

Learning by Ear 2013

Crossroads Generation - Facing Tough Choices

EPISODE THIRTEEN: If You Like Me, Prove It

AUTHOR: Chrispin Mwakideu

EDITOR: Madelaine Meier, Yann Durand

COPY EDITOR: Charlotte Collins

List of characters by scene:

SCENE 1: TRUDY AND MERCY IN A VAN

- **MERCY (F, 15)**
- **TRUDY (F, 15)**
- **MANOTI (M, 30)**

SCENE 2: MSOTO SHOWS UP AT MUKARABA’S OFFICE

- **MUKARABA (M, 55)**
- **MSOTO (M, 45)**

SCENE 3: MERCY AND DAN MEET ON THE FOOTBALL PITCH

- **MERCY (F, 15)**
- **DAN (M, 15)**

SCENE 4: MRS. JUMBE IS ROBBED AT HOME

- **MRS. JUMBE (F, 35)**
- **ROBBER 1 (M, 20)**
- **ROBBER 2 (M, 20)**

1. INTRO - NARRATOR:

Hello and welcome to a new episode of "Crossroads Generation", a Learning by Ear production. Do you want to know how Mercy, Dan and Niki cope in their daily lives? Then stay tuned and find out what's happened so far...

Mercy's dad Msoto has given away his newborn daughter to a rich but childless couple, who paid him for the baby. But Msoto has already spent all the money on drink and a new apartment, and now he's gone back to try to get more:

2. MUKARABA (EP 12, LINE 85): "Msoto? What are you doing here in the middle of the night? Have you lost your mind?"

3. MSOTO (LINE 97): "Well, Councillor... you'll be dealing with the police tomorrow. I will tell them you stole my baby girl. **(LINE 100)** It's a very simple choice, Mukaraba: money, or police?"

Will Mukaraba accept this blackmail? We'll soon find out. And how about Mercy? In the previous episode, Mercy was expecting Dan to escort her to the bus station after school. Instead, Niki showed up - but he was in for a shock:

4. MERCY (EP 12, 20): "Niki, I have to tell you something."

5. NIKI: (...) "I'm listening with my ears, my heart, everything."

6. MERCY: "Niki, I... I... I think I like..."

7. NIKI: "I like you, too, Mercy!"

8. MERCY: "I think I like Dan. I'm sorry, Niki."

So Mercy has finally made a decision. But when will she tell Dan? This is episode thirteen, called "If You Like Me, Prove It". Let's join Mercy and her friend Trudy, who are just on their way to school.

SCENE 1: TRUDY AND MERCY IN A VAN

9. SFX: ATMO OF PEOPLE DRIVING, INSIDE A VAN WITH MUSIC IN BACKGROUND

10. MERCY: Trudy, why do we always have to go in the same van?
It's kind of boring.

11. TRUDY: Boring? How can you be bored when you get to ride for free, and listen to great music as well?

12. MERCY: I've never ridden for free! I always pay my bus fare!

13. TRUDY: Ah, forget it! **(suspiciously)** So Mercy, tell me: what happened after I left you with Niki?

14. MERCY: **(blunt)** Nothing.

15. TRUDY: Hmm. Okay, okay: nothing is a good start. Then after nothing happened, what happened next?

16. MERCY: Trudy, I don't think I really want to talk about this right now. I don't think I'm even ready to start seeing anyone.
(hesitates) Oh, here comes your conductor boyfriend.
Honestly, don't you think he's a bit old for you, Trudy?

17. SFX: MANOTI APPROACHES

- 18. MANOTI:** **(flirting)** Hey girls! How do you like my new style? Cool, huh? New cap, new jeans, new shoes... all brand new! And straight from New - York - City!
- 19. TRUDY:** **(excited)** You look great, Manoti!
- 20. MANOTI:** So, Trudy, is your friend still unattached? I could hook her up with a friend of mine...
- 21. MERCY:** **(surprised)** Trudy, what's he talking about?
- 22. TRUDY:** **(fumbling with words)** Er... Manoti... you see...
- 23. MANOTI:** Oh, I get it! You didn't tell her. Ah well - it's her loss. So, baby - can you ride with me a bit longer today?
- 24. TRUDY:** **(unsure)** But Manoti, I'm in school uniform. If people see me in the van during school hours...
- 25. MANOTI:** Don't worry - that's why I bought you this! Open the bag.
- 26. SFX: PLASTIC BAG OPENED AND CLOTHES REMOVED**
- 27. TRUDY:** Wow! What a beautiful dress!
- 28. MANOTI:** Of course - for a beautiful girl! So? Are you coming?
- 29. TRUDY:** **(excited)** Yes! Yes, yes, I'm coming!
- 30. MERCY:** Trudy, we really shouldn't miss class. There's an exam coming up soon! We need to study, otherwise we might fail.
- 31. TRUDY:** **(unconcerned)** Just tell the teacher I'm sick.
- 32. MERCY:** **(shocked)** What! No, Trudy, don't do this. Don't --

33. MANOTI: (cuts in) You heard her. Just tell them she’s sick. (jokes)
Sick with love for me.

34. MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE TWO: MSOTO SHOWS UP AT MUKARABA’S OFFICE

35. SFX: ATMO INSIDE AN OFFICE

36. SFX: KNOCKING ON DOOR

37. MUKARABA: Yes, Msoto. Come in. I’ve been expecting you.

38. SFX: DOOR OPENED AND CLOSED

39. MSOTO: You have a nice office, Mukaraba. Very nice! But your secretary out there was very rude to me. Almost sent me away because I didn’t have an appointment.

40. MUKARABA: Well, the truth is, you didn’t. Msoto, you realize you’re playing a dangerous game with me? I don’t like to be blackmailed.

41. MSOTO: Mukaraba, you have so much. I have so little! I sold you my own daughter for very little money. Don’t you think the happiness I’ve brought to you and your family is worth more than the money you gave me?

42. MUKARABA: (straightforward) Listen! I’m a businessman. In *my* world, a deal is a deal. You’re acting foolishly, Msoto. But for the very last time I will be generous with you.

43. SFX: DRAWER BEING PULLED OPENED, BANK NOTES BEING HANDED OVER

44. MUKARABA: Here’s another 20.000. But Msoto, let me warn you: if I ever see you again, either near my house or in my office – trust me, I will not be this kind to you. I have friends who take care of... inconveniences for me. Do you understand?

45. MSOTO: **(excited)** Yes... yes... Sorry for any inconvenience, sir.

46. SFX: POCKET ZIPPER BEING OPENED

47. MONEY STASHED AND ZIPPER CLOSED AGAIN

KW BEGIN

48. MSOTO: Thank you, Councillor Mukaraba! I’ll be on my way now.
(hesitates) But... before I go... how is she? The little girl ... Does she look like me, or does she look like her mother?

49. MUKARABA: **(angry)** Out! Get out of my office, before I call security and take back what I’ve just given to you! You ungrateful drunkard!

50. MSOTO: **(calmly)** Okay, okay, I’m leaving. Just one little thing: please, say hello to my daughter from me.

51. MUKARABA: Out!

52. SFX: DOOR BEING OPENED AND CLOSED

KW END

53. MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: MERCY, NIKI, DAN AND THE REST OF CLASS ON THE FOOTBALL PITCH

54. SFX: ATMO OF PUPILS OUTSIDE ON FOOTBALL FIELD

55. MERCY: (takes in deep breath) Oh, how nice to be outside enjoying the sunshine.

56. DAN: (calls to Mercy) Mercy, can you take a walk with me? Just a little stroll around the football pitch.

57. MERCY: I don't think we should, Dan. I don't want people to start talking about us.

58. DAN: It's okay. We don't have to go far. Please, walk with me...

59. MERCY: (sighs) Okay.

60. SFX: FOOTSTEPS WALKING ON THE PITCH

61. DAN: Mercy, do you know why I've been sweeping the classroom?

62. MERCY: No, I thought you were doing it voluntarily. I did wonder...

63. DAN: (laughs out) No, no! The principal told me to do it, as a punishment.

64. MERCY: (shocked) Really? What did you do to deserve a punishment?

65. DAN: I actually don't know! But ... well, never mind. Mercy, I need to know something. Please tell me - do you like me the way I like you?

KW BEGIN

66. MERCY: **(nervous)** Dan, I told you: I need time. Why are you putting pressure on me?

67. DAN: I'm not! In fact, if you tell me now that you don't like me, I promise I'll never bother you again.

68. MERCY: It's not that you bother me, Dan...

69. DAN: So you DO like me? Is that what you're saying?

70. MERCY: Well... I like it when we talk, and I feel good when you're around me. I feel... well, sort of safe, and calm.

71. DAN: That's it? Nothing more? You don't feel anything else, just that I'm like a kind of bodyguard?

KW END

72. SFX: Both stop walking

73. MERCY: Oh Dan, you're making this very difficult for me. **(sighs)** Yes, I do like you. There! I've said it. Okay? Can we talk about something else now?

74. DAN: **(still not thrilled)** Then show it! You don't sound very convinced. If you really mean what you just said, prove it to me!

75. MERCY: **(defensive)** How am I supposed to prove it to you, Dan?
What kind of proof are you looking for?

76. DAN: Well... actions speak louder than words.

77. MERCY: What do you mean, actions?

78. DAN: **(whispers)** This weekend, I'll invite you over to my room.
Make sure you come alone. I can sneak you in. Okay?

79. MERCY: **(confused)** No! Dan, you don't mean that! Are you
serious? What if I do come, what then?

KW BEGIN

80. DAN: Mercy, relax. I'm not a monster. You just said that you
like me. I'd like to speak with you alone, with no one else
around but us. Just the two of us for once!

81. MERCY: No Dan... It's too risky. If anybody finds me in the boys'
dormitory, we could both be expelled! I don't want that,
and you don't want it, either.

82. DAN: Don't worry, nobody's going to get expelled. I promise
you.

83. MERCY: What would I tell my parents? It's the weekend; I always
help my mother with household chores.

84. DAN: Tell them that you're helping a friend catch up with their
schoolwork.

85. MERCY: **(shocked)** Are you suggesting that I lie to my parents? I can't do that! I'll never do that!

86. DAN: Then you didn't mean what you said. You don't really like me. If you did, you would do anything to be with me. Just like I would for you.

87. MERCY: **(takes deep breath)** Why are you doing this to me, Dan? Why make me choose between my parents and you?

88. DAN: Mercy, that's not what I'm trying to do. We'll all be grown up soon. We need to start being more independent and making our own decisions.

89. SFX: SCHOOL BELL RINGS FROM FAR AWAY

90. MERCY: Dan, I don't think I can do this. I'm scared... It's not fair on my parents.

KW END

91. DAN: **(flatly)** I'll be expecting you. If you don't show up, I'll assume it's over between us, Mercy. Come on - we'd better head back to class.

92. MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: MRS. JUMBE IS ROBBED AT HOME

93. SFX: HAIRDRYER GOES ON

94. MRS. JUMBE (singing a cheerful song)

95. SFX: HAIRDRYER GOES OFF, PERFUME BEING SPRAYED

96. SFX: WINDOW BEING BROKEN

97. TENSE MUSIC STARTS TO PLAY

98. MRS. JUMBE: (screams in fear) Help! Help!

99. ROBBER 1: Be quiet, woman! Don't make another sound, or I'll slit your throat!

100. MRS. JUMBE: (terrified) Okay -- okay... Please, take whatever you want, but don't hurt me! Please don't hurt me.

101. ROBBER 2: Tie her up and tape her mouth shut. Then take all her jewellery, her mobile phone, all the electronic stuff we can carry, and of course the car keys! Quick - we don't have much time!

102. SFX: MASKING TAPE BEING RIPPED, THINGS BEING HAPHAZARDLY THROWN INTO A BAG

103. MRS. JUMBE: (murmurs unintelligibly)

104. ROBBER1: Boss, what about this perfume?

105. ROBBER 2: Don't be stupid, that's a *woman's* perfume! No more talking. Get down to business! (to Mrs. Jumbe) And you - shut up and stop whining!

106. MUSIC INTERLUDE

107. OUTRO – NARRATOR:

And so, with the robbers rummaging through Niki's family home, we've reached the end of this thirteenth episode of "Crossroads Generation".

Remember to join us for the next episode to find out what will happen next.

And if you've tuned in late and missed this episode – don't worry! You can always listen to it again, and to all the other previous episodes, simply by visiting our website. There you can also find out what Dan is up to by inviting Mercy over to his place. Just log on to dw.de/lbe, or like us on Facebook.

Until then – take care!