

Learning by Ear 2013

"Crossroads Generation" – Facing the Consequences

EPISODE 22: What Goes Around Comes Around

AUTHOR: James Muhando

EDITORS: Friederike Müller, Maja Braun, Madelaine Meier

COPY EDITOR: Charlotte Collins

List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: LULU FIGHTS FOR HER BABY

- LULU (F, 40)
- OFFICER MNENE (M, 45)
- INSPECTOR MARY (F, 40s)

SCENE 2: BANDA AND KADU DISCUSS CHILD LABOUR

- KADU (M, 8)
- BANDA (M, 8)
- MERCY (F, 15)

SCENE 3: INSPECTOR MARY TALKS TO LULU

- INSPECTOR MARY (F, 40s)
- LULU (F, 40)

SCENE 4: DAN SNEAKS TO ANITA'S ROOM AT NIGHT

- DAN (M, 16)
- ANITA (F, 16)

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hello again, and welcome to “Crossroads Generation”, a radio drama about a group of African teenagers, their families and the problems they have to deal with. We’re on the second season, called “Facing the Consequences”, and we’re about to start episode number 22. Previously, Dan returned to his school, Bongo Academy, after a temporary suspension. And he found two girls waiting for him there:

KW BEGIN

2. EPISODE 20, LINES 115 – 118:

MERCY: *Hi, Dan.*

DAN: *Umm... hi... M... Mercy? (...)*

ANITA: *Hello, Dan!*

DAN: *Anita? What are you doing here?*

KW END

3. NARRATOR:

Mercy is carrying Dan’s child. And the other girl, Anita, was his girlfriend back in Laboria. She’s now an exchange student at Bongo Academy. And girls aren’t Dan’s only problem. His father, Kanyama, has been arrested, because he forced children to work in his mines. Among them were Kadu and Banda, Mercy’s younger twin brothers, who escaped and are now safely back home. Unlike their father Msoto, who’s being held at the police station. He’s been arrested for robbery – but he didn’t do it! The wealthy local politician Mukaraba was behind that:

4. EPISODE 12, LINES 48 – 49:

MUKARABA: (...) *I put you in here to get you out of the way, so I could enjoy life with my wife and OUR baby.(...)*

MSOTO: *Mukaraba, you can’t do this...*

5. NARRATOR:

So a lot is going on in Mercy’s family! Her mother Lulu has found out that Msoto sold her newborn baby daughter to Mukaraba almost a year ago. Now, she’s desperately fighting to get her back. We join Lulu at the police station as we start this episode, called “What Goes Around Comes Around”.

SCENE 1: LULU FIGHTS FOR HER BABY

6. SFX: POLICE STATION ATMO

7. SFX: STEPS - LULU APPROACHING

8. LULU: Officer Mnene, I am here for my baby. I want to see my little girl.

9. OFFICER MNENE: (to himself) Oh no, here she goes again.

KW BEGIN (to Lulu) Lulu Msoto, I've already told you that the child is with social services.

10. LULU: What is this "social services" you keep telling me about? Where is it?

11. MNENE: (calmly) Social services look after children who have no parents, or whose parents are unknown.

12. LULU: My child has a parent. Me! That's why I keep coming here. Please tell me where this social services place is, so that I can go and see my little girl!

13. MNENE: I told you before: I can't do that.

14. LULU: Why not? She's my daughter, and I want her back.

KW END

15. MNENE: I've told you – this case is still being processed --

- 16. LULU:** **(shouts)** Don't tell me about processing, Officer! I am sick and tired of hearing that word from you. You've been telling me this for months now. I just want to see my little girl!
- 17. MNENE:** Madam, please keep your voice down. My new boss will hear you. And I'm sure she won't be amused.
- 18. LULU:** **(shouts even more)** Don't tell me to keep my voice down! In fact, I want to talk to your boss, seeing as you can't help me.
- 19. MNENE:** **(menacingly)** I am warning you. If you keep shouting out here, we'll arrest you and lock you up.
- 20. LULU:** **(screams)** Arrest me, then! Go on! Put me in jail for wanting to see a child I carried in my own womb for nine months! Go on, I said! Arrest me!!
- 21. MNENE:** **(shouts)** Hey! Hey! Calm down!
- 22. SFX: FOOTSTEPS - INSPECTOR MARY ARRIVES**
- 23. INSPECTOR MARY:** What is all this commotion about, Officer?
- 24. MNENE:** **(tries to make light of it)** Don't worry, Madam Inspector, everything is under control.
- 25. INSP. MARY:** I don't think so. **(to Lulu)** Madam, what's the problem?

- 26. LULU:** Madam, I have been coming here for months now, to --
- 27. MNENE:** **(fake laughter)** Madam Inspector, I think this woman is crazy, let me --
- 28. INSP. MARY:** **(firm)** Officer, I wasn't talking to you. **(politely to Lulu)** Please come with me to my office, Madam.
- 29. MNENE:** **(to Lulu)** You heard the Inspector, come on, let's go to her office.
- 30. INSP. MARY:** **(to officer)** Officer, you remain here. I will speak to this lady in private.
- 31. MNENE:** But Madam, I understand the case --
- 32. INSP. MARY:** Officer, that is an order!
- 33. MNENE:** Yes, Madam.
- 34. INSP. MARY:** **(to Lulu)** Please – follow me.
- 35. SFX: FOOTSTEPS LULU AND INSPECTOR MARY**
- 36. SFX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES**
- 37. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

SCENE 2: BANDA AND KADU DISCUSS CHILD LABOUR

38. SFX: TANDIKA SLUMS, INSIDE MERCY'S HUT

KW BEGIN

39. SFX: EMPTY METAL BOWLS PUT DOWN ON THE TABLE

40. KADU: (sighs in satisfaction) I'm so full! And you, Banda?

41. BANDA: (laughs) Yes, Kadu. My belly's so big - almost as big as our sister Mercy's!

42. THEY LAUGH

43. BANDA: We'd better wash our bowls before Mum comes back from the police station. She'll be angry if she sees we've eaten everything that was left!

**44. SFX: BOWLS CARRIED, SOUND OF UTENSILS BEING WASHED
(NOT IN RUNNING WATER)**

45. KADU: Why does she have to go to the police station so often?

46. BANDA: I don't know. Maybe she goes to see Dad.

KW END

47. KADU: Banda, my brother, I'm so happy you're back from the hospital.

48. BANDA: Me too, Kadu!

49. SFX: THEY WASH THE UTENSILS

50. KADU: Banda? ...What will happen to Kanyama and our aunt Lena now they've been arrested?

51. BANDA: I don't know.

52. SFX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

53. SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS MERCY ENTERS

54. BANDA: Here comes Mercy. Let's ask her... **(calls)** Mercy?

55. MERCY: **(from a distance)** Yes, Banda!

56. BANDA: What happens when somebody's arrested?

57. SFX: STEPS - MERCY APPROACHES

58. MERCY: **(close now)** It means that he or she is caught by the police and taken to court. And if the judges decide the person is guilty, he's punished.

59. BANDA: Oh, that's good!

60. MERCY: Why do you want to know?

- 61. KADU:** Because Aunty Lena and that man Kanyama were arrested in Laboria.
- 62. MERCY:** That's right. They were arrested for making you and other little children work in the mines. It's called child labour.
- 63. BANDA:** Does it mean they'll arrest Mum, too?
- 64. MERCY:** **(irritated)** No. Why?
- 65. BANDA:** Because she makes us go to the shops and clean our dishes after eating.
- 66. KADU:** I don't want Mum to be arrested.
- 67. BANDA:** Me neither.
- 68. MERCY:** **(Laughs)** Don't worry. Mum won't be arrested. Helping out in the house is not child labour!
- KW BEGIN** Did you take your medicine, Banda?
- 69. BANDA:** Yes, I did. Doctor Roberts said that, if I don't, my cough will come back.

70. MERCY: That's right. You have to take TB medicine for as long as the doctor says. And you must finish the whole course of medicine, because even if you feel well, it doesn't mean you're fully recovered. Your body's still fighting the disease.

71. BANDA: Yes. I know...

KW END

72. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: INSPECTOR MARY TALKS TO LULU

73. SFX: POLICE STATION ATMO HEARD THROUGH DOOR

74. INSP. MARY: Have a seat, Madam.

75. SFX: LULU SITS DOWN ON CHAIR

76. INSP. MARY: My name is Inspector Mary, and I was posted here just recently. What's your name again?

77. LULU: I am Lulu Msoto.

78. INSP. MARY: Msoto... Isn't your husband being held here in our police station? He's a robbery suspect, isn't he?

79. LULU: Yes, he is. But I'm not here because of him.

80. INSP. MARY: I don't understand. Why are you here, then?

81. LULU: **(sighs)** Almost a year ago I gave birth to a baby girl. My husband took her away and sold her to a local politician. I reported it as soon as I found out where she was, but --

KW BEGIN

82. INSP. MARY: **(surprised)** Excuse me – what? Say that again, please, I'm not sure I understood you. Your husband sold your child?

83. LULU: Yes. My husband took the baby before I even had a chance to see her, and sold her to get money for drink.

KW END

84. INSP. MARY: Wait a minute... You mean to tell me a man has sold his own child? That's illegal adoption! It's a crime!

85. LULU: I didn't think it was right, either. But I only found out where my daughter was after my husband was arrested.

86. INSP. MARY: And where was she?

87. LULU: At the local councillor's place. Mukaraba.

88. INSP. MARY: **(sigh)** Hmm... Mukaraba...

KW BEGIN

89. LULU: Yes. I came here and reported it, and ever since then the officer just keeps telling me the case is being processed.

90. INSP. MARY: Police procedures do take time.

91. LULU: But it's been several months now.

92. INSP. MARY: Is that so? Let me just check on the file ...

93. SFX: PAPERS/FILES BEING SHUFFLED

KW END

94. INSP. MARY: **(to herself)** Hmm... there don't seem to be a file for this case. That is strange... **(to Lulu)** I don't know what's going on here, Lulu. I promise you, I will try and resolve this. But I'm afraid I'll have to ask you to be patient for a little longer.

95. LULU: **(sighs)**

96. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: DAN SNEAKS TO ANITA'S

97. ATMO: NIGHT; BONGO ACADEMY, OUTSIDE GIRLS'

DORMITORY. SERENE, CRICKETS

98. SFX: FOOTSTEPS ON TWIGS AS DAN SNEAKS TO ANITA'S

ROOM

99. DAN: **(W'whispers to himself)** Oh, man! It's so lonely here without no one to talk to. Not even Biko speaks to me any more. Although he used to be my best friend! What a mess... But I think Anita will. I bet she's still in love with me! Even if she denies it. She can't resist Dan Kanyama. **(laughs)** I hope she's in her room....

KW BEGIN

100. SFX: STEPS ON TWIG WHICH SNAPS LOUDLY

101. DAN: **(urgent)** Shit! I have to hide. The watchman must have heard that. I can't get caught sneaking around the girls' dormitory!

102. SFX: FAST FOOTSTEPS ON TWIGS AS HE RUNS TO HIDE

103. DAN: **(pants)** Okay... he seems to be busy smoking his cigarettes.

KW END

104. SFX: WINDOW OPENS.

105. ANITA: (calls) Hello? Who's that?

SILENCE

106. ANITA: Come out, whoever you are, or I'll scream and call the watchman.

107. DAN: (whispers loudly) Ssh, Anita! Don't scream - it's me, Dan.

108. ANITA: Dan? What are you doing sneaking around outside my window at night?

109. DAN: (still whispering) Shh! Not so loud. Can I come in, please?

110. ANITA: Hell no! What do you want, Dan?

KW BEGIN

111. DAN: I need to talk to you.

112. ANITA: You can talk to me tomorrow in class. Bye, Dan.

113. DAN: You know I can't do that. I'm not supposed to talk to any of you girls until my probation is over. Please – just five minutes.

114. ANITA: I'll give you three.

115. DAN: **(relieved)** Thanks, Anita. I knew you wouldn't let me get caught out here... Come on then, let me in!

116. ANITA: No way. I'm not letting you into my room! You can say whatever you need to right now, and then leave! I'm already taking a risk talking to you through the window.

KW END

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

118. ANITA: What? Dan, are you out of your mind?

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

120. ANITA: Dan, you are disgusting! The least you could do is stand by your actions! And besides: what on earth makes you think I'd just come running straight back to you after everything you've done?

121. DAN: I... I mean, you and I come from the same country. We should stick together.

122. ANITA: Dan, I *loved* you. I fought to get onto the exchange programme trip so I could come here and be with you. If I'd known you were busy chasing after other girls I would have stayed in Laboria, even with the war going on. Please stay out of my life. I don't ever want to talk to you again!

123. DAN: Anita, please --

124. ANITA: Go away, Dan.

125. SFX: WINDOW SLAMS

126. DAN: (**shouts**) Anita, wait... I need some money!

127. SFX: WINDOW OPENED AGAIN

128. ANITA: Ohhhh, I see. *That's* what this is all about! Just leave, Dan. I hope the watchman catches you!

129. OUTRO - NARRATOR:

So Dan's been thrown out by Anita, his former girlfriend. And – wait a minute – just a few months ago, he was saying the exact same things to Mercy, wasn't he? In her video diary, Anita talks about how she feels about that nocturnal visit from her ex-boyfriend – and about what else is bothering her. Just log on to dw.de/lbe to watch her latest video recording! As always, you can also share your comments on what you just heard on our Facebook page. Tune in next time, and meanwhile – take care!