

Learning by Ear 2013

"Crossroads Generation" – Facing the Consequences

EPISODE 8: Women's Talk

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List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: MERCY PUKES

- BANDA (M, 8)
- LULU (F, 40)
- MERCY (F, 15)

SCENE 2: AT TRUDY'S

- TRUDY (F, 15)
- MAMA TRUDY (F, LATE 30'S)

SCENE 3: DAN AND BIKO PLAY BASKETBALL

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

SCENE 4: AT THE MSOTO FAMILY HOME IN TANDIKA

- KADU (M, 8)
- BANDA (M, 8)
- LULU (F, 40)
- MERCY (F, 15)

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hi there – welcome to episode number eight of our radio drama “Crossroads Generation – Facing the Consequences”. A lot has been happening lately in the lives of the teenagers Mercy, Trudy, Niki and Dan. Trudy has received a surprising proposal from her ex-boyfriend Manoti, who’s much older than she is: he’s asked her to move in with him. But last time we learned that Manoti has a particular reason for doing this – his mother:

2. EPISODE 7, LINES 65 – 69 (alternative: starting from line 61):

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

MANOTI: *Have you eaten anything, mother?*

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

3. NARRATOR:

Trudy’s best friend Mercy is pregnant, and Dan, the father, is trying everything he can to convince her to have an abortion:

4. EPISODE 7, LINES 29 – 30:

DAN: *I want us to be back together, just like it was before. But you have to get rid of it, Mercy.*

MERCY: *Oh, so this is what it's all about again? (...)*

5. NARRATOR:

Today's episode is called “Women's Talk”. Sit back and come with us to Tandika slums, where Mercy, her mother and her two brothers are about to start their day.

SCENE 1: MERCY PUKES

6. ATMO: MORNING IN TANDIKA SLUMS, INTERIOR ATMO

KW BEGIN

7. BANDA: (coughs)

8. LULU: Banda, that cough still isn't getting better. Have you been drinking your lemon water?

9. BANDA: (coughs) Yes, Mama.

10. SFX: MERCY BEING SHAKEN

11. LULU: Mercy, wake up! Are you going to spend the whole day asleep on that mattress? No wonder it's worn out!

12. MERCY: (grumbles sleepily and mumbles under blanket)

13. LULU: What did you say? I didn't hear you.

KW END

14. MERCY: (lazily and moodily) Mum, why do I have to get up so early? It's Saturday.

15. LULU: Because I said so. Get up and go and buy me some charcoal, will you. I need to iron this dress before I go to the police station.

16. MERCY: (rudely) Why don't you buy charcoal yourself? I'm tired!

17. LULU: (stern) I'm sorry, what did you say?

18. MERCY: Nothing.

19. BANDA: Mum, are you going to see Dad at the police station? Is he still under arrest?

20. LULU: Yes, Banda. Your father's still there. But I'm not going to see him. I have other things to do there.

(to Mercy) And as for you, Miss Grumpy...

21. SFX: BLANKET PULLED AWAY

22. LULU: Come out from under this blanket right now! What's the matter with you?

23. SFX: MERCY STANDING UP

24. MERCY: (to herself) Oh no....

25. SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS (BAREFOOT) LEAVE

26. LULU: Hey... hey! Mercy, where are you going with only a nightdress on? Come back here! Mercy! Mercy!

(to herself) What's wrong with that girl?

27. MERCY: (PUKES OUTSIDE)

28. SFX: SOUND OF SOMEBODY PUKING OUTSIDE

29. LULU: **(Shouts)** Mercy! Are you sick? Mercy!

30. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: AT TRUDY'S

31. ATMO: RADIO MUSIC IN THE BACKGROUND

32. SFX: TRUDY'S CELLPHONE RINGS

33. SFX: BED CREAKS

34. TRUDY: **(yawns; to herself)** Oh, it's my mother.

35. SFX: BEEP AS CALL IS ANSWERED

36. TRUDY: Hello, Mama.

37. MAMA TRUDY: **(on phone)** Hello Trudy, my daughter. How are you? You tried to call me yesterday?

38. TRUDY: Yes, Mama. Why didn't you pick up? Where are you?

KW BEGIN

39. MAMA TRUDY: **(ignores the question)** What was it you wanted to talk to me about?

40. TRUDY: Mama, when are you coming home?

- 41. MAMA TRUDY:** Soon, Trudy. Very soon.
- 42. TRUDY:** But you've been gone for over a week now! I want you here! And since you fired the housemaid I'm all alone in the house ... And I don't know what to eat...
- 43. MAMA TRUDY:** **(cuts in)** Is the food I left already finished?
- 44. TRUDY:** Almost. You didn't leave much.
- 45. MAMA TRUDY:** Just be patient, Trudy. I'll send you some money, all right?
- 46. TRUDY:** **(desperate)** But Mama, why are you never home? Where are you?
- KW END***
- 47. MAMA TRUDY:** You're a big girl now, Trudy. Listen --
- 48. TRUDY:** You're always telling me to listen. I don't want to listen any more. Just come home -- otherwise I'll move in with Manoti. He's already asked me.
- 49. MAMA TRUDY:** **(shocked)** What? Trudy! Who is this Manoti?
- 50. TRUDY:** He's --

51. **MAMA TRUDY:** (**cuts her short, firm**) Now you listen to me, young lady! You will do no such a thing! You're far too young to get married!
52. **TRUDY:** I'm not getting married. I'm just moving in with him.
53. **MAMA TRUDY:** That's more or less the same thing.
54. **TRUDY:** Look who's talking. You're the one who changes men like clothes. At least I've picked *one*!
55. **MAMA TRUDY:** Don't talk to me like that! I'm your mother!
56. **TRUDY:** Come home, then!
57. **MAMA TRUDY:** I will.
58. **TRUDY:** When? I want you now!
59. **MAMA TRUDY:** Soon. Trudy, listen to me. If your father finds out that you're not living with me any more and you're not going to school, he'll stop paying our rent.
60. **TRUDY:** (**crying**) Yeah, right! All you care about is your stupid rent. You don't even know what I eat. You know what? Don't bother coming back. By the time you do, I'll probably already be married to Manoti.

61. MAMA TRUDY: **(pleading)** Trudy! Wait! **(deep breath)** Okay. You can move in with this Manoti, if that's really what you want. But promise me you'll keep going to school, okay? Otherwise --

62. TRUDY: **(cuts in, angry)** Yeah, I know. The rent. Just... just leave me alone. I'm not your daughter any more.

63. SFX: PHONE DISCONNECTS

64. TRUDY: **(cries)**

65. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: DAN AND BIKO PLAY BASKETBALL

66. BONGO ACADEMY: OUTSIDE, WEEKEND, DAYTIME

67. SFX: BASKETBALL BEING DRIBBLED

68. BIKO: **(Heavy panting)** Who's the man now? Who's the man? Dan, you can't get past me! They don't call me "Barrel Biko" for nothing!

69. DAN: **(Pants as he dribbles)** Barrel Biko had better watch out – here comes "Dribbling Dan"!

70. SFX: SCUFFLE AND DRIBBLING AS THEY PLAY BASKETBALL.

71. DAN: He turns, he runs, he jumps, and – he scores!

72. SFX: BASKETBALL BEING THROWN INTO BASKET

73. DAN: (Laughs) "Barrel Biko" can't stop me!

74. BIKO: (Still panting) Oh, come on, Dan!

75. DAN: (Laughs) Want some more?

76. BIKO: No, I need a break. Let's sit down

77. DAN: Okay.

78. SFX: RUSTLING OF CLOTHES AS THEY SIT

79. BIKO: (Catches his breath) Hey, Dan – how did it go with Mercy? Did you talk to her nicely?

80. DAN: Yeah, like you told me to.

81. BIKO: And?

82. DAN: I don't think it worked. And Principal Juliette almost overheard us!

83. BIKO: (Dismissive) Cheer up, man! Mercy's probably getting it done right now. Barrel Biko might not be all that great at basketball, but he sure gives good advice!

84. DAN: (Sarcastic) Yeah, right. When I become president, remind me to hire you as my advisor.

KW BEGIN

85. **BIKO:** (laughs) Other way round, mate.
86. **DAN:** Seriously, thanks for the support, Biko!
87. **BIKO:** No problem. You know I'd jump in front of a train for you --
88. **DAN:** (cuts in) Yeah, I know --
89. **BIKO:** -- as long as it's not moving! (Laughs)
90. **DAN:** You idiot! (they laugh)

KW END

91. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: AT THE MSOTO FAMILY HOME IN TANDIKA

92. SFX: INTERIOR ATMO, TANDIKA SLUMS, MORNING

93. BANDA/KADU: EATING

94. SFX: SPOONING PORRIDGE

95. BANDA: Mum, is Mercy sick?

96. LULU: I don't know, Banda.

97. BANDA: She vomited. People only vomit when they're sick, don't they? (coughs)

98. LULU: Finish your porridge, boys. And Banda, make sure you drink your lemon water.

99. **BANDA:** (drinks)
100. **KADU:** (eats)
101. **SFX: DOOR OPENS, FOOTSTEPS (BAREFOOT) APPROACH**
102. **LULU:** Talk of the devil. Here she is. Mercy, sit down.
103. **SFX: RUSTLING OF CLOTHES**
104. **LULU:** Boys, go out and play. Mercy and I need to talk.
105. **KADU:** (mouth full) But Mum, we haven't finished --
106. **LULU:** (stern) You can finish later. Off you go.
107. **KADU/BANDA:** Okay...
108. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS (2 KIDS), DOOR OPENS, SHUTS.**
109. **LULU:** Okay, Mercy, now we're alone.
(deep breath, struggles to get the words out) I ...
Did you... **(deep breath)** Mercy, are you pregnant?
110. **MERCY:** (caught) Mum!
111. **LULU:** Just tell me, child. This is the third time I've seen you vomiting in the morning. I know the signs.
- KW BEGIN**
112. **MERCY:** It's nothing, Mum. I just feel a little sick, that's all!
113. **LULU:** Mercy, I'm not a fool. If you don't tell me, who will you tell? I promise you I won't be angry.

114. MERCY: (cries) I... Mum... I'm so sorry!

115. LULU: (angry) My God! What the hell is wrong with you? Is this what they teach you in schools nowadays? Can't you use your brain?

KW END

116. MERCY: (cries more) I'm sorry, Mum... I didn't mean this to happen.

117. LULU: Who's responsible?

118. MERCY: (cries)

119. LULU: Answer me! Who?

120. MERCY: His name is Dan. He's from Laboria...

121. LULU: A ... a foreigner! Of all people, you choose a foreigner to get pregnant with! Get out! Get out of my sight, right now!

122. MERCY: (cries)

123. SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS (MERCY)

124. SFX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

125. LULU: Arrgh! I can't believe this. This is too much!

126. OUTRO – NARRATOR:

So Mercy's mother Lulu didn't keep her promise not to be angry. What will Mercy do now? And what about Mercy's father, who's still under arrest at the police station? To find out, tune in next time for another episode of Crossroads Generation, our ongoing Learning by Ear radio drama. If you missed one of the previous episodes, you can find them all on our webpage: dw.de/lbe. And if you want to know which stories are making headlines in Africa, log on to dw.de/africa or tune in to DW's radio show "Africalink". Take care!