

Learning by Ear 2013

"Crossroads Generation" – Facing the Consequences

EPISODE 21: A New Resident

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INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Good to have you back for the next episode of “Crossroads Generation”!
This is our second season called “Facing the Consequences”, and lately things have been tough for our young heroes. Trudy had moved in with her much older boyfriend, Manoti, but what appeared romantic at first turned into a nightmare when Manoti started treating her badly and keeping her locked in the house. Luckily, her friend Mercy and some of their classmates came to her rescue:

2. EPISODE 20, LINES 67 – 70:

MERCY: *Trudy! Are you all right?*

GIRLS/BOYS: *What happened? / Are you okay? / Trudy!*

TRUDY: *(cries) Mercy! You're here! You're all here! Oh, thank you, thank you!*

ANITA: *Come on, we have to get her out of here. (...)*

3. NARRATOR:

Meanwhile, Mercy’s younger brother Banda is still in hospital, where he’s being treated for TB. He caught the lung disease when he and his twin brother Kadu were working in the mines in the neighbouring country of Laboria. But their sister Mercy has other things on her mind. She’s pregnant by her classmate Dan, who’s just returned to Bongo Academy after being suspended. There was a big surprise awaiting him:

4. EPISODE 20, LINES 115 – 120:

MERCY: *Hi, Dan.*

DAN: *Umm... hi... M... Mercy? (...)*

ANITA: *Hello, Dan!*

DAN: *Anita? What are you doing here?*

5. NARRATOR:

Exchange student Anita used to be Dan’s girlfriend back in Laboria. Now she’s at Bongo Academy as well. So Dan’s in a tricky situation! Let’s join him in the principal’s office for this twenty-first episode, called “A New Resident”.

SCENE 1: DAN IN JULIETTE’S OFFICE

6. ATMO: JULIETTE’S OFFICE, BREAK TIME

7. **JULIETTE:** So you stayed with your uncle William here in Kisimba the whole time, Dan?

8. **DAN:** (**hesitates**) Umm... yes, Principal Juliette.

9. **JULIETTE:** Do you know how your family is doing back in Laboria?

10. **DAN:** My mother’s fine. She’s at her parents’ place. And my dad...

11. **JULIETTE:** What about him?

12. **DAN:** (**embarrassed**) Well... he’s been arrested.

13. **JULIETTE:** What? Why?

14. **DAN:** They say it was for financial crimes... (**sighs**) And he employed children in his mines.

15. **JULIETTE:** (**shocked**) What? (**sighs**) Well, that’s none of my business. Since your school fees have already been paid for the whole year, I don’t see why anything your father may have done should stop you attending school. (**serious tone**) Now, as you know from the letter, the school disciplinary committee has decided to let you come back to school.

KW BEGIN

16. **DAN:** Thank you, Madame Juliette.

17. **JULIETTE:** **(continues)** However, what you did was very, very wrong and immoral. That kind of behaviour will simply not be tolerated at Bongo Academy. The school absolutely forbids students from engaging in any kind of sexual activity.

18. **DAN:** I apologise, Madame.

KW END

19. **JULIETTE:** If you want to stay here, Dan, you must adhere to all our conditions. One: I don't want to see you anywhere near any of the girls, either in private or in public. Two: you are on probation for six months. During this time, if you make any mistake, no matter how small, you *will* be expelled! And finally: you have to be punished for what you did, so for the next month you'll tend the flower garden beside the dormitories. Is that understood?

20. **DAN:** Yes, Madame Juliette.

- 21. JULIETTE:** Now, how your and Mercy's families resolve everything related to your baby is not my business. But I want you to realize that while it is Mercy who has to carry the child, you have responsibilities, too. In order to learn about them, you'll be going for counselling sessions at the youth centre where Anita volunteers.
- 22. DAN:** No! Please, Madame Juliette, Anita can't be my peer counsellor!
- 23. JULIETTE:** Don't worry. Anita's already talked to me about that. She's not crazy about counselling you, either. You'll join a boy's group of young fathers who'll all be sharing their experiences.
- 24. DAN:** **(reluctantly)** Okay, Madame.
- 25. JULIETTE:** I'll see you in class, Dan. Please tell Trudy to come in now.
- 26. SFX: STEPS DAN, DOOR OPENING**
- 27. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

SCENE 2: BREAK TIME AT BONGO

28. ATMO: BONGO ACADEMY, BREAK TIME, EXTERIOR

KW BEGIN

29. ANITA: Oh, Mercy! It was so exciting yesterday! And your school anthem. I love it! **(sings the school anthem wrongly)** *We'll fight and we'll sing / And we'll do anything / If you stand in our way / We'll just blow you away / 'Cause Bongo looks after its own! Yeah!*

30. MERCY: **(laughs)** No, no, Anita, not like that.

31. ANITA: What? That's how we sang it yesterday.

32. MERCY: **(chuckles)** Anita, you're so funny. It goes like this; **(sings)** *We'll fight and we'll win / We'll show you who's king / Don't stand in our way / 'Cause you'll just have to pay / At Bongo you're never alone / Because Bongo looks after its own!*

33. ANITA: Yeah, whatever. I just heard it for the first time yesterday.

34. MERCY AND ANITA LAUGH

KW END

35. ANITA: Look, Mercy, here comes Trudy.

36. SFX: FOOTSTEPS APPROACH

37. **TRUDY:** **(as she approaches)** Hi, Mercy, Anita – what are you two so happy about?
38. **MERCY:** Oh, nothing – I'm just teaching our exchange student Anita some of our school traditions.
39. **THEY LAUGH**
40. **ANITA:** **(serious again)** Hey Trudy, what did Principal Juliette say?
41. **TRUDY:** **(thoughtful)** A lot. We had a long talk. She even called my mother.

KW BEGIN

42. **MERCY:** So you told Principal Juliette you'd moved in with Manoti?
43. **TRUDY:** I didn't want to... But she would have found out anyway. The police have arrested him on charges of false imprisonment. I have to go and make a statement.
44. **ANITA:** Good! I'm glad he'll be punished for what he did to you.
45. **MERCY:** Me too. But did Madame Juliette suspend you, Trudy?

46. TRUDY: No! I was very surprised; I really thought I'd never see the inside of this school again! Actually, I think she would have liked to suspend my mother.

47. MERCY/ANITA: What?

48. TRUDY: You should have heard her talking to her on the phone, about taking responsibility for children and so on! Principal Juliette was amazing. I almost felt sorry for my mum.

KW END

49. ANITA AND MERCY LAUGH

50. TRUDY: (**serious again**) Seriously, I don't know what would have happened to me if you hadn't come when you did. Thank you for getting the students to save me. And thanks for letting me sleep in your room last night, Anita.

51. ANITA: Come back any time.

52. TRUDY: That won't be necessary. From now on, I'm also a boarder at Bongo Academy!

53. MERCY/ANITA: What? Wow!

54. TRUDY: Well, at least for the next few weeks. That's what Principal Juliette and my mother discussed, to make sure I'm under constant care and surveillance.

KW BEGIN

55. MERCY: Sounds like a good solution.

56. TRUDY: I think so too. Mercy... listen, I need to tell you something. I really am truly sorry for everything I did to you.

57. MERCY: You mean, trying to get me to go to Dr. Zito and have an abortion? Look – it's okay, Trudy. Let's put it behind us. You were going through a tough time yourself...

58. TRUDY: No, but that's not all... I'm the one who told Madame Juliette about you and Dan.

59. MERCY: **(not surprised)** Oh, that? I knew about that ages ago. Niki told me.

60. TRUDY: **(surprised)** What?

61. MERCY: Principal Juliette was going to find out anyway, even if you hadn't told her. Okay, I did have to deal with being suspended - but now I can keep on coming to school after all. So it's worked out okay in the end.

62. TRUDY: Mercy, I’m really sorry. I promise I’ll support you and help you if you need any help with the pregnancy.

63. MERCY: Thanks, Trudy. But you can’t exactly carry the baby for me, can you...

64. THEY LAUGH

KW END

65. SFX: SCHOOL BELL RINGS

66. ANITA: Come on, girls, let’s go back to class!

67. MERCY: Okay. Oh, Anita, by the way – I’m sorry, I can’t come to the youth club this afternoon. Can we reschedule? My brother is finally leaving hospital and we have to go and pick him up.

68. ANITA: No problem, Mercy.

69. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: ANITA AND NIKI AT THE YOUTH CENTRE

70. ATMO: TRAFFIC HEARD FROM OUTSIDE, PEOPLE TALKING IN THE BACKGROUND (HEARD THROUGH DOOR)

71. SFX: DOOR CLOSED

72. ANITA: So, welcome to the youth centre, Niki. I thought we could sit here in this office for a moment and have a chat, just the two of us, before we all meet for the group discussion. Is that okay?

73. NIKI: Yes, sure, Anita.

74. ANITA: Come on, let's sit down.

75. SFX: TWO CHAIRS SCRAPING

76. ANITA: As you know, I volunteer as a peer group counsellor here at the centre.

77. NIKI: Er – Anita, sorry to interrupt, but what exactly is a peer group counsellor?

78. ANITA: It's someone who's trained to give advice to members of the same age group when they have problems.

KW BEGIN

79. NIKI: Doesn't sound any different from all the other counsellors to me.

80. ANITA: Honestly, it is very different. Here, we're all just young people sharing our experiences. No one's going to tell you what to do. I'm not your big sister; we're the same age, in fact. I don't pretend to know any more than you.

KW END

81. NIKI: I know Madame Juliette wanted me to discuss my drug problems with you... but I still don't feel comfortable with that. I mean, you're a.... well, you know --

82. ANITA: **(cuts in)** A girl? I know it's never comfortable to discuss issues like that with a member of the opposite sex. But I promise you that whatever you decide to tell me will never leave this room.

83. NIKI: **(sighs)** Okay! What do you want to know?

84. ANITA: Why did you start to drink and smoke?

KW BEGIN

85. NIKI: I don't know. I guess I thought it was fun.

86. ANITA Really?

KW END

87. NIKI: Well, it kind of reduced my stress levels.

88. ANITA: So you were stressed? What about?

KW BEGIN

89. NIKI: Lots of things...

90. ANITA: Niki, you have to trust me. I told you: not even Madame Juliette will know what we’re discussing in here. All she wants to know is whether you’re attending our meetings and whether you’re making progress. No details.

KW END

91. NIKI: **(sighs)** Okay then. I was stressed about a girl...

92. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: BANDA LEAVES HOSPITAL

93. STREET ATMO, TRAFFIC

94. MERCY: Banda, my brother, here we are – you’re finally out of hospital! How do you feel?

95. BANDA: Great!

96. KADU: Yes, it’s great! Now we can play again all day long --

KW BEGIN

97. SFX CAR HOOTS, SCREECHES

98. **LULU:** **(screams)** Watch out, Kadu! Why are you running into the road without looking? Do you want us to go straight back to the hospital?

99. **DRIVER:** **(shouts from a distance)** Watch your children, woman!

100. **SFX: CAR DRIVES OFF**

101. **LULU:** **(not serious)** Come here, you. I'm going to have to pinch these big ears that never seem to listen.

102. **KADU** **(laughs)** Ow! Ow! Mama, it hurts!

103. **MERCY/BANDA: LAUGH**

104. **LULU:** What did I tell you about crossing roads?

105. **BANDA** I know, Mum: I have to look both ways before I cross.

106. **MERCY:** No, Banda: you have to look both ways and cross only when there's nothing coming!

KW END

107. **SFX: MOBILE PHONE RINGS**

108. **SFX: BEEPS AS PHONE IS ANSWERED**

109. LULU: Hello? ... **(surprised, decidedly)** Lena? How dare you even -- No, my husband's not here. You listen to me. I have been trying to reach you ever since my two sons came back from Laboria all by themselves! They told me everything! You promised to take care of them, and instead you sold them to work in the mines. ... Don't interrupt me! Banda almost died! ... What did you say? ... At a police station in Laboria? ... Who's been arrested? ... Kanyama? Who is Kanyama? ... You know what, Lena? I hope you both end up in prison. Because that's where you belong! Just like your brother! Don't you even think of calling this number ever again!

110. SFX: PHONE DISCONNECTS

111. LULU: **(clicks her tongue)**

112. MERCY: What is it, Mum? You look angry.

113. LULU: Your aunt Lena. She was calling to beg us for help. She and that man Kanyama have been arrested. Thank God!

114. KADU/BANDA: (whisper) Kanyama? Kanyama? That's him!

115. MERCY: Wait a minute! Did you say Kanyama? From Laboria?

116. LULU: Yes. That’s what she said.

117. MERCY: **(shocked)** It must be Dan’s father.

118. LULU: You mean Dan, the one who made you ...? My God,
what a family of animals!

119. OUTRO – NARRATOR:

Wow! That phone call and the news of Lena and Kanyama being arrested came as a total surprise – not only to Mercy, but also to her mother and her two brothers. Let’s leave them to digest what they’ve just learned. We’ll meet them all again next time. Be sure to join us then! If you want to listen to this episode again, or if you missed one of the previous episodes, you’ll find them all on our webpage, dw.de/lbe. And of course you can also follow us on Facebook. Take care!