

Learning by Ear 2013

Crossroads Generation - Facing Tough Choices

EPISODE NINETEEN: Lost

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1. **INTRO - NARRATOR:**

Welcome to "Learning by Ear" and the nineteenth episode of "Crossroads Generation", entitled "Lost". Things are unfolding quickly, so let's recap.

Mercy had a first date with Dan, but it ended abruptly when the Principal came to do one of her spontaneous room checks. Later Mercy told her best friend Trudy that the interruption wasn't the only mood killer:

2. MERCY (EPISODE 18, LINE 101): "Dan... well... he wanted me to... how can I say this? To... give myself to him. But I said no."

3. TRUDY: "You said no? Like, you rejected him?"

4. MERCY: "Well, yes. And now he's mad at me."

5. TRUDY (105): (...) "Oh, Mercy! (...) If you wait, you just stop yourself from growing up!"

Will Mercy follow her best friend's advice, or will she stick to her principles?

Stay tuned to find out. Meanwhile, Mercy's classmate Niki wanted to show off to her, so he stole his parents' car. But just as he realized that this was a big mistake, things got even worse:

6. EPISODE 18, 43 SFX: LOUD EMERGENCY BRAKE

7. SFX: THUDDING SOUND

8. NIKI: "Oh my God! What was that!! (...) Oh no! I've... I've... hit someone!"

And what about Banda and Kadu, Mercy's two younger brothers? They were supposed to be living with their aunt Lena in Laboria, but instead she brought them to her mining mogul friend - Dan's father, Kanyama, who made them work long hours in his mines. The brothers escaped, and found themselves all alone, living on the streets of a big city.

And this is where we find them in this nineteenth episode, entitled “Lost”.

Kadu and Banda are still begging to try to get money for food...

SCENE 1: BANDA AND KADU ON THE STREET IN LABORIA

9. SFX: RAINFALL POURING DOWN HEAVILY

KW BEGIN

10. KADU: (shivering from cold) Banda, I’m so wet and cold!

11. BANDA: (also shivering) Don’t worry, Kadu. The rain will pass.

Here - cover yourself with this cardboard box.

12. SFX: CARDBOARD BOX BEING TORN APART

13. BANDA: This will keep you warm, at least a little. You stay here.

I’ll go to the corner and keep trying to beg for money.

14. KADU: (sad tone) How much do we still need to pay for a taxi

home?

15. BANDA: We still need a lot, Kadu. That’s why we have to keep

begging.

16. KADU: Maybe we should go back to Aunty Lena.

17. **BANDA:** No! We can't! She's the one who sent us down the mines! She won't help us! She's never helped us. With her, things only got worse! Kadu, wait here. I'll be right back.

KW END

18. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS WALKING AWAY**

19. **SFX: THUNDERSTORM AND MORE RAIN**

20. **BANDA:** (goes back to begging) Help! Please! We need money to go home.

21. **SFX: COINS JINGLING IN A CAN**

22. **ODUMBE:** Here, my boy. (throws a coin in the can)

23. **SFX: COIN LANDING IN THE CAN**

24. **ODUMBE:** You shouldn't be out here on the streets! This weather will make you sick. Where's your home, little boy?

25. **BANDA:** It is veery far! It is called 'Tandika'. Do you know it?

26. **ODUMBE:** (shocked) Really? Tandika! But you know that Tandika is a very long way from here? It's in another country! What's your name, by the way?

27. **BANDA:** Banda.

28. **ODUMBE:** Hello, Banda! My name is Odumbe. Tell me, how did you get here? Where are your parents?

SILENCE

29. **ODUMBE:** Don't be scared! I just want to help you...

30. **BANDA:** We just want to go home. **(starts to cry)**

31. **ODUMBE:** Why do you keep saying we? How many are you? I don't see anyone here but you.

32. **BANDA:** I have my twin brother Kadu with me. He's over there, under that cardboard box.

33. **ODUMBE:** Oh God, you poor things.

34. **BANDA:** Can you help us?

35. **ODUMBE:** Ah... you know, maybe I can... I'm a truck driver, and Tandika is on my way. But first, I need to know how you ended up here. I don't want any trouble, you know.

36. **BANDA:** Our Aunty Lena brought us here!

37. **ODUMBE:** And where is Aunty Lena now?

38. **BANDA:** I don't know. I haven't seen her for a long time. But, please! We don't want to go back to her!

39. **ODUMBE:** Calm down. It's all right. So you ran away from your Aunty Lena. Is that right?

SILENCE

40. **BANDA:** **(crying desperately)** I don't want to go back to the mines! They'll beat us if we go back. I want to go home to my parents.
41. **ODUMBE:** **(understands what's going on)** Stop crying, little boy, don't worry. I have an idea. I just arrived here this morning with my truck, and I'll be here for the next two days. But when I've delivered my goods, I'll take you back with me to Kisimba. I can't leave you here like this.
42. **BANDA:** **(with confidence)** Kadu and Banda will wait for you.
43. **ODUMBE:** Good! For now, take this – it's only a little money...
44. **SFX: COINS HANDED OVER**
45. **ODUMBE:** ...but it should be enough for you to buy a warm meal for you and your brother. And with the rest you can buy a warm blanket, and then --
46. **BANDA:** **(cuts him short in joy)** Thank you! Thank you! **(calls out in extreme joy)** Kaduuuuu! Kaduuuu!
47. **ODUMBE:** Hey, wait a minuteI'll show you where my truck's parked. You can sleep in there tonight.
48. **MUSIC INTERLUDE**

SCENE 2: MERCY, DAN AND TRUDY MEET DURING BREAK

**49. SFX: BELL RINGING FOLLOWED BY STUDENTS CHATTING
DURING BREAK**

50. SFX: STEPS MERCY COMES OVER TO DAN'S DESK

51. MERCY: Hey, Dan. Can I talk to you?

KW BEGIN

52. DAN: **(indifferent)** Hey, Mercy. What's up?

53. MERCY: I really don't know what to say or do. I feel lost somehow.

54. DAN: What do you want me to say? Let's talk again when you find yourself.

55. MERCY: Dan, please!

KW END

56. DAN: **(sighs)** What, Mercy?

57. MERCY: Dan, look, I know things are difficult between us right now, but I have a serious problem and I think you're the only one who can help me with it.

58. DAN: **(interested)** What is it? How can I help you?

59. **MERCY:** It really bothers me that I have to ask you but... My father couldn't give me any money this week for lunch or public transport. Trudy's offered to help, but she already helped me out last time.
60. **DAN:** Mercy - you can always rely on me. After class I'll give you some cash. Anything else?
61. **MERCY:** No, that was it.
62. **DAN:** Oh. Okay, bye then.
63. **SFX: CHAIR BEING PUSHED BACK**
64. **DAN:** **(calls out)** Trudy! Trudy! Wait a minute...
65. **MERCY:** **(jealously)** Dan, what do you want from Trudy?
66. **DAN:** **(indifferent)** What? You don't want me to talk to other students now, either?
67. **MERCY:** **(getting angry)** But why Trudy? She... **(swallows hard)** She's my friend, Dan.
68. **DAN:** So? You mean if she's your friend, she can't be my friend, too?
69. **MERCY:** No! I didn't mean it that way. It's just ... I thought you didn't like each other. I'm a bit surprised, that's all.
70. **MUSIC INTERLUDE**

SCENE 3: JUMBE, WIFE AND NIKI AT HOME

71. **SFX: SOMEONE BEING SLAPPED**

72. **NIKI:** (cries in pain) Aaah!

73. **MRS. JUMBE:** (screaming) Jumbe, that’s enough! Leave Niki alone!
Stop slapping him! It won’t a change a thing!

74. **JUMBE:** (furiously) What in the world were you thinking, Niki!!
Eh? You could have killed that lady. Do you even
realize what you did?

75. **MRS. JUMBE:** He does, he does! Niki, tell your dad you’re sorry.
Jumbe, let him go – he’s been through enough
already.

76. **JUMBE:** (authoritative) Niki, I want you to go to your room and
think hard. Think very hard about what you did. Don’t
come out until I say so. Is that clear?

77. **NIKI:** (grumbling quietly) Mmm.

78. **JUMBE:** What was that? Did I hear you say yes?

79. **NIKI:** (quietly) Yeeees.

80. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS WALKING AWAY**

81. **SFX: DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING**

82. **JUMBE:** You’ve spoilt that boy! He’s rotten to the bones!

83. **MRS.JUMBE:** **(defensive)** Oh, so now it’s all my fault, is it? So I’m the one to blame for all that has happened?
84. **JUMBE:** You always defend Niki! You treat him like a six-year-old! Look at all the trouble he’s brought us. We still haven’t figured out who robbed us, and now he creates another problem! **(takes deep breath)** What am I going to do with this boy?
85. **MRS.JUMBE:** We’ve bribed the police officer, Jumbe - it’s over now. Leave Niki alone. He needs to put this experience behind him and focus on school.
86. **JUMBE:** Look who’s talking! You think this is over? What about the victim? She’s still in hospital! What do we do about her, hmm?
87. **MUSIC INTERLUDE**

SCENE 4: MERCY MAKES HER WAY TO DAN'S ROOM AFTER CLASS

88. **SCHOOL YARD ATMO**

89. **SFX: MERCY STRUGGLING TO GET THROUGH A THICK BUSH**

90. **MERCY:** (straining) Oh my god! What am I doing? Mercy, have you lost your mind? Sneaking into Dan's room again, after what happened last time – I must be mad...

91. **SFX: DRESS RIPS**

92. **MERCY:** (startled) Oh, no! The wire mesh has torn my school uniform! Damn it!

93. **SFX: SLOW FOOTSTEPS ON EARTH**

94. **MERCY:** Finally - made it into the boys' compound... I can't wait to see Dan's face when I knock on his door. (takes deep breath) And apart from the hole in my skirt, getting in wasn't too hard.

95. **SCHOOL COMPOUND ATMO FADE OUT**

96. **DORMITORY ATMO**

97. **SFX: GENTLE KNOCKING ON DOOR, HEARD FROM INSIDE**

98. **DAN:** Who is it? Come on in... The door's open.

99. **SFX: DOOR OPENS SLOWLY**

100. **MERCY:** Hello, Dan.

101. **DAN:** Mercy? Am I dreaming or what?
102. **SFX: DOOR BEING OPENED AND CLOSED**
103. **DAN:** What a surprise. What is it, Mercy? I said I'd give you the money later... You didn't have to come for it...
104. **MERCY:** **(shyly)** Dan... I've been thinking... about what you asked of me.
105. **DAN:** Really? And... what's your answer?
106. **MERCY:** Before I tell you my answer, promise me one thing.
107. **DAN:** **(anxiously)** Okay, but let me get up first.
108. **SFX: STANDING UP FROM BED**
109. **DAN:** Oh, Mercy, what happened to your school --
110. **MERCY:** **(cuts him short)** Promise me you'll never leave me, and you'll never go with any other girl.
111. **DAN:** **(impulsively)** Of course! I promise!
112. **MERCY:** And you won't hang out with Trudy during break, either.
113. **DAN:** **(laughs)** No! Never! I don't even like Trudy.
114. **MERCY:** **(chuckles)** Well, you don't have to hate her. **(short pause)** For you, I'm ready to become a real woman!
115. **MUSIC INTERLUDE**

116. OUTRO - NARRATOR:

Wow! So Mercy really has changed her mind... At this point we'd better step out of the dorm room and wrap up this episode. If you want to find out more about "Crossroads Generation", visit us online at dw.de/lbe. There you'll also find the video diary Dan is recording for his friends - and guess what he can't wait to tell them... You can also follow us on Facebook. Until next time – take care.