

Learning by Ear 2013

Crossroads Generation - Facing Tough Choices

EPISODE TWENTY-FOUR: Family Reunion

AUTHOR: Chrispin Mwakideu

EDITOR: Madelaine Meier, Ludger Schadomsky

COPY EDITOR: Charlotte Collins

List of characters by scene:

SCENE 1: MERCY AND TRUDY IN TRUDY’S BEDROOM

- **MERCY (F, 15)**
- **TRUDY (F, 15)**

SCENE 2: KADU, BANDA AND ODUMBE ARRIVE IN TANDIKA

- **ODUMBE (M, 40)**
- **BANDA (M, 8)**
- **KADU (M, 8)**

SCENE 3: LULU AND MSOTO ARRIVE IN THE CITY

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

SCENE 4: MERCY TAKES A PREGNANCY TEST

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

1. INTRO - NARRATOR:

Hello and welcome to “Crossroads Generation”. This is the twenty-fourth episode of this Learning by Ear radio drama. Just to remind you of what’s been happening in recent episodes:

Msoto is suspected of having robbed his former boss Jumbe. But Jumbe’s son Niki, who’s in the same class as Msoto’s daughter Mercy, was able to warn her and Msoto managed to escape the police. He went to the village where his wife Lulu has been living with her parents since she left him.

2. LULU (EP 22, 75): “Msoto? Where did you come from? Where’s Mercy? Why are you alone?”

3. LIPI: “Msoto, what are you doing here? You useless, heartless drunkard!”

4. LULU: “Mum, please, let me handle this.” **(+85)** “Okay, Msoto. What is it you want to tell me?”

So their first meeting after the breakup started quite badly for Msoto. Will they reconcile? And when will they discover that their two missing sons are on their way home? We’ll find out in today’s episode. But first, remember the secret Mercy told her best friend Trudy in the last episode:

5. TRUDY (EP 23, 117): “But - Mercy, you’ve already had your period this month, haven’t you?”

6. MERCY: “No... That’s the thing. I haven’t – it’s late.”

7. TRUDY: “Ooops!”

Mercy’s had sex for the first time, with her classmate Dan. Is she in serious trouble now, or is it just a false alarm? This twenty-fourth episode in our series is called “Family Reunion”, and we pick up where we left off, with Mercy and Trudy talking in Trudy’s bedroom.

SCENE 1: MERCY AND TRUDY IN TRUDY’S BEDROOM

8. SFX: BAG BEING DROPPED DOWN

9. MERCY: **(terrified)** Ooops? What do you mean, ‘Ooops’?

10. TRUDY: Well, you told me you and Dan slept together, didn’t you?

11. MERCY: **(worried)** Yes, but it happened very quickly.

12. TRUDY: Did you check your calendar? Your menstruation calendar?

13. MERCY: **(confused)** Is there a menstruation calendar? I’ve never heard of it.

14. TRUDY: No! Oh, Mercy... Look, I really hope I’m wrong, but you could be pregnant.

15. MERCY: **(defensive)** Stop making fun of me, Trudy. I can’t be *pregnant*. How? **(fumbling with words)** I... We... No, no... I feel fine. How could you possibly know?

16. TRUDY: That’s what I’m saying, Mercy. I may be wrong, but if you missed your monthly period, and you had sex without using protection, then... well... you could be expecting. It’s not that unlikely, you know. Sit down...

17. SFX: SOUND OF PERSON SITTING DOWN ON A BED

18. TRUDY: Mercy, there’s only one way to find out...

19. MERCY: **(trying to argue with herself)** But I’m only fifteen! I can’t be pregnant! This is just impossible!

KW BEGIN

20. TRUDY: Mercy, calm down. The first thing you need to do is to find out whether you really are pregnant or not. Sometimes the period is just late - then it's only a false alarm. I can call our family doctor. He’ll do the test right here, and then we’ll know for certain.

21. MERCY: **(nervous)** Really? Well.. hmm.. I guess I don’t have much of a choice, do I? But Trudy, how long will the test take? I need to know soon!

22. TRUDY: Listen, Mercy, try not to worry. It’s very simple, and the doctor will explain everything...

23. MERCY: **(still lost in thought)** How will I face my parents? My father will kill me if he finds out. And my mother... she'll be devastated! The Principal... my relatives... everyone who knows me... What will they think of me?

24. TRUDY: **(shouts)** Hey! Mercy, are you even listening to what I'm saying?

25. MERCY: **(pleading)** I can't go back home! Trudy - it's all too much. The police are looking for my father. My mother has just left him, and I haven't heard from my twin brothers in months. **(starts to cry)** I feel so lonely - and now this! Can I stay here with you?

26. KW END

27. TRUDY: **(trying to comfort her)** Oh Mercy, don't worry. It's going to be all right. Sure you can stay here with me, at least until my parents get back. Let me call Dr. Zito right away...

28. SFX: PRESSES MOBILE PHONE BUTTONS

29. MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: KADU, BANDA AND ODUMBE ARRIVE IN TANDIKA

30. SFX: BUS STATION ATMO

31. SFX: TRUCK SLOWLY COMING TO HALT

32. ODUMBE: (gently) Kadu, Banda, wake up. We’ve arrived. Hey!

33. BANDA: (getting up) Where are we? I’m so tired...

34. KADU: (yawns) Oh, I know this place. (yells in delight) Banda!
Look - the bus station! We’re home!

35. BANDA: (disbelief) Really?! Hurraaaaah!!!

36. ODUMBE: (laughing along) Okay, kids... I’m sorry, but I have to
drop you here.

37. SFX: TRUCK ENGINE BEING TURNED OFF

38. KADU: Don’t you want to come with us and meet my father and
mother, and my sister Mercy?

39. ODUMBE: I would very much like to meet them, but I don’t think it’s a
good idea. I’ve already taken a great risk in bringing you
back to Kisimba. Don’t get me wrong - I like you both a lot,
but I don’t know what exactly went on with you kids
working in Laboria, and with your auntie.... So I think I’d
better just let you guys out here, if you know where you
are, and let you find your own way home.

40. **BANDA:** (crying) Odumbe! Thank you so much for everything!
We'll never forget you.
41. **KADU:** (also weeping) Never...
42. **ODUMBE:** Stop crying, boys. Hey - I was driving here anyway!
There's no need to thank me; I'm just glad I was able to
help. We'll see each other one day again, I'm sure! Now
off you go and find your family!
43. **SFX: TRUCK DOOR OPENED**
44. **SFX: KIDS JUMPING OUT**
45. **BANDA:** Bye, Odumbe. We'll miss you.
46. **ODUMBE:** Goodbye, boys! Say hello to your family from me.
47. **SFX: TRUCK DOOR CLOSING, TRUCK ENGINE STARTING AND
DRIVING OFF**
48. **KADU:** Byeeeeeee...
49. **BANDA:** He's gone, Kadu. Come on - let's go home to Mummy and
Daddy and Mercy. I remember the way.
50. **MUSIC INTERLUDE (ALTERNATIVELY, CROSSFADE INTO NEXT
SCENE)**

SCENE 3: LULU AND MSOTO ARRIVE IN THE CITY

51. BUS STOP ATMO, BUS TERMINAL WITH BUSES COMING AND GOING

52. SFX: BUS DOOR OPENS, PEOPLE GET OUT

53. LULU: **(exhausted)** That was a long trip, Msoto. It feels strange being back in the city. I was getting quite used to village life.

54. MSOTO: Lulu, let me help you carry the luggage. **(acts carrying heavy luggage)** I’m still not sure whether it was a good idea to come back here.

55. LULU: Msoto, if it’s true that you had nothing to do with the robbery, then you have nothing to fear!

56. MSOTO: Let’s hope you’re right, Lulu. In any case: I’m happy that we’re back together again. I promise you I’ll be a better husband this time.

57. LULU: **(firmly)** And a good father! No more drinking, Msoto! And you need to get a job. Otherwise this won’t work.

58. MSOTO: **(giving in)** Of course, of course - I will...

59. SFX: BUS DRIVES PAST

60. KADU: **(thrilled, shouting from far away)** Banda! Banda! Look over there... **(shouting)** Mama! Mama!

61. **LULU:** **(worried)** Msoto, did you hear that?
62. **MSOTO:** What? There’s so much noise here at the bus station I can hardly hear what you’re saying.
63. **BANDA:** **(excited, shouts)** Mum! Dad! Look! Here!
64. **LULU:** I thought I heard our two... No, this can’t be true.
65. **BANDA and KADU together:** Muuuuum!
66. **LULU:** **(overwhelmed)** Oh! Oh! I don’t believe it! Msoto - look, across the street! Kadu and Banda! Our boys are here!
67. **MSOTO:** **(dumbfounded)** What? Where? ...Yes! It’s them! There they are!
68. **SFX: KADU AND BANDA RUN AFTER THEIR PARENTS**
69. **MUSIC INTERLUDE**

SCENE 4: MERCY TAKES A PREGNANCY TEST

70. **SFX: NERVOUS FOOTSTEPS WALKING BACK AND FORTH**
71. **TRUDY:** **(reassuring)** Mercy, calm down. Dr. Zito will be here any minute.
72. **SFX: KNOCKING ON DOOR**
73. **MERCY:** **(scared)** Oh God! That’s him, isn’t it? That’s Dr. Zito. Trudy, what am I going to do?

74. TRUDY: He'll explain everything. Come in, Doctor.

75. SFX: DOOR OPENED

76. SFX: STEPS DR. ZITO COMES IN

77. DR.ZITO: **(pleasantly)** Hello Trudy. I assume you must be Mercy?
I'm Dr. Zito. Trudy told me about you on the phone. Do you want us to go outside and talk privately?

78. MERCY: No, it's fine. **(trembling voice)** I... I'm a friend of Trudy's from school. She knows all about it.

79. DR.ZITO: Okay, then. Now... she tells me you think you might be pregnant?

80. MERCY: I don't really know. That's what Trudy says. I'm not sure.

81. DR.ZITO: Don't worry. That's why I'm here. To make sure.

82. MERCY: What do I do? Tell me, Doctor...

KW BEGIN

83. DR.ZITO: Well, the first thing I have to do is check whether you've had any symptoms.

84. MERCY: What do you mean, symptoms? I feel fine. I'm not sick or anything.

85. DR. ZITO: I understand you've missed your period, but have you been feeling... nauseous?

86. **MERCY:** No, not yet. I just feel confused.
87. **DR.ZITO:** Do your breasts feel more tender than usual?
88. **MERCY:** **(shocked)** What? That’s none of your business!
89. **TRUDY:** Mercy! You have to open up to the Doctor. It’s okay. It’s the only way to get help.
90. **DR. ZITO:** Don’t worry, Mercy, I’m not asking you out of personal interest! I have to ask you these questions in order to establish all the facts.
91. **MERCY:** Hm... I haven’t noticed anything.
92. **DR.ZITO:** How about fatigue? Have you been feeling more tired than normal?
93. **MERCY:** **(flatly)** Okay, yes! I have been feeling tired. But so what? All students are tired from time to time. It’s exam time, that’s pretty stressful! And I have to help a lot at home.
- KW END**
94. **DR.ZITO:** Yes... I think we probably *should* do a pregnancy test. So, now listen very carefully. I want you to go to the toilet and bring me a urine sample. Once you’ve done that 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 whether it’s just a false alarm.

95. MERCY: (speaks to herself) Bun in the oven?! Does he mean a baby? Oh, I really hope not!

96. MUSIC INTERLUDE

97. OUTRO - NARRATOR:

What will Mercy’s pregnancy test show? And with Kadu and Banda now back home, how long will the Msoto family reunion last? Join us in the next episode to find out. If you’d like to listen to this episode again, or to any of the previous ones in the series, just visit our website at dw.de/lbe. There you’ll also find Dan’s video diary for his friends back home. And if you don’t want to miss out on any Learning by Ear news, connect with us on Facebook. From us, though, it’s bye for now.