

Learning by Ear 2013

Crossroads Generation - Facing Tough Choices

EPISODE EIGHTEEN: Under Pressure

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- **JUMBE (M, 45)**
- **MRS. JUMBE (F, 35)**

SCENE 2: NIKI DRIVING JUMBE’S CAR IN THE CITY

- **NIKI (M, 16)**
- **PEDESTRIAN (F, 30)**
- **STRANGER (M, 40)**
- **GROUP OF STRANGERS (M/F, MIXED AGE)**

SCENE 3: MERCY MEETS TRUDY IN A CAFÉ

- **MERCY (F, 15)**
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SCENE 4: DAN AND BIKO IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

- **DAN (M, 16)**
- **BIKO (M, 16)**

1. INTRO - NARRATOR:

Hello and welcome to Learning by Ear. This is the eighteenth episode of "Crossroads Generation" – a radio drama all about the kind of choices young people in Africa are facing. We are portraying Niki, Dan and Mercy, who've all had to make some tough decisions lately. Let's have a recap...

Mercy accepted Dan's invitation, and sneaked in the boy's dormitory to visit her new crush. But just as the two teenagers were about to get closer, Dan's friend Biko alerted them to the fact that the Principal was on her way to do one of her random room inspections. Dan was able to smuggle Mercy out of the building, but as they waited, hidden in a bush, to sneak her out of the compound, the romance between them started to turn sour:

2. DAN (EP 17, LINE 24): (...) "You know what? Nobody can see us here. We're well hidden in this bush."

3. MERCY: "Dan... I can't. I'm sorry but I can't do that. I'm not ready, yet."

4. DAN (LINE 28): "So you don't really feel anything for me at all. It was all lies. (...) I thought you actually liked me..." (+ **LINE 30**) "If you *did*, you wouldn't mind *showing* me some affection."

5. MERCY: "But... Dan... Please! I told you... "

Dan's putting Mercy under a lot of pressure. Will she stick to her principles, or will she give in?

Meanwhile, Niki can't accept that Mercy chose Dan over him. He's come up with a plan to try and win her heart: **(KW BEGIN)**

6. NIKI (EP 17, LINE 113): "I have to show Mercy that I'm better than Dan. Once I've taken her for a ride in this, she'll forget about that idiot."

7. SFX: CAR ENGINE STARTS

8. NIKI: "Yeeeeeeah!! Let's hit the road!" **(KW END)**

Niki has secretly stolen his parents' car to try and impress Mercy. Will it work? The stage is set - now sit back and enjoy this eighteenth episode: “Under Pressure”. Niki's parents are just coming home from a walk through the neighbourhood.

SCENE 1: JUMBE AND WIFE RETURN HOME FROM WALK

9. SUBURB ATMO IN THE EVENING

10. SFX: GATE BEING OPENED FROM THE OUTSIDE

11. SFX: FOOTSTEPS OF TWO PEOPLE APPROACHING

12. JUMBE: **(relaxed)** Oh, that was a wonderful walk! It was good that we visited Mama Nadina. I think she'll recover soon.

13. MRS. JUMBE: **(also relaxed)** Yes, I think so, too! **(notices car missing)**

14. SFX: FOOTSTEPS STOP

15. MRS. JUMBE: Jumbe. Do you notice anything different?

16. JUMBE: **(shocked)** Oh no! My car's gone!

17. MRS. JUMBE: **(panicking)** Jumbe! It's the robbers! They've struck again!
Oh, no... Where's Niki?! I hope they haven't done
anything to our son!

18. JUMBE: **(trying to be brave)** Take it easy, Mama Niki. Let's just go
in slowly and see.

19. MRS. JUMBE: **(defensive)** Go in? No way! I'm not coming face to face
with those thugs again. Once is enough.

20. JUMBE: All right. You stay here. But if you hear me scream, run
straight away and call for help.

21. SFX: FOOTSTEPS SLOWLY APPROACHING

22. SFX: DOOR BEING UNLOCKED

23. JUMBE: **(calls out cautiously)** Niki!... Son... Are you still in your
room? Hello, Niki? We're home!

24. SFX: FOOTSTEPS ON CARPET

25. SFX: DOOR AT OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM OPENING

26. JUMBE: **(cursing)** No way! He's not here!

27. SFX: FOOTSTEPS WALKING AWAY IN A HURRY

28. JUMBE: **(to himself)** Can it really be? That the robbers came
back? But everything else looks just as it was when we
left...

29. MRS. JUMBE: **(thinking loud)** Jumbe... do you think Niki might have
taken the car?

30. JUMBE: But he doesn't have a license!

31. MRS. JUMBE: (nervous) Let's call him right away. Something's wrong, I can feel it!

32. MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: NIKI DRIVING JUMBE'S CAR IN THE CITY

33. SFX: CAR DRIVING FAST, RADIO PLAYING LOUD AGGRESSIVE MUSIC

34. SFX: OCCASIONAL HOOTING

35. NIKI: **(thinking aloud)** Mercy won't be able to resist me when she sees me in this car! If Trudy's right and Mercy just picked Dan because of his money, wait till I give her a ride in this...

36. SFX: MOBILE PHONE RINGING INSIDE CAR

37. NIKI: **(shocked)** Who can that be? **(worried)** Oh, my goodness. It's Mum's number! They're home already! Damn! - What I have done? How am I going to explain ... Oh no... I have to go back. **(sighs)**

38. SFX: MUSIC TURNED OFF

KW BEGIN

39. SFX: BEEP AS CALL IS TAKEN

40. **NIKI:** **(answers phone while driving, guilty)** Hello... Mum, I'm sorry... Tell Dad... I'm sorry... Yes, I'm already on my way back with the car. ... It was just a ... test. ... I know. Yes. See you in a minute.

41. **SFX: BEEP AS CALL IS ENDED**

KW END

42. **SFX: CAR MAKES QUICK U-TURN**

43. **SFX: LOUD EMERGENCY BRAKE**

44. **SFX: THUDDING SOUND**

45. **NIKI:** **(totally terrified)** Oh my God! What was that!!

46. **SFX: CROWD MURMURING AS THEY SLOWLY GATHER**

47. **NIKI:** **(shocked)** Oh no! I've... I've... hit someone. Oh, no... But I didn't see anyone there!

48. **STRANGER: (voice outside the car, shouting from the crowd)**

Someone call an ambulance, and the police! Quick! And don't let the driver get away!

49. **NIKI:** **(panting, breathing fast, in panic)** What have I done?
What have I done?

50. **SFX CAR DOOR OPENS**

51. **PEDESTRIAN: (on the street writhing in pain)** Aaah! My leg...

Aaahh... Heeelp me! **(continues whining throughout the scene)**

52. **NIKI:** **(choking voice)** I... I'm so sorry... I swear it was... it wasn't... my fault!

53. **SFX: NIKI GETS OUT OF THE CAR**

54. **SFX: CROWD REACTS IN SHOCK WHEN THEY SEE NIKI**

55. **STRANGER:** Boy, are you the one who was driving?

56. **NIKI:** **(stammers)** Yes, but... but I... I didn't ... Is...is she dead?

57. **STRANGER:** You are in serious trouble. Do you know what you've done? Wait till the police arrive. Give me the car keys.

58. **NIKI:** **(pleading)** Please don't beat me up... I'm sorry. I'm truly sorry.

59. **MUSIC INTERLUDE**

SCENE 3: MERCY MEETS WITH TRUDY IN A CAFÉ

60. **SFX: CAFE ATMO**

61. **TRUDY:** Waiter, waiter!

62. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS - WAITER APPROACHES**

63. **TRUDY:** I'll have a soda, please!

64. **WAITER:** **(repeating)** One soda. And how about you?

65. **MERCY:** I'm fine, thank you.

66. SFX: FOOTSTEPS - WAITER LEAVING

KW BEGIN

67. TRUDY: Huh? Mercy, why didn't you order anything?

68. MERCY: I'm just not thirsty, Trudy. And I don't have much money left for the rest of the month, either.

69. TRUDY: What? How come?

70. MERCY: I just ran out of money, that's all.

71. TRUDY: Oh, don't worry about the drinks - I'll pay.

72. MERCY: Trudy, you don't have to do this!

73. TRUDY: I know. But it's not a big deal. You're my friend, Mercy.

74. MERCY: Thank you. It's really kind of you.

75. SFX: STEPS WAITER ARRIVES

76. WAITER: Here is your drink.

77. SFX: BOTTLE PLACED ON TABLE

78. TRUDY: So what are you having, Mercy?

79. MERCY: I'll have a sparkling water.

80. WAITER: All right.

81. SFX: STEPS WAITER LEAVES

KW END

82. TRUDY: Now tell me about your date with Dan. How did it go?

83. MERCY: **(defensive)** It wasn't a date! We... we just... met.

84. **TRUDY:** **(sarcastic)** I see! So how was the *meeting* between you and Dan? Tell me, did you two... you know...
85. **MERCY:** **(defensive)** No, we didn't! Oh, Trudy... It was a total nightmare!
86. **TRUDY:** Nightmare? What happened?
87. **MERCY:** Well... we were almost caught by the Principal.
88. **TRUDY:** **(alarmed)** You what? No way! How come?
89. **MERCY:** **(whispers)** I was in Dan's room. He'd taken my hand and wanted me to sit next to him.
90. **TRUDY:** **(excited)** Aiyayayaya... naughty boy... naughty girl!
91. **MERCY:** My heart was beating like **(imitates sound)**
tutututututututu.... I wasn't sure what to do!
92. **SFX: STEPS WAITER ARRIVES**
93. **WAITER:** Here is your drink.
94. **SFX: BOTTLE PUT ON TABLE**
95. **SFX: STEPS WAITER LEAVES**
96. **TRUDY:** Thanks, Sir! **(to Mercy)** Don't stop, Mercy. It's so exciting!
So afterwards the Principal burst in on you?

- 97. MERCY:** You have a wild imagination, Trudy. No! Then Biko knocked on the door to warn us she was coming. She was carrying out one of her random inspections. Biko and Dan call it a red alert. So then Dan sneaked me out, and I managed to get away. That’s it.
- 98. TRUDY:** **(unsatisfied)** That’s it? Nothing more?
- 99. MERCY:** **(shyly)** Nothing more. I was lucky, right?
- 100. TRUDY:** Come on, you’re lying... You two didn’t even smooch? Or kiss?
- 101. MERCY:** **(defensive)** No! Dan... well... he wanted me to... how can I say this? To... give myself to him. But I said no.
- 102. TRUDY:** **(shocked)** You said no? Like, you rejected him?
- 103. MERCY:** Well, yes. And now he’s mad at me. Just because I told him we should wait!
- 104. TRUDY:** Wait? Oh, Mercy! Let me tell you something. You’re now a grown woman. You’ve already started your periods. The next step you make to become a real woman is ... losing your virginity. If you wait, you just stop yourself from growing up! You know that, don’t you?
- 105. MERCY:** **(confused)** Are you sure, Trudy? Where did you learn all this? Because what I know is that I’m supposed to wait until I get married.

106. TRUDY: **(sarcastic laugh)** Mercy, you sound as if you’ve walked straight out of the Ice Age! What do you think your stupid virginity will get you in the end? Eh? A crown? Well, it’s up to you. I’m just trying to warn you. As a friend, you know.

107. SFX: DRINKS FINISHED AND STRAWS MAKING SOUNDS

108. TRUDY: **(shouts)** Excuse me, waiter! I'd like to pay!

109. MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: DAN AND BIKO IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

110. SFX: LIBRARY ATMO

111. SFX: PAGE OF A BOOK BEING TURNED

112. BIKO: **(in hushed tone)** Dan, come on. What happened the other day with Mercy? You haven't been yourself since then.

113. DAN: I'd rather not talk about it, Biko, if you don't mind.

114. BIKO: **(still pressuring)** But did you... you know... did you “get to taste the honey”, like you said?

KW BEGIN

115. DAN: Biko, we’re in the library. Can't we talk about this some other time?

116. BIKO: **(prodding further)** Aaah... so you did actually manage! You lucky Laborian boy! So tell me ... tell me, how was it?

117. DAN: (irritated) Would you stop bothering me, Biko! I'm trying to concentrate here.

118. SFX: PAGE OF A BOOK TURNED

119. BIKO: Hmm... That doesn't sound good. I guess maybe I was wrong, then. You didn't score a goal with Mercy after all. Aiyayaya... But you must at least have got a kiss or something?

KW END

120. DAN: I didn't, okay? I didn't get a kiss, a peck, a smooch or anything at all. As a matter of fact, I'm done with Mercy! Happy now? Can we please focus on why we came here? Thank you!

121. BIKO: Woah... Sorry, man!

122. MUSIC INTERLUDE

123. OUTRO - NARRATOR:

Dan doesn't want to talk about his lack of success with Mercy. So how will the story continue? Will Mercy and Dan find a way to talk about what happened? And what's going to happen to Niki now he's hit a pedestrian? We'll soon find out. If you'd like to listen to this eighteenth episode again, just visit our website at dw.de/lbe. You can also follow "Learning by Ear" on Facebook. Until we meet again, it's goodbye from us.