

**Learning by Ear 2013**

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

**EPISODE 19: Old and New Friends**

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**List of characters by scene:**

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- BIKO (M, 16)

**SCENE 2: MANOTI RESTRICTS TRUDY'S MOVEMENTS**

- TRUDY (F, 15)
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**SCENE 3: ANITA AND MERCY RECONCILE**

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- ANITA (F, 16)
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**SCENE 4: MERCY LOOKS FOR TRUDY**

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

## **INTRO**

### **1. NARRATOR:**

Hello again, and welcome to a new episode of Learning by Ear's "Crossroads Generation"! We're on the second season, called "Facing the Consequences", and we're following a group of African teenagers who all go to the same school: Bongo Academy. Let's see what's happened so far...

Trudy has moved in with her much older boyfriend Manoti. What started out as an exciting adventure for her suddenly turned into a nightmare when Manoti started treating her badly.

### **2. EPISODE 16, LINES 143 – 145:**

**MANOTI:** *Come on, Trudy. We're living together. That means we're just like husband and wife (...)*

**TRUDY:** *Manoti, please. (...)*

**MANOTI:** *(...) And as my wife, you should obey me. (roughly)  
Come here!*

### **3. NARRATOR:**

Meanwhile, Trudy's friend Mercy was suspended from school for several months because she fell pregnant. On her first day back, she got to know Anita, an exchange student from the neighbouring country of Laboria. But it doesn't look like Anita wants to be friends with Mercy:

### **4. EPISODE 18, LINES 81 – 82:**

**ANITA:** *You took my boyfriend away from me, you got him suspended, and now you're even carrying his child! I hate you, Mercy!*

**MERCY:** *But I ... I didn't know!*

### **5. NARRATOR:**

The boy they're talking about is Dan Kanyama, who, like Anita, comes from the neighbouring country, Laboria. He doesn't know that the two girls have met, as he's still suspended from school and hasn't come back yet. Let's find out how the story continues in today's episode, called "Old and New Friends". We start in the principal's office at Bongo Academy...

**SCENE 1: JULIETTE ASKS BIKO ABOUT DAN**

**6. ATMO: JULIETTE'S OFFICE AT BREAK TIME**

**7. JULIETTE:** Biko, have you heard from your friend Dan recently?

**8. BIKO:** No, Principal Juliette.

**9. JULIETTE:** We sent a letter to his uncle, who lives here in Kisimba, inviting him back to school. We wrote some time ago, but we haven't had a response. Do you know whether Dan might have gone back to Laboria?

**10. BIKO:** Last time I spoke to him he didn't want to go to Laboria because of the war.

**11. JULIETTE:** But the fighting seems to have calmed down since the military took over the government.

**12. BIKO:** I really don't know, Madame.

**13. JULIETTE:** What about Trudy? How many days of school has she missed now?

**14. BIKO:** About two weeks, Madame.

**15. JULIETTE:** Does anyone know what's wrong with her?

**16. BIKO:** **(hesitates)** There are rumours that... that...

**17. JULIETTE:** That what?

**18. BIKO:** That she's... that she's sick, Madame Juliette.

**19. JULIETTE:** Biko! Look at me. Are you telling me the truth?

**20. BIKO:** That's what I heard, Madame.

***KW BEGIN***

**21. JULIETTE:** And you're not lying to me, are you?

**22. BIKO:** No, Madame.

**23. JULIETTE:** Remember, you're the class prefect now. If you lie to me, you know what will happen.

**24. BIKO:** Yes, Madame.

***KW END***

**25. JULIETTE:** All right. Thank you for your help. You can go back outside for break now. But please keep your ears and eyes open, and if you hear anything, I want you to let me know immediately. Is that clear?

**26. BIKO:** Yes, Madame Juliette.

**27. JULIETTE:** Okay. Close the door behind you.

**28. SFX: FOOTSTEPS**

**29. SFX: DOOR CLOSED**

**30. JULIETTE:** **(To herself)** What on earth is going on in this school?  
There's more to all this than meets the eye...

**31. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 2: MANOTI RESTRICTS TRUDY'S MOVEMENTS**

**32. ATMO: AT MANOTI'S, DAYTIME**

**33. SFX: BOOKS PACKED INTO BAG**

**34. MANOTI:** What are you doing, Trudy?

**35. TRUDY:** I'm packing, Manoti. I've already missed two weeks of school, and I'm tired of you keeping me here!

***KW BEGIN***

**36. MANOTI:** **(menacingly)** Trudy, you are now my wife! You don't leave this house unless I say so.

**37. TRUDY:** I am not your wife! And I never will be, not after what you did to me and how you've been treating me! Let me go!

***KW END***

**38. MANOTI:** No. You stay here!

**39. TRUDY:** Why? What is it you want from me?

**40. MANOTI:** I know you. I know that the minute you step out of this house, you'll try to harm my baby.

**41. TRUDY:** What baby?! This is crazy! Just because you forced me to sleep with you without protection, it doesn't mean that I'm pregnant!

***KW BEGIN***

**42. MANOTI:** Don't argue with me. You're staying here, and that's final!

**43. TRUDY:** **(still strong)** You can't keep me locked up in here forever. My mum will be looking for me!

**44. MANOTI:** **(laughs)** Your mother doesn't care where you are. Has she called you even once since you moved in with me?

**45. TRUDY:** **(cries)**

**46. MANOTI:** If I were you I'd shut up and concentrate on being a mother.

**47. TRUDY:** **(cries)** But Manoti, we agreed I could still go to school.

**48. MANOTI:** Well, I've changed my mind.

**49. TRUDY:** But --

***KW END***

**50. SFX: TABLE BANGED**

**51. MANOTI:** **(angrily)** Stop arguing with me!

**52. TRUDY:** **(scared)** Okay, okay! Please don't hit me again. I'll stay. I'll stay. Please, don't hit me... **(whimpers)**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 3: ANITA AND MERCY RECONCILE**

**53. SFX: BELL RINGS**

**54. ATMO: BONGO ACADEMY, INSIDE CLASSROOM AFTER SCHOOL**

**55. SFX: DOOR OPENS**

**56. SFX: STUDENTS DISPERSE (call to each other: "See you tomorrow", "Bye", etc...)**

**57. MERCY:** (shyly) Bye, Anita. See you tomorrow.

**58. ANITA:** (annoyed) Tomorrow at six, Mercy. Our first counselling. Be there.

**59. MERCY:** (to herself, sadly) Great. I can't wait.

**60. ANITA:** What did you say?

**61. MERCY:** I... I... Nothing. I'll be there.

**62. JAEL:** (from a distance) Hey, look! The two Mrs. Kanyamas are having a nice chat.

**63. STUDENTS LAUGH**

**64. MERCY/ANITA: (shout at the same time)** Shut your mouth Jael! /  
Leave us alone!

**65. JAEL:** (impressed) Wow, okay, okay...

**66. MERCY/ANITA: (laugh)**

**67. PAUSE**



68. **ANITA:** So it seems everybody knows about us and Dan?
69. **MERCY:** Oh, forget Jael. She makes me so angry! I don't know why she hates me so much.
70. **ANITA:** **(thoughtful)** She is kind of right, though, isn't she?
71. **MERCY:** **(disappointed)** Well, you would say that.
72. **ANITA:** No, no, no. I didn't mean it that way. But... we *are* the two Mrs. Kanyamas. Sort of.
73. **MERCY:** Huh?
74. **ANITA:** Well, Dan betrayed both of us, didn't he. **(takes a deep breath)** Listen, Mercy. I'm sorry I was so mean to you. I was just so jealous.
75. **MERCY:** Oh, Anita – it's okay. I understand, honestly. I know exactly how it feels when you realize your boyfriend has been cheating on you.
76. **MERCY/ANITA:** **(laugh)**
77. **ANITA:** You're not my enemy, and I hope I'm not yours.
78. **MERCY:** Of course not. Come on. Let's go...
79. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS OF TWO PEOPLE IN CORRIDOR**
80. **ANITA:** So... How did you and Dan end up being together?

**KW BEGIN**

**81. MERCY:** I... I don't know... Sorry, but I don't think I feel comfortable having this discussion with you...

**82. ANITA:** Mercy, I told you, we're not enemies. I just want to understand how he could do this to you. To us.

***KW END***

**83. MERCY:** **(sighs)** Well... right from when we first started here at Bongo Academy he was always running after me. At first I rejected him, but he was really insistent. I thought he loved me. He told me he did. I had no idea he had a girlfriend... Oh God! I was so naïve!

**84. ANITA:** And all this time I was waiting for him, and writing, and calling...! No wonder he didn't want to talk to me.

**85. SFX: MAIN DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING, TWO PEOPLE GOING THROUGH**

**86. SFX: ATMO CHANGES: EXTERIOR, BONGO ACADEMY, AFTER SCHOOL**

**87. SFX: FOOTSTEPS TWO PEOPLE OUTSIDE**

**88. MERCY:** I'm so sorry, Anita. If I'd known, I'd have never given in to him. You know... I kind of blame Trudy. She was the one who convinced me I should let Dan (**sarcastic**) "make me a real woman"...

**89. ANITA:** Who's Trudy?

**90. SFX: FOOTSTEPS STOP**

**91. MERCY:** (**taken aback**) Trudy? You know Trudy! She's in our class... How long have you been here?

**92. ANITA:** Two weeks.

**93. MERCY:** What, and you haven't met Trudy yet?

**94. ANITA:** I guess she just hasn't been to school since I came.

**95. MERCY:** (**worried**) Hmm! That's not like Trudy! She might skip school for a few days, but it's not like her to stay away for weeks on end.

**96. ANITA:** Maybe you should check up on her.

***KW BEGIN***

**97. MERCY:** Hmm. We're not exactly the best of friends right now... But yes, I'll check up on her. I'll go by her place on my way home and find out what's wrong.

**98. ANITA:** Okay. See you tomorrow, Mercy.

99. **MERCY:** Bye, Anita.

***KW END***

100. **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 4: MERCY LOOKS FOR TRUDY**

101. **SFX: KNOCKING ON DOOR**

102. **SILENCE**

103. **MERCY:** Hello? Is anybody there? ... Trudy?

104. **SFX: KNOCKING AGAIN**

105. **MERCY:** **(to herself)** Hmm, no one home. But Trudy's neighbour said I should look for her here, at Manoti's place. Where else could she be?

106. **TRUDY:** **(from inside)** Hello? Who's there?

107. **MERCY:** Trudy? Is that you?

108. **TRUDY:** **(relieved)** Yes! Is that you, Mercy? Oh, thank God! Please, please get me out of here!

109. **SFX:** **MERCY TRIES TO OPEN THE DOOR, LOCKED**  
**DOOR RATTLES**

110. **MERCY:** Trudy, are you on your own? Why's the door locked? What's going on?

**111. TRUDY:** Manoti's gone crazy! He's keeping me captive in here!  
He won't let me out.

**112. SFX: SOUND OF DOOR/PADLOCK AS SHE TRIES TO OPEN IT**

***KW BEGIN***

**113. MERCY:** Goodness, Trudy! How long have you been locked in?

**114. TRUDY:** Two weeks!

**115. MERCY:** Why didn't you call for help?

**116. TRUDY:** That crazy man took away my phone. Mercy, please  
help me!

***KW END***

**117. MANOTI:** **(from a distance, drunk, to himself)** Don't you worry,  
Mum, I'll give you a grandson before you die....

**118. MERCY:** Oh my God! That's him! He's coming home!

**119. TRUDY:** **(urgently)** Quick! That man's crazy. If he sees you  
there's no telling what might happen. Go and get help!

**120. MERCY:** **(whispers loudly)** Don't worry! I'll be right back!

**121. SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS SHE RUNS**

**122. MERCY:** **(to herself while she runs and hides)** Oh God, I  
hope he doesn't see me!

**123. SFX: MAN'S HEAVY FOOTSTEPS (HEARD FROM A DISTANCE)**

**124. SFX: KEY TURNS IN PADLOCK (HEARD FROM A DISTANCE)**

**125. SFX: DOOR OPENS (IN THE DISTANCE)**

**126. MANOTI: (drunk, at a distance) Hey, Trudy. I'm home!**

**127. OUTRO – NARRATOR:**

Will Mercy be able to help her friend Trudy? And is the new friendship between Mercy and Anita going to last? This was the nineteenth episode of "Crossroads Generation – Facing the Consequences". To find out what happens next, tune in next time to our ongoing Learning by Ear radio drama. Meanwhile, we're looking forward to reading your comments on our Facebook page. And if you'd like to listen to this episode again, just visit our website at [dw.de/lbe](http://dw.de/lbe). Take care!