

**Learning by Ear 2013**

**"Crossroads Generation" – Facing the Consequences**

**EPISODE 9: Is It the Right Decision?**

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**List of characters by scene:**

**INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR**

**SCENE 1: AT THE MSOTOS'**

- LULU (F, 40)
- MERCY (F, 15)

**SCENE 2: MERCY AT DR. ZITO'S**

- TRUDY (F, 15)
- MERCY (F, 15)
- SAD MOTHER (F, 40)
- DR ZITO (M, 45)

**SCENE 3: KADU NAPS, DREAMS**

- LULU (F, 40)
- KADU (M, 8)
- BANDA (M, 8)
- MAN (M, ADULT)
- MAN 2 (M, ADULT)

**SCENE 4: IN THE STREETS**

- MERCY (F, 15)
- SAD MOTHER (F, 40)

## **INTRO**

### **1. NARRATOR:**

Good to have you back for a new episode of “Crossroads Generation”. We’re on the second season, called “Facing the Consequences”. Let’s recap on what’s happened so far. The twin brothers Kadu and Banda came back home from the neighbouring country of Laboria, where they were forced to work in the mines. The two boys are still struggling with their traumatic memories, while their big sister Mercy is also in trouble. Her mother just found out that she’s pregnant:

### **2. EPISODE 8, LINES 111 - 116:**

*LULU: Just tell me, child. This is the third time I’ve seen you vomiting in the morning. I know the signs. (...)*

*108. MERCY: I’m sorry, Mum... I didn’t mean this to happen.*

### **3. NARRATOR:**

Mercy’s classmate Dan is the father of Mercy’s unborn child. He has a very clear idea of how to solve the problem: he thinks Mercy should have an abortion. That’s also what Mercy’s friend Trudy has been saying. But Trudy has reasons of her own for offering this advice:

**4. EPISODE 6, LINES 9 – 11:**

***TRUDY:** All I’m asking for is a little money, Dr. Zito! (...)*

***DR. ZITO:** I’m sorry, Trudy, but rules are rules. We agreed I’d pay you if you bring me girls who need help getting an abortion.... No girls - no money.*

***TRUDY:** Dr. Zito, please...*

**5. NARRATOR:**

Will Mercy follow Dan and Trudy’s advice? Let’s join her as she talks to her mother in today’s episode, called “Is It the Right Decision?”

**SCENE 1: AT THE MSOTOS**

**6. SFX: ATMO TANDIKA SLUMS: INTERIOR, DAYTIME,**

**7. LULU:**                   **(firm)** Mercy, for the last time: don’t do anything to hurt that baby. I’m telling you as your mother!

**8. MERCY:**               **(desperate)** Mum, I told you, I don’t want to do it. But I have to! I want to continue with my education. Have you ever seen a girl going to school with a baby on her back?

**9. LULU:** Mercy, there'll be a way round this. I don't think the Principal will kick you out. She has a soft spot for you.

**10. MERCY:** **(cries)** You know that's not possible. As soon as Principal Juliette finds out I'm pregnant, she'll send me away. **(sobs)** And I'm not ready to be a mother! Not yet.

**11. LULU:** But you felt ready to sleep with that boy Dan, didn't you.

**SILENCE**

**12. LULU:** Then face the consequences! You're keeping that child, and that is final!

**13. MERCY:** **(loses it)** What do you want from me? What does everyone want from me? Why won't you all just leave me alone!

**14. SFX: FOOTSTEPS - MERCY GOING AWAY**

**15. LULU:** Mercy? Come back here!

**16. SFX: DOOR IS OPENED AND CLOSED**

**17. LULU:** **(Shouts after her)** I hope I've made myself clear!

**18. MUSICAL INTERLUDE (tense building music)**

**SCENE 2: MERCY AT DR. ZITO'S**

**19. SFX: STREET ATMO**

**20. TRUDY:** Mercy! There you are! You sounded really worried on the phone!

**21. MERCY:** Oh, Trudy... I'm so glad you're helping me! I'm freaking out. And my mum just doesn't understand!

**22. TRUDY:** It's good you've finally come to your senses and followed my advice. Let's go in. Dr. Zito's already waiting for us.

**23. MERCY:** Wait. There's someone inside.

**24. SAD MOTHER: (heard shouting from inside)** Have you no shame? You killed my daughter! How can you live with yourself?

**25. DR. ZITO:** I just did my job. That's all!

**26. SAD MOTHER:** Shame on you! I curse you, Doctor Zito. I curse you!

**27. DOOR OPENS QUICKLY, FOOTSTEPS AS WOMAN LEAVES AND PASSES MERCY AND TRUDY**

**28. DR. ZITO:** (from inside, trying to adopt a friendly tone) Oh, hello, ladies. Step into my office.

**29. MERCY:** (whispers) Trudy, I'm scared. Did you hear what that lady said?

**30. TRUDY:** Mercy, don't be ridiculous. Come on!

**31. SFX: FOOTSTEPS MERCY AND TRUDY**

**32. SFX: DOOR CLOSSES**

**33. SFX: TRAFFIC HEARD THROUGH DOOR**

**34. DR. ZITO:** Hello, Mercy. I see you've finally made a decision.

**35. MERCY:** I... I...

***KW BEGIN***

**36. TRUDY:** I told you she would.

**37. DR. ZITO:** Well, I can assure you it's the best decision you'll ever make, Mercy. You won't regret it.

**38. MERCY:** I don't know... I...

**39. TRUDY:** My friend's decided to be reasonable. She doesn't want to ruin her future because of an unwanted pregnancy.

***KW END***

- 40. DR. ZITO:** Right, then. Shall we get on with it? If you'll just get up onto the operating table... Here, let me help you.  
**(acts out lifting her)**
- 41. MERCY:** No. Wait! **(shocked)** Will you be using that scalpel? It still has blood on it!
- 42. TRUDY:** Come on, Mercy, don't make such a fuss. Lots of girls have been through this!
- 43. DR. ZITO:** Mercy, I can assure you I know what I'm doing.
- 44. MERCY:** **(firm)** No. I've changed my mind. I don't want to do it.
- 45. SFX: RUSTLING OF CLOTHES AS MERCY GETS UP**
- 46. SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS**
- 47. SFX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES**
- 48. TRUDY/DR. ZITO:** Mercy, wait!
- 49. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 3: KADU NAPS AND DREAMS**

**50. SFX: TANDIKA SLUMS INSIDE, DAYTIME**

**51. KADU:** (snores lightly)

**52. SFX: LULU WASHING THE DISHES (NO RUNNING WATER)**

**53. LULU:** (to herself) I wonder where Mercy went after our discussion this morning. (to Kadu) Kadu, give me that towel! (silence) Kadu?

(to herself) Oh, he's fallen asleep. I'll let him take a nap...

***KW BEGIN***

**54. SFX: SLUM ATMO FADE OUT, TOWN ATMO WITH TRAFFIC FADE IN**

**55. SFX: DREAM SEQUENCE - ALL VOICES WITH ECHO**

**56. BANDA:** Groundnuts! We're selling groundnuts!

**57. KADU:** Fifty cents! Groundnuts for 50 cents!

**58. SFX: CAR STOPPING, ENGINE STILL RUNNING**

**59. SFX: KNOCK ON CAR WINDOW**

**60. SFX: CAR WINDOW ROLLS DOWN**



**61. KADU:** Hello sir, please buy some groundnuts, only fifty cents.

**62. MAN:** Give me three packets.

**63. SFX: PAPER NOISE AS GROUNDNUTS HANDED OVER.**

**64. BANDA:** That's 1.50.

**65. SFX: CAR HORNS**

**66. MAN 2:** (from behind) Hey you! Move it!

**67. SFX: CAR WINDOW ROLLS UP**

**68. SFX: CAR DRIVES AWAY.**

**69. BANDA:** Hey, Kadu! He's driving away! (**shouts**) Hey, you - give us our money!

**70. SFX: CARS HORNS HONK**

**71. KADU:** After him! Run! Banda, run! Banda!

**72. SFX: ATMO TANDIKA SLUMS FADE IN, ECHO STOPS**

***KW END***

**73. KADU:** (continues crying sleepily) Run, Banda! Run, Banda!

**74. SFX: LULU SHAKING KADU**

- 75. LULU:** Hey Kadu, wake up! Wake up! You’re dreaming! Why are you telling your brother to run?
- 76. KADU:** **(still sleepy)** I dreamt about that man again.
- 77. LULU:** What man?
- 78. KADU:** The one who stole our groundnuts!
- 79. LULU:** You’ve never told me about him before. What happened?
- 80. KADU:** When Banda and I escaped from the mines, we came to the city and we had no food. We saw other kids like us who lived on the street. They sold groundnuts, so we asked if they could give us work.
- 81. LULU:** Did they?
- 82. KADU:** No. But they introduced us to Boyi. Boyi was a bigger boy. He gave us a big bowl of groundnuts to sell in exchange for food. But if you didn’t bring him all the money, he would beat you!
- 83. LULU:** What? My goodness, boy! Did he ever touch you and Banda? Tell me the truth!

**84. KADU:** No! That's why we ran away when the man in the car drove away without paying us. If that driver Odumbe hadn't brought us back home, Boyi would have found us and beaten us, for sure.

**85. LULU:** **(deeply moved)** Oh my God, Kadu. I'm so sorry you and Banda had to go through all this! What about your Aunty Lena? Where was she all this time?

**86. KADU:** We never saw her after she brought us to that man with the mines!

**87. LULU:** **(to herself)** If I ever see her again... **(to Kadu)** Kadu, try not to worry. You're safe now, remember.

***KW BEGIN***

**88. KADU:** Can I go out and play with Banda? I don't want to sleep and see all the pictures again!

**89. LULU:** Of course, my son!

**90. SFX: FOOTSTEPS KADU**

**91. LULU:** (to herself) That witch Lena! Promises to take care of my boys, then sends them to work in a mine! And doesn't even care what happens to them! Her own nephews! What sort of family did I marry into?

***KW END***

**92. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 4: IN THE STREETS**

**93. SFX: STREET ATMO (SAME AS IN FRONT OF DR. ZITO'S)**

**94. SFX: MERCY'S RUNNING FOOTSTEPS**

**95. MERCY:** (panting, to herself) I couldn't do it. I just couldn't do it...

**96. SFX: MERCY BUMPS INTO ANOTHER PERSON**

**97. SX: FOOTSTEPS STOP**

**98. SAD MOTHER:** Hey, watch where you're going! You almost knocked me over!

**99. MERCY:** (breathless) I'm sorry, I didn't see you...

**100. SAD MOTHER: (recognizes her)** Hey, I saw you and your friend at that killer's place!

**101. MERCY:** Killer? What killer?

**102. SAD MOTHER:** At his so-called clinic. Just now.

**103. MERCY:** You mean Dr. Zito?

**104. SAD MOTHER: (disrespectful)** That man is no doctor.

**105. MERCY: (confused)** I don't understand...

**106. SAD MOTHER: (taking a deep breath)** My daughter was only 17 when she discovered she was pregnant. She wanted to keep the baby, but I made her go to that... that quack. He promised he would help her. And that was the last I saw of my daughter. **(breaks down)** I killed my own daughter!

***KW BEGIN***

**107. MERCY:** Oh, this terrible! I'm so sorry... What happened?

**108. SAD MOTHER: (trying to pull herself together)** She bled to death.

After the operation. I should have known. People warned me not to take her to this man. But I was more worried about what society would think than I was about my own daughter's life. **(weeps)**

***KW END***

**109. MERCY:** I... I don't know what to say. All I can tell you is that I think you may have saved *my* life.

**110. SAD MOTHER: (sniffles)** What do you mean?

**111. MERCY:** I heard you arguing with the doctor. I didn't know what you were talking about, but when I heard you accuse him of killing your daughter... I was afraid. I couldn't go through with it.

**112. SAD MOTHER:** You're pregnant, too? Let me tell you, girl, walking away from that clinic was the best thing you've ever done.

**113. MERCY:** I don't know. I'm so confused...

**114. SAD MOTHER:** Come. Let's sit on this bench here and talk.

**115. SFX: FOOTSTEPS TWO PERSONS**

**116. SFX: WOMAN/MERCY SIT (RUSTLING OF CLOTHES)**

**117. SAD MOTHER:** Listen to me. Whether you decide to have an abortion or not - that's not my business. It's never an easy decision for any woman. But if you do decide to go through with it, it has to be done professionally, by a qualified doctor. Unfortunately, there are many African countries that don't allow abortion at all – like ours. And even in countries where abortion is legal, not all women have access to professional treatment. That makes it very difficult for them, and people like Zito just see it as a chance to make money.

**118. MERCY:** I've heard people saying abortion is a sin.

**119. SAD MOTHER:** I know. A lot of people do think that. But what if a woman is raped? What if the mother's health is at risk, or even her life? In circumstances like that, many countries around the world will allow her to have an abortion.

**120. MERCY:** How do you know all this?

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**121. SAD MOTHER:** Unfortunately, I learnt about it all too late. Let me tell you what happened to my daughter...

**122. OUTRO – NARRATOR:**

We’ll leave Mercy and the mourning mother to talk as we end this episode of “Crossroads Generation”. What do you think of Mercy’s decision? She’s made up her mind to keep Dan’s baby, but far away in Laboria, another girl is dreaming about starting a family one day – with the very same boy!

Check out Anita’s latest video diary on our webpage, [dw.de/lbe](http://dw.de/lbe), and share your opinions on our Facebook page. Take care – and don’t forget to tune in next time!