

**Learning by Ear 2013**

**"Crossroads Generation" – Facing the Consequences**

**EPISODE 7: Talk to Her Nicely**

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**List of characters by scene:**

**INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR**

**SCENE 1: AT BONGO ACADEMY**

- JULIETTE (F, 50)
- MERCY (F, 15)
- DAN (M, 16)

**SCENE 2: MANOTI AT HIS MOTHER'S PLACE**

- MABEL (F, 60)
- MANOTI (M, 35)

**SCENE 3: AT THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE**

- JULIETTE (F, 50)
- NIKI (M, 16)

**SCENE 4: MUKARABA BRIBES THE POLICE**

- OFFICER MNENE (M, 45)
- MUKARABA (M, 45)

## **INTRO**

### **1. NARRATOR:**

Nice to meet you all again for “Crossroads Generation – Facing the Consequences”. We’re about to start the seventh episode of this second season. Let’s just recap what’s happened so far... 15-year-old Trudy got a surprising offer from her ex-boyfriend, the bus conductor Manoti:

### **2. EPISODE 2, LINES 60 – 64:**

**MANOTI:** (...) *I want us to move in together.*

**SFX:** **BOOKS FALLING DOWN**

**TRUDY:** *What?*

**MANOTI:** *I love you, Trudy.*

**TRUDY:** *Manoti... I... I don't know.*

### **3. NARRATOR:**

Trudy’s classmates also have a lot on their minds. Niki can’t seem to get over the fact that Mercy, the girl of his dreams, has rejected him. In the last episode, his parents found him lying in the street, completely drunk.

Meanwhile, Mercy’s father, Msoto, is being held at the police station on suspicion of robbery. But did he really do it? We’ll find out today...

Msoto’s daughter Mercy has a completely different problem. She’s pregnant by her classmate Dan, but he’s avoiding his responsibilities. He told Mercy rather brutally that she should have an abortion. But he’s not sure he managed to convince her. Dan’s friend Biko has given him some advice:

### **4. EPISODE 5, LINE 109:**

***BIKO:** (...) Sometimes all girls want is for us guys to ask nicely!*

### **5. NARRATOR:**

And that’s also the name of today’s episode: “Talk to Her Nicely”. We start at Bongo Academy, the school Dan, Mercy and all the others go to...

**SCENE 1: AT BONGO ACADEMY**

**6. SFX: BONGO ACADEMY CLASSROOM, INTERIOR ATMO**

**7. SFX: SCHOOL BELL RINGS**

**8. JULIETTE:**        Okay class, that’s all for today. See you tomorrow!  
                              Don’t forget to hand in your papers before class! And  
                              Niki: I’d like you to come to my office in fifteen minutes.

**9. SFX: DOOR OPENING, HIGH-HEELED FOOTSTEPS LEAVING  
(JULIETTE)**

**10. SFX: NOISE AS CLASS PACKS AND DISPERSES**

**11. DAN:**            Hey, Mercy, wait up!

**12. MERCY:**        What do you want, Dan? Just leave me alone, okay?

***KW BEGIN***

**13. DAN:**            Come on! Mercy, we need to talk.

**14. MERCY:**        **(angry)** Oh, *now* you want to talk, Dan? I thought you  
                              told me not to come near you again!

**15. DAN:**            **(trying to keep it down)** Not so loud! Please, can I  
                              talk to you in private?

**16. MERCY:** Don't be silly. Almost everyone else has gone! And you should go, too.

**17. DAN:** **(sudden change of tone, sweetly)** I want us to be together again, Mercy. I miss you.

**18. MERCY:** **(flatly)** Stop it, Dan. I've had enough. I'm tired of your games, and I'm tired of you hurting me!

**19. DAN:** **(trying to convince her)** I know, Mercy, and that's why I need you to hear me out!

**20. MERCY:** I can only stay five minutes. My mother's being very strict all of a sudden. I think she suspects something. What is it you need to tell me?

***KW END***

**21. DAN:** Mercy, I love you...

**22. MERCY:** **(loudly)** Is this the way you love, Dan? Using me, then dumping me like garbage and insulting me?

**23. DAN:** Mercy, I was just confused.

- 24. MERCY:** I don't think you were confused when you made me pregnant. I don't think you were confused when you said you were crazy about me, or when you threw money at me in the street. You made it very, very clear that I meant nothing to you!
- 25. DAN:** I want to apologize.
- 26. MERCY:** Apologize? It's too late for that! I'm pregnant, Dan - **(breaks down)** I'm pregnant, but I'm having to deal with it all alone. As if we didn't do this together!
- 27. DAN:** Please don't cry.
- 28. MERCY:** **(sniffles)**
- 29. DAN:** I want us to be back together, just like it was before. But you have to get rid of it, Mercy.
- 30. MERCY:** Oh, so this is what it's all about again? Me terminating the p-- **(stops in horror as footsteps approach)**
- 31. SFX: HIGH-HEELED FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING**
- 32. JULIETTE:** Terminating what, Mercy? What is going on here?
- 33. SILENCE**

- 34. DAN:**           **(scared)** Madame ... errr ... Principal ... Juliette...
- 35. MERCY:**       **(pulling herself together)** The paper. Dan here offered to help me, but I think I need to do it alone.
- 36. DAN:**           **(in relief)** Yes, the paper! I thought a little teamwork might be appreciated!
- 37. JULIETTE:**   **(stern)** Dan, what you might call teamwork is what we teachers call cheating. No teamwork! **(to Mercy)**  
Mercy, are you all right?
- 38. MERCY:**       **(still sniffing)** I’m fine, thank you, Madam Principal, I think I’ve just got a cold.
- 39. JULIETTE:**   **(not convinced)** Hmmm... Okay. See you both tomorrow. With two very different papers! Is that clear?  
Now, get out of here.
- 40. DAN/MERCY:** Yes, Principal Juliette.
- 41. JULIETTE:**   **(to herself)** Now, where did I leave my notes? **(fade out as we follow Dan and Mercy)**
- 42. SFX: FOOTSTEPS OF DAN AND MERCY IN THE HALLWAY**

**43. DAN:**           **(they whisper)** That was close! I'm glad she didn't hear us talking about you-know-what.

**44. MERCY:**        I am not going to talk about that in school any more.

**45. DAN:**           Mercy, I care about you. And I don't want you to drop out of school because of this.

**46. SFX: FOOTSTEPS STOP**

**47. MERCY:**        **(realizes)** *You're* scared of Principal Juliette!

**48. DAN:**           No, that's not true. I just want what's best for you.

**49. MERCY:**        Dan --

**50. DAN:**           If it's about the money --

**51. MERCY:**        **(cuts in decisively)** Dan, just leave it. You only get to treat me badly once, and you've more than used up that chance. I'm out of here.

**52. SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS MERCY LEAVES**

**53. DAN:**           Mercy, wait! Are you ... going to do it or not?

**54. MERCY:**        **(calls back)** That's not your business any more, Dan!



**55. DAN:** (to himself) Damn! So much about talking nicely...  
Thanks, Biko, for that great advice!

**56. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 2: MANOTI AT HIS MOTHER'S PLACE**

**57. ATMO: RURAL BACKGROUND**

**58. SFX: STEPS APPROACHING ON GRASS**

**59. MABEL:** (sickly) Is that you, my son Manoti?

**60. MANOTI:** Yes, it's me. Hi, Mum. Are you feeling any better?

**61. MABEL:** I'd feel much better if I had grandchildren running around this house. Then I'd be able to die in peace.

**62. MANOTI:** You're not going to die, mother. You've been talking like this for many years now.

***KW BEGIN***

**63. MABEL:** You know nothing, my son. If I gave you these tired old bones of mine for a day, then maybe you'd understand.  
  
Please, give me some of that tea over there.

**64. SFX: TEA BEING Poured INTO CUP, MABEL DRINKING**

**65. MABEL:** So, tell me, Manoti. When are you going to marry so that I can see my grandchildren?

**66. MANOTI:** You're blind, Mother. You can't see.

**67. MABEL:** Huh. You've always had a sharp tongue. My blindness should be a reminder to you that youth fades.

**68. MANOTI:** Have you eaten anything?

***KW END***

**69. MABEL:** Are you listening to what I'm saying, Manoti? Hurry up and get me a grandson!

**70. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 3: AT THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE**

**71. ATMO: INTERIOR ATMO, BONGO ACADEMY, DAYTIME, AFTER SCHOOL.**

**72. JULIETTE:** Niki, how are you?

**73. NIKI:** Okay, thanks, Principal Juliette.

**74. JULIETTE:** How are your parents?

**75. NIKI:** They're okay too. Why?

**76. SFX: PAPERS BEING SHUFFLED**

**77. JULIETTE:** I've noticed that your grades have dropped a lot lately. And you don't seem to be concentrating in class any more. I've even caught you several times without your homework. Niki, we have high hopes of you. You've always been one of our best students. What's going on?

**78. NIKI:** **(trying to sound convincing)** Nothing, I... I... We just have a lot of work in all our subjects at the moment.

**79. JULIETTE:** I know that. But please - keep working hard, okay?

**80. NIKI:** Yes, Madam Juliette.

**81. JULIETTE:** Please remember: as class prefect, you should serve as a role model to your classmates. If you don't, I'll have to make somebody else prefect.

**82. NIKI:** Yes, Madam Juliette. I promise I won't disappoint you again.

**83. JULIETTE:** You can go now.

**84. SFX: FOOTSTEPS NIKI LEAVES**

***KW BEGIN***

**85. JULIETTE:** Oh - Niki, one last thing. As a prefect, you are our eyes and ears in the classroom. What's going on between Mercy and Dan?

**86. NIKI:** **(from the door)** Er... I don't know, Principal Juliette.

**87. JULIETTE:** All right. Goodbye, Niki.

**88. NIKI:** Goodbye.

***KW END***

**89. SFX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES**

**90. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 4: MUKARABA BRIBING THE POLICE**

**91. ATMO: EVENING SOUNDS IN A QUIET ENVIRONMENT, CRICKETS**

**92. SFX: OFFICER'S FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL**

***KW BEGIN***

**93. SFX: CELLPHONE RINGS, CALL ANSWERED**

**94. OFFICER MNENE:** Hello? Officer Mnene speaking.

**95. MUKARABA:** (on phone) Hello Officer, this is Mukaraba.

**96. MNENE:** Where are you?

**97. MUKARABA:** I parked in the usual place.

**98. MNENE:** Okay. I’m coming.

**99. SFX: PHONE CALL DISCONNECTED**

***KW END***

**100. SFX: FOOTSTEPS STOP**

**101. SFX: CAR WINDOW ROLLING DOWN AUTOMATICALLY**

**102. MUKARABA:** (low voice) Hello, Officer Mnene. Are you sure nobody followed you?

**103. MNENE:** (offended) Councillor Mukaraba, I am a policeman. I would know if somebody was following me.

**104. SFX: BILLS BEING COUNTED AND HANDED OVER**

**105. MUKARABA:** Here’s the money, Officer. Now you make absolutely sure that Msoto rots in the cells forever and nobody ever finds out I framed him for the robbery.

- 106. MNENE:** (low voice) This is not enough! It’s getting difficult to hold him for the robbery without any evidence. And now things are even more complicated. His wife Lulu has been visiting the police station every day. She keeps asking for her baby. The one you bought off her husband...
- 107. MUKARABA:** Listen to me, Officer. Money is not a problem. There’s plenty more where that came from. You just make sure you keep your part of the deal.
- 108. MNENE:** If that’s the case, Councillor, then I assure you Msoto won’t be getting out for a very long time! All you have to do is make sure we don’t go hungry, if you know what I mean. (laughs)
- 109. MUKARABA:** What about his wife? What if she starts screaming for her baby again?

**110. MNENE:** Leave that to me. All she needs to know is that we are still “processing” the case, and in this country that could take years **(laughs sarcastically)**. I told her the baby was with social services.

**111. MUKARABA: (laughs)** If that’s what my home is called nowadays...  
But make sure the press doesn’t get wind of this. I’m a politician, remember. We don’t want my name on the front pages for the wrong reason!

**112. SFX: ELECTRIC CAR WINDOW CLOSING**

**113. SFX: CAR DRIVES OFF**

**114. SFX: STEPS AS OFFICER LEAVES**

**115. MNENE:** **(whistling/humming happily)**

**116. OUTRO – NARRATOR:**

And that’s it for today. Will Mukaraba and the corrupt police officer succeed in keeping this quiet? And what’s in store for Mercy, Dan, Niki and Trudy? You’ll have to wait until next time to find out. If you’re impatient for more news, check our webpage [dw.de/lbe](http://dw.de/lbe) for the latest Crossroads Generation video blog and meet Anita, a girl from Dan’s home country, Laboria. In fact, not just *any* girl, but... No, I won’t tell you any more details. You’ll have to find out yourselves! And don’t forget to join in our online discussions on Facebook... Bye!