

**Learning by Ear 2013**

**Crossroads Generation - Facing Tough Choices**

**EPISODE FIFTEEN: What Shall I Do?**

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**List of characters by scene:**

**SCENE 1: KANYAMA AND ANITA MEET AT KANYAMA'S HOUSE IN THE AFTERNOON**

- KANYAMA (M, 50)
- ANITA (F, 16)
- LENA (F, 40)

**SCENE 2: BIKO WITH THE SECURITY GUARD AT THE SCHOOL GATE**

- BIKO (M, 16)
- SECURITY GUARD (M, 60)

**SCENE 3: MERCY TALKS TO TRUDY IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY ABOUT DAN'S INVITATION**

- MERCY (F, 15)
- TRUDY (F, 15)
- LIBRARIAN (F, 50)

**SCENE 4: THE GUARD SNEAKS MERCY INTO DAN'S ROOM**

- SECURITY GUARD (M, 60)
- MERCY (F, 15)

**1. INTRO - NARRATOR:**

Hello and welcome to Learning by Ear's "Crossroads Generation", a radio drama about the everyday challenges facing African teenagers. Let's recap on what's happened recently before we dive into the fifteenth episode, called "What Shall I Do?".

Some days ago Mercy confessed to Dan that she had feelings for him. But for Dan that wasn't enough:

2. **DAN (EP 13, 74):** "Then show it! If you really mean what you just said, prove it to me!"
3. **MERCY:** "How am I supposed to prove it to you, Dan?"
4. **DAN (78):** "This weekend, I'll invite you over to my room. Make sure you come alone."

Mercy hasn't yet decided what to do, but Dan has already found an accomplice in his friend Biko. And he's already making arrangements:

5. **DAN (EP 14, 108):** "I'll give you some cash and some cigarettes." (...)
6. **BIKO:** "But you know I don't smoke..."
7. **DAN:** "They're not for you. You'll give them to the watchman, the one at the gate. Tell him you're expecting a guest on Saturday, and that he should let her in. That's all."

So the strings are being pulled, but ... wait a minute! Has Dan been hiding something? Let's make a quick detour to Laboria, the neighbouring country, where Dan is from, and drop in on his father Kanyama. He's got a visitor - it's Anita, Dan's *girlfriend* back home...

**SCENE 1: KANYAMA AND ANITA MEET AT KANYAMA'S HOUSE IN THE AFTERNOON**

8. INTERIOR ATMO. LIVING ROOM WALL CLOCK TICKING

9. SFX: PEOPLE DRINKING TEA – CUPS ON SAUCERS ETC.

10. KANYAMA: (orders) Where's the maid? Hello? (claps hands)  
Take these cups away!

11. SFX: HURRIED FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING

12. SFX: MAID TAKE CUPS AWAY AND LEAVES

13. KANYAMA: (politely) So, Anita, my daughter, is there anything else you need? I hope you know that you are always welcome here. Your father and I go back a very long way, so you're more to me than just my future daughter-in-law.

14. ANITA: Thank you, Mr Kanyama. But I'm fine.

15. **KANYAMA:** So tell me: how are you and Dan doing? Is everything all right?
16. **ANITA:** **(clears throat)** Well... er... I hope so.
17. **KANYAMA:** You hope so? What do you mean by that? Are you two having problems?
18. **ANITA:** Well, actually, I was hoping you could tell me. I haven't heard from Dan in almost three weeks. And the last time we talked he sounded... well... kind of distant.
19. **KANYAMA:** Really? What makes you say that? Is that what he said?
20. **ANITA:** No! I mean, you know... I'm sorry, Mr. Kanyama. **(insecure)** I don't think it was a very good idea for me to talk to you about this.
21. **KANYAMA:** **(concerned)** Anita, I want to help you, if I can. But if you don't tell me, who else are you going to tell? His mother?
22. **ANITA:** Maybe... Perhaps it would be better to talk to her.
23. **KANYAMA:** You know my wife. She'll just tell you to pray about it, that's all. But listen - if there's anything I can --

24. **ANITA:** You’ve already done enough, Mr. Kanyama. This should really be between Dan and me. Thank you for the tea. I'll be on my way now.
25. **KANYAMA:** Okay. Please, say hello to your parents from me. Tell your father I'll be waiting for him this evening at the golf club.
26. **ANITA:** I will. Thank you. Bye bye.
27. **SFX: CHAIR BEING PULLED OUT**
28. **KANYAMA:** Goodbye, my child.
29. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS. ANITA LEAVES**
30. **SFX: MOBILE PHONE RINGS**
31. **KANYAMA:** Hello?
32. **LENA:** **(on the phone)** Hello, darling.
33. **KANYAMA:** Lena, will you stop calling me that? I’ve told you, I don't want anybody to find out about us. Especially not my WIFE!
34. **LENA:** And I’ve told you not to worry. I can keep a secret. Listen: I still haven't found my two nephews. Do you think that maybe they have talked to some other boys at the mine?

35. **KANYAMA:** Oh, Lena, of course I have asked all of them! I have even offered them some money. Nothing! No trace of these rascals!
36. **LENA:** I see. It was just a thought that crossed my mind.  
**(short pause)** Kanyama?
37. **KANYAMA:** What else?
38. **LENA:** Can I see you tonight?
39. **KANYAMA:** I’m meeting a friend at the golf club tonight. And before you ask - it's a business meeting.
40. **LENA:** Can I come along?
41. **KANYAMA:** Don't push it, Lena. I am a businessman first and foremost!
42. **MUSIC INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 2: BIKO WITH THE SECURITY GUARD AT THE SCHOOL GATE**

43. **DORMITORY ATMO**
44. **SFX: KNOCK ON WOODEN BOOTH**
45. **BIKO:** Hello, security guard?
46. **GUARD:** Who it is? I am on break.

**KW BEGIN**

47. **BIKO:** I see... I see...
48. **GUARD:** What do you want? Hmm, you are wasting my time.
49. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS COMING OUT OF BOOTH**
50. **BIKO:** **(cheerful)** Hey, man. My name's Biko Chamba. I'm in dorm five, up on the corner. How are you feeling today?
51. **GUARD:** **(not interested)** Young man, don't come talk in that stupid way. What do you want?
52. **BIKO:** **(still cheerful, but cautious)** Okay, okay... I don't mean to disrespect you or anything. You've been guarding our school compound so well, and I thought... well, why not come and have a chat with you.
53. **GUARD:** Boy, is your head lost? Do you have brains or porridge in that small head? I don't come here to chat. This is my office, stupid!
- KW END**
54. **BIKO:** **(surprised)** Sure... Then I'll get right to the point.
55. **GUARD:** Yes, do that and be quick about it.

56. **BIKO:** (thinking aloud) This is not going to be easy... (to **Guard**) Well, here... I, er, have a little present for you. (jokes) Maybe when you take your break you can enjoy this as well? (holds out package of **cigarettes**)
57. **GUARD:** Huh?
58. **SFX: PACKAGE OF CIGARETTES HANDED OVER**
59. **GUARD:** (hesitates) Eh... so... why... how do you know I smoke cigarettes?
60. **BIKO:** Don't worry. Only my friend and I know about it. And we won't tell the principal. Here... I've got another little something for you.
61. **SFX: BANK NOTES BEING HANDED OVER**
62. **GUARD:** (surprised) Well, thank you. But why are you giving me these gifts?
63. **BIKO:** It's no big deal. It's just that I'm expecting a visitor this afternoon. Her name is Mercy. Could I please ask you to accompany her and bring her to my room, number five. Discreetly. If you help me with this, you may get a little more!



64. **GUARD:** (pleasantly) Okay. Thank you, Mister! I’ll do my best.
65. **BIKO:** Great! Then that will be all. I guess we’re friends now?
66. **GUARD:** Of course, Mister!
67. **MUSIC INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 3: MERCY TALKS TO TRUDY IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY ABOUT DAN'S INVITATION**

68. **SFX: SCHOOL LIBRARY ATMO**
69. **TRUDY:** (whispering) I feel so sorry for you! It must be really hard for you that your mother just left like that. Are you okay?
70. **SFX: PAGES OF A BOOK BEING TURNED**
71. **MERCY:** (whispering) Not so loud, Trudy, we’re in the library. But yes, it is hard. I hope she comes back soon. I can't cope with my father on my own. He's... er... complicated.
72. **TRUDY:** (laughs cheekily but in hushed tone) I know what you mean.

73. **LIBRARIAN:** (far away) (clears throat) Girls! Silence, please! This is a library, not a marketplace!

**SILENCE**

74. **SFX: PAGES OF BOOK TURNED AGAIN**

75. **MERCY:** I have another problem Trudy. A bigger problem..

76. **TRUDY:** (sarcastic) Oh, poor Mercy! What is it this time?

77. **MERCY:** (shyly) It's Dan. He's asked me to come to his room this afternoon. In fact, I think he's already waiting.

78. **TRUDY:** (little jealous) Woooo...ooh la la..mamma mia...  
Mmm-mmm...

79. **MERCY:** Stop making fun, Trudy. I'm serious! I'm scared. I don't want to disappoint him, but I don't think it's right, either. What should I do?

**KW BEGIN**

80. **TRUDY:** (serious tone) Hey, Mercy. First of all: stop being so serious. Second: he's just invited you round. He's not asked you for anything more, right?

81. **MERCY:** Right.

82. **TRUDY:** And you're fond of him, right? I mean, you like him? You like him more than all the other boys.

83. **MERCY:** Yes. But...

**KW END**

84. **TRUDY:** If I were you, I wouldn't be sitting here in the library right now reading books and doing my head in.

85. **MERCY:** The exams are coming closer...

86. **TRUDY:** Yeah, whatever. Anyway – I'd be getting myself ready for this encounter.

87. **MERCY:** **(confused)** How? What exactly do you mean, encounter?

88. **TRUDY:** Oh, jeez! You are so naïve. Sometimes I wonder how you ended up being my friend... I mean, this will be the first time you and him will be alone. Talking of being alone: how are you going to get to his room?

89. **MERCY:** **(baffled)** Well... er... I don't know. He told me he'd take care of it. But Trudy - what if someone sees me? I might get kicked out of school! I don't want that to happen.

90. **TRUDY:** I'm curious to find out how he's going to sneak you in. Maybe I can learn a few tricks from him. **(chuckles)**

91. **MERCY:** Okay, let's go. **(hesitates)** Trudy? Would you go with me to Dan's room?

92. **TRUDY:** Don't be silly, Mercy. It's your date! I'm not invited.  
Have fun... I'll see you soon, and you can tell me all about it!
93. **SFX: CHAIR BEING PUSHED BACK**
94. **SFX: HURRIED FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING**
95. **TRUDY:** **(not amused)** Uh oh, Mercy - I think we're in trouble...
96. **LIBRARIAN:** **(angry voice)** That's it! Either you keep quiet or you go out right now!
97. **TRUDY & MERCY:** Sorry.
98. **TRUDY:** **(whispering to Mercy)** Go, Mercy! I can't wait to hear what happens.
99. **MERCY:** Okay... See you.
100. **SFX: CHAIR BEING PUSHED BACK**
101. **MUSIC INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 4: THE GUARD SNEAKS MERCY INTO DAN'S ROOM**

102. **DORMITORY ATMO**
103. **SFX: QUIET FOOTSTEPS ARRIVING**

104. **MERCY:** (taking a deep breath, speaking to herself) It seems the coast is clear! I need to hurry, before somebody sees me!
105. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS CONTINUE**
106. **GUARD:** (annoyed) Who is this?
107. **SFX: STEPS STOP**
108. **SFX: GUARD GETTING UP FROM HIS CHAIR**
109. **MERCY:** (timid voice) Oh, I’m so sorry. I didn't see you!
110. **GUARD:** (realizes) Ah, you must be the girl!
111. **MERCY:** The girl? What girl? I just wanted to ask you --
112. **GUARD:** (cuts her short) Don’t ask. I don’t know any answer. Quickly, follow me. I will take you to dorm five.
113. **MERCY:** Is that where Dan lives? Dorm five?
114. **GUARD:** I tell you, don’t ask no questions! Come!
115. **SFX: HURRIED FOOTSTEPS WALKING ON STAIRS**
116. **GUARD:** Girl, you must hurry! I don’t want anyone see you and me going inside here.
117. **SFX: GATE BEING UNLOCKED AND LOCKED AGAIN**
118. **GUARD:** Okay, go in! Dorm five is the one in the corner.

**119. MERCY:** (scared voice) But - hey, wait, please! How am I going to get out?

**120. SFX: MERCY STEPS IN**

**121. GUARD:** That is for you to work out. I have to go back to my office!

**122. SFX: GUARD LOCKS GATE AGAIN**

**123. MUSIC THEME INTERLUDE**

**124. OUTRO – NARRATOR:**

And so we come to the end of our fifteenth episode. What’s going to happen now that Mercy has been sneaked into the boys’ dormitory, and is now standing just a few feet away from Dan’s room? Find out in the next episode of our radio drama “Crossroads Generation”. And remember, you can always listen to this episode or the others in the series simply by visiting our webpage at [dw.de/lbe](http://dw.de/lbe). You can also follow us on Facebook. Bye-bye for now...