

Learning by Ear 2013

"Crossroads Generation" – Facing the Consequences

EPISODE 16: Good News, Bad News

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List of characters by scene:

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- **MERCY (F, 15)**
- **NIKI (M, 16)**

SCENE 2: PUBLIC TELEPHONE

- **DAN (M, 16)**
- **KANYAMA (M, 50)**
- **MAN (M, 40s)**

SCENE 3: MERCY HAS GOOD NEWS

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

SCENE 4: TRUDY IS RAPED BY MANOTI

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

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hey there - welcome back to “Crossroads Generation”, a radio drama about a group of African teenagers. We’re in the middle of the second season, called “Facing the Consequences”. Before we start this sixteenth episode, let’s look back quickly at where we left off. Trudy has moved in with her much older boyfriend Manoti:

KW BEGIN

2. EPISODE 13, LINES 9 – 10:

MANOTI: *Welcome to your new home, Trudy. Or should I say...*

Mrs. Manoti? How do you like the sound of that, eh? (...)

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

KW END

3. NARRATOR:

Niki, Mercy and Dan are still suspended from school, for various reasons: Niki for drug abuse, Dan and Mercy because they slept together and Mercy is now pregnant. Dan couldn't go back to his home country Laboria because the situation after the civil war there is still very unstable, and he hasn't been able to reach his father, either. Meanwhile, Mercy's mother has been trying everything to help her daughter go back to school. She even talked to the head teacher:

KW BEGIN

4. EPISODE 14, LINES 49 – 57:

LULU: (...) *My daughter is the great hope of our family. She's the only one who's had any higher education. Please give her another chance, Principal Juliette! (...)*

JULIETTE (57): (...) *It's not me who has the final say on this, it's the school disciplinary board.*

KW END

5. NARRATOR:

What's next for Trudy, Mercy, Niki and Dan? The start of this episode, called "Good News, Bad News", finds Mercy at home in Tandika slums, washing the dishes...

SCENE 1: NIKI BRINGS MERCY A LETTER

6. ATMO: TANDIKA SLUMS, DAYTIME, INSIDE MERCY'S HOUSE

7. SFX: UTENSILS BEING WASHED IN A BUCKET (NO RUNNING WATER)

8. MERCY (HUMS AS SHE WASHES UTENSILS)

9. SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR

10. MERCY: It's open!

11. SFX: DOOR OPENS

12. NIKI: Hi, Mercy!

13. SFX: STOPS WASHING

14. MERCY: (**Surprised**) Niki! What are you doing here?

KW BEGIN

15. NIKI: May I come in?

16. MERCY: (**Embarrassed**) I ... umm ... sure! The house is a bit of a mess; I was just clearing up...

KW END

17. SFX: DOOR CLOSING

18. SFX: FOOTSTEPS NIKI

19. NIKI: I haven't seen you since the day Principal Juliette suspended us. How are you?

20. MERCY: (**shyly**) I'm fine. And you?

21. NIKI: Yeah, yeah, me too. I stopped drinking and smoking. You know, they've said I can go back to school again!

22. MERCY: (**polite**) That's good.

23. SILENCE

24. NIKI: And how's it going with... you know?

25. MERCY: (**uncomfortable**) It's okay... Niki, what can I do for you?

26. NIKI: My dad and I went to see Principal Juliette, and she gave us this letter for you.

27. MERCY: Let me just dry my hands.

28. SFX: HANDS DRIED ON CLOTHES

29. SFX: PAPER RUSTLE AS LETTER IS HANDED OVER

30. MERCY: Thanks.

KW BEGIN

31. NIKI: **(unsure)** You know... Dad wanted to give it to our new watchman, because he lives around here, but I ... I insisted on bringing it because ... well... because I wanted to see you.

32. MERCY: **(confused)** To see me? Why?

KW END

33. NIKI: I miss you, Mercy.

34. MERCY: Niki, I... You're making me very uncomfortable.

35. NIKI: I'm sorry. I didn't mean to. But I thought I should just be open with you and tell you how I feel.

36. MERCY: **(chuckles uncomfortably)** Niki, I really don't feel comfortable having this talk with you.

37. NIKI: **(pause)** Yeah... okay. I have to go now, anyway. Bye, Mercy.

38. SFX: FOOTSTEPS

39. MERCY: Bye, Niki.

40. SFX: DOOR OPENS CLOSES

41. MERCY: (to herself) You are so dumb, Mercy! You should have chosen him instead of Dan. He's so sweet! And he really cares. (sighs) I wonder what's in the Principal's letter ...

42. SFX: OPENS LETTER

43. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: DAN AT PUBLIC TELEPHONE

44. ATMO: BUSY TOWN, PEOPLE & TRAFFIC

45. DAN: (to himself) I'd never have thought that I, Dan Kanyama, would ever have to use a public phone again! (sighs) Oh, man!

46. SFX: PHONE IN PUBLIC PHONE BOOTH BEING PICKED UP

47. SFX: COINS BEING INSERTED

48. SFX: DIALS

49. SFX: RINGING TONE

50. SFX: PHONE BEING PICKED AT THE OTHER END

51. KANYAMA: (on phone, bad connection) Hello?

52. DAN: Hello, Dad! Dad!

53. KANYAMA: Dan! How are you, my boy?

- 54. DAN:** **(eager)** Oh thank God, Dad, where have you been? I haven't been able to reach you for months. And all Mum said was that you had to take care of the business.
- 55. KANYAMA:** Did you speak to her? Is she okay at her parents' place?
- 56. DAN:** **(confused)** I think so. But you're the one who's married to her. You should know...
- 57. KANYAMA:** **(serious tone)** Listen, Dan, don't tell your mother, but things have not been good here. I'm in hiding.
- 58. DAN:** In hiding? Why? What happened?
- 59. KANYAMA:** Haven't you been following the news? The army has taken over the country! We've lost all our mines to the new government.
- 60. DAN:** **(shocked)** What? We lost everything?
- 61. KANYAMA:** Yes, son, everything. **(deep breath)** And the police are looking for me...
- 62. DAN:** What? Why?
- 63. KANYAMA:** **(uncomfortable)** For financial crimes... and... and child labour.

64. DAN: **(shocked)** Dad! Is that true? What did you do? I can't believe you'd --

65. KANYAMA: **(lying, waves it off)** Of course it's not true! But I need to keep my head down for a while, until it all blows over. **(sighs)** Anyway... How's school ?

66. DAN: **(hesitant)** Dad, I... I... need to tell you something.

KW BEGIN

67. MAN: **(shouts from behind)** Hey, young man! Hurry up in there! This is a public phone booth. If you want to make long calls, buy yourself a cellphone!

KW END

68. DAN: Dad, listen to me. I was suspended from school.

69. KANYAMA: What? Why?

70. DAN: Some girl accused me of getting her pregnant. I didn't do it, I swear!

71. KANYAMA: What the hell is wrong with you, Dan? I waste my money sending you to an expensive school – the idea is for you to study, not get girls pregnant!

72. DAN: Dad, I swear, it wasn't me!

73. KANYAMA: **(angry)** Don't lie to me! **(pause)** Where have you been living? How have you been eating?

74. DAN: My friend Biko's been putting me up in his room and sneaking food from the school canteen for me. But now he's had enough and told me to go away.

KW BEGIN

75. KANYAMA: Is that principal of yours a monster? How can she suspend you when she knows about the situation in Laboria?

76. DAN: She knows Uncle William lives here. She told me to go to his place until things calmed down. But I don't like him!

77. MAN: **(from behind)** Hey, hurry up in there!

KW END

78. KANYAMA: Dan, I know we Kanyamas are proud people. But these are desperate times. Go to your uncle's place in Kisimba and stay there until I've sorted things out over here. Do you hear me?

79. DAN: But, Dad --

80. KANYAMA: Dan, just for once, will you do as I say! I have to go now. Goodbye...

KW BEGIN

81. SFX: CLICK AS CALL IS CUT AT THE OTHER END.

82. DAN: Dad... wait! Arrgh! Come on! **(bangs the telephone receiver against phone booth in anger)**

83. SFX: TELEPHONE RECEIVER HIT SEVERAL TIMES IN ANGER

84. MAN: **(shouts)** Hey, you! Don't break the phone! We want to use it, too!

KW END

85. DAN: **(deep breath, to the man)** Okay, okay...
(to himself, sarcastically) Thanks a lot, Dad. I guess I don't have any choice.

86. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: MERCY HAS GOOD NEWS

KW BEGIN

87. MERCY/KADU: (sing happily, song can be replaced with regional song) "...If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands!"

88. SFX: CLAP CLAP

89. KADU: "If you're happy and you know it, stamp your feet!"

90. SFX: STAMP STAMP

91. MERCY: "If you're happy and you know it, stamp your feet!"

92. MERCY/KADU: "If you're happy and you know it and you really want to show it, if you're happy and you know it, stamp your feet!"

93. SFX: STAMP STAMP

KW END

94. MERCY/KADU: LAUGH

95. SFX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES, FOOTSTEPS ENTER

96. LULU: Hello, Mercy and Kadu. What's going on?

KW BEGIN

97. MERCY: (innocently) Nothing, Mama. Is it a crime to be happy? We're just singing!

98. LULU: **(not convinced)** It's such a long time since I saw anybody smile in here. Kadu, tell me: why's your sister so happy?

99. KADU/MERCY: **(laugh)**

100. LULU: Come on, you two, tell me! Otherwise it's no sweets for you tomorrow...

101. MERCY: **(laughing)** Kadu, don't tell her, she's lying. She couldn't afford them, anyway...

KW END

102. KADU: **(cuts in)** Mercy got a letter from Principal Juliette. She's going back to school!

103. LULU: **(happily)** What?

104. MERCY: **(happily)** Kadu, really! You just can't keep a secret!

105. KADU: **(laughs)** I'm going out to play! **(continues to sing the song as he leaves)**

106. SFX: FOOTSTEPS - KADU LEAVES

107. SFX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

108. LULU: What happened?

109. MERCY: Principal Juliette wrote me a letter. The board of directors has agreed that I can go back, on certain conditions.

110. LULU: Oh, my daughter, that's wonderful news!

111. MERCY: Yes, isn't it? But what about you? Have you been to the police station again? What are you doing there all the time?

KW BEGIN

112. LULU: **(sighs) (to herself)** I'm so sick of that police station. Every time I go there they tell me they're "still processing".

113. MERCY: What are they processing? Is it something to do with Dad?

114. LULU: No, it's not really about your father.

KW END **(sighs)** Maybe it's time I told you the truth. **(low voice)** It's about your sister.

115. MERCY: But I don't have a sister!

116. LULU: Remember when I gave birth months ago?

117. MERCY: Yes, and the little baby died!

118. LULU: **(deep breath)** No, she didn't. She's still alive, and I'm fighting to get her back! Your father... Your father sold her.

119. MERCY: **(gasps)**

120. MUSICAL INTERLUDE (tense music)

SCENE 4: TRUDY IS RAPED BY MANOTI

121. ATMO: NIGHT ATMO, INSIDE MANOTI'S HOUSE

KW BEGIN

122. SFX: PEN SCRIBBLING ON PAPER

123. MANOTI: **(shouts from the bedroom)** Pretty Trudy, aren't you coming to bed?

124. TRUDY: **(shouts, distractedly)** Manoti, just let me finish my homework, I'll be there soon!

125. MANOTI: Come on. You've been sitting at that desk for two hours now.

126. TRUDY: Have a little patience, my dear, I'll be there before you know it. **(to herself)** Gosh! Can't he just go to sleep and leave me alone?

127. MANOTI: What? I didn't hear you.

128. **TRUDY:** **(shouts)** I said just give me a few minutes.
129. **MANOTI:** That's what you said two hours ago. If you don't come to bed, I'll come and get you myself.
130. **TRUDY:** **(silent, keeps writing)**
131. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS - MANOTI APPROACHES**
132. **MANOTI:** **(sweetly)** Are you ignoring me, you pretty thing?
133. **SFX: PEN DROPPED**
134. **SFX: CLOTHES RUSTLING AS MANOTI GRABS TRUDY**
135. **MANOTI:** **(acts out carrying someone)** Come here! I told you I'd come and get you if you carried on ignoring me.
136. **TRUDY:** **(laughing)** Put me down! Put me down, I said! Please, Manoti! I need to finish my homework. Put me down.
137. **MANOTI:** No chance. It's time to sleep.
138. **TRUDY:** **(still laughing)** Okay, okay...
- KW END***
139. **MANOTI:** Come here, Trudy, you lovely thing! Give me a kiss....
140. **SFX: THEY KISS**
141. **MANOTI:** **(seductively)** Come on, let's go to bed...
142. **TRUDY:** Manoti, wait. I think we should use protection. I don't want to end up pregnant like my friend Mercy.

- 143. MANOTI:** Come on, Trudy. We're living together. That means we're just like husband and wife. We don't need those stupid things.
- 144. TRUDY:** **(not amused)** Manoti, please. We've talked about this before. How many times do we have to argue about it?
- 145. MANOTI:** **(angry)** As often as it takes for you to understand that you are now my wife. And as my wife, you should obey me. **(roughly)** Come here!
- 146. SFX: COMMOTION AS TRUDY IS PUSHED AND PULLED**
- 147. SFX: SOUND OF SOMEONE LYING / SITTING ON BED**
- 148. TRUDY:** Ow! You're hurting me! Let go of my arm!
- 149. SFX: COMMOTION**
- 150. MANOTI:** **(angry)** Come here, Trudy! I'm tired of this charade!
Move!
- 151. TRUDY:** No! I don't want to sleep with you now! Let go!
- 152. SFX: RUSTLING OF CLOTHES**
- 153. TRUDY:** No! No, Manoti, please! You're hurting me. No!
(fade out)

154. OUTRO - NARRATOR

What started out as a little fun has suddenly turned into a nightmare for Trudy. She's being raped by her boyfriend, someone she lives with and trusts. That trust has now been brutally destroyed by him refusing to accept her saying no. Meanwhile, things are finally starting to look better for Mercy. Don't forget to tune in next time to find out where the story takes us. If you'd like to listen to this or any other episode again, just go to our website at dw.de/lbe. You can also follow us on Facebook. Take care!