feel like a stranger here.