

**Learning by Ear 2013**

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

EPISODE 23: You Deserve Some Laughter

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**List of characters by scene:**

**INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR**

**SCENE 1: ANITA AND THE GIRLS ARRIVE IN TANDIKA**

- LULU (F, 40)
- MERCY (F, 15)
- ANITA (F, 16)
- TRUDY (F, 15)
- JULIA (F, 15)
- 3 MORE GIRLS (15/16)

**SCENE 2: BIKO AND DAN WORKING OUTSIDE**

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

**SCENE 3: LULU AND THE GIRLS TALK BUSINESS**

- LULU (F, 40)
- MERCY (F, 15)
- ANITA (F, 16)
- TRUDY (F, 15)
- JULIA (F, 15)
- 3 MORE GIRLS (15/16)

## **INTRO**

### **1. NARRATOR:**

Good to have you back for a new episode of “Crossroads Generation – Facing the Consequences”. Before we start the 23<sup>rd</sup> episode in this series, let’s quickly look back at what’s happened so far:

Dan and Mercy are in the same class at Bongo Academy. Some months ago they had unprotected sex, and Mercy got pregnant. Now Dan’s girlfriend Anita from his home country, Laboria, has showed up as an exchange student at Bongo Academy. And while she and Mercy actually became friends, Dan seems to have lost both girls:

### **2. EPISODE 22, LINES 117 – 120:**

**DAN:** (...) Anita, I need you back in my life.

**ANITA:** What? Are you out of your mind, Dan?

**DAN:** Anita, I’m so sorry about what happened with Mercy. I really regret it! She meant nothing to me!

**ANITA:** Dan, you are disgusting!

### **3. NARRATOR:**

Mercy’s mother Lulu also has a lot on her mind. Her husband Msoto has been held at the police station for months on suspicion of robbery. And Lulu’s found out that, almost a year ago ago, he sold their newborn baby to a local politician. She’s been spending a lot of time at the police station trying to get her daughter back:

***KW BEGIN***

### **4. EPISODE 22, LINES 16 – 17:**

***LULU:*** *Don’t tell me about processing, Officer! (...) I just want to see my little girl!*

***MNENE:*** *Madam, please keep your voice down. My new boss will hear you. And I’m sure she won’t be amused.*

***KW END***

### **5. NARRATOR:**

But today’s going to be a good day for Lulu, although she doesn’t know it yet. Sit back and enjoy the surprise in today’s episode, called “You Deserve Some Laughter”.

**SCENE 1: ANITA AND THE GIRLS ARRIVE IN TANDIKA**

**6. ATMO: TANDIKA SLUMS, INSIDE MERCY'S HUT**

**7. GIRLS: HEARD CHATTING OUTSIDE (FROM INSIDE)**

**8. SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR**

**9. LULU:** Come in, it's open!

**10. SFX: DOOR OPENS, FOOTSTEPS OF MANY PEOPLE**

**11. LULU:** Oh, hello girls! Are you all here to see Mercy?

Welcome! **(shouts to Mercy)** Mercy, your friends are here!

**12. ANITA:** Hello, Mama Mercy. I'm Anita, and this is Trudy, Julia, Joyce, Damaris and Suzan. We all go to the same youth centre.

**13. GIRLS:** Hello, Mama Mercy... Hi, Mercy!

**14. MERCY:** **(surprised)** Hello, girls! What a surprise! What are you all doing here?

**15. GIRLS: HUGS AND HAND CLAPS AS THEY GREET EACH OTHER**

**16. LULU:** **(to the girls):** Wow, we haven't had so many visitors in a very long time! Please, take a seat! The house is small, but you're welcome to sit on the bed, and some of you can sit on these water containers...

**17. SFX: WATER CONTAINERS MOVED ON GROUND**

**18. SFX: CHAIRS CREAK**

**19. SFX: PEOPLE SITTING DOWN (CLOTHES RUSTLE)**

**20. SFX: BED CREAKING**

**21. MERCY:** It's nice that you came to visit me!

**22. ANITA:** Well, actually, we're here to see your mother!

**23. MERCY/LULU:** What?

**24. ANITA:** Mama Mercy, this visit is part of our outreach program.

**25. MERCY:** **(sudden realization)** Oh, girls, you are bad! All of you!  
How come I didn't know you were coming round? We  
planned the whole outreach program together!

**26. ANITA:** Tell you about it and ruin the surprise? No way, Mercy!

**27. GIRLS:** **(chuckle)**

**28. LULU:** Okay, girls, so tell me... This outreach thing: what are  
you reaching out for?

**29. GIRLS:** **(stifled laughter)**

***KW BEGIN***

**30. MERCY:** **(embarrassed, whispers to Lulu)** Mum! You're  
embarrassing me!

**31. LULU:** **(loudly)** Come on, my daughter, is it wrong to ask?

**32. ANITA:** It's fine – I didn't know what it was either until I trained as a peer counsellor.

**33. LULU:** **(agrees)** Exactly! Asking isn't foolish – if there's something you don't understand, surely it's foolish *not* to ask?

***KW END***

**34. ANITA:** Mama Mercy, what we do is called community outreach. We visit people in the community and help them out at weekends.

**35. LULU:** But what can you do in this house? I manage very well here. It's a small house.

**36. ANITA:** We want to show our hardworking mothers some appreciation. Mama Mercy, today you will take a break from all the housework. We'll do all the cooking, the washing, and all the other chores. You deserve some rest, and some laughter.

**37. LULU:** Uh-huh... Well, that sounds interesting. But what am I supposed to do? I'm not used to sitting around all day.

**38. ANITA:** But today that's exactly what you're going to do. Trudy, set up the Mummy folding chair.

**39. TRUDY:** Sure.

**40. SFX: FOLDING CHAIR UNFOLDED.**

**41. LULU:** What's that?

**42. ANITA:** We came up with this special chair where the mothers we visit sit while we do the chores. We call it the Mummy folding chair, and Trudy is in charge of the mummies.

**43. GIRLS LAUGH**

**44. TRUDY:** Mama Mercy, you will relax outside in this chair while we do everything that needs doing for you. Just sit there and shout if you need anything.

**45. LULU:** **(happily)** Okay. Well, I might as well enjoy it, I suppose. I don't remember the last time I just sat down.

**46. SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS TRUDY AND LULU GO OUT**

**47. GIRLS LAUGH**

***KW BEGIN***

**48. ANITA:**           **(shouts after them)** Oh, and we brought food, too, so you don't have to worry about feeding us. **(to the girls)** Okay, girls, we'll divide ourselves into groups. Julia, Suzan and Joyce, you're in group A with Trudy. Mercy, Damaris and me, we're group B. Group A, please take the charcoal burner outside. We'll cook outside today.

**49. JULIA:**           But charcoal burners aren't environmentally-friendly, Anita.

**50. ANITA:**           Good point, Julia. We should discuss that in our next meeting – how we could go about introducing environmentally-friendly cooking methods. But we will use the burner today. Group B, we'll give the house a thorough spring-clean. Okay, everyone, let's get to work!

**51. SFX: UTENSILS UNPACKED, RUSTLING ETC.**

***KW END***

**52. MUSICAL INTERLUDE (HAPPY MUSIC)**



**SCENE 2: BIKO AND DAN ARE WORKING OUTSIDE**

**53. ATMO: BONGO ACADEMY: EXTERIOR, WEEKEND, QUIET ENVIRONMENT**

**54. SFX: CLOTHES BEING WASHED IN BIG BASIN BY HAND**

**55. BIKO:** (to himself) Man! I hate doing laundry! Ruins the whole weekend here at boarding school...

**56. SFX: STEPS DAN APPROACHING**

**57. DAN:** (trying to be friendly) Hey, Biko, how's the laundry going?

**58. BIKO:** (indifferent) Hi, Dan. Fine, thanks.

**59. DAN:** Man, I hate working at weekends! I still have to hoe the flower garden...

**60. SFX: HOE AS SOMEONE DIGS WET EARTH**

**61. DAN:** Part of my stupid punishment... (laughs but Biko doesn't. Pause) Okay, I can see you're very busy.

**62. BIKO:** (still indifferent) Yeah. Well, if I don't do it, who'll do it for me?

**63. DAN:** Can't you find some girl to do it for you?

**64. BIKO:** (not amused) What? - Pfff.... I thought you'd changed, man!

**65. DAN:**           **(ignores the comment)** Hey, maybe we can play  
basketball later?

***KW BEGIN***

**66. BIKO**           **(No response)**

**67. DAN:**           Listen, Biko, I really miss hanging out with you.

**68. BIKO:**           **(sarcastic)** Really?

**69. DAN:**           **(sighs)** I know I've been stupid and arrogant, but I'm  
sorry! Please talk to me again! You're my only friend  
here in Kisimba...

***KW END***

**70. BIKO:**           You know, Dan, I think you should change the way you  
behave. I mean, you take so many things for granted.

**71. DAN:**           Biko, my man. What's happened to you? I already said  
I was sorry! You're acting like a sissy! Has my girl  
Anita been putting all this nonsense in your head?

**72. BIKO:**           **(annoyed)** See what I mean? You'll never change.  
Even being punished hasn't made any difference. And  
Anita's not your girl any more.

**73. DAN:**           At least I'm carrying out my punishment like a man!

**74. BIKO:** (sarcastic) In the flower garden – right! You know what, Dan? Just leave me alone. I guess you and me can't be friends any more.

**75. DAN:** Fine! Whatever!

**76. SFX: FOOTSTEPS - DAN WALKS OFF ANGRILY**

**77. SFX: WASHING SOUNDS AS BIKO CONTINUES WITH LAUNDRY**

**78. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

### **SCENE 3: LULU AND THE GIRLS TALK BUSINESS**

**79. ATMO: TANDIKA SLUM ATMO, OUTSIDE**

**80. SFX: CUTLERY ON PLATES AS THEY EAT**

**81. LULU:** (happily) Mmm. That was delicious, girls! (jokes) Who cooked this? Can I swap her with my daughter? Mercy can go and live with *her* parents, and she can stay here.

**82. GIRLS LAUGH**

***KW BEGIN***

**83. MERCY:**           **(jokes)** Yeah, right! Maybe it would a good idea to exchange mums too, because mine seems to be enjoying the Mummy chair a bit too much. I'm afraid that after you all go I'm going to be doing all the chores around here!

**84. GIRLS LAUGH**

***KW END***

**85. LULU:**           I'm very happy you came, girls. I can't remember the last time I laughed so much.

**86. ANITA:**       We're very happy you allowed us to come, Mama Mercy. But we didn't come here just to cook, eat and have a good time. We also wanted to discuss something with you.

**87. LULU:**       What is it, Anita?

**88. ANITA:**       **(struggling)** Hmm, how can I put this... At the youth centre, we also discuss ways of improving our families' financial status.

***KW BEGIN***

**89. LULU:**       **(upset)** What do you mean? Are you saying we're poor? Mercy, what have you been telling your friends?

**90. MERCY:**           **(embarrassed)** Nothing, Mum!

**91. ANITA:**           Please, Mama Mercy, I didn't mean to offend you. But we know it can't be easy for you, taking care of Mercy and her brothers all by yourself...

**92. LULU:**           **(cuts in)** You're right, it's not easy. But I think I still manage.

**93. MERCY:**           Of course you do, Mama!

***KW END***

**94. ANITA:**           But just imagine, Mama Mercy, if you had your own little business...

**95. LULU:**           Oh, of course that would be wonderful! But it's impossible. I left school too early to know anything about that.

**96. ANITA:**           Just because you didn't finish school doesn't mean you don't know anything!

**97. MERCY:**           Anita's right, Mum! You know so much! You know all about the vegetables from our grandparents' garden, for example.

***KW BEGIN***

**98. LULU:** That's true... I always liked helping my parents in their garden. My mother still grows a lot of vegetables upcountry --

**99. MERCY:** **(cuts in)** Yes! And usually they just rot in the ground because no one can eat them all!

**100. LULU:** Yes... it's a shame...

**101. ANITA:** You know, Mama Mercy, here in the city, people pay good money for vegetables. More than upcountry!

**102. LULU:** That's true...

**103. MERCY:** So Mum, why don't you go into the vegetable business?

**104. GIRLS:** **(they all agree)**

**105. LULU:** Oh girls, I don't know. Where would I get the money to start a project like that?

**106. ANITA:** You could start small!

**107. LULU:** What do you mean?

***KW END***

**108. ANITA:** What if you brought vegetables from upcountry and sold them here in the city? All you'd need to do is transport them here. You could start by selling them on the market – having your own shop comes later...

**109. MERCY:** That's a really good idea, Mum. In fact, we wouldn't even have to pay that much for transport. Mosy the wholesaler supplies the shops upcountry. He could bring the vegetables for us, because his truck comes back empty after he's supplied the shops.

**110. LULU:** **(thoughtfully)** Hmm! I never thought of that. I should come and study at that school of yours. You girls are too clever for your own good!

**111. GIRLS LAUGH**

***KW BEGIN***

**112. LULU:** Now, if you don't mind I'll just help myself to some more meat – it's too delicious.

**113. TRUDY:** **(commanding)** Sit back in the Mummy chair! No mum is allowed to get off that chair until I say so! Not on my watch. **(to Julia)** Julia, fetch Mama Mercy some more meat!

**114. JULIA:** (jokes) Yes, sir! (clears her throat) ...Madam.

**115. GIRLS** (laugh)

**116. LULU:** (shouts) But please keep some for my sons Kadu and Banda. They always come back hungry from playing – I don't want them eating me!

**117. GIRLS LAUGH**

***KW END***

**118. OUTRO – NARRATOR:**

Some laughter at last at the Msoto residence, thanks to Anita and the girls from the youth centre. So what about the idea for Lulu's new project? Will she follow it up? Join us again for the next episode to find out. If you want to listen to this episode again, you can easily do so on our webpage, [dw.de/lbe](http://dw.de/lbe). You're also welcome to join our discussions on Facebook. And if you want to check out the real-life stories making headlines in Africa, listen to DW's radio show Africalink, or check out the website on [dw.de/Africa](http://dw.de/Africa).

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