

Learning by Ear 2013

Crossroads Generation - Facing Tough Choices

EPISODE FOURTEEN: The Plan

AUTHOR: Chrispin Mwakideu

EDITOR: Madelaine Meier, Ludger Schadomsky

COPY EDITOR: Charlotte Collins

List of characters by scene:

SCENE 1: NIKI RETURNS HOME FROM SCHOOL

- NIKI (M, 16)
- MRS. JUMBE (F, 35)

SCENE 2: LULU LEAVES MSOTO

- LULU (F, 40)
- MSOTO (M, 45)
- MERCY (F, 15)

SCENE 3: JUMBE COMES HOME WITH TWO POLICE OFFICERS

- JUMBE (M, 45)
- POLICE OFFICER 1 (M)
- POLICE OFFICER 2 (M)
- NIKI (M, 16)
- MRS. JUMBE (F, 40)

SCENE 4: DAN AND BIKO PLAN TO SNEAK MERCY INTO THE DORM

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

1. INTRO - NARRATOR:

Great to have you here listening to our radio soap opera "Crossroads Generation", a Learning by Ear production brought to you by DW. Welcome to this fourteenth episode, called "The Plan". But before we head forward, let's first look back:

In our last episode Dan wanted speak plainly with Mercy:

2. DAN (EP 13, 65): "Mercy, I need to know something. Please tell me - do you like me the way I like you?"

3. MERCY (LINE 73): (...) "Yes, I do like you. There! I've said it. Okay?"

4. DAN: "Then show it! If you really mean what you just said, prove it to me!" (& **LINE 78**) "This weekend, I'll invite you to over to my place. Make sure you come alone."

So will Mercy go? Meanwhile, Mama Niki was at home alone when robbers broke into her house:

5. ROBBER 1 (EP 13, 99): "Be quiet, woman! Don't make another sound, or I'll slit your throat!"

6. SFX: MASKING TAPE BEING RIPPED

7. ROBBER 1 (LINE 105): (...) "Shut up and stop whining!"

So what happens next? Niki is just on his way home. He's still depressed because Mercy chose Dan over him.

SCENE 1: NIKI RETURNS HOME FROM SCHOOL

8. SUBURB ATMO

9. SFX: FOOTSTEPS WALKING OUTSIDE

10. NIKI: (talking to himself) Mercy's such a stupid cow! All girls are stupid! (kicks a can)

11. SFX: CAN KICKED, SLIDES AWAY

12. NIKI: And how come Mum didn't come to pick me up today? She normally gets to school early. Very strange. (realizes something) Huh? Our gate's wide open! And Mum's car's gone!

13. SFX: NIKI'S FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING CAREFULLY

14. NIKI: (shocked) Oh no! The front window's broken! (calls out in a panic) Mum! Dad!

15. SFX: FOOTSDTEPS LEAVE

16. SFX: DOOR CREAKING OPEN SLOWLY

17. SFX: FOOTSTEPS ON BROKEN GLASS

18. NIKI: (utterly shocked) No! This can't be real. We must have been robbed!

19. SFX: FOOTSTEPS ON CARPET

20. SFX: WOMAN WHINES WITH MOUTH TAPED

21. NIKI: (sees his mother) Oh my god! Mama, are you okay?

22. MRS. JUMBE: (tries to mumble some words with taped mouth)

23. NIKI: Wait, wait! I'll peel it off!

24. SFX: TAPE BEING RIPPED FROM MOUTH

25. MRS. JUMBE: (screams in pain) Aaaah!... (cries uncontrollably)

26. NIKI: Mum, are you all right? What happened here?

27. MRS. JUMBE: (sobs and sighs)

28. NIKI: (scared voice) Mum, please get up! Can you walk?

Please say something. Are you hurt?

29. MRS. JUMBE: (continues to cry) They took everything!

30. NIKI: Okay – listen, I'm calling Daddy.

31. SFX: FOOTSTEPS WALKING ON GLASS/CARPET

32. MRS. JUMBE: (sobs in the background)

33. SFX: BEEP OF BUTTONS BEING PRESSED ON MOBILE PHONE,

DIALLING

34. NIKI: Dad! You have to come home. Something terrible has

happened...

35. MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: LULU LEAVES MSOTO

36. DAYTIME ATMO, LIGHT TRAFFIC

37. MSOTO: (drunk voice all through this scene) Hey Lulu, guess what? I'm rich again! (laughs) Look here...all this money!

38. SFX: BUNDLE OF NOTES BEING SHUFFLED

39. LULU: It doesn't make any difference, Msoto, Listen to me. I'm leaving you.

40. MSOTO: Huh? You want to leave me when I'm this rich? Don't be foolish, Lulu.

41. LULU: I've tried my best to be a wife and mother, but it just isn't enough. I'm going back to live with my parents.

42. MSOTO: Oh, that's a good idea! Because then your father has to return all that dowry I paid for you! And I'll be even richer...

KW BEGIN

43. LULU: What dowry, Msoto? You gave my father one hen and two packets of matchboxes as my bride price.

44. MSOTO: Did I? Well, it was a special hen, you know. It could lay eggs on command. (laughs jokingly)

- 45. LULU:** I can't believe you're still joking! Will you listen to me. I've already packed. I'm just waiting for Mercy. As soon as she comes home, we're leaving.
- 46. MSOTO:** **(furious)** What? Lulu, stop this nonsense! No, no, no. Mercy is not going anywhere! Who will cook for me then? Huh? Noooo, no, no, no. If you want to go, fine. But Mercy is staying right here.
- 47. LULU:** Msoto, can you, just for once, think of other people beside yourself? **(pained)** Mercy is the only child you've left me. Why do you want to ruin her future? Let me take her with me so that she can keep going to school.
- 48. MSOTO:** What makes you think she won't keep going to school if she stays here with me?
- 49. LULU:** Because you didn't want her to go to that school in the first place! All you wanted was to make some easy money by marrying her off.
- 50. MSOTO:** **(pretends to snore)** I'm tired. I need to take a nap. Say hi to your father and mother. Mercy stays here!

KW END

51. LULU: (bitterly) One day, Msoto, you'll have to pay for all this. And on that day, don't come crawling back to me.
Goodbye!

52. SFX: DOOR BEING OPENED

53. SFX: STEPS WALKING INSIDE

54. MERCY: (cheerfully) Hi, Mum and Dad!

SILENCE

55. MERCY: (puzzled) Mum, can I help you with anything? Oh, and I'd like to talk to you both about Saturday.

56. MSOTO: (calm but firmly) Mercy... stays... here.

57. MERCY: Huh? What are you talking about? Where else would I go?

58. LULU: Mercy, go and prepare something to eat for your father. I have to go.

59. MERCY: But Mum, I really have to talk to you and Dad. It's important!

60. LULU: Talk to your Dad. I have to go, or I'll be late.

61. MERCY: Where are you going?

62. MSOTO: We'll talk later, Mercy. Let your mother go now.

63. MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: JUMBE COMES HOME WITH TWO POLICE OFFICERS

64. ATMO INSIDE CAR

65. SFX: SIRENS, HEARD INSIDE CAR

KW BEGIN

66. JUMBE: (in panic) All these stupid drivers! Where did they learn to drive? Don't they realize this is an emergency? My family's been robbed! I still can't believe it.

67. OFFICER 1: Please, calm down, sir. We'll be there very shortly.

68. JUMBE: Shortly? Shortly? What are you talking about, officer? We've been stuck in this traffic jam for almost half an hour!

69. OFFICER 1: Please, sir, keep your voice down. And stop complaining. This isn't the first time I've had to respond to a call like this. In fact, if you hadn't paid for the petrol, this would have taken even longer.

70. JUMBE: Yeah, yeah... Look, we're almost there. Turn left at the next corner.

KW END

71. SFX: CAR INDICATOR TICKS

72. JUMBE: **(screams out of adrenaline)** There! That's my house, officer! The big white one with the black gate. The gate's still open!

73. OFFICER 1: Okay, I see it. Now let us do our work.

74. SFX: CAR SLOWS DOWN AND STOPS

75. CAR DOORS OPEN HURRIEDLY. FOOTSTEPS OF THREE PEOPLE RUNNING IN FROM CAR

76. JUMBE: **(shouting)** Mama Niki! Mama Niki! Where are you?

77. NIKI: **(far away)** Over here, Dad! We're in the kitchen.

78. SFX: SOMEONE WALKING OVER BROKEN GLASS IN A HURRY

79. JUMBE: Is everyone okay? I drove as fast as I could.

80. MRS. JUMBE: **(still sobbing but a bit calmer)**

81. SFX: TWO PEOPLE WALKING OVER BROKEN GLASS

KW BEGIN

82. OFFICER 1: **(whispers to second officer)** I thought I was the one who did the driving?

83. OFFICER 2: He wants to impress the wife. **(laughs sarcastically)**

84. OFFICER 1: **(commands)** No time for joking, officer. Get to work. Look for any evidence the robbers may have left behind. I need to ask this lady some questions.

85.SFX: SOMEONE WALKING CAREFULLY OVER BROKEN GLASS

KW END

86.OFFICER 1: **(clears throat)** I'm sorry to have to break up the family reunion, but I need to ask you some questions, madam.

87.MRS. JUMBE: **(softly)** It's okay. What do you want to know, officer?

88.OFFICER 1: Let's start with the robbers. Did you recognize any of them?

89.MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: DAN AND BIKO PLAN TO SNEAK MERCY INTO THE DORM

90.SFX: ACTION MOVIE BEING WATCHED ON COMPUTER

91.BIKO: **(making enthusiastic sounds while watching the film)**

92.DAN: **(sighs and clicks on mouse to pause)** Biko, I need to talk to you about something.

93.BIKO: Aaah, man, come on. Not when the action is at its best! Let me finish watching the movie, then we can talk. - No, please don't close the laptop!

94. SFX: LAPTOP BEING CLOSED

95. **BIKO:** (clicks his tongue, annoyed)
96. **DAN:** We need to talk first. Then we can watch the rest of the movie.
97. **BIKO:** (frustrated) What is it, then?
98. **DAN:** Okay. Listen carefully. I've invited Mercy to come to my room on Saturday.
99. **BIKO:** (applauds in pride) Whooh, nice move, man. Wa wa wa wa... Hey, wait a minute - isn't it forbidden to bring girls into the boys' dormitories?
100. **DAN:** Forbidden? Come on! It's also forbidden to watch movies in school, but here we are.
101. **BIKO:** But Dan, this could get you expelled! Man, this is no joke! How will she even manage to get past the guard at the entrance?
102. **DAN:** That's where you come in.
103. **BIKO:** (shocked) Oh, thanks for telling me!
104. **DAN:** Relax. I've thought of everything. You don't have to worry.
105. **BIKO:** Well, it would be nice to have a choice, but I guess I don't...

106. DAN: Listen. This is how it's going to be. As soon as you finish watching the movie, I'm going to give you some cash.

107. BIKO: Sounds like a pretty good plan so far!

108. DAN: **(getting impatient)** Just listen! Okay? I'll give you some cash and some cigarettes.

109. BIKO: But you know I don't smoke...

110. DAN: They're not for you. You'll give them to the watchman, the one at the gate. Tell him you're expecting a guest on Saturday, and that he should let her in. That's all.

111. BIKO: **(confused)** That's all?

112. DAN: Yes - I mean, from your point of view. That's all you have to do. Leave the rest to me.

KW BEGIN

113. BIKO: But what if he doesn't accept the money and the cigarettes?

114. DAN: He will. They're a good brand and I've seen him secretly smoking. And watchmen always need extra cash.

115. BIKO: Hmmm... Master plan! So do you want me to pick

Mercy up and bring her to you?

- 116. DAN:** No! Are you crazy? She shouldn't even know you're involved. The guard will escort her. That way no one will suspect anything.

KW END

- 117. BIKO:** **(applauds)** Eh eh eh... You're even smarter than a smart phone!

- 118. DAN:** Spare me your lame jokes, Biko! Will you do this for me?

- 119. BIKO:** Do I have a choice? But sure. No sweat. Now can I carry on watching the movie?

- 120. DAN:** **(groans)**

121. SFX: ACTION MOVIE SOUNDS

122. CROSSFADE MUSIC THEME INTERLUDE

123. OUTRO - NARRATOR:

That brings us to the end of this episode of our ongoing radio soap opera for Learning by Ear - “Crossroads Generation”. The plan has been laid, but will it work? And will Niki's father Jumbe find out who robbed him? We'll meet for the next episode. And remember: you can listen to this one again, or the others in the series, by visiting our webpage at dw.de/lbe. You can also follow us on Facebook. Until next time - goodbye.