

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 3: Facing the Future

EPISODE 10: How Honourable Is Honourable?

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List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: MERCY CONFRONTS TRUDY

- TRUDY (F, 18)
- MERCY (F, 18)

SCENE 2: MSOTO PREACHES IN BUS

- CONDUCTOR (M, 20s)
- MSOTO (M, LATE 40s)
- BEN (M, 20s)
- PASSENGER 1 (M/F, ADULT)
- PASSENGER 2 (M/F, ADULT)
- 2-3 MORE PASSENGERS (M/F, ADULT)

SCENE 3: TRUDY TRIES TO KILL HER STORY

- EDITOR (M, LATE 40s)
- JOHN (M, YOUNG ADULT)
- WORKER 1 (M/F, ADULT)
- 2-3 MORE WORKERS (M/F, ADULT)
- TRUDY (F, 18)

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hello there and welcome back to “Crossroads Generation”. We’re on the third season of our radio series about young Africans, the challenges they face in their daily lives and how they deal with them. Mercy and Trudy are both studying journalism, and Trudy recently got an interview with the local politician Mukaraba:

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 7, LINES 115-117

***TRUDY:** There are rumours that your baby is not biologically yours - that you adopted her ILLEGALLY.*

***MUKARABA:** Listen, young lady! I don't know who's been feeding you this malicious nonsense, but I'm warning you: don't you dare print that!*

***TRUDY:** What if I tell you I have a witness who says you adopted her sister illegally?*

3. NARRATOR:

Trudy's witness is Mercy, who told her about the family secret in confidence. Mercy's father Msoto was the one who sold the baby, four years ago. He recently came back to town, and he seems to have changed – into an enthusiastic believer in a certain King Karubu. Anyway, it looks as if Trudy's interview has got Mercy into trouble:

4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 9, LINES 94-96

MERCY: Mum, a man called me and told me not to spread rumours about Mukaraba any more...

LULU: What? Mercy! You know that it's a sensitive case. We can't talk about it before it goes to court! Why would you go discussing it with people?

MERCY: I didn't! The only person I told was Trudy. (to herself) And she wouldn't ... would she?

5. NARRATOR:

That's what Mercy's trying to find out in this tenth episode, entitled "How Honourable Is Honourable?"

SCENE 1: MERCY CONFRONTS TRUDY

6. ATMO: UNIVERSITY HOSTEL, INDOORS

7. SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR

8. TRUDY: (from inside) Who is it?

9. MERCY: It's me, Mercy. Trudy, open up!

10. SFX: DOOR OPENS

11. TRUDY: (stressed) Come in.

12. MERCY: Wow! Your room is a mess. What happened?

13. TRUDY: I think someone broke in here and went through my stuff.

14. MERCY: What? Who would do that?

15. TRUDY: I think it was Mukaraba's people.

16. MERCY: What?

17. TRUDY: They stole my tape recorder. It must have been because of the interview...

18. SFX: ZIPPER OPENED, RUSTLING OF BAG

19. **TRUDY:** **(laughs)** But they didn't know I had the tape here in my bag! Idiots!
20. **MERCY:** **(irritated)** What are you talking about??
21. **TRUDY:** I told you I got a job...
22. **MERCY:** Yes, at the Kisimba Tribune. So?
23. **TRUDY:** **(uncomfortable)** Well, my first assignment was to report on Mukaraba. And while I was interviewing him, I mentioned what you told me about your baby sister, and he --
24. **MERCY:** **(unbelievably)** You did *what*? I told you that in strictest confidence, Trudy!
25. **TRUDY:** I'm sorry!
26. **MERCY:** That's ALL? You're sorry – that's it? Trudy, I trusted you, and you betrayed me!
27. **TRUDY:** Come on, Mercy --
28. **MERCY:** **(furious)** No, Trudy, that's it! You not only tell people my secrets, you've also put me and my family in danger! We're finished!

29. **TRUDY:** Don't exaggerate! I didn't put you in danger --

30. **MERCY:** Then why did they threaten me on the phone?

KW BEGIN

31. **TRUDY:** What?

32. **MERCY:** That's right! They said I'd lose my tongue if I continued to spread rumours about Mukaraba!

33. **TRUDY:** I didn't know that... I'm really sorry, Mercy. If it's any consolation, he threatened me, too. I think that's why they stole my recorder. It's on the tape!

34. **MERCY:** **(shocked)** Trudy!

KW END

35. **TRUDY:** Well, I don't think we should worry about it too much. My editor says that's the way it is in journalism. They get threats all the time!

36. **MERCY:** **(still furious)** This is *not* the way it is, Trudy! I don't believe this editor of yours. I'm going to the police.
(deep breath) And if they threatened you, too, then you should do the same.

37. **TRUDY:** **(unsure)** I don't know... I think I need to see my editor first.

38. **MERCY:** Wait... He's not going to publish your article, is he?

39. **TRUDY:** I have to go, Mercy!

40. **SFX: STEPS TRUDY LEAVING**

41. **MERCY:** Trudy, wait! **(to herself, angry)** That girl is unbelievable! What on earth was I thinking!

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: MSOTO PREACHES IN BUS

42. **ATMO:** **INSIDE A MINIBUS, DRIVING**

43. **CONDUCTOR:** **(from afar, whistles to alert driver)** Hey driver!
Next stop coming up! Two more passengers waiting!

KW BEGIN

44. **PASSENGER 1: (close to mic)** Hey, where are they going to sit?
This bus is full!

45. **PASSENGER 2: (close to mic)** Yes, it's full!
46. **CONDUCTOR: (from afar)** Don't listen to them, driver. There's plenty of space back here!
47. **PASSENGER 1:** What are you talking about? There's barely enough for my bags!

KW END

48. **SFX: BUS STOPS**
49. **MSOTO: (coming in, from afar)** Thank you for stopping for me and my friend.
50. **BEN: (coming in, from afar)** Thank you, conductor!
51. **SFX: BUS DRIVING AGAIN**

FLASHBACK: Ep. 11, line 2

52. **MSOTO: (shouts to audience)** My name is Msoto, and this is Ben, my brother in faith. We greet you all in the name of King Karubu!
53. **BEN: (shouts)** King Karubu! King Karubu!
54. **PASSENGERS: MURMUR**

55. **PASSENGER 1:** Oh no! Not these bus preachers again. I'm tired. I just want to go home in peace!

56. **PASSENGER 2:** Me too! And they never talk normally. They always have to shout!

57. **MSOTO:** **(shouts)** I come to you, dear travellers, with the word of life.

58. **PASSENGERS: MURMUR**

59. **MSOTO:** I want to take this opportunity to tell you all about the secrets of life, and to pass on the message of King Karubu.

60. **BEN:** **(exaggerated)** King Karubu! King Karubu! King Karubu!

61. **PASSENGER 1: (speaking over the preaching)** They never even preach for one minute before they start asking for money.

62. **PASSENGER 2:** These two haven't...

KW BEGIN

63. **PASSENGER 1:** Just you wait.

64. MSOTO: **(continues)** The spirits of King Karubu have saved me. And I am telling you: it is not too late for all of you to be saved! Just listen to the words of life! Listen to the message of King Karubu!

65. PASSENGERS: (murmuring)

66. PASSENGER 1: Hey, you're right! They haven't asked for money yet...

67. PASSENGER 2: (laughs) Yeah. Strange, isn't it?

KW END

68. MSOTO: King Karubu is mighty, King Karubu is powerful, and King Karubu is your friend... He does not demand, he gives!

69. PASSENGERS: (murmuring)

70. BEN: **(coming a little closer to passengers)** King Karubu, King Karubu!

71. PASSENGER 1: (alarmed, shouts) Hey, hey! What are you doing?

72. PASSENGER 2: What's wrong?

73. **PASSENGER 1: (to passenger 2)** The guy shouting “King Karubu”
all the time! I think he’s stealing from the
passengers while the other one is preaching!
74. **PASSENGER 2:** What??? – You’re right! **(shouts)** Hey! They’re
conmen!
75. **PASSENGER 1:** Thieves! Thieves!
76. **PASSENGERS:** Thieves! Thieves!
77. **MSOTO:** **(urgently)** Ben, let’s go! Jump! Jump!
78. **BEN:** Yes, let’s go, Msoto!
79. **SFX: RUSTLING OF CLOTHES AS THEY JUMP OUT**
80. **PASSENGERS: (scream)**
81. **PASSENGER 1:** Wow! They just jumped from the moving bus. Those
conductors really should close the doors ...
82. **PASSENGERS:** Thieves! Thieves! Stop the bus!!! **(fade out)**

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: TRUDY TRIES TO KILL HER STORY

83. ATMO: BUSY OFFICE, COMPUTER KEYS TAPPED

84. EDITOR: Okay, everybody, I want you to listen up! When I started this newspaper, I wanted to tell the untold stories, stories the other papers don't even know about yet.

85. WORKERS: (murmur)

86. EDITOR: The article I'm about to share with you was written by a newcomer. A student of journalism at the university, by the name of Trudy.

87. WORKERS: (murmur)

88. EDITOR: John, would you read this out loud for us?

89. JOHN: Yes, Editor.

90. SFX: PAPER PASSED OVER

91. JOHN: Okay. The title is: **(reads)** “How Honourable Is Honourable? An exclusive story about a politician’s dirty secret.” **(clears his throat, reads)** “As I walk down the street on this sunny day, I’m thinking that in just a few weeks this won’t be possible any more. The streets will be filled with crowds listening to politicians speak, as election time draws near.

92. WORKER 1: What’s this? A personal diary? That’s not journalism!

93. EDITOR: Shhh! Go on, John, please.

KW BEGIN

94. JOHN: **(continues reading)** But perhaps before people cast that crucial vote they really should ask themselves a few questions. For example: who am I voting for? Because, many of the candidates con their way to leadership! Most of them use campaign money that’s been illegally acquired – and they use that money to bribe the voters!

95. **WORKER 1:** Where's the proof? Did you double-check?
96. **EDITOR:** **(waves it off)** Everybody knows it's true! You don't need proof of that! Go on, John! The best is yet to come!

KW END

97. **JOHN:** **(continues reading)** In the community of Tandika, the councillor Moses Mukaraba, or THE HONOURABLE Mukaraba as he likes to call himself, has declared his interest in running for parliament. Our investigations have revealed that Mr. Mukaraba is not in fact an honourable man, but a man who uses his position of power to intimidate the common man, the same man who stands in the scorching sun to vote for him! He himself claims to be a family man, but sources say that the child who lives with him and his wife is not his own. He went against the law to adopt her illegally, and destroyed another family in order to build up his own...
98. **WORKERS:** **(surprised)**

- 99. EDITOR:** And so on and so forth. That's what I call juice!
That's what I call a story! Tell me, wouldn't you buy
a newspaper like that?
- 100. WORKERS:** **(meekly)** Yes...
- 101. WORKER 1:** But this is libel! Where's the proof?
- 102. EDITOR:** The proof is that this is going to sell! That's the only
proof I need! Now, chop, chop! Get back to work
and bring me stories like that to print.
- 103. WORKERS:** **(murmurs as they go back to work)**

104. SFX: DOOR OPENS

FLASHBACK: Ep. 11, line 4

- 105. TRUDY** **(bursts in)** Please – don't print my story!
- 106. EDITOR:** Too late, Trudy. It'll be on the front page tomorrow.
The machines are already printing. I can't wait to
see how many copies we sell...
- 107. TRUDY:** **(to herself)** Oh no, now Mukaraba's really going to
kill me... And if he doesn't, Mercy will!

OUTRO – NARRATOR:

Poor Trudy! What will she do now? To find out, you'll have to wait until next time... But in the meantime, you can go to our webpage, dw.de/lbe, or discuss what you just heard on our Facebook page. Until then, bye bye!