

Learning by Ear 2013

"Crossroads Generation" – Facing the Consequences

EPISODE 1: What Will I Do?

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List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: TRUDY AND MERCY TALK AT BREAK

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

SCENE 2: DAN SKYPES WITH HIS FATHER

- **DAN (M, 16)**
- **KANYAMA (M, 50)**

SCENE 3: NIKI TALKS TO PEDDLER

- **BOY (M, 15)**
- **PEDDLER (M, 35)**
- **NIKI (M, 16)**
- **GUARD (M, 60)**

SCENE 4: BANDA AND KADU PLAY IN TANDIKA

- **BANDA (M, 8)**
- **KADU (M, 8)**

INTRO

1. NARRATOR

Hi there, and welcome back to Crossroads Generation! You’ve tuned in at exactly the right time: today, we start our second season called “Facing the Consequences”. Sit back, relax, and listen to what happens to Mercy, Dan and Niki. For those who haven’t met them yet: these three African teenagers are all in the same class at Bongo Academy high school. And they’ve all been through a lot in the last weeks. Mercy Msoto comes from a poor family, but got to go to Bongo Academy thanks to a scholarship. Her classmate Niki Jumbe was immediately attracted to her, but Mercy didn’t return his affection:

KW BEGIN

2. SEASON 1, EPISODE 12, LINE 21 – 25:

MERCY: Niki, I have to tell you something.

NIKI: (...) I’m listening with my ears, my heart, everything.

MERCY: Niki, I... I... I think I like...

NIKI: I like you, too, Mercy!

MERCY: I think I like Dan.

KW END

3. NARRATOR:

Niki was devastated when Mercy chose Dan Kanyama over him. But for Mercy and her family, life hasn't been all sunshine and flowers either: Mercy's younger twin brothers Kadu and Banda have just returned from the neighbouring country, Laboria, where their aunt Lena was supposed to be taking care of them. But the family reunion didn't last long. Mercy's father, Msoto, has been arrested by the police on suspicion of robbery with violence. And on top of all that, Mercy's discovered that she has another problem:

4. SEASON 1, EP. 26, LINES 38-44

MERCY: *Dan, I'm pregnant. (...)*

DAN: *I am not responsible, and I'm not ready to be a father.(...)*

MERCY: *You can't do this to me, Dan!*

5. NARRATOR:

But it seems Dan can. His father wants him to leave Bongo Academy and go back to his home country, Laboria. The perfect chance to evade his responsibilities, isn't it? A few weeks have gone by since we last heard from Dan and all the others. Let's find out what's been going on! This first episode is called “What Will I Do?” Let's join Mercy and her friend Trudy during break at Bongo Academy....

SCENE 1: TRUDY AND MERCY TALK AT BREAK

6. ATMO: BONGO ACADEMY OUTSIDE AT BREAK

7. MERCY: (regretfully) Oh Trudy, what am I going to do? What will I tell my parents? What will people say?

8. TRUDY: (calmly) Mercy, calm down. I told you before: there's a very easy solution to this.

9. MERCY: (doesn't seem to be listening) Dan hasn't talked to me since the day I told him I was pregnant... Before that, he said he was crazy about me. Why is he doing this to me?

10. TRUDY: Mercy, my friend, that's what all they all say. Boys just want *one* thing from us. And once they get it, they dump us! Like my ex-boyfriend Manoti, the bus conductor. He dumped me after he got what he wanted. And he infected me with a sexually transmitted disease! **(pause)** But enough of that. I think you should make up your mind soon, to... you know...?

11. MERCY: Trudy, I'm really not comfortable doing ... you know what. Besides, where would I even get the money to pay Dr. Zito?

12. SFX: STUDENTS PLAYING WITH A BALL NEARBY

13. TRUDY: Just ask Dan. I'm sure he'd be willing to help. After all, he doesn't want people to know that he's responsible! I mean, he's given you money before, hasn't he?

14. MERCY: **(Sighs)** I don't know Trudy... I'm not sure... I....

KW BEGIN

15. SFX: BALL HITS THEM

16. MERCY: Ow!

17. SFX: RUSTLING OF CLOTHES AS TRUDY GETS UP

18. TRUDY: **(shouts)** Hey, you! Keep your ball to yourself! We're talking here!

19. GIRL: **(from far)** This is a playing field! If you two want to talk, why don't you go and have a gossip in the girls' toilets and stop spoiling our game here!

20. TRUDY: **(threatening)** Hit us again and I'll rip off your woolly hair!

21. GIRL: Yeah, yeah, whatever!

22. MERCY: **(calming her down)** Trudy, come on...

KW END

23. TRUDY: **(to Mercy)** Listen, Mercy. Do you want to be a mother and miss out on being young? Think about all the boys who'll suddenly be calling you "Mama"! They'll never go out with you again! NEVER! And what about school? You'll never --

24. MERCY: (cuts in) All right! Stop! Just let me think it over,
okay?

25. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

(OR FADE EXTERIOR BREAK ATMO TO INDOOR ATMO)

SCENE 2: DAN SKYPES WITH HIS FATHER

26. ATMO: DAN'S ROOM. BREAK ATMO HEARD FROM INSIDE

27. SFX: COMPUTER KEYS TAPPED, DIALLING TONE

28. DAN: (to himself) I really need to speak to my father.
Ohhh... these internet calls... sometimes they work,
sometimes they don't... I hope he's online...

29. SFX: SKYPE SOUND: CALLING

30. SFX: CALL ACCEPTED

31. DAN: (impatiently) Hi – Dad?

32. KANYAMA: (surprised, but severe) Dan! Hello son, aren't you in
class?

33. DAN: We're on a break. Dad, did you book my flight back
home? You keep telling me you'll take care of it, but --

34. KANYAMA: **(interrupts him, strict and serious tone)** Dan, I'm afraid I don't have good news for you. Things are not good here in Laboria. **(sighs)** The fighting has spread to almost everywhere in the country... which means it's just not safe for you to come back right now.

35. DAN: Oh no! Dad, please...

36. KANYAMA: I'm sorry, Dan. You know nobody wanted you to come home more than me. But it's better that you stay where you are.

37. DAN But, Dad, surely it can't be that bad? People protest against the government all the time in Laboria!

38. KANYAMA: **(firm)** This time it's different. The rebels have gained more power. And we're part of the establishment. The Kanyama family has always cooperated with the government. We need to watch out! It's better you stay in Kisimba until things calm down.

KW BEGIN

39. DAN: But Dad, I'm sick of this school!

40. KANYAMA: **(annoyed)** Excuse me? Not so long ago, weren't you the one who told me you didn't want to come home?

41. DAN: I... I... --

42. KANYAMA: Dan, I can't risk bringing you home to be captured or killed by the rebels. We've already lost some of our mines and our workers. It's very dangerous right now. I've talked to your principal, and she understands.

KW END

43. DAN: But, Dad...

44. KANYAMA: **(decidedly)** No buts! That's my last word. You're staying at Bongo Academy until I tell you otherwise.

45. DAN: **(scared)** But Dad... what about you? And Mum?

46. KANYAMA: Don't worry about us. We're fine. Bye, son.

47. SFX: LINE DISCONNECTS

48. DAN: Dad, wait ...! Aargh! Damn!

49. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

(OR FADE BREAK ATMO FROM INSIDE TO OUTSIDE)

SCENE 3: NIKI TALKS TO PEDDLER

50. ATMO: BONGO ACADEMY AT BREAK, OUTSIDE

51. NIKI: (to himself) Wow, I wish this school day was already over... Bongo Academy really sucks...

KW BEGIN

52. SFX: STEPS APPROACHING (ON GRASS)

53. BOY: Hey Niki, are you okay?

54. NIKI: (flatly) I'm fine.

55. BOY: Why are you sitting there alone? Cheer up! (jokes)
You won't get detention for making too much noise, that's for sure. (laughs) Come, on, come and join us over here!

56. NIKI: Maybe later...

57. SFX: STEPS LEAVE

58. BOY: (leaves) Huh. Well, maybe you *will* get detention – for being boring...

KW END

59. PEDDLER: (from a distance) Psst! Psst! Niki! Niki!

60. NIKI: (to the man, in a hushed voice) Wait! I'm coming!

61. SFX: RUSTLING OF CLOTHES (NIKI GETS UP)

62. SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS ON GRASS

63. SFX: BREAK ATMO LOWER, TRAFFIC ADDED

64. NIKI: (keeps his voice down) What are you doing at the school fence? I told you not to visit me at school.

65. PEDDLER: I came to collect my money.

66. NIKI: What do you think the principal will do to me if she sees me with a... a...

67. PEDDLER: (threatening) A what? A drug dealer? You should have thought about that before smoking *my* ganja and not paying when you said you would.

KW BEGIN

68. NIKI: (begging) Please, I only have fifty cents on me right now. I will pay you when I get more, I promise!

69. PEDDLER: (threatening) I'm not leaving until I get my money, Niki! You smoke, you pay!

70. NIKI: Please, Master, you know my family. You know we have money. It won't be too hard for me to get my hands on ten dollars ...

71. PEDDLER: Then why haven't you paid already?

KW END

72. NIKI: **(panics)** The watchman is looking! Please go! I will pay you tomorrow. I promise.

73. PEDDLER: You'd better!

74. SFX: STEPS PEDDLER LEAVING

75. GUARD: **(shouts from afar)** Hey you! Young man! Why you stand by fence? Get away from fence.

76. NIKI: **(appeasing)** Okay, okay, soldier! **(to himself)** That was close!

77. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: BANDA AND KADU PLAY IN TANDIKA

78. ATMO: TANDIKA SLUMS OUTSIDE, DAYTIME

79. SFX: PLASTIC BALL KICKED AS THEY PLAY FOOTBALL

80. BANDA: (coughs) Kadu, my brother, it feels so good to be home and to play outside again.

81. KADU: Yes, Banda, it’s really great. Maybe our sister Mercy can join us when she comes home from school!

82. BANDA: (laughs) Mercy can’t play football!

83. KADU: (laughs too) Well, maybe she’s learnt since we’ve been away! (suddenly sad) I just wish Dad was here.

84. BANDA: Me too. Mum says he will come back, though.

85. KADU: But why did we move from that nice big house in Pale?

86. BANDA: Mum said she couldn’t afford to pay for it now that Dad’s not here.

87. KADU: Hmm. Okay, come on, pass the ball. I’m going to score!

88. SFX: FOOTSTEPS RUNNING (KADU)

89. BANDA: (coughs and shouts) Okay, Kadu. Look, I’ve left the goal wide open for you!

90. SFX: KADU KICKS PLASTIC BALL

91. BANDA: (laughs) Wow, you kick like a girl. You can’t even score when there’s no one in goal. Our sister Mercy could play better than that!

92. KADU: (sulks) You’re mean, Banda. As mean as the boys in the mines in Laboria.

93. SFX: THUNDER IN THE DISTANCE

94. BANDA: (suddenly serious) Kadu, we’re not allowed to talk about the mines! That’s what Aunty Lena and that man Kanyama told us.

95. KADU: But they’re not here! They can’t hear us!

96. BANDA: Maybe they have spies, like in the movies...
(coughs)

97. SFX: LOUD THUNDER, IT STARTS TO RAIN

98. BANDA: Come on, it's raining! Let's run home before we get soaked!

99. KADU/BANDA (THEY LAUGH)

100. SFX: FOOTSTEPS (2 PERSONS) RUNNING ON WET GROUND

101. OUTRO - NARRATOR

That's it for today. Mercy's brothers Kadu and Banda run home laughing, but it seems whatever they experienced in Laboria was no laughing matter. And they're not the only ones who are keeping a secret... Do you want to know something about Dan that Mercy and the others don't? Check our webpage on dw.de/lbe. You'll find a brand new video diary there. But this time, it's not Dan who's recording himself - it's... **(smiling)** No, no, no... if I tell you now, it's not a secret any more! Have a look for yourself, and be sure to tune in next time for our second episode. You can also follow us on Facebook and share your comments with us there. Bye for now!