

Strict Rules of Conduct for Daughters

Shona transcript:

Girl: Inini ndinositi kumapast seven ndinenge ndamumba. Kana ndichipfurikidza nguva idzodzo ndinoreva kuti, “Aah, ndichazoenda nekwakati” kanakuti “Paita chakati”. Eee. Saka 9 O’clock dzikachaya ndisina kufona ndisina kudii, ndongozosvika pamukova ndakazvitemba ndobva ndanzi, “Wanga uri kupi?” “Wanga uina ani?”

Boy: I 9O’clock dzehusiku idzi.

Girl: Ehe I 9O’clock dzehusiku.

Boy: Eish

Girl: Pandichazoda kuti naAlison zvonzi, “Kutanga riinhi usina kutaura?” ‘Unofunga kuti pano pamba pako?’ Wanga uine chikomana.

Boy: Yaa Vakomana.

Girl: ‘Dzokera kwawabva ikoko’. Kudoti ndanga ndiri kwaana Alison ‘Dzokera kwawabva ikoko’

Boy: Saka kungonoka kusvika kumba uri munhu wechisikana unenge uine mukomana?

Girl: Zvinoreve kuti uri kuita musikanzwa. Ehe.

Interviewer: Zvinowanzokuitika here?

Girl: Vabereki vanowanzozvitora kuti ndozvazviri. Hazvisizvo zvazvinogara zvichireva asi.

Boy: Dzimwe nguva une zvimwewo zvaunenge uchiita zvisiri izvozvo.

English translation:

Girl: I am usually indoors around past seven. If I am staying out beyond that time, I let them know that, “Ah, I am going to so and so,” or “So and so has happened.” Um, so if it gets to 9 o’clock without me calling or doing anything, then I just get to the door with confidence and I will be asked, “Where were you? Who were you with?”

Boy: Is it 9 O’clock at night?

Girl: Yes, 9 O'clock in the evening.

Boy: Ouch.

Girl: When I try to say [I was] with Alison they will say, 'Since when without letting us know? Do you think this is your house? You were with a boyfriend.'

Boy: Yes, boys.

Girl: "Go back to where you are coming from." Even if I try to explain that I was at Alison's place [they will say], "Go back to that place where you are coming from".

Boy: So if you return home late, as a girl child you would have been with a boyfriend?

Girl: It means you were up to some mischief. Yes.

Interviewer: Does it usually happen?

Girl: Parents usually take it to be like that but it does not usually mean that.

Boy: Sometimes you will be doing other things besides that.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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