

Learning by Ear 2013

"Crossroads Generation" – Facing the Consequences

EPISODE 10: It's All Too Much

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List of characters by scene:

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

SCENE 2: LULU TALKS TO SEER MAGWANGA

- MAGWANGA (M, 50'S)
- LULU (F, 40)

SCENE 3: AT THE MSOTOS'

- BANDA (M, 8)
- LULU (F, 40)
- MERCY (F, 15)
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SCENE 4: AT THE HOSPITAL

- BANDA (M, 8)
- DR. ROBERTS (M, 50'S)
- MERCY (F, 15)

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Great that you’ve tuned in again to Crossroads Generation! So what’s happened so far? Mercy’s mother Lulu has just learned that her daughter is pregnant. And that’s not the only thing bothering her. Mercy’s two brothers had a narrow escape from child labour in Laboria, and their father Msoto is being held at the police station - for a robbery he didn’t commit. But his wife Lulu has no pity for him any more.

2. EPISODE 6, LINES 30 - 32/40:

***LULU:** I found her, Msoto. I found my daughter!*

***MSOTO:** Mercy? Was she lost?*

***LULU:** The one you sold! My little angel I gave birth to months ago, whom you sold to that man Mukaraba! (...) **40.** I hope you rot in prison!*

3. NARRATOR:

Meanwhile, Lulu’s pregnant daughter Mercy decided to have an abortion. Her friend Trudy brought her to Dr. Zito – but Mercy changed her mind at the last minute. Afterwards, a stranger told her that she did the right thing:

4. EPISODE 9, LINES 112-113, 121:

SAD MOTHER: (...) *Let me tell you, girl, walking away from that clinic was the best thing you've ever done.*

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

SAD MOTHER (121): *Let me tell you what happened to my daughter....*

5. NARRATOR:

This is episode number ten, called "It's All Too Much". Let's join Mercy and Trudy the next day, during break at their school...

SCENE 1: MERCY AND TRUDY TALK

6. ATMO: BONGO ACADEMY AT BREAK, OUTSIDE

7. SFX: SCHOOL BELL

8. TRUDY: (from far) Mercy, Mercy! Wait!

9. SFX: TRUDY RUNNING TOWARDS MERCY

10. MERCY: (shortly) Trudy, we'll be late for our next class.

11. SFX: OUTSIDE ATMO GRADUALLY GETS QUIET AS STUDENTS GO BACK TO CLASS

12. **TRUDY:** Why did you run away yesterday?
13. **MERCY:** I couldn't do it.
14. **TRUDY:** But it wouldn't even have taken thirty minutes! You have to go back.
15. **MERCY:** I'm keeping the baby.

KW BEGIN

16. **TRUDY:** **(desperate)** What? Mercy, no! What about Dan? I thought he wanted to get back together with you?
17. **MERCY:** Dan doesn't love me. All he wants is for me to get rid of it so he doesn't have to bear the consequences.
18. **TRUDY:** What about school? It'll start to show soon. You know Principal Juliette will expel you when she finds out.
19. **MERCY:** **(shouts)** Trudy, I've decided, and that is final!

KW END

20. **TRUDY:** **(trying to convince her)** But Mercy, I care about you. I don't want to see your future --

- 21. MERCY:** Stop it! Just stop it! Why is everyone lying to me?
- 22. TRUDY:** What do you mean?
- 23. MERCY:** You think I don't know? I talked to that woman from Dr. Zito's clinic, and you know what she told me?
- 24. TRUDY:** That crazy woman? Since when are you listening to crazy people?
- 25. MERCY:** **(ignoring her)** She sent her daughter to Dr. Zito for an abortion, and her daughter died! And do you know what else she told me? That Dr. Zito uses young girls to bring him customers – for a small commission.
- 26. TRUDY:** **(gasps)**
- 27. MERCY:** That's how she was persuaded to take her daughter to him.
- 28. TRUDY:** Mercy – Dr. Zito is a very good doctor, and that woman is crazy --

29. MERCY: Stop it, Trudy. It's not difficult to put two and two together. You've been insisting I should get an abortion, and that Dr. Zito has to do it. Because he pays you to get him clients!

30. TRUDY: Mercy, you don't know what you're talking ab--

31. MERCY: **(shouts, interrupts her)** Just go, Trudy! GO! I don't want to see you ever again!

32. TRUDY: **(snaps)** Fine! So keep your eyes closed during our next class if you don't want to see me!

KW BEGIN

33. MERCY: All this time you've been pretending to be my friend, when all you really are is a bloodsucker!

34. SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS MERCY LEAVES

35. TRUDY: Fine, you keep that brat in your tummy. **(to herself)**
But you'll pay for making me lose my money, and embarrassing me in front of Dr. Zito! Just you wait, Mercy Msoto...

KW END

36. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: LULU TALKS TO SEER MAGWANGA

37. ATMO: QUIET NEIGHBOURHOOD; EVENING, BIRDS CHIRPING

38. SFX: CALABASH FILLED WITH SEEDS BEING SHAKEN

39. MAGWANGA: (chants in strange language as he shakes the calabash)

40. SFX: FOOTSTEPS (SHOES) APPROACHING ON EARTH FLOOR

41. LULU: (timidly) Hello, my name is Lulu Msoto...

KW BEGIN

42. MAGWANGA: (scary voice) Stop right there! Who dares to enter the home of Magwanga, the great seer, without removing their shoes?

43. LULU: I'm sorry, Magwanga ...

44. MAGWANGA: Take off your shoes, then turn around and enter backwards.

45. LULU: Yes, great seer.

46. SFX: SHOES REMOVED

47. SFX: FOOTSTEPS BAREFOOT ON EARTH FLOOR

48. MAGWANGA: Turn around and sit down.

49. SFX: CLOTHES RUSTLE AS SHE SITS

50. MANGWANGA: Now put a coin on that stone near you.

51. SFX: COIN PUT ON STONE

52. LULU: As I said, my name is Lulu, I...

KW END

53. MANGWANGA: **(cuts in roughly)** I know who you are! Magwanga knows everything! What brings you here, Lulu?

54. LULU: O great seer, please could you put on some light?
I... I... can't see you!

55. SFX: AGGRESSIVE CALABASH SHAKING

56. MAGWANGA: How dare you? Magwanga can see you just fine.
Now speak about your problems. The great one has no time to waste.

57. LULU: **(shyly)** I... I have so many problems I don't know where to start. My husband sold my baby girl... and I want her back!

58. MAGWANGA: **(shakes calabash)** Mhh! Husband problems! Go on!

59. LULU: My other daughter is about to become a mother herself, and my two young sons are both sick, and they don't seem to be getting better.

60. MANGWANGA: Hmmm ... pregnant daughter ... sick sons ... How sick are they?

61. LULU: Banda can't stop coughing, and Kadu has nightmares.

KW BEGIN

62. MAGWANGA: **(exaggerated chanting)** That is very bad! The spirits tell me that your sons have been bewitched, and will die soon!

63. LULU: **(weeps)** Oh no! My boys! Can't you help me?

KW END

64. MAGWANGA: **(chants)** The spirits say that you need to bring two white hens and four eggs.

65. LULU: But I have no money to --

- 66. MAGWAGNGA:** **(shouts)** Silence! **(chants)** You, my daughter, are very lucky. The spirits are in a good mood. You come back tomorrow with one white hen and two eggs.
- 67. LULU:** Oh thank you, great one, thank you...
- 68. MAGWAGNGA:** For now, take this powder. I will put it in a plastic bag for you.
- 69. SFX: SOMETHING BEING WRAPPED IN PLASTIC BAG**
- 70. MAGWAGNGA:** Sprinkle it on the boys' foreheads at night. It will keep evil spirits at bay.
- 71. LULU:** What about my baby girl? The police say they're still processing the case. Does that mean I'll get her back?
- 72. MAGWANGA:** I said come back tomorrow. Now turn around and go. And don't look back, or you'll turn to stone.
- 73. LULU:** Yes - yes, O great one!
- 74. SFX: FOOTSTEPS - LULU GOING AWAY**
- 75. MAGWANGA:** **(resumes chanting)**

76. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: AT THE MSOTOS'

77. SFX: NIGHT ATMO IN TANDIKA SLUMS – INTERIOR

78. BANDA: UNCONTROLLABLE COUGHING AND WHEEZING

79. LULU: (asleep, breathing deeply)

KW BEGIN

80. KADU: Mercy, Mercy! Wake up! Banda can't stop coughing!
He can't breathe!

81. MERCY: (sleepily) What? Banda, my brother, what is it?
Kadu, please give me the matchbox near your
bedding.

82. SFX: MATCHBOX PASSED

83. BANDA: (coughs, weakly) I want Mum.

84. MERCY: Wait, Banda, let me light the lantern...

85. SFX: MATCHSTICK STRUCK AND LANTERN LIT

86. BANDA: (coughs)

87. KADU: Oh, no! Mercy, look! Our brother is coughing blood!
Is he dying?

88. MERCY: Ssh, don't say that, Kadu. He'll be okay.

KW END

89. SFX: MERCY SHAKES HER MOTHER

90. MERCY: (**whispering urgently**) Mum! Wake up, Mum!

91. LULU: (**sleepily**) What is it, Mercy?

92. MERCY: Mum, Banda is coughing up blood.

93. SFX: BED CREAKING AS LULU WAKES

94. LULU: (**panics**) Oh no! Quick, Mercy, pass me that plastic
bag near the stove!

95. SFX: PLASTIC BAG PASSED AND OPENED

96. LULU: This powder will help you, Banda. All will be well.
The great seer said that all would be well.

97. MERCY: Mum, what is that foul-smelling dust you're
sprinkling on Banda's head?

98. LULU: It's medicine from Magwanga, the great doctor.

- 99. MERCY:** *What?! Magwanga is not a doctor, Mum, he's a conman.*
- 100. LULU:** What do you know?! Pass me the lemon water. It's in that jug.
- 101. MERCY:** Mum, I think we have to take Banda to hospital.
- 102. LULU:** **(strict)** We can't afford it. I've already had to pay the seer.
- 103. MERCY:** But, Mum, surely we --
- 104. LULU:** **(shouts)** Just shut up and do as I say! Give me the lemon water.
- 105. SFX: WATER POURED IN CUP**
- 106. LULU:** Drink this, Banda. Drink!
- 107. BANDA:** **(drinks, cough subsides)**
- 108. LULU:** Try to sleep, my boy.
- 109. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

SCENE 4: AT THE HOSPITAL

110. SFX: HOSPITAL ATMO, (KIDS CRYING, COUGHING ETC, HEARD THROUGH DOOR)

111. MERCY: Don't worry, Banda. You're going to be all right.

112. BANDA: **(coughing)** Mercy, why did we have to come to the hospital so early? And why didn't you wake Mum so that she could come with us?

113. MERCY: Ssh, my brother – try not to talk too much.

114. BANDA **(more coughing)**

115. SFX: STEPS DR. ROBERTS ENTERS

116. SFX: DOOR CLOSING

117. DR. ROBERTS: Hello. My name is Dr. Roberts, and I work here at the hospital. You must be Banda Msoto?

118. BANDA: **(amid coughs, shyly)** Yes.

KW BEGIN

119. DR. ROBERTS: And you? Are you the mother?

120. MERCY: **(embarrassed)** No, no. My name is Mercy. Banda's my brother.

121. DR. ROBERTS: I was wondering, because you look so young...

Shouldn't you be in school?

122. MERCY: I'll go to school afterwards.

123. DR. ROBERTS: Where are your parents?

124. MERCY: **(avoiding)** Errr... they couldn't come ... Please,
Doctor Roberts, will you just examine my brother?
I'm really worried about him!

125. DR. ROBERTS: Of course.

126. BANDA: **(tries to say something but coughs instead)**

KW END

127. MERCY: Doctor, my brother can't stop coughing. Last night
he coughed up blood. That's why we came to see
you first thing this morning.

128. DR. ROBERTS: Okay. Apart from the coughing, does he sleep well
at night?

129. MERCY: No, he's always sweating, even when it's cold. And
our house gets really cold at night.

130. DR. ROBERTS: Your brother's very thin. Does he eat well?

- 131. MERCY:** Not any more. He used to eat a lot. Now he just nibbles at his food and leaves most of it. He's lost a lot of weight. My mother gave him some foul-smelling herbs, but I think he needs real medicine!
- 132. DR. ROBERTS:** I have a lot of respect for traditional medicine, but in this case you were right to come and see me. How long has this been going on?
- 133. MERCY:** Since he and my other brother came back from Laboria.
- 134. DR. ROBERTS:** Laboria? Hmm... You often see these symptoms in people who've been living very close together. Or in people who've been working in mines, for example. But your brother is obviously too young for that... Anyway – it's a very good thing you brought him here, Mercy. I'm afraid this looks like it might be serious.

135. OUTRO – NARRATOR:

What's the matter with Mercy's brother Banda? Join us next time to find out! If you'd like to listen to this episode again, you can do so on our webpage, dw.de/lbe. You can also follow us on Facebook. We're looking forward to reading your comments! Until next time - bye for now.