

**Learning by Ear 2013**

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

**EPISODE 11: Nasty Surprises**

**AUTHOR: James Muhando**

**EDITORS: Friederike Müller, Daniel Pelz, Madelaine Meier**

**COPY EDITOR: Charlotte Collins**

**List of characters by scene:**

**INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR**

**SCENE 1: DR. ROBERTS ACCOMPANIES MERCY HOME**

- MERCY (F, 15)
- DR. ROBERTS (M, 50s)
- LULU (F, 40)

**SCENE 2: TRUDY TELLS ON MERCY**

- JULIETTE (F, 50)
- TRUDY (F, 15)
- JUMBE (M, 45)

**SCENE 3: TRUDY TALKS TO NIKI**

- TRUDY(F, 15)
- NIKI (M, 16)

**SCENE 4: NIKI'S FATHER IN JULIETTE'S OFFICE**

- JULIETTE (F, 50)
- JUMBE (M, 45)

## **INTRO**

### **1. NARRATOR:**

Hi there, welcome back to Crossroads Generation. We're on the second season called "Facing the Consequences" and we're about to start the eleventh episode. Previously, 16-year-old Niki gave his parents a fright when they found him lying motionless in the street.

### **2. EPISODE 6, LINES 70-72:**

***JUMBE:** Niki? Are you hurt?*

***NIKI:** Me? Hurt? Noooo! Nobody can hurt the mighty Niki!*

***JUMBE:** Are you drunk? What is wrong with you, boy?*

### **3. NARRATOR:**

Niki is still in love with Mercy. But she chose Dan, slept with him, and now she's pregnant. Her friend Trudy wanted her to have an abortion, but Mercy didn't follow her advice:

### **4. EPISODE 10, LINES 29-31:**

***MERCY:** Stop it, Trudy. (...) 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!*

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

**MERCY:** *Just go, Trudy! GO! (...)*

**5. NARRATOR:**

Meanwhile, Mercy's brother Banda has been ill, and Mercy took him to see Dr. Roberts at the hospital, against her mother's wishes. Today's episode is called “Nasty Surprises”. It starts with Mercy, who's just returned home to Tandika slums – and she's brought somebody with her....

**SCENE 1: DR. ROBERTS ACCOMPANIES MERCY HOME**

**6. ATMO: TANDIKA SLUMS, OUTSIDE MERCY'S HOME, DAYTIME**

**7. SFX: TRIES TO OPEN LOCKED DOOR**

**8. MERCY:**                Hmm, the door's locked.

**9. SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR**

**10. MERCY:**              Mum, it's me. Mercy.

**11. SFX: WATER SLOSHING AS SOMEBODY BATHES (HEARD FROM INSIDE)**

- 12. LULU:**                   **(shouts from inside)** Wait, I'm washing myself.  
When I'm finished, you can tell me where you and your brother Banda have been! I was sick with worry!
- 13. MERCY:**                Yes, Mama. **(to Dr. Roberts, a little embarrassed)**  
Sorry, doctor - our house only has one room. We have to use it as a bathroom sometimes.
- 14. DR. ROBERTS:**    No problem, Mercy. I used to live in a very similar neighbourhood before I became a doctor.
- 15. MERCY:**                Really?
- KW BEGIN***
- 16. DR. ROBERTS:**    Yes. During my college days, I shared my room with three other boys. We also used our room as a bathroom and took baths in turns. The last person was always the unlucky one, because he had to mop all the water off the floor when he'd finished.
- 17. MERCY:**                **(laughs)** So everybody fought to be number one?

**18. DR. ROBERTS:** **(laughs too)** Not really. The others were always too sleepy to fight. I was the only one who had to get up at four in the morning to go to college.

**19. MERCY:** **(laughs even more)** Wow, why did you have to wake up that early?

**20. DR. ROBERTS:** Because I had to walk to college, and it was twelve kilometres away.

**21. MERCY:** Why didn't you just live closer to the college?

**22. DR. ROBERTS:** Because the houses there were more expensive. I could only afford--

***KW END***

**23. SFX: DOOR OPENS**

**24. LULU:** Mercy! Where is Banda?... **(to Dr. Roberts)** Oh - hello...? I didn't know we had a visitor.

**25. DR. ROBERTS:** I'm Dr. Roberts. You must be Mercy's and Banda's mother. May I come in?

**26. LULU:** **(hesitates)** Er - all right. Sorry, the floor is still a bit wet.

**27. DR. ROBERTS:** No problem.

**28. SFX: FOOTSTEPS (3 PEOPLE) ON WET CONCRETE FLOOR**

**29. SFX: DOOR CLOSED**

**30. ATMO: TANDIKA SLUMS AT DAYTIME HEARD FROM INSIDE**

**31. LULU:** (whispers to Mercy) Who is he? And where's your brother? Kadu said you went out with him very early.

**32. MERCY:** Umm...

**33. DR. ROBERTS:** (clears his throat) Mama Mercy, I'm here to talk about your son, Banda.

**34. LULU:** What about Banda? What has he done now? Oh God, no more problems, please!

**35. DR. ROBERTS:** Relax, Mama Mercy. Banda is okay... well, he will be okay, thanks to Mercy here. He's in hospital, and --

**36. LULU:** (angry) In *hospital*? Mercy, what did I say about that?

- 37. MERCY:** Mum, I'm sorry. I just couldn't stand by and watch Banda suffer.
- 38. LULU:** You have become so disobedient nowadays. I don't know who has bewitched you. The seer said --
- 39. DR. ROBERTS:** **(cuts in)** Mama Mercy, please listen to me. If your daughter hadn't done what she did, your son Banda might have died. My colleagues are doing some tests on him at the moment. We suspect he has TB.
- 40. LULU:** What's that?
- 41. DR. ROBERTS:** TB stands for tuberculosis. It's a very serious disease, and without proper treatment, people can die of it.
- 42. LULU:** **(shocked)** What? Banda! My son! But why... I mean, how... Is this TB thing the reason he's been coughing so much?

**43. DR. ROBERTS:** Yes, I think so. TB is caused by a bacterium that usually affects the lungs. It can spread very fast. If an infected person coughs or sneezes, the bacteria get into the air we breathe. Other people can inhale them, and sometimes they also get infected. This is why your whole family will have to be tested.

***KW BEGIN***

**44. LULU:** What? You're saying we could have it too? And who's going to pay for all this?

**45. DR. ROBERTS:** You don't need to worry about that, Mama Mercy. As in many African countries, TB testing and treatment here in Kisimba are free.

**46. MERCY:** **(clears her throat)** Can I go to school now, doctor?

**47. DR. ROBERTS:** You can go, Mercy, since you've had the test already. But if the samples we took from you test positive for TB, you'll have to be admitted to hospital as well, you know that?

**48. MERCY:** Okay.

**49. DR. ROBERTS:** Shall we go now, Mama Mercy?



***KW END***

**50. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 2: TRUDY TELLS ON MERCY**

**51. ATMO: IN THE SCHOOL CORRIDOR (BREAKTIME SOUNDS  
HEARD FROM INSIDE)**

**52. SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR**

**53. JULIETTE: (from inside her office) Come in!**

**54. SFX: DOOR OPENED AND CLOSED**

**55. SFX: FOOTSTEPS - TRUDY ENTERS**

**56. JULIETTE: Oh, Trudy! Sit down. What can I do for you?**

**57. SFX: CHAIR PULLED, CLOTHES RUSTLE**

**58. TRUDY: Principal Juliette, there's something I have to tell  
you.**

**59. JULIETTE: I'm listening.**

**60. TRUDY: It's about Mercy.**

**61. JULIETTE: What about Mercy?**

62. **TRUDY:** She didn't come to school today.
63. **JULIETTE:** Yes, I noticed that. Do you know why?
64. **TRUDY:** She's been vomiting a lot lately.
65. **JULIETTE:** **(concerned)** Is she is sick? Has she seen the school nurse?
66. **TRUDY:** No, it's not that. She... she's pregnant.
67. **JULIETTE:** What?
68. **SFX: KNOCK ON THE DOOR, DOOR OPENS.**
69. **JUMBE:** **(from the door)** Sorry to interrupt, Principal Juliette, but you asked to see me?
70. **JULIETTE:** Oh – yes, Mr. Jumbe, please come in.
71. **SFX: STEPS JUMBE APPROACH**
72. **JULIETTE:** **(to Trudy)** Trudy, go back outside and don't speak about this to anyone, okay? I'll take care of it.
73. **TRUDY:** Okay. But please don't tell her I said --
74. **SFX: CHAIR SCRAPING AS TRUDY GETS UP**
75. **JULIETTE:** **(cuts her short)** Don't worry about that. It's good that you came to me.

**76. TRUDY:** Thank you, Madame Juliette.

**77. SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS TRUDY LEAVES, DOOR CLOSING.**

***KW BEGIN***

**78. JULIETTE:** **(sighs)** Mr. Jumbe, I tell you, running a school is not easy. But of course I didn't ask you here to tell you that. I'd like to talk about your son Niki.

**79. JUMBE:** What has Niki done now?

**80. JULIETTE:** Please, take a seat.

**81. SFX: JUMBE SITS DOWN ON WOODEN CHAIR**

***KW END***

**82. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**OR FADE FROM OFFICE TO CORRIDOR ATMO**

**SCENE 3: TRUDY TALKS TO NIKI**

**83. SFX: BONGO ACADEMY, INTERIOR AT BREAKTIME, ON  
CORRIDOR**

**84. SFX: TRUDY'S FOOTSTEPS**

**85. TRUDY:** (Loud whisper) Hey! Hey, Niki? Wait up!

**86. SFX: FOOTSTEPS STOP**

**87. NIKI:** (not interested) Hi, Trudy.

**88. TRUDY:** Why aren't you outside with everyone else? Are you waiting for your father? I think I just saw him in the principal's office...

**89. NIKI:** My father? No, I don't think so. He didn't say anything about that this morning. I just needed to go to the restroom.

**90. TRUDY:** Anyway... I have some very hot news for you.

***KW BEGIN***

**91. NIKI:** (not very interested) What is it?

**92. TRUDY:** (loud whisper) The best scandal ever!

**93. NIKI:** What do you mean?

***KW END***

**94. TRUDY:** How would you feel if I told you that your  
**(ironically)** 'very best friend' Dan is about to be  
expelled from Bongo Academy?

**95. NIKI:** **(now interested)** You're kidding me.

**96. TRUDY:** No, I'm not!

**97. NIKI:** What did he do?

**98. TRUDY:** Apparently, he got someone pregnant.

**99. NIKI:** What? Who? Someone at this school?

**100. TRUDY:** Mm-hmm!

**101. NIKI:** Come on! Who?

**102. TRUDY:** It's Mercy!

**103. NIKI:** **(totally shocked)** What? You can't be serious!  
Mercy's pregnant?

***KW BEGIN***

**104. TRUDY:** She is! She told me herself... Come on, let's go  
outside! ...Niki?

**105. NIKI:** (not listening, to himself) Mercy's pregnant! Oh  
no!

**106. TRUDY:** Oh, forget it.

**107. SFX: HURRIED FOOTSTEPS AS TRUDY GOES AWAY**

***KW END***

**108. NIKI:** (to himself) I can't believe it!

**109. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**OR FADE FROM CORRIDOR TO OFFICE ATMO**

**SCENE 4: NIKI'S FATHER IN JULIETTE'S OFFICE**

**110. ATMO: JULIETTE'S OFFICE ATMO (BREAK)**

**111. SFX: PAPERS BEING SHUFFLED**

**112. JULIETTE:** (official) Mr. Jumbe, your son Niki was one of the  
most disciplined and hard-working boys in this  
school, and we were very proud of him. He's clever,  
and --

**113. JUMBE:** (proudly) Yeah. Niki is a clever boy.

- 114. JULIETTE:** Yes, but recently we noticed that he seemed to be worried about something, and his performance started to suffer. And that's not all...
- 115. JUMBE:** **(cuts in)** Principal Juliette, I can assure you that Niki is fine. The boy is probably just going through a difficult phase --
- 116. JULIETTE:** **(serious)** Mr. Jumbe, if you'll just let me finish.
- 117. JUMBE:** Sure, go ahead, please.
- 118. JULIETTE:** **(sighs)** Our school guard has seen him several times with a man at the school fence who happens to be a known drug dealer. I'm afraid your son has been smoking marijuana.
- 119. JUMBE:** **(shocked)** What? Our Niki?
- KW BEGIN** He maybe drinks a beer every now and then, but – marijuana?
- 120. JULIETTE:** We take drug abuse very seriously here at our school. And as Niki's parents, you should, too.
- 121. JUMBE:** Of course. I assure you that I will talk some sense into him!

***KW END***

**122. JULIETTE:** Mr. Jumbe, I’m sorry to have to tell you we’re suspending Niki from Bongo Academy.

**123. JUMBE:** **(even more shocked)** What?!

**124. JULIETTE:** I’ll be telling him later myself. I’m sorry – we have no option. Our rules on drug use are very clear.

**125. JUMBE:** **(to himself)** I can’t believe this...

**126. OUTRO- NARRATOR:**

Niki’s father is shocked. And how will Niki react when the Principal tells him the news? What other surprises await the teenagers at Bongo Academy high school? The good news is: you don’t have to wait until next time for all of them... Check out Anita’s latest video diary to find out what she’s planning for Dan. You’ll find the video on our webpage [dw.de/lbe](http://dw.de/lbe). And of course you’re welcome to discuss what’s happening in “Crossroads Generation” on our Facebook page. Take care, and don’t forget to tune in next time!