

Learning by Ear 2013

Crossroads Generation - Facing Tough Choices

EPISODE TWENTY-FIVE: Nasty Surprises

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List of characters by scene:

SCENE 1: MSOTO AND FAMILY ARRIVE HOME

- MSOTO (M, 45)
- LULU (F, 40)
- BANDA (M, 8)
- KADU (M, 8)
- OFFICER MNENE (M)

SCENE 2: MERCY’S PREGNANCY TEST IS POSITIVE

- Dr. ZITO (M, 45)
- MERCY (F, 15)
- TRUDY (F, 15)

SCENE 3: NIKI AND DAN TAUNT EACH OTHER AT SCHOOL

- NIKI (M, 16)
- DAN (M, 16)
- MERCY (F, 15)

SCENE 4: LULU, TWINS AND KANYAMA MEET AT MERCY’S SCHOOL

- KADU (M, 8)
- LULU (F, 40)
- BANDA (M, 8)
- KANYAMA (M, 50)

1. INTRO - NARRATOR:

Welcome to Crossroads Generation - a Learning by Ear radio drama production brought to you by DW. Let's catch up on the recent events.

Mercy's having a hard time. She missed her period, and confided her worst fears to her best friend, Trudy, who called her family doctor:

2. DR. ZITO (EP 24, 94): "I think we probably *should* do a pregnancy test. (...) It'll only take a few minutes, and then we'll know for sure whether you've really got a bun in the oven, or it's just a false alarm."

3. MERCY: "Bun in the oven?! Does he mean a baby? Oh, I really hope not!"

Meanwhile, Msoto has joined his wife Lulu in the village, where she's been taking time out from their unhappy marriage. Msoto convinced her to help him – he's suspected of robbing Jumbe, his former boss. And when Lulu accompanied her husband back to town, they made an unbelievable discovery at the bus station!

4. KADU (EP 24, LINE 60): "Banda! Banda! Look over there...
(**shouting**) Mama! Mama!"

5. LULU: "Msoto, did you hear that?" + "Mum! Dad! Look! Here!"

6. LULU: "Oh! Oh! I don't believe it! Msoto - look, across the street!
Kadu and Banda! Our boys are here!"

7. MSOTO: "What? Where? ...Yes! It's them! There they are!"

Lulu and Msoto have just been reunited with Kadu and Banda, their twin sons! Remember: the two boys had disappeared while staying with their aunt Lena in Laboria. But how long will the family reunion last?

This is the twenty-fifth episode in the series, called "Nasty Surprises". We kick off with Msoto, Lulu and their two sons Kadu and Banda. It's already evening and they are entering their new family home.

SCENE 1: MSOTO AND FAMILY ARRIVE HOME

8. ATMO SUBURB IN THE EVENING

9. SFX: FOOTSTEPS OF PEOPLE WALKING TOWARDS HOUSE

10. MSOTO: So, boys. Here we are! We've moved from Tandika to this new house. What do you think of it?

11. KADU: **(excited)** Dad! Is this our new home?

12. MSOTO: Yes, Kadu. This is where we live. For now, anyway.

13. BANDA: Wow! It's much bigger than the other house!

14. SFX: DOOR BEING UNLOCKED AND OPENED

- 15. LULU:** **(shocked by scene of devastation)** Oh my goodness! Msoto, what’s happened here? I've been gone hardly any time at all, and look, the house is in a complete mess! Where’s Mercy? Shouldn’t she be home by now?
- 16. MSOTO:** **(also surprised)** Lulu, I honestly have no idea what’s happened here. Children - stay close to your mother. I need to see whether anyone’s inside! **(calls out)** Mercy! Are you home?
- 17.SFX: FOOTSTEPS WALKING ON GLASS AND SCATTERED BELONGINGS**
- 18.SFX: DOOR CLOSED**
- 19.BANDA:** Mum, let’s go back to the old house in Tandika. This one’s too big and scary.
- 20.LULU:** It’s all right, boys. You’re with us now. That’s all that matters. I won’t let anyone take you away from me ever again!
- 21.SFX: DOOR SUDDENLY CRASHES OPEN**
- 22.LULU:** **(screams in fear)** Wooo! Msoto! Help!!
- 23.KADU / BANDA:** Help!

24. OFFICER: (commanding voice) Freeze! Nobody move! Finally we’ve caught the robber. We’ve been watching this house very closely, and today the rat walked right into the trap! Msoto! Come out with your hands up in the air!

KW BEGIN

25. LULU: (pleading) Please, don’t harm my husband. I beg you. Please - he hasn’t done anything wrong.

26. BANDA: (supporting) My father protects people for a living! He’s a watchman! He’s not a bad man!

27. OFFICER: Keep walking towards me.

28. MSOTO: (breathing audibly)

KW END

29. SFX: FOOTSTEPS WALKING SLOWLY ON SCATTERED MATERIALS

30. OFFICER: Don’t lower your hands. I’m sorry I have to do this in front of your family, but you’ve left us no choice. Msoto, stretch out your hands!

31. SFX: HANDCUFFS BEING PUT ON AND SNAPPED SHUT

32. LULU: (begins to cry) What has my husband done?

33. KADU: (crying) No! Please don’t take our father away...

34. BANDA: (also weeping) We’ve only just seen him again, after so long!

35. MSOTO: It’s all right, boys. Daddy will be back. You guys keep an eye on your mum. Lulu, you have to find Mercy. She should be either in school or at Trudy’s place. That’s her friend, but I’m afraid I don’t know where she lives. - Don’t worry, boys. I’ll be back soon.

36. OFFICER: Enough goodbyes! Move! You’re a wanted man, Msoto! Armed robbery, and fleeing from justice. I don’t think you’re going to be back any time soon.

37. MSOTO: (sighs)

38. SFX: MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: MERCY’S PREGNANCY TEST IS POSITIVE

39. ATMO: TRUDY’S ROOM IN THE EVENING, LIGHT TRAFFIC OUTSIDE

40. MERCY: Trudy, what on earth is taking so long? I can't stand the suspense! I'm so nervous. I'm sweating all over.

41. TRUDY: Calm down, Mercy. Dr. Zito will be back in a minute.

42. MERCY: That's what you said a minute ago. But he's taking so long. I thought --

43. SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR, DOOR OPENING, FOOTSTEPS COMING IN

44. **DR.ZITO:** Mercy. Please sit down. I’ve done the test now, and the results show that ... you are indeed pregnant.

45. **MERCY:** **(resigned)** Oh no! I’m better off dead!

46. **TRUDY:** Mercy, don’t talk like that! I... **(hesitant)** I... I’ve been... pregnant before, too, you know. It’s not a death sentence. There are ways of... dealing with it.

47. **MERCY:** **(shocked)** What did you say?

KW BEGIN

48. **TRUDY:** Doctor, please explain to her...

49. **DR.ZITO:** Trudy’s right, Mercy. But I am concerned, Trudy, that you seem to think terminating a pregnancy is just a matter of routine!

50. **TRUDY:** **(shrugging his words off)** Ya, ya, doctor. You see, Mercy, I had two abortions last year.

51. **MERCY:** **(surprised)** What?

KW END

52. **DR.ZITO:** I terminated her pregnancies in the early stages. Even her parents have no idea this ever happened. That's what I do... I help young girls who are pregnant to get rid of the baby. For a price, of course!

53. **MERCY:** **(still shocked)** Trudy! You mean you had an abortion? And not just once, but twice?! How could you do that?

54. **TRUDY:** Well, I was young, and --
55. **DR.ZITO:** Correction, Trudy. You *are* young. If you want my opinion: *both* of you are way too young to be messing around with boys like this. But you're also way too young to be mothers. Look, it's up to you. My work here is done. Trudy, I'll expect my fee as usual.
56. **MERCY:** **(realizing)** I'm pregnant! I can't believe this. I'm actually carrying Dan's child...
57. **DR.ZITO:** Well, girls, I'm leaving. It's already late. If you need me, you know where to find me.
58. **TRUDY:** Thanks for your help, Doctor Zito... Here's the money.
59. **SFX: BANK NOTES HANDED OVER, COUNTED OUT**
60. **DR. ZITO:** Thank you, Trudy. See you next time!
61. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS, DOOR OPENED AND CLOSED**
62. **MERCY:** **(deep breath)** I still can't believe it!
63. **TRUDY:** Calm down, Mercy. You'll stay over tonight. And tomorrow things may look different.
64. **MERCY:** **(close to tears)** Thank you, Trudy.
65. **MUSIC INTERLUDE**

SCENE 3: NIKI AND DAN TAUNT EACH OTHER AT SCHOOL

66. SFX: SCHOOL YARD IN THE MORNING

67. NIKI: (shouts) Good morning, Dan! Hey! Wait... I just want to tell you how sad I am that you're leaving Bongo Academy. We'll miss you so much! **(starts to laugh)**

68. DAN: (sarcastic) Hahaha...Very funny. You can't even make jokes, you pathetic little mama's boy!

KW BEGIN

69. NIKI: Pathetic? Really? I beat you in the class, and I warned you not to mess with me. This is what you get when you cross the mighty Niki Jumbe! **(chest thumping)**

70. DAN: You look like a stupid baboon when you beat your chest like that. You might be top of the class, but you're still a loser, Niki. When it comes to the girls, your fancy manners just don't cut it! I got the prettiest and smartest girl in class. Mercy! How's that for chest-beating, eh? **(chest-beating too)**

KW END

71. NIKI: Just think: as soon as you leave, Mercy will have no one to turn to. Who do you think she's going to come crying to then?

72. **DAN:** Trudy, of course. Not you, Niki! And even if she does, so what? I’ve already tasted the honey from the pot. I was there first!
73. **NIKI:** **(angry)** I don’t believe you! You’re lying, as always. I don’t believe you at all. The Mercy I know wouldn’t do that.
74. **DAN:** I don’t care whether you believe me or not! And, for your information, I have another girl waiting for me at home. So as you can see, I’m very much in demand!
75. **NIKI:** If I only had the power, I’d put you on the next bus, boat, camel or whatever you used to come to my country and send you straight back.
76. **DAN:** Hahaha... That’s the problem, Niki. The only power you have over me is that you’re the class prefect. Outside school, you’re nothing!
77. **NIKI:** **(about to start a fight)** You fool! I’m going to teach you a lesson once and for all...
78. **MERCY:** **(from afar)** Dan! Wait!
79. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS RUNNING**
80. **NIKI:** Lucky you! Saved by a girl! I’ll see you later! Oh, what am I talking about... Go home, Dan, and go for good!
81. **SFX: NIKI’S FOOTSTEPS LEAVING**

82. **DAN:** I'll meet you any time, loser! Any time, anywhere...
83. **MERCY:** **(breathing heavily from running)** Dan... We... I need to talk to you... It's urgent.
84. **SFX: SCHOOL BELL RINGS**
85. **DAN:** **(still angry)** Sorry, but I'm not in the mood right now. The class has already started - I'll see you there. **(abandons her)**
86. **SFX: DAN LEAVING**
87. **MERCY:** But ... **(sighs)**
88. **MUSIC INTERLUDE**

SCENE 4: LULU, TWINS, AND KANYAMA MEET AT MERCY'S SCHOOL

89. **SFX: SCHOOL ATMO OUTSIDE, STUDENTS PLAYING FOOTBALL**
90. **SFX: SEVERAL PEOPLE WALKING**
91. **KADU:** Mum, is this Mercy's school? Look at that enormous football pitch!
92. **LULU:** Yes, Kadu, I saw it. Come on – we have to try to find Mercy and let her know what's happened to your father.
93. **BANDA:** How come Mercy is going to such a nice school? Why aren't we in school?

94. **LULU:** **(sighing)** Banda, your sister was lucky enough to win a scholarship. It wasn't my idea. Now, stop tormenting me with questions. Now that you're back we can see about sending you to school. But first we have to help your father and get him out of prison. And I want to hear about your time in Laboria, and why you ran away from Auntie Lena.
95. **KADU:** **(sad)** Yes. We'll tell you everything, Mum.
96. **SFX: CAR DRIVING IN AT HIGH SPEED AND COMES TO A HALT**
97. **LULU:** **(not amused)** Who in the world drives a car that fast inside a school compound?
98. **SFX: CAR DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES, FOLLOWED BY BEEPS**
99. **KADU:** **(afraid)** Oh, my god! It's him! It's him! Mum, we have to hide!
100. **BANDA:** **(fearful too)** Oooo! Please don't take us back!
101. **LULU:** **(confused and shocked by the boys' reaction)** Boys, what's wrong? You're shaking! Why are you so scared of the man in that taxi?
102. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS FAST APPROACHING**

103.KANYAMA: (sees Kadu and Banda) What! You? Here?! (clears throat and tries to act calm) Oh - I’m sorry, madam. I thought I knew these boys. They look just like some boys I know, but... I must have been mistaken. I’m on my way to see the principal. (in a hurry) Have a nice day!

104.BANDA: (trembling in fear) Mum, tell him to go away. Please - tell him he can’t take us back.

105.LULU: Excuse me, sir, but my sons seem to be scared of you. May I know why? I’ve never seen them react like that to someone before.

106.KANYAMA: How should I know? You know, we live in a big world. Many people, many faces. Oh - I’ve just remembered - I have to finish some business in town. I’ll go and see the Principal later. Goodbye, boys. Don’t be scared, now. (a little threatening) I’m just a stranger you’re meeting for the first time – isn’t that right?

107.MUSIC INTERLUDE

108. OUTRO - NARRATOR:

That brings us to the end of this episode of Crossroads Generation. Why are Banda and Kadu so scared of Kanyama? And what will Mercy do now she knows she's expecting Dan's child? All this and more in the next and final episode of this first season "Crossroads Generation ". If you'd like to listen to this one again, please visit our website at dw.de/lbe. You can also follow us on Facebook. Until we meet again, take care, and goodbye!