

Learning by Ear 2013

Crossroads Generation - Facing Tough Choices

EPISODE TWENTY-TWO: Man Talk

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List of characters by scene:

SCENE 1: JUMBE HAS A WORD WITH NIKI AT HOME

- **NIKI (M, 15)**
- **JUMBE (M, 45)**

SCENE 2: KANYAMA AND DAN HAVE DINNER

- **KANYAMA (M, 55)**
- **DAN (M, 16)**

SCENE 3: MSOTO ARRIVES IN THE VILLAGE LATE IN THE EVENING

- **MSOTO (M, 45)**
- **GAMBA (M, 75)**
- **LIPI (F, 65)**
- **LULU (F, 40)**

SCENE 4: POLICE LOOK FOR MSOTO AT NIGHT

- **MERCY (F, 15)**
- **OFFICER 1 (M)**
- **OFFICER 2 (M)**

1. INTRO - NARRATOR:

Hello and welcome to Learning by Ear and our radio drama “Crossroads Generation”. Let’s recap on what’s happened so far:

Mercy got a letter from her classmate Niki. In this letter, he gave her a warning about her father, Msoto. Msoto used to work for Niki’s father, Jumbe. Niki’s parents believe Msoto was behind a robbery at their home.

2. MERCY (EP 21, 44): “Dad. (...) Someone gave me this note. It says you had something to do with a robbery...?”

3. MSOTO (47): “Rubbish!”

4. MERCY (50): “The police will be coming for you soon. (...) You could go to Mum’s parents. Nobody will think of looking for you in the village.”

The same evening Msoto left his family house to join his wife Lulu in her parents’ village. But Lulu left him just a few days ago. Will she be prepared to take him in?

Meanwhile, Mercy’s crush Dan got an unexpected visitor:

5. SFX: DAN SCORES (EP 21, 104)

6. SFX (108): CLAPPING OF HANDS

7. KANYAMA: “That’s my boy! Show them what you’re made of.”

8. DAN: “Dad! What are you doing here?”

Learning by Ear 2013 “Crossroads Generation – Facing Tough Choices”- Episode 22

Dan’s father has come all the way from the neighbouring country, Laboria, to see him. What so important that he’s made such a long journey?

Niki can’t avoid his father Jumbe either. This morning, Jumbe caught his son smoking in his room. Now he’s waiting for Niki to come home from school so they can discuss his behaviour. And that’s where we begin this twenty-second episode, called “Man Talk”.

SCENE 1: JUMBE HAS A WORD WITH NIKI AT HOME

7. SFX: JUMBE SWITCHING TV CHANNELS

8. SFX: FRONT DOOR BEING UNLOCKED, OPENED AND CLOSED

9. JUMBE: (firmly) Hello Niki. Please, put down your school bag and come sit over here. I want to talk to you.

10. SFX: TV TURNED OFF

11. NIKI: (not amused) About what?

12. JUMBE: I don’t want to argue with you, Niki. I just want us to have a talk. Don’t make it difficult.

13. SFX: SCHOOL BAG THROWN DOWN

14. JUMBE: (trying to control temper) When I said ‘Put your bag down.’ I didn’t mean ‘throw it down’. Sit, please.

15. SFX: NIKI SITS DOWN HEAVILY ON THE SOFA

16. **NIKI:** Okay, I’m sitting. What is it?
17. **JUMBE:** **(politely)** Niki, when did you start smoking?
18. **NIKI:** This morning.
19. **JUMBE:** **(doubting)** I’m serious, Niki! Tell me, how long?
- (short pause)**
20. **NIKI:** **(very casual)** Not that long. A few weeks, maybe.
21. **JUMBE:** A few weeks? What does that mean? Three weeks, ten weeks, or fifty weeks?
22. **NIKI:** Three weeks.
23. **JUMBE:** **(swallows hard)** Okay, okay. And ... what have you been smoking?
24. **NIKI:** Dad, I only smoke when I’m feeling... low.
25. **JUMBE:** Answer my question, Niki. Do you smoke other drugs apart from cigarettes?
26. **NIKI:** Not really.
27. **JUMBE:** **(getting angry)** Stop giving half-answers, Niki! You’re testing my patience. Tell me the truth.
28. **NIKI:** **(bitterly)** The truth is, Dad, you don’t really care about me! The truth is that all you care about is money, and how you can make more and more of it.

29. **JUMBE:** **(surprised)** That’s not true! Of course I care about you. Why do you think I’m having this conversation with you?
30. **NIKI:** Because Mum asked you to.
31. **JUMBE:** That’s not the point. We’re your parents - we only want the best for you. Now, tell me the truth: why did you start smoking? I don’t smoke, and your mother doesn’t either.
32. **NIKI:** It doesn’t matter why. I’ve told you what you need to know. Now, can I go to my room? I have to study.
33. **JUMBE:** **(sarcastic)** You mean you have to smoke - right?
34. **NIKI:** You see, that’s why I never tell you anything. You just don’t understand.
35. **JUMBE:** Niki, listen to me, I want you stop that bad habit RIGHT NOW. It’s not good for your health. It’s addictive, and it’s destructive. And it makes you look bad. You’d better stop now, before somebody finds out that our son is puffing away like some criminal.
36. **NIKI:** I’m going now.
37. **JUMBE:** **(puzzled)** Niki, stop. What’s happened to you? You used to be such a good boy! But since you started going to Bongo Academy, you’ve changed – you’ve become stubborn, disobedient and irresponsible!

38. **NIKI:** Really? Well, if I’m everything you say I am, why was I made class prefect?

39. **JUMBE:** **(takes deep breath)**

40. **NIKI:** **(sarcastic)** Right. Thanks. Now may I go to my room?

41. **MUSIC INTERLUDE**

SCENE 2: KANYAMA AND DAN HAVE DINNER

42. **SFX: RESTAURANT ATMO**

43. **KANYAMA:** You’re very quiet, Dan. Tell me how things are going at school.

44. **DAN:** **(with a mouthful)** Mmm, nothing much to tell. You’ve seen where I sleep...

45. **KANYAMA:** Yes, I have! They really do teach you to live modestly! **(laughs)** I don’t see why they charge me such outrageously high school fees when they make you live in a prison cell!

46. **DAN:** **(meekly)** I like it.

47. **KANYAMA:** Well, that’s the important thing, I guess. So tell me a bit more. What about this girl? Don’t you want to introduce me to her?

48. **DAN:** What girl, Dad? There is no girl. You sent me here from home to keep me away from my friends, because you thought it would be good for me to come to a new country... and you were right!
49. **KANYAMA: (curious)** They were bad friends, Dan! They were leading you astray. That's the reason we sent you away. It's all part of your training to take over the family business.
50. **SFX: CUTLERY BEING PUT DOWN**
51. **DAN:** **(deep breath)** Here we go again... Is that why you're here, Dad? To convince me for the millionth time to take over the mining company?
52. **KANYAMA:** No, I told you, I just wanted to see how you're getting on. I'm your father, Dan... I'm concerned about your welfare. Besides... Anita came to see me. She's worried about you, too. And I don't like to see her upset. Especially as she's the daughter of a close business associate. You two are a perfect match!
53. **DAN:** You know what, Dad? I don't care about Anita. I've met the prettiest girl in the world, and with all due respect, I really think you should stop interfering in my life.

KW BEGIN

54. SFX: DRINK POURED INTO A GLASS

55. KANYAMA: (after sipping drink) I’m not interfering. I’m trying to preserve what I’ve built up. I know you’re seeing some girl here in Kisimba. But this girl is not good for you. She’ll only pull you away from your family, from your country.

56. DAN: (hits back) No, Dad, stop it, please! You don’t even know her, okay? How can you judge her?

57. KANYAMA: (with resignation) Oh Danny, Danny, my boy. Why are you so difficult? Things could be so easy, but you just don’t get it, do you? You forget that I was your age once. I do know what it’s like. But the business needs you - and you need it, too!

58. DAN: (firmly) Dad, are you listening to me at all? I have no interest in your business whatsoever.

KW END

59. KANYAMA: (also firmly) Dan, you can refuse to join the family business, but I hope you understand that I will never accept an outsider in my family. I suggest you end this little adventure with the girl here right now, and come back home with me. You’re going to get back with Anita. I’m going to my hotel now. We’ll talk again tomorrow, when you’ve come to your senses.

60. SFX: CHAIR PUSHED BACK

61. MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: MSOTO ARRIVES IN THE VILLAGE LATE IN THE EVENING

62. **SFX: EVENING ATMO IN THE VILLAGE**

63. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS WALKING**

64. **MSOTO:** **(exhausted, to himself)** This was a bad idea, Msoto. A very bad idea. Now that I’ve arrived in the village, what am I going to say to my wife? **(acts out)** “Lulu, my dear wife. I have come for you...” **(back to thoughts)** No, that sounds too silly! **(another act)** “Lulu, I missed you so much I decided to come for you.” **(back to thoughts)** Hmm... better, but still not good enough! Maybe I should just tell her the truth. **(acts again)** “Lulu, the police are looking for me and I had nowhere to run! So I came to you.” **(back to thoughts)** I hope she’ll help me...

65. **SFX: LAUGHTER FROM INSIDE THE HUT/ LULU’S VOICE HEARD TOO**

66. **GAMBA:** **(from inside the hut, coughing slightly)** This story really happened! Believe me, my daughter. Lipi, tell her! She was still a young girl then! **(continues to cough)**

67. **LIPI:** **(from inside hut)** Lulu, can you please fetch your father some drinking water? His cough isn’t getting any better.

68. **LULU:** **(from inside hut)** Yes, mother.

69. SFX: WOODEN DOOR BEING OPENED AND CLOSED

70. MSOTO: (gently) Lulu...

71. LULU: (screams in fear) Wuuuuuuuuuu!

72. MSOTO: Lulu, it's me! Msoto, your husband. I'm sorry - I didn't mean to scare you.

73. GAMBABA: (from inside) Lulu, what is it? Are you okay? Mama Lulu, go and check on our daughter!

74. SFX: DOOR BEING OPENED AGAIN

75. LULU: (still shocked) Msoto? Where did you come from? Where's Mercy? Why are you alone?

76. LIPI: (unfriendly tone) Msoto, what are you doing here? You useless, heartless drunkard!

77. LULU: Mum, please, let me handle this.

78. MSOTO: Hello, Mama Lulu. It's good to see you, too.

KW BEGIN

79. LIPI: (furious) Get out of here! You're cursed! I curse the day we gave our daughter to you in marriage. Leave! Go! We don't want to see you here.

80. LULU: Mum, that's enough! Msoto is still my husband, and the father of my children.

81. SFX: WATER BEING FETCHED WITH A JERRY CAN

82. LULU: Here’s some water for Dad. I need some time to talk with Msoto.

KW END

83. LIPI: Okay... I’ll go back inside. But don’t let him intimidate you, my child.

84. SFX: STEPS BACK TO THE HUT, WOODEN DOOR CLOSED

85. LULU: Okay, Msoto. What is it you want to tell me?

86. MUSIC TRANSITION

SCENE 4: POLICE LOOK FOR MSOTO AT NIGHT

87. SFX: NIGHT ATMO, LOUD KNOCK ON DOOR

88. OFFICER 1: (from outside, ordering) Police! Open up! I repeat: Open this door at once!

89. SFX: LOUD KNOCKING CONTINUES...

90. MERCY: (scared voice from inside)

91. SFX: DOOR BEING UNLOCKED

92. OFFICER1: (shouts) Where is he? Where’s your father? We’re here to arrest him on suspicion of armed robbery.

93. MERCY: My father’s not here. He --

94. **OFFICER1: (shocked)** What? Get out of the way!
95. **SFX: MERCY PUSHED ASIDE AND FALLING DOWN**
96. **MERCY: (cries in pain)** Aaaaah! He’s not here! I swear to you.
97. **OFFICER 1:** He must be hiding somewhere. **(orders colleague)**
Officer!
98. **OFFICER 2:** Yes, sir!
99. **OFFICER 1:** Search the house thoroughly. And when I say thoroughly, I
mean thoroughly.
100. **OFFICER 2:** Right away, sir!
101. **SFX: THINGS BEING THROWN AROUND, BOOKS FALLING,
GLASSES BREAKING ETC**
102. **MERCY: (pleading)** Please, stop! I swear my father isn’t here.
Please stop! Those are my schoolbooks.
103. **OFFICER:** Then where is he?
104. **MERCY: (crying)** I don't know!
105. **MUSIC INTERLUDE**

106. OUTRO - NARRATOR:

Mercy stands there helplessly watching the police rummage through her family belongings. She can only hope her father is safely out of the way in the village. But will Lulu help him, or will she send him away? Find out in the coming episode. If you’ve missed any earlier episodes, or want to hear this one again, you can always listen to them on our website at dw.de/lbe, where you can download them for free. There you’ll also find Dan’s video diary, in which he tells us more about the dinner with his father. Hope you’ll join us next time – for now, it’s goodbye from us.