

**Learning by Ear 2013**

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

**EPISODE 17: What's Happening to Me?**

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**List of characters by scene:**

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**SCENE 1: BANDA IN HOSPITAL IN A BAD STATE**

- LULU (F, 40)
- BANDA (M, 8)
- KADU (M, 8)

**SCENE 2: NIKI AND HIS FATHER HAVE A TALK**

- JUMBE (M, 45)
- NIKI (M, 16)

**SCENE 3: ANITA AND BIKO TALK AT BONGO ACADEMY**

- ANITA (F, 16)
- BIKO (M, 16)
- JAEL (F, 15)

**SCENE 4: DR. ROBERTS TALKS TO LULU AND MERCY**

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

## **INTRO**

### **1. NARRATOR:**

Hello! Great that you’ve tuned in again to “Crossroads Generations”! We’re on the second season, called “Facing the Consequences”, and we’d better get started with today’s episode! First, though, a quick recap of what’s happened so far... Exchange student Anita has arrived at Bongo Academy high school - and she’s looking for a particular person:

### **2. EPISODE 15, LINES 65 – 69:**

***ANITA:** Um - may I ask you something, Principal Juliette? (...) Do you know Dan Kanyama?*

***JULIETTE:** Yes, of course. Actually, Dan is one of the students we suspended.*

***ANITA:** What? Why?*

### **3. NARRATOR:**

The reason is rather delicate: Dan slept with his classmate Mercy, who’s now pregnant. She too has been suspended. And so has their classmate Niki – for drug abuse. But in the last episode he brought Mercy a letter from the head teacher telling her that she could come back to school. And that wasn’t the only news Niki had for her:

**4. EPISODE 16, LINES 33 – 34:**

**NIKI:** *Mercy, I miss you.*

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

**5. NARRATOR:**

Mercy's younger brother Banda is suffering from tuberculosis. He's being treated in hospital, which is where his mother and his twin brother Kadu are visiting him at the moment. Let's join them for this seventeenth episode called “What's Happening to Me?”...

**SCENE 1: BANDA IN HOSPITAL IN A BAD STATE**

**6. ATMO:**                   **HOSPITAL ATMO, INSIDE BANDA'S ROOM**

**7. LULU:**                   Banda, you haven't eaten much! I cooked this porridge specially for you! **(whispers)** I know the hospital food tastes like cow dung.

**8. BANDA:**               **(laughs weakly)** I wasn't hungry, mum! I actually feel a bit sick...

**9. KADU:**                   **(animated)** Banda, my brother, when you get well again, I'll take you to that shop in Tandika where they show movies, and we'll ask the owner to show the movie "Anaconda"!

***KW BEGIN***

**10. BANDA:**               **(still weak)** What's "Anaconda"?

**11. KADU:**               It is an enormous snake! It coils itself round and round and then it swallows people and spits them out again!

**12. BANDA:**               Wow. Sounds great! Have you already seen it?

**13. KADU:**               Yes. The shop owner let me in for free because I helped him tidy the place up. I told him about you, and he said --

***KW END***

**14. LULU:**               Kadu, stop bothering your brother and help me pack these things away. Visiting time is almost over, and the doctor will be here soon to examine Banda.

**15. SFX: UTENSILS GATHERED**

16. **BANDA:** Mama, I'm not feeling well... I think I -- **(pukes)**
17. **SFX: SOUND OF SOMEONE PUKING**
18. **KADU:** **(disgusted and amused at the same time)**  
Eeeeeh, Banda! Just like Anaconda!
19. **LULU:** **(concerned)** Banda, my son! Oooh, my poor boy!  
**(to Kadu)** Quick, Kadu, go and call Dr. Roberts!
20. **SFX: RUNNING STEPS AS KADU LEAVES**
21. **SFX: DOOR BEING OPENED AND CLOSED**
22. **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

## **SCENE 2: NIKI AND HIS FATHER TALK**

23. **SFX: CAR STARTING (HEARD FROM INSIDE)**
24. **ATMO: INSIDE MOVING VEHICLE**
25. **JUMBE:** **(friendly)** So, Niki, did you enjoy the swimming?
26. **NIKI:** Very much, Dad. I love swimming.
27. **JUMBE:** How come you don't swim more regularly if you like it so much? You could join a team!

28. **NIKI:** I don't know. I guess it's just never crossed my mind. I always thought I wasn't very good at sports.
29. **JUMBE:** Think about it, okay?
30. **NIKI:** Okay.
31. **SILENCE**
32. **NIKI:** Dad?
33. **JUMBE:** Yes, son.
34. **NIKI:** Why does everyone hate me?
35. **JUMBE:** **(startled)** What? Why? **(realizes)** Is this about that girl?
36. **NIKI:** **(annoyed)** Oh, forget it. I don't even know why I asked you.
37. **JUMBE:** Let me park here by the side of the road so we can talk.
38. **SFX: CAR COMES TO A HALT, ENGINE SWITCHED OFF**

**39. JUMBE:** Listen, son. I know I've been tough on you lately. But that doesn't mean I hate you! Far from it. I'm very proud of you, Niki - and I'm especially proud of you for stopping taking drugs.

***KW BEGIN***

**40. NIKI:** **(hesitant)** But why do girls avoid me?

**41. JUMBE:** I know you're at a stage where these things start to really bother you. But you should never lose your self-esteem.

**42. NIKI:** I haven't lost my self-esteem. I was just asking.

**43. JUMBE:** Oh yes, you have. The fact that you've been using alcohol and marijuana are proof enough of that.

***KW END***

**44. NIKI:** I'm sorry I embarrassed you and mum. And it really gave me a shock when I was suspended from school...

**45. JUMBE:** Principal Juliette has given you another chance. Promise me you'll never touch those drugs again!

46. **NIKI:** I promise. You know I've stopped now.
47. **JUMBE:** I'd like to make you a promise, too. As long as you don't go back to taking drugs, you'll never see me lay a hand on you in anger again. Okay? C'mon – give me five.
48. **NIKI:** **(embarrassed)** Dad, you're embarrassing me.
49. **JUMBE:** Come on, Niki my boy, there's no one here to see.  
Give your old man a hand!
50. **JUMBE/NIKI: CLAP (HIGH FIVE). THEY LAUGH.**
51. **SFX: CAR STARTS AGAIN AND DRIVES OFF**
52. **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**



**SCENE 3: ANITA TALKS TO BIKO IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

**53. SFX: ATMO IN SCHOOL LIBRARY (SILENT, PAPERS BEING SHUFFLED, BOOK PAGES TURNED OVER)**

**54. SFX: PEN SCRIBBLING ON PAPER**

**55. BIKO:** (murmuring to himself) Man, this homework really sucks. I hate spending my afternoons in the school library!

**56. SFX: FOOTSTEPS - ANITA APPROACHES**

**57. ANITA:** Hello, you're Biko, right?

**58. BIKO:** (not very friendly) Hi, Anita.

**59. ANITA:** (trying to start a conversation) It's so hard to remember everyone's names! But I'm trying my best... Do you mind if I sit next to you?

**60. BIKO:** No, but I really have to concentrate here. Otherwise I'll never finish!

**61. SFX: ANITA SITS DOWN ON WOODEN CHAIR**

**62. SFX: PEN SCRIBBLING ON PAPER AGAIN**

**63. ANITA:** Biko?

64. **BIKO:** (continues writing) Hmmm?
65. **ANITA:** You know Dan and the others who've been suspended from our class, right?
66. **BIKO:** Mm-hmm...
67. **ANITA:** Have you heard from them? I mean, do you know if they're coming back?
68. **BIKO:** I don't know.
69. **ANITA:** Is it true what everybody's saying? I mean... about why Dan and this girl have been suspended?
70. **BIKO:** Anita, I really need to work now.
71. **SFX: PEN SCRIBBLING ON PAPER**
72. **ANITA:** (sighs) All right. I guess I should do the same.
73. **JAEL:** (whispering loudly from afar) Hey, Anita, I can tell you exactly why they've been suspended! It's one of the best bits of gossip in the school...
74. **ANITA:** (interested) Oh, hello Jael.
75. **BIKO:** Ssssh! This is a library!

**76. JAEL:** (coming closer, whispering) Come on, Anita, let's go outside...

(fade out)

**77. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 4: DR. ROBERTS TALKS TO LULU AND LATER TO MERCY**

**78. ATMO: HOSPITAL ATMO, INSIDE DR. ROBERT'S OFFICE**

**79. LULU:** (sniffles)

**80. DR. ROBERTS:** Have a seat, Lulu.

**81. SFX: CHAIR SCRAPING**

**82. LULU:** Thank you, Dr. Roberts. I'm so worried about my son Banda. First there was all the coughing, then he had this TB thing, and even here in hospital he doesn't seem to be getting better! And he's been here for so long!

**83. DR. ROBERTS:** **(serious tone)** Mama Banda, your son was in a very bad state when he came here. He was underfed, his body was very weak, and he was very sick with TB. Because the disease was detected rather late, it had had plenty of time to weaken him, which is why he's taking longer than usual to get well. Luckily, his life is no longer in danger, but his condition is still worrying.

**84. LULU:** **(starts to cry)** Oh, my son!

**85. DR. ROBERTS:** Lulu, please don't cry. The medicine is helping him. But they're very strong drugs, so they can have strong side effects. That's why he feels nauseous sometimes. But he should be better soon.

**86. SFX: KNOCK ON THE DOOR**

**87. DR. ROBERTS:** Yes?

**88. SFX: DOOR OPENS**

**89. MERCY:** Hello, Dr. Roberts! Mum!

**90. SFX: DOOR CLOSED, STEPS MERCY ENTER**

**91. LULU:** Mercy, my daughter!

**92. MERCY:** The nurse told me you were here with Dr. Roberts.  
What's going on? Is Banda all right?

**93. LULU:** Oh, Mercy!

**94. DR. ROBERTS:** Your brother is going to be fine, Mercy, but right now  
he's still very weak.

**95. SFX: CHAIR SCRAPING AS LULU GETS UP**

**96. LULU:** I'm going back to him.

**97. MERCY:** I'll come with you.

**98. DR. ROBERTS:** Um... why don't you join your mother a bit later,  
Mercy? There's something I'd like to talk to you  
about.

**99. MERCY:** **(unsure)** Okay... I'll be there in a minute, Mum!

**100. LULU:** All right, my daughter.

**101. SFX: STEPS AS LULU LEAVES**

**102. SFX: DOOR IS OPENED AND CLOSED**

**103. MERCY:** What is it you wanted to tell me, Doctor Roberts? I'll  
do anything to help my brother Banda.

- 104. DR.ROBERTS:** Actually, I'd like to speak to you about your pregnancy.
- 105. MERCY**           **(embarrassed)** Doctor, I... I...
- 106. DR. ROBERTS:** **(calms her down)** No need to be embarrassed. I'm a doctor, remember, and this is part of my job. So tell me: how long have you been pregnant?
- 107. MERCY:**            Hmm... let me think. Maybe a bit more than five months?
- 108. DR. ROBERTS:** That sounds about right, given the size of your belly. Are you going to a pre-natal clinic?
- 109. MERCY**           **(scared)** Do I need to stay in a hospital now, like my brother?
- 110. DR. ROBERTS:** **(chuckles)** No, no. Pre-natal clinics are services where pregnant women go to prepare for giving birth. The clinics provide advice and counselling, and they monitor the size and health of the baby. I can give you a list later of places where you can attend them.

***KW BEGIN***

**111. MERCY:** Why do I need all this? My mother never went to a clinic when she was pregnant... She told me a woman just knows what to do when she becomes a mother.

**112. DR. ROBERTS:** It's certainly true that carrying a child and giving birth are both natural processes. But sometimes it's better to be prepared, even for the most natural things. Medical care for mother and child before, during and after birth is very important – it gives the baby a much better chance of surviving.

**113. MERCY:** Wow. I didn't know that!

***KW END***

**114. DR. ROBERTS:** It is also important for you to know that your pregnancy is a little bit different from your mother's, because you're still very young.

**115. MERCY:** Is that dangerous?

**116. DR. ROBERTS:** Not necessarily. But sometimes teenage pregnancies can be complicated because the body is not yet fully developed for motherhood.

**117. MERCY:** You're scaring me, doctor!

**118. DR. ROBERTS:** There's no need to be scared, Mercy. But you should take good care of yourself and the baby. And of course it's important that you understand what's happening to your body right now.

***KW BEGIN***

**119. MERCY:** Please, tell me.

**120. DR. ROBERTS:** Well, you'll experience certain changes. Of course, you've already realized that your belly is growing, and maybe you feel more hungry than usual. This is because the baby that's growing inside you also needs nourishment, so you need to eat enough to feed it, too. Your baby will continue to grow and develop, and in the last few weeks of your pregnancy it'll turn around, so that its head is facing downwards, towards the birth canal.

***KW END***



**121. MERCY:**           **(unsure)** Sometimes I feel a bit funny, as if I had a cramp, or as if I'm being punched from the inside! Is that the baby?

**122. DR. ROBERTS:** **(laughs)** Yes. And it's a very good sign. It means your baby is moving inside your tummy, and sometimes you can feel it kicking.

**123. MERCY:**           **(impressed)** Aha...

**124. DR. ROBERTS:** And did you know that your baby has already developed ears, and can hear what's going on around it?

**125. MERCY:**           Really?

**126. DR. ROBERTS:** Yes. In fact, you can already start talking to it – it'll help you bond with your child.

**127. MERCY:**           Wow, amazing!  
**(thinks hard)** But what should I tell it...?

***KW BEGIN***

**128. DR. ROBERTS:** **(laughing)** Well, you've got plenty of time to think about that. Shall we go check on your brother Banda now?

**129. MERCY:**           **(remembers)** Banda! How could I forget!

**130. DR. ROBERTS:** Don't worry. You have a lot to think about right now.

And remember: you can always ask me or my  
colleagues here for advice.

***KW END***

**131. OUTRO – NARRATOR:**

That's it for today! Looks like a lot is happening in "Crossroads Generation".

Tune in next time if you want to find out more! If you'd like to listen to this episode again, you can do so on our webpage, [dw.de/lbe](http://dw.de/lbe). You can also follow us on Facebook. We're looking forward to your comments! Bye for now!