

Learning by Ear 2013

"Crossroads Generation" – Facing the Consequences

EPISODE 5: In My Dreams

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List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: KADU DREAMS ABOUT LABORIA

- **MERCY (F, 15)**
- **BANDA (M, 8)**
- **KADU (M, 8)**
- **LULU (F, 40)**
- **SUPERVISOR (M, 50)**
- **3 BOYS (M, 10-15)**

SCENE 2: AT THE JUMBES'

- **MRS. JUMBE (F, 35)**
- **JUMBE (M, 45)**
- **NIKI (M, 16)**

SCENE 3: IN DAN'S ROOM

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

SCENE 4: AT THE POLICE STATION

- **LULU (F, 40)**
- **OFFICER MNENE (M, 45)**

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Good to have you back for the next episode of “Crossroads Generation – Facing the Consequences”! Our young heroes have a lot to deal with. There’s Mercy Msoto, a 15-year-old girl who rushed into sex with her classmate Dan and is now pregnant. Dan took the news badly, and he wants her to have an abortion:

2. EPISODE 4, LINES 94 - 96:

***DAN:** Just take the money, get rid of the baby and leave me alone. Do you understand? (...)*

***MERCY:** You can keep your money. I don’t want it!*

***DAN:** Fine! Then leave it there in the dirt. But don’t come crying to me when things get bad.*

3. NARRATOR

Their classmate Niki doesn’t know about this. He’s in love with Mercy, but she rejected him and now he’s taking refuge in drugs. And while Mercy’s father Msoto is being held at the police station on suspicion of robbery, his wife has paid a visit to the local politician Mukaraba, where she made a shocking discovery:

4. EPISODE 3, LINES 49 - 50:

***LULU:** Are you the one Msoto sold my baby to? I want my child back. I want my baby!*

***MUKARABA:** Listen! I paid a lot of money for that baby! And you can't even feed the ones you have!*

5. NARRATOR:

Mercy's mother Lulu can't believe her ears! And not long ago she thought she'd lost her twin sons, too - Mercy's younger brothers, Kadu and Banda! They were supposed to be living with their aunt in the neighbouring country, Laboria, but they came back all by themselves. So what happened to them there? Today's episode is called “In My Dreams”. Let's join Mercy and her brothers at home in bed ...

SCENE 1: KADU DREAMS ABOUT LABORIA

6. ATMO: NIGHT IN THE SLUMS, INDOORS

7. MERCY: (to herself) Oh, I can't sleep! I just can't forget the hateful look Dan gave me when he threw the money at me. Was it the right thing to do, taking money from Dan again? But I couldn't just leave it lying in the dirt, could I... And I don't know what else to do... It still feels so unreal that there's actually a baby growing in my tummy.... Maybe he and my friend Trudy are right. Maybe it really is the only solution.

8. SFX: MERCY TURNING OVER

9. MERCY: (deep breath) I'd better try to get some sleep, like my brothers. Kadu here is sleeping so deeply... I wonder what he's dreaming about...

10. KADU: BREATHING DEEPLY WHILE ASLEEP, MAKES NOISES OF FEELING UNCOMFORTABLE / WHINES IN HIS SLEEP

11. SFX: ECHO-EFFECT FOR ALL VOICES AND SOUNDS IN DREAM

12. SFX: FADE IN MINE ATMO, HAMMERS HITTING HARD SURFACE (VERY RHYTHMICALLY), MACHINES WHIRRING

13. SUPERVISOR: **(unfriendly)** Hey, careful with those rocks, boy! Do you want these caves to collapse and kill us all?

14. KADU: **(grumpy)** But I'm hungry and my hands hurt.

15. SUPERVISOR: We're all hungry, and our hands hurt too, don't they, boys?

16. BOYS: **(Scattered tired voices)** Yes!

KW BEGIN

17. SUPERVISOR: I didn't hear you...

18. BOYS: **(Louder but still tired)** Yes!

19. SUPERVISOR: Hear that? Everybody's hungry. But we have to work if we want to eat. So get back to work! Otherwise there'll be no food for you tonight!

20. BANDA: But, supervisor, my brother Kadu is --

21. SUPERVISOR: *MISTER* Supervisor! Do you understand? I am Mr. Supervisor to you - get that, boy?

22. BANDA: Yes, Mr. Supervisor. I'm sorry.

KW END

23. SUPERVISOR: This had better be the last time you and your brother complain. Do you want to get punished, like that boy yesterday?

- 24. BANDA:** No, Mister Supervisor.
- 25. KADU:** Please don't beat us! **(crying)** I want to go home. I want my mum! Mum, Mum! **(continues to cry for his mum)**
- 26. SFX: MINE ATMO AND SOUNDS FADE OUT WHILE KADU CONTINUES CRYING FOR HIS MUM, ECHO STOPS**
- 27. SFX: NIGHT ATMO AT TANDIKA FADE IN**
- 28. KADU:** Mum, Mum, Mum!
- 29. SFX: STEPS - LULU APPROACHING**
- 30. SFX: RUSTLING OF CLOTHES AS SHE CUDDLES HIM**
- 31. LULU:** Oh! Come here, Kadu, darling! It was just a dream, my baby! It was just a bad dream!
- 32. KADU:** **(cries)** That man is mean, Mama. He made us work so hard, and he wanted to beat us!
- 33. LULU:** Hush, baby! It's all right now. Mama's here now! What did they do to you? And where was your aunt Lena all the time?
- 34. KADU:** She just left us with the man at the mines!
- 35. BANDA:** **(sleepily, coughs)** Kadu? We're safe now...

- 36. LULU:** That's right. You're safe here. And you can tell me everything.
- 37. BANDA:** But Aunty Lena said --
- 38. LULU:** Sssh, Banda. Aunty Lena's not here. And I will protect you. You can tell me everything tomorrow, okay?
- 39. BANDA/KADA:** Okay, Mum!
- 40. LULU:** Now, you two go back to sleep. Mama's here.
- 41. MUSICAL INTERLUDE (soft music)**

SCENE 2: AT THE JUMBES'

- 42. SFX:** Programme on TV
- 43. SFX:** MORNING ATMO AT THE JUMBES'
- 44. MRS. JUMBE:** (Hums to herself)
- 45. SFX:** TABLE BEING SET

KW BEGIN

- 46. MRS. JUMBE:** Why aren't they coming down for breakfast?
(shouts) I said, breakfast is ready! Niki! Jumbe!
Doesn't anyone want to eat today?
- 47. SFX:** FOOTSTEPS COMING DOWN THE STAIRS
- 48. JUMBE:** Good morning, my darling.

49. MRS. JUMBE: There you are!

50. SFX: JUMBE SITS DOWN

51. JUMBE: (pleasantly) You really do like to complain, Mama Niki, don't you?

52. MRS. JUMBE: (offended) I'm not complaining, I'm just telling you that breakfast is ready.

53. JUMBE: (resigned) Arrgh! You know what? Let's just eat.
(hesitates) Where's Niki? Hasn't he woken up? It's ten a.m. He's always been an early riser, even at weekends.

54. MRS. JUMBE: I heard him go into the bathroom half an hour ago. He hasn't come out yet.

55. JUMBE: What is it with that boy and bathrooms nowadays? He practically lives in there!

56. MRS. JUMBE: Your son's growing up, Jumbe. Maybe he's taking a bit more time to groom himself these days. Maybe there's some girl he wants to impress.

KW END

57. SFX: FOOTSEPS AS NIKI WALKS IN

- 58. MRS. JUMBE:** Oh, and here comes Prince Charming! Good morning, Niki.
- 59. NIKI:** **(flatly)** If you say so.
- 60. SFX: NIKI SITS DOWN, CHAIR PULLED OUT**
- 61. JUMBE:** What do you mean, "if you say so"? Your mother said good morning to you and all you can say is "if you say so"?
- 62. NIKI:** Well, maybe it is a good morning for her... For me, it's not.
- 63. MRS. JUMBE:** And why's that, my son?
- 64. NIKI:** None of your business.
- 65. JUMBE:** Don't you dare answer your mother like that! **(slaps him)**
- 66. SFX: SLAP ON FACE**
- 67. NIKI:** **(yelps)** All you ever do is yell at me and hit me!
- 68. SFX: CUTLERY THROWN ON PLATE**
- 69. SFX: NIKI STANDS UP, FAST FOOTSTEPS**
- 70. NIKI: WALKS AWAY SNIFFLING**
- 71. JUMBE:** **(authoritarian)** Niki, come back here! Come back....
- 72. SFX: DOOR OPENED AND BANGED**

73. MRS. JUMBE: **(shouts)** Niki, come back, my son. Where are you going? **(to Jumbe)** You didn't have to slap him!

74. JUMBE: That's enough. You are spoiling that boy, Mama Niki, handling him with kid gloves and pampering him like a baby.

75. MRS. JUMBE: **(gives in)** Fine, whatever you say. I'm sorry. Let's eat breakfast.

76. JUMBE: I've lost my appetite. I'm going to take a shower!

77. SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS JUMBE LEAVES

78. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: IN DAN'S ROOM

79. SFX: BONGO ACADEMY, INSIDE DAN'S ROOM, DAYTIME

(WEEKEND)

80. SFX: SOFT MUSIC HEARD THROUGH HEADPHONES

(LBE-SONG)

81. DAN: (Raps/sings along loudly to music on headphones)

82. SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR

83. BIKO: (from outside) Dan? Daaan!

84. DAN: (Doesn't hear, continues to rap/sing)

85. SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR

86. SFX: DOOR OPENS

87. SFX: FOOTSTEPS ENTERING

88. BIKO: (loudly) Dan, would you keep it down?

89. DAN: (loudly) Biko! Hey, what did you say?

90. BIKO: Take off the headphones!

91. DAN: Oh, sure...

92. SFX: MUSIC GOES SILENT

KW BEGIN

93. DAN: (Lower voice) Sorry, Biko, what did you say?

94. BIKO: Keep the noise down! Principal Juliette might hear you, and then she’d take away your computer. How would we watch our movies then?

95. DAN: Was I too loud?

96. BIKO: **(laughs)** Are you kidding me? I bet the watchman by the gate knows your favourite song by heart!

KW END

97. DAN: I’m just feeling a bit stressed, that’s all.

98. BIKO: Stressed? About the business with Mercy? What’s new?

99. SFX: DAN’S CELLPHONE RINGING

100. DAN: I followed her to Tandika slums last night and gave her the money.

101. BIKO: And then?

102. DAN: I don’t even know if she took it. She just got furious and yelled at me!

103. BIKO: Hey, Dan, don’t you want to take that call? Your phone says ‘Anita’...

104. DAN: **(stressed)** Oh no... Not now! I’ll call her later. Maybe.

105. BIKO: Who's Anita? Any more secrets you haven't told me?

106. DAN: Never mind. She's not important.

107. SFX: CELLPHONE STOPS RINGING

108. DAN: **(sighs)** Biko, I really don't know what to do about
Mercy...

109. BIKO: You know, you haven't been very friendly to her lately.
Sometimes all a girl wants is for us guys to ask
nicely!

110. DAN: What do you mean?

111. BIKO: Listen. This is what you should do... **(fade out)**

112. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: AT THE POLICE STATION

113. ATMO: POLICE STATION

114. LULU: Excuse me, officer. I am Lulu Msoto. I’m here about my stolen child.

115. OFFICER MNENE: You are the one who’s accusing Councillor Mukaraba?

116. LULU: Yes, Officer. How is my daughter? Can I see her, please?

117. MNENE: We don’t keep children here. **(hesitant)** So I assume that she’s with social services. They’ll be here for processing later.

118. LULU: What is processing?

119. MNENE: Just some police work.

120. LULU: How long will it be before they get here?

121. MNENE: Woman, you are interrupting my work. Sit there with rest of the visitors and wait. Can’t you see I’m busy?

KW BEGIN

122. LULU: **(desperately)** But why is it so difficult for me to see my own child? Why are you not helping me?

123. MNENE: **(not amused)** So now you want to teach us how to do our work, do you? Do you want to be a police officer? **(sarcastic)** Fine - why don't you come and sit at my desk and do my job for me!

124. SFX: DESK PUSHED BACK AS HE STANDS

125. LULU: But...

126. MNENE: Come on, what are you waiting for? You be the police officer!

127. LULU: I... I didn't mean --

128. MNENE: Well, then you'd better shut up and let us do our job.

129. LULU: I'm sorry, Officer.

KW END

130. MNENE: **(clicks his tongue)** Go and sit down on one of those benches and wait like everyone else!

131. LULU: Yes, sir!

132. SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS LULU GOES, STOPS

133. LULU: (calls) Officer?

134. MNENE: (agitated, from afar) What now?

135. LULU: Please can I see my husband, Msoto?

136. MNENE: You have to wait until visiting time to talk to one of the suspects. Your husband is accused of robbery, and it looks as if he’s going to be here for quite a while.

137. OUTRO - NARRATOR

So, that’s it for today. Will Lulu continue to fight for her baby girl? And what about Mercy, Niki and Dan? Be sure to tune in again next time if you want to know how their stories continue! By the way: who’s the girl who keeps trying to call Dan? Her name was Anita, right? If you’re curious to know why she’s trying to call, and what she might want to tell Dan about the situation in his home country, Laboria, check out her latest video diary on our webpage: dw.de/lbe. See you around!