

Learning by Ear 2013

"Crossroads Generation" – Facing the Consequences

EPISODE 2: Unusual Proposals

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List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: MSOTO IN THE CELL AT THE POLICE STATION

- **MSOTO (M, 45)**
- **OFFICER MNENE (M, 40)**
- **SUSPECT 1 (M, ADULT)**
- **SUSPECT 2 (M, ADULT)**
- **3 OTHER INMATES (M, ADULTS)**

SCENE 2: MANOTI ASKS TRUDY TO MOVE IN

- **TRUDY (F, 15)**
- **MERCY (F, 15)**
- **MANOTI (M, 35)**

SCENE 3: AT THE POLICE STATION

- **OFFICER MNENE (M, 40)**
- **MSOTO (M, 45)**
- **OFFICER 2 (M, 30'S)**

SCENE 4: MSOTO’S FAMILY IN TANDIKA SLUMS

- **KADU (M, 8)**
- **LULU (M, 40)**
- **BANDA (M, 8)**
- **MSOTO (M, 45)**

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hi again - welcome to today’s episode of Crossroads Generation, a radio drama about a group of African teenagers, their families and the problems they have to deal with. Previously, 15-year-old Mercy Msoto found out that she was pregnant. Her friend Trudy had some clear advice for her:

2. EPISODE 1, LINES 8 – 11:

TRUDY (8): *Mercy, calm down. I told you before: there’s a very easy solution to this. (...)*

MERCY (11): *Trudy, I’m really not comfortable doing ... you know what. Besides, where would I even get the money to pay Dr. Zito?*

3. NARRATOR:

Mercy’s younger brothers Kadu and Banda have just got back from the neighbouring country Laboria, where it seems they had some bad experiences:

KW BEGIN

4. EPISODE 1, LINES 92 – 94:

KADU: *You’re mean, Banda. As mean as the boys in the mines in Laboria.*

BANDA: *Kadu, we’re not allowed to talk about the mines! That’s what Aunty Lena and that man Kanyama told us.*

KW END

5. NARRATOR:

Meanwhile, their father, Msoto, is being held at the police station. He’s suspected of robbing the wealthy parents of Mercy’s classmate, Niki Jumbe. In today's episode, "Unusual Proposals", we visit Msoto behind bars.

SCENE 1: MSOTO IN THE CELL AT THE POLICE STATION

6. ATMO: INSIDE THE CELL AT POLICE STATION

7. INMATES CHATTING IN THE BACKGROUND

8. SUSPECT 1: So, Msoto, "Mr. Dangerous Criminal", what did you do?
Why are you here with the rest of us?

9. MSOTO: I'm nothing like you. I'm actually a law enforcer!

KW BEGIN

10. SUSPECT 1: **(sarcastic)** Ooh! A policeman is sharing a cell with the likes of us?

11. SUSPECT 2: **(laughs sarcastically)** Msoto isn't a policeman. He's just a watchman. He used to guard that rich man Jumbe.

12. SUSPECT 1: Well, in here, we're the watchmen and you are nobody!

KW END

13. SFX: RUSTLING OF CLOTHES AS THEY GRAB MSOTO

14. SUSPECT 1: Come here! Where's the money?

15. MSOTO: **(scared)** What money?

16. **SUSPECT 2:** The money you stole from Jumbe. Do you think we don't know? **(to other suspect)** Check his pockets!
17. **SFX: CLOTHES RIPPED**
18. **MSOTO:** Hey! Get your hands off me!
19. **SFX: HEAVY STEPS APPROACHING**
20. **SFX: RAP ON METAL WITH BATON**
21. **OFFICER MNENE:** What's all this noise about? What's going on in this cell?
22. **SILENCE**
23. **SFX: CELL DOOR UNLOCKED, OPENS**
24. **MNENE:** Suspect Msoto, step out here!
25. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS MSOTO**
26. **SUSPECT 1:** **(low voice)** Don't think you've got away. We'll pick this up when you get back!
27. **SFX: CELL DOOR SHUT AND LOCKED**
28. **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

SCENE 2: MANOTI ASKS TRUDY TO MOVE IN

29. ATMO: BUSY STREET, TRAFFIC

30. SFX: FOOTSTEPS OF 2 GIRLS WALKING ON THE STREET

31. TRUDY: Finally, lessons are over for today!

SILENCE

32. TRUDY: Mercy?

33. MERCY: **(lost in thought)** Tell me, Trudy, is it painful?

34. TRUDY: Is what painful, Mercy?

35. MERCY: The procedure. You said you'd done it before.

36. TRUDY: Oh, you mean the abortion? You won't even --

37. SFX: FOOTSTEPS APPROACH

38. MANOTI: **(suddenly)** Hello there, girls!

39. TRUDY: **(startled)** Ow! Don't startle us like that, Manoti!

40. MANOTI: **(laughs)** I'm sorry. Here, let me help you with those books, Trudy!

41. TRUDY: **(Unfriendly)** I can manage.

42. MANOTI: No, I insist.

43. SFX: THEY FIGHT ABOUT THE BOOKS

44. TRUDY: Leave it!

45. SFX: BOOKS AND PAPERS FALL

46. TRUDY: **(angry)** Look what you've done! My books are all over the road! Is this what you call helping?

47. SFX: RUSTLING, TRUDY PICKING UP BOOKS RAPIDLY

48. MANOTI: I'm sorry. **(to Mercy)** Excuse me, Mercy, can I talk to Trudy alone?

49. MERCY: Sure.

50. SFX: FOOTSTEPS MERCY LEAVES

51. MANOTI: Why are you so upset, my pretty Trudy?

KW BEGIN

52. TRUDY: I'm not YOUR Trudy any more. You slept with other girls and infected me with that STD! And you didn't even bother to call me to find out how I was!

53. MANOTI: Come on, Trudy, you slept with other boys as well.

KW END

54. TRUDY: You're wasting your time, Manoti. It's over!

55. MANOTI: **(convincing)** I miss you. I want us to get back together. Look - I even brought you something.

56. SFX: BANK NOTES BEING COUNTED

57. TRUDY: What's this?

58. MANOTI: A little money for you to buy yourself something. Just like old times... Take it!

59. TRUDY: I don't want your money any more!

60. MANOTI: Please, Trudy. I've changed. And I want to prove it to you. I want us to move in together.

61. SFX: BOOKS FALLING DOWN AGAIN

62. TRUDY: **(surprised)** What?

63. MANOTI: **(convincing)** I love you, Trudy.

64. TRUDY: **(confused)** Manoti... I... I don't know.

KW BEGIN

65. MANOTI: I promise, I've changed! You're the one I want to spend the rest of my life with!

66. TRUDY: **(unsure)** Are you asking me to marry you? What would I tell my parents? And what about school?

67. MANOTI: I don't think your mother would mind. And you told me your father's almost never at home. So?

68. TRUDY: But he pays my school fees, and our rent. Mum doesn't mind when I stay out for a night or two, but moving in with a man is...

69. MANOTI: Come on, don't play hard to get. You can still go to school from my place, and I'll provide you with everything you need.

70. TRUDY: Manoti, I want to, but...

71. MANOTI: But what, Trudy?

KW END

72. TRUDY: Just let me think about it.

73. MANOTI: Okay. But I won't wait forever.

74. SFX: STEPS - MANOTI LEAVES

75. TRUDY: (sighs)

KW BEGIN

76. SFX: STEPS MERCY APPROACH

77. MERCY: Trudy, what was that all about? Your books are lying in the street again! Come on, let me help you...

78. SFX: THEY PICK UP THE BOOKS

KW END

79. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: AT POLICE STATION

80. ATMO POLICE STATION

81. SFX: FOOTSTEPS MSOTO AND OFFICER WALKING

82. MSOTO: I don't know why you're keeping me here at the police station. I've never stolen anything, officer! I *protect* people – just like you! I know my rights!

83. OFFICER MNENE: (sarcastic) Rights? You have no rights here, Msoto! Follow me, and shut up.

84. MSOTO: **(begs)** Please, Officer. I need to talk to my wife!
Please let me call her!

85. SFX: FOOTSTEPS STOP

86. MNENE: **(sudden change of mood)** All right! You're a troublemaker, Msoto. But today is your lucky day. You can use the phone on this table here. You have exactly three minutes. And after that, you will tell me who else was involved in the robbery.

KW BEGIN

87. MSOTO: *I was not involved!*

88. MNENE: **(cuts in)** I'd hurry up, if I were you. You only have two minutes left.

89. MSOTO: I --

90. MNENE: **(cuts in)** One and a half minutes...

91. MSOTO: **(sighs)** Okay, okay.

KW END

92. SFX: CHAIR BEING PULLED BACK

93. SFX: PHONE BEING PICKED UP; DIALLING

94. MSOTO: **(dials)** Zero – four – three – eight – six – zero – five
(fade under as we follow the officer)

95. SFX: STEPS AS OFFICER STEPS ASIDE

96. **MNENE:** (in a low voice) Officer!
97. **OFFICER 2:** Yes, sir!
98. **MNENE:** (in a low voice) Make sure we find out who he calls and exactly what he says on that phone.
99. **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

SCENE 4: MSOTO'S FAMILY IN TANDIKA SLUMS

100. **ATMO: TANDIKA, INSIDE MERCY'S HUT**
101. **BANDA COUGHS THROUGHOUT THE SCENE**
102. **SFX: SCRAPING ON PLATE WITH SPOON**
103. **KADU:** Can we have more cassava, Mum?
104. **LULU:** No, Kadu. The rest is for your sister Mercy. She'll be back from school any minute. **(deep breath)** Listen, my sons. I want you to tell me everything that happened to you after you went to Laboria with your aunt Lena.
105. **SFX: LULU'S MOBILE PHONE RINGING**
106. **KADU:** Oh Mum, it was --

- 107. BANDA:** (cuts in) No, Kadu, we mustn't talk about it!
- 108. LULU:** What's that? Of course you can tell me.
- 109. BANDA:** Mum, your phone is still ringing.
- 110. LULU:** (sighs)
- 111. SFX: CELL PHONE BEEPS**
- 112. LULU:** Hello?
- 113. MSOTO:** (on the phone) Lulu, finally! I don't have much time!
I'm calling from the police station.
- 114. LULU:** Msoto, my husband!
- 115. BANDA:** Is that Dad on the phone? I want to speak to him!
- 116. KADU:** Me too!
- 117. LULU:** (to the kids) Be good boys; go out and play. Okay?
- 118. KADU/BANDA:** Yes, Mama.
- 119. SFX: FOOTSTEPS - TWO BOYS LEAVING**
- 120. LULU:** (calls after the kids) We'll talk later!
- 121. MSOTO:** Lulu, how are you? How are the kids?

122. LULU: Oh, Msoto. I don't even know where to start. The boys just ate the last portion of cassava we had left. I don't know what to feed them tomorrow. And they still haven't told me what happened while they were away. Banda's coughing so much – it's starting to worry me.

KW BEGIN

123. MSOTO: Don't worry about Banda. It'll pass. Listen, why don't you give my sister Lena a call? She should be able to send you some money.

124. LULU: **(interrupts him)** Don't even talk to me about that woman! She was supposed to take care of our sons! Does she even know that they came back all by themselves? Does she even care?

125. MSOTO: Lulu, this is no time for your silly pride. Just give her a call, you never --

126. LULU: **(cuts in)** You think I haven't tried? The coward won't even pick up the phone. And I have a lot of questions to ask her!

KW END

- 127. MSOTO:** **(sighs, more to himself)** Okay. I really don't see any other way... Listen, Lulu. Do you know Mukaraba?
- 128. LULU:** The councillor? Of course!
- 129. MSOTO:** Don't ask me why, but I think if you go and ask him for money he'll give it to you. Just be sure not to ask him any questions! Do you understand? Tell him you're my wife, and that I sent you. He'll give you money. I have to go now.
- 130. LULU:** Wait, Msoto... What do you mean? Did you and this Mukaraba steal from Jumbe? Did you do it? Is that why he'll give me money? Msoto...
- 131. MSOTO:** **(angry)** Woman! Stop asking me all these questions and just do as I said, will you?
- 132. SFX: LINE DISCONNECTS**
- 133. LULU:** Msoto, wait... Hello? Hello?

134. OUTRO - NARRATOR:

Life is getting tougher every day for Mercy’s mother, Lulu. Why is her husband sending her to this man Mukaraba? And how will their daughter Mercy deal with her pregnancy? Tune in next time to our Learning by Ear radio drama to find out! In the meantime, you can visit our website on dw.de/lbe or join our discussion on Facebook. Take care!