

Learning by Ear 2013

"Crossroads Generation" – Facing the Consequences

EPISODE 13: My New Home

AUTHOR: James Muhando

EDITORS: Friederike Müller, Daniel Pelz, Madelaine Meier

COPY EDITOR: Charlotte Collins

List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: TRUDY MOVES IN WITH MANOTI

- **MANOTI (M, 35)**
- **TRUDY (F, 15)**

SCENE 2: AT THE JUMBES'

- **MRS. JUMBE (F, 35)**
- **NIKI (M, 16)**

SCENE 3: DAN IN BIKO'S ROOM AT NIGHT

- **BIKO (M, 16)**
- **DAN (M, 16)**

SCENE 4: MORNING AT THE MSOTOS'

- **KADU (M, 8)**
- **MERCY (F, 15)**
- **LULU (F, 40)**

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hello! It’s time for the next episode of “Crossroads Generation – Facing the Consequences”. We’ve been following the daily lives of a group of African teenagers, including Niki, Dan and Mercy. The world turned upside down for them when their headmistress, Principal Juliette, called them in to her office:

2. EPISODE 12, LINES 85 – 91:

JULIETTE: *Fine. Let’s start with Niki. (...) He not only smokes marijuana, he also drinks alcohol. Do you have anything to say for yourself, Niki?*

NIKI: *No, Madame.*

JULIETTE:*(...) Apparently, Dan and Mercy have been playing husband and wife, and are now expecting their first-born! (...) 91. (...) The three of you are hereby suspended from Bongo Academy.*

3. NARRATOR:

Meanwhile, their classmate Trudy has received a surprising proposal from her ex-boyfriend, the bus conductor Manoti. He’s asked her to move in with him. But Manoti’s motivation isn’t very romantic: his sick and aged mother is pushing him into it:

4. EPISODE 7, LINE 65:

***MABEL:** So, tell me, Manoti. When are you going to marry so that I can see my grandchildren?*

5. NARRATOR:

Sit back and listen to this thirteenth episode, called "My New Home".

Manoti is showing Trudy around a very nice-looking area...

SCENE 1: TRUDY MOVES IN WITH MANOTI

6. ATMO: EVENING IN A MIDDLE CLASS AREA, NOT SO NOISY.

INTERIOR

7. SFX: DOOR OPENS

8. SFX: FOOTSTEPS - TWO PEOPLE

9. MANOTI: Here we go! Welcome to your new home, Trudy.
Or should I say... Mrs. Manoti? How do you like the sound of that, eh? Mrs. Manoti?

10. TRUDY: **(laughs)** I like it very much, Mr. Manoti.

11. MANOTI: So: here's your bag...

12. SFX: BAG PUT ON FLOOR

13. TRUDY: Thanks for carrying it for me.

14. **MANOTI:** No problem. Anything for you, Mrs. Manoti. How about some music?
15. **TRUDY:** But it's already eight o'clock. My mum always said I shouldn't listen to music that late, because it disturbs the neighbours.
16. **MANOTI:** In your new home, you can listen to music any time you like – even at night!
17. **TRUDY:** Cool!
18. **MANOTI:** And, of course, we have to celebrate our marriage.
19. **TRUDY:** **(confused)** Marriage? I don't see a ring on my finger. I've moved in with you, but until you put on a ring on it, I'm still just your girlfriend.
20. **MANOTI:** But a few seconds ago you were happy to be called Mrs. Manoti.
21. **TRUDY:** That was just a joke. Come, on put on some music.
22. **MANOTI:** Whatever you say, wifey.
23. **TRUDY:** **(firm)** Manoti, stop calling me that.
24. **SFX: STEREO SWITCHED ON**

25. SFX: LOUD MUSIC

KW BEGIN

26. MANOTI: **(over the music)** What did your mother say when you told her you were moving?

27. TRUDY: She didn't want me to at first, but in the end she just said **(imitates her mother)** "Promise me you'll keep going to school, okay?"!

KW BEGIN

28. MANOTI: And?

29. TRUDY: I said I'd go to school from here, and she was relieved. That way Dad will still pay her rent. **(bitter)** And now that I've moved out she can bring her boyfriends home whenever she wants. At least now I won't be forced to call some stranger 'dad'.

30. MANOTI: What else did she say?

31. TRUDY: **(annoyed)** Not much. Let's talk about something else, okay?

32. MANOTI: Okay.

KW END

33. (THEY ARE SILENT, EXCEPT FOR THE MUSIC)

34. MANOTI: Come on. Let's dance to celebrate your freedom.

35. TRUDY: Yes – let's dance.

36. SFX: SHUFFLING OF FEET AS THEY DANCE

37. MUSIC FADE OUT

SCENE 2: AT THE JUMBES'

38. ATMO: AT THE JUMBES' IN THE EVENING

39. SFX: TV RUNNING IN BACKGROUND

40. SFX: FUMBLING OF KEYS (HEARD FROM INSIDE)

41. MRS. JUMBE: Niki? Is that you?

42. SFX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

43. SFX: FOOTSTEPS - NIKI ENTERS

44. NIKI: **(indifferent)** Hi, Mum.

45. MRS.JUMBE: **(angry)** Don't you "hi, mum" me. Where are you coming from at this time of night?

46. NIKI: **(timidly)** I'm sorry, Mum, the bus was late.

KW BEGIN

47. MRS. JUMBE: What bus?

48. NIKI: (silent)

49. MRS: JUMBE: (stern) I asked you a question.

50. NIKI: The bus from school.

KW END

51. MRS. JUMBE: (even more strict) Don't lie to me, boy! You've never come home from school this late. Do you think I don't know you've been suspended?

52. NIKI: (silent)

53. MRS: JUMBE: What's in that bag? Your drugs again?

54. NIKI: (silent)

55. MRS. JUMBE: (shouts) Answer me! What is in that bag?

56. NIKI: Nothing, Mum.

57. MRS. JUMBE: (disappointed but calm) Niki, you have embarrassed us terribly! Everyone's talking about Mr. and Mrs. Jumbe's son the drug addict. Well, if this is how you want to live your life, so be it. I won't even bother to check your bag. I've done everything I could for you, and I've had enough of your lies. Just get out of my sight.

58. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: DAN IN BIKO'S ROOM AT NIGHT

59. ATMO: NIGHT AT BONGO ACADEMY, INTERIOR

60. BIKO: (panting, counts as he does press-ups)

Sixteen, seventeen, eighteen ...

61. SFX: SOFT KNOCK ON WINDOW

62. BIKO: (to himself) Who dares to disturb my evening training? (calls) Who is it?

63. DAN: (loud whisper from outside) Biko, it's me, Dan.

64. SFX: WINDOW BEING OPENED

65. BIKO: (urgent) Dan? What are you doing here?

66. DAN: Biko, please, let me in before that crazy head teacher sees me.

67. BIKO: Okay, I'll help you. You jump up and I'll pull you in, okay?

68. DAN: Okay. One, two, three...

69. SFX: DAN JUMPING OUTSIDE

70. SFX: RUSTLING OF CLOTHES AS BIKO PULLS DAN INSIDE

71. BIKO: (panting) Dude! You're heavier than I thought!

72. SFX: WINDOW BEING CLOSED

73. BIKO: Why are you here? I thought you were already on your way home to Laboria!

74. DAN: I don't have any money, and my dad isn't answering his phone. I don't know what to do, man!

75. BIKO: But why did you leave if you knew you had nowhere to go?

76. DAN: Principal Juliette gave me two hours to leave the school compound. I had no choice.

77. BIKO: But you should have told her you didn't have any money. I don't think she'd throw you out if she knew you had nowhere to go. She knows about the situation in your country.

78. DAN: Yes, but she also knows I have an uncle who lives here. She sent me to stay with him. But I don't want to go there. He'll just make things worse for me. He's too strict!

KW BEGIN

79. BIKO: Dude, this is messed up. What are you going to do?

80. DAN: I don't know, man! I need your help.

- 81. BIKO:** Dude, even if I wanted to, you know I can't buy you a plane ticket home.
- 82. DAN:** No, not that. **(short pause)**
- KW END** I need a place to stay for a while, just until I can get hold of my dad.
- 83. BIKO:** **(sighs)** All right, Dan, you can stay here. But we'll have to be very, very careful. Nobody can know, all right? I don't want to get into trouble. Where are your bags?
- 84. DAN:** I left them in a locker at the airport.
- 85. BIKO:** Oh, great. So you're planning on wearing my clothes, too, are you?
- 86. DAN/BIKO:** **(laugh)**
- 87. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

SCENE 4: MORNING AT THE MSOTOS'

88. ATMO: MORNING IN TANDIKA, INTERIOR

- 89. KADU:** Mercy, wake up. You'll be late for school.
- 90. MERCY:** **(stifled crying)**
- 91. KADU:** Mercy, are you crying?

- 92. MERCY:** (tries to hide it) No, Kadu, I think I have a cold.
- 93. KADU:** Are you sick with TB, like our brother Banda?
- 94. MERCY:** No, Kadu, I'm fine. I don't have TB. You, me and Mum, we're all okay, so don't worry. And Banda will be okay too if he takes the medicine. That's what the doctor said.
- 95. KADU:** He feels better now. He wasn't coughing so much when we visited him in hospital.
- 96. MERCY:** Yes, but it hasn't gone away yet. He has to take his medicine for six months, until he finishes it. If he stops, the disease could come back again, and he'll start coughing and feeling bad again.
- 97. KADU:** I'll make sure he takes ten tablets every day....
- 98. MERCY:** (laughs) No, no, no! Kadu! Don't do that. Banda can only take what the doctor tells him to.
- 99. KADU:** But I want him to get better soon. I don't want him to have to wait six months to be cured.
- 100. MERCY:** It doesn't work like that, my brother. It's very dangerous to take more pills than you're supposed to. That's called overdosing, or drug abuse. It could even kill him.

KW BEGIN

101. KADU: No! You're lying! When we were in Laboria, some of the boys on the streets were selling drugs. They didn't look anything like the medicine Banda's taking. Drugs are bad, I know that. Medicine is good.

102. MERCY: **(laughs despite the situation)** Medicine can be good, but it can be bad too, if you don't use it properly. If you use anything badly we say you're abusing it. That's why it's called drug abuse.

103. KADU: So medicine is a drug, too?

104. MERCY: Yes, it is. But the cops won't come after you if you take it! **(laughs)** It's what's called a legal drug. That's why it has to be prescribed by a doctor.

KW END

105. KADU: Oh, Mercy, you're so clever. Do they teach you how to be clever at Bongo Academy?

KW BEGIN

106. MERCY : **(sad again, sniffs)** You can't be taught to be clever. You're born clever. But everyone can learn things by going to school.

107. KADU: When mum gets some money, me and Banda will go to school, too, and learn things, and be clever like you.

KW END

108. MERCY: (sniffs more) Oh, Kadu...

109. SFX: DOOR OPENS

110. STEPS - LULU APPROACHES

111. LULU: Mercy! You're still here. I thought you'd already gone to school. Take this water container off my back for me, will you.

112. MERCY/LULU (THEY ACT LIFTING HEAVY STUFF)

113. SFX: WATER CONTAINER PUT DOWN

114. LULU: So why aren't you ready for school? Aren't you late already?

KW BEGIN

115. MERCY: Mum... I'm not going.

116. LULU: Why? If I'd known you weren't going I wouldn't have gone to fetch water so early, with my bad back and everything. I would have sent you.

117. MERCY: Mum... I can't go to school any more.

118. KADU: Are you clever enough already?

119. LULU: What?! Why? Aren't you the one who always told me school was so important? Come on, girl! Get dressed! I don't want my daughter to go through what I went through because I couldn't finish school.

KW END

120. MERCY: Mum... the head teacher's suspended me, because of.... you know.

121. LULU: **(shocked)** No!

122. KADU: Mum? What does suspended mean?

123. OUTRO - NARRATOR

And that's all for today from "Crossroads Generation". Mercy's always loved to study! How will she cope now she can't go to school? And how will Trudy and Dan get on in their new homes? Talking of Dan: he can't go home because the military has taken over in Laboria, and the situation there is far from stable. Of course, this is affecting the lives of many young people. Anita, who's more than just a close friend of Dan's, is still in Laboria. She's been sharing her thoughts on the situation in her video diary on our website, dw.de/lbe. On this page you can also listen again to this and the previous episodes of "Crossroads Generation". And don't forget to tune in next time to hear how the story continues! Bye for now!