

Learning by Ear 2013

"Crossroads Generation" – Facing the Consequences

EPISODE 26: A New Start

AUTHOR: James Muhando

EDITORS: Friederike Müller, Maja Braun, Madelaine Meier

COPY EDITOR: Charlotte Collins

List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: MERCY GIVES BIRTH

- **MERCY (F, 15)**
- **DOCTOR ROBERTS (M, LATE 40s)**

SCENE 2: DOCTOR TALKS TO LULU

- **LULU (F, 40)**
- **DOCTOR ROBERTS (M, LATE 40s)**

SCENE 3: STUDENTS VISIT MERCY IN HOSPITAL

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

SCENE 4: NIKI WINS SWIMMING COMPETITION

- **COMMENTATOR (M/F, AGE UNIMPORTANT)**
- **ANITA (F, 16)**
- **TRUDY (F, 15)**
- **NIKI (M, 16)**
- **PRINCIPAL JULIETTE (F, 50)**
- **CROWD (MAINLY STUDENTS, M/F, 10 - 12 PEOPLE)**

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hi there! You’ve tuned in just in time for the final episode of the second season of our radio drama “Crossroads Generation”! Before we start, let’s look back at what’s happened so far to the teenagers from Bongo Academy high school. After some initial trouble, Anita, the exchange student from Laboria, became friends with Mercy and Trudy. Their classmate Niki finally dealt with his problems with drugs, and with his parents. But he still hasn’t got over his feelings for Mercy:

KW BEGIN

2. EPISODE 16, LINES 33 – 35:

NIKI: *I miss you, Mercy.*

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

NIKI: *I’m sorry. (...) But I thought I should just be open with you and tell you how I feel.*

KW END

3. NARRATOR:

In the last episode, Mecy wasn’t feeling very well. She was helping out at home when she gave her mother a terrible shock:

4. EPISODE 25, LINES 97, 117 - 118:

LULU: *Come on, Mercy! You’re only eight months pregnant.*

You can still help me! (...)

SFX (117): THUD AS MERCY FALLS DOWN

LULU (118): *Mercy! Mercy, are you okay? (slaps her cheeks)*

5. NARRATOR:

Lulu brought her daughter to the hospital, and she’s been there for two days now. Is she better? We’re about to find out... This final episode is called “A New Start”.

SCENE 1: MERCY GIVES BIRTH

6. ATMO: HOSPITAL ATMO

7. MERCY: (pants and screams) Aiiii! It hurts!

8. DR. ROBERTS: (gently) You’re doing really well, Mercy. I know your baby was only supposed to come in four weeks, but it’s decided to come now instead. And it needs your help.

9. MERCY: (exhausted) Okay.

10. DR. ROBERTS: Remember to breathe! Now breathe in! Breathe out!

11. MERCY: (breathes heavily in and out)

12. DR. ROBERTS: And now, push!

KW BEGIN

- 13. MERCY:** **(screams)** I can't, doctor, please, I can't!
- 14. DR. ROBERTS:** Oh yes you can. You're a strong young woman, Mercy. A lot of women have already managed this before you. Now push – just like the school nurse showed you in the pre-natal classes, remember? Push!
- 15. MERCY:** **(screams, pants)**
- 16. DR. ROBERTS:** **(to himself)** Hmm... the baby seems to be occiput posterior.
- 17. MERCY** **(still panting)** What's that, doctor? Is my baby okay?
- 18. DR. ROBERTS:** **(reassuring)** The baby's just fine, Mercy. As you know, it'll come out head first. Usually, babies come out facing the ground. But occiput posterior means the little one is facing the ceiling. This makes the process of giving birth a bit harder for both of you. But it's not a big problem. And your baby could still turn around.

KW END

- 19. MERCY:** **(pants)**

20. DR. ROBERTS: Come on, Mercy, you can do it. Push!

21. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: DOCTOR TALKS TO LULU

22. ATMO: HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM

23. SFX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

24. SFX: RUSTLING OF CLOTHES AS LULU GETS UP

25. LULU: **(panicking)** What’s happened, Doctor Roberts?
How’s my daughter Mercy? I wanted to see her,
but they wouldn’t let me in!

26. DR. ROBERTS: Mama Mercy. Your daughter is okay. She went
into labour after you left last time, and she was
having some difficulties, so we had to induce the
birth. But I have some very good news for you.
Mercy has just given birth to a baby girl – your
granddaughter! Congratulations!

27. LULU: **(excited)** What? Is she okay? Mercy? I mean...
the baby...? I mean, both!

28. DR. ROBERTS: They’re both fine.

- 29. LULU:** But I don't understand... She was only eight months pregnant! Why did the baby come so early?
- 30. DR. ROBERTS:** Well, generally speaking, there's more of a risk for adolescents of giving birth prematurely. Also, Mercy is very thin, and she had a slight infection. That was why she collapsed the other day. And because she had the infection, her waters broke, and she started having contractions.
- 31. LULU:** Oh, my daughter!
- 32. DR. ROBERTS:** Don't worry - she'll be fine. In any case, it was very good that you brought Mercy here as soon as she collapsed. That way, she's had constant medical care, and we were able to give her all the help she needed. A lot of expectant mothers in Africa don't get that.
- 33. LULU:** Where are they now? Can I see them?
- 34. DR. ROBERTS:** Mercy is in ward 7 now, but we've put the little one in the incubation room. You can see her later. Come – let me take you to Mercy.
- 35. SFX: FOOTSTEPS, TWO PEOPLE**

36. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: STUDENTS VISIT MERCY IN HOSPITAL

37. SFX: BABY CRYING

38. ANITA: Shh! Don't cry! Your Aunty Anita is here...
(laughs and speaks baby language) Kuchi
kuchi kuchi...

39. SFX: BABY STOPS CRYING

40. TRUDY: Mercy, it seems our friend Anita has magical
powers!

41. GIRLS: (laugh)

42. MERCY: Trudy - Anita - it's so good to see you!

43. TRUDY/ANITA: You too, Mercy.

44. TRUDY: And your little daughter is so cute! (puzzled) But
she's so tiny! Why does she have to stay in this
thing?

45. ANITA: That's an incubator, Trudy. They keep premature
babies safe and warm in there so they can grow
to maturity.

KW BEGIN

46. **TRUDY:** Can I hold her, please?
47. **MERCY:** No, Trudy, the doctor said we have to keep the incubator closed so she doesn't catch any infections. She's still so vulnerable to disease. And she's not even one week old!
48. **TRUDY:** Come on, Mercy - are you saying we've got diseases?
49. **MERCY:** No, Trudy, I didn't say that...
- KW END**
50. **TRUDY** **(sniffles)**
51. **ANITA:** Why are you crying, Trudy?
52. **TRUDY:** It's nothing...
53. **MERCY:** Trudy, come on, you can tell us!
54. **TRUDY:** Wel... when I was living with Manoti ... **(sniffs)**
...I thought I was pregnant, too.
55. **MERCY/ANITA:** What?
56. **TRUDY:** So because you told me about Dr Roberts, Mercy... I went to see him. And he told me I wasn't pregnant. **(breaks down)**
57. **ANITA:** But that's good news! Why are you crying?

- 58. TRUDY:** **(cries)** He told me I will never be pregnant, because I had two backstreet abortions, and Dr. Zito didn't do them properly, and now my womb is punctured. I'll never be able to have a baby now...
- 59. MERCY:** Oh Trudy! I don't know what to say!
- 60. ANITA:** Come here!
- 61. TRUDY:** **(sniffs)** I'm sorry... I don't want to ruin your happiness, Mercy.
- 62. MERCY:** Trudy, please, it's okay!
- 63. TRUDY:** **(pulling herself together)** Your baby's so lovely... Have you chosen a name for her?
- 64. SFX: SMS RECIEVED**
- 65. MERCY:** Not yet....
- 66. ANITA:** Hey, who's sending you a message?
- 67. SFX: BEEP AS SMS IS OPENED ON CELL PHONE**
- 68. MERCY:** Let's see... **(reads)** "Hi Mercy, I heard you're in the hospital. Hope you're all right. And the baby too. Dan." **(deep breath)**
- 69. TRUDY:** Wow!

70. **ANITA:** (surprised) Who would have thought it...
71. **MERCY:** (to herself) I don't know what to make of this...
72. **SFX: DOOR OPENS**
73. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS ENTER**
74. **NIKI:** (shyly) Hi Mercy... The doctor said it was okay to
come in...
75. **MERCY/ANITA/TRUDY: (surprised) Niki!**
76. **NIKI:** Hi, Anita. Hi, Trudy.
77. **ANITA/TRUDY:** Hi.
78. **ANITA:** (to Trudy) Trudy, why don't we wait outside?
(to Niki) Niki, I guess we'll see you at the schools
swimming competition tomorrow, will we?
79. **NIKI:** Yes, see you then!
80. **SFX TWO PEOPLE LEAVE**
81. **SFX: DOOR CLOSES**
82. **NIKI:** How are you, Mercy?
83. **MERCY:** I'm fine, Niki. What are you doing here?
- KW BEGIN**
84. **NIKI:** I brought you something. Go on, open it.

85. SFX: PARCEL UNWRAPPED

86. MERCY: Baby clothes! Wow! Thank you! They're really cute. **(chuckles)** Although it might be a while before they fit her. And my favourite chocolate! Oh Niki, you're so sweet!

87. NIKI: Anything for you, Mercy.

88. SILENCE

89. MERCY: Niki?

90. NIKI: Yes?

91. MERCY: Why are you doing all this for me?

I rejected you, and I've had another boy's child, and yet you still me treat me so nicely...

KW END

92. NIKI: **(sighs)** Mercy, I just... I dunno. I still like you.

93. MERCY: **(cries)** You're too good to me, Niki...

94. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: NIKI WINS SWIMMING COMPETITION

95. ATMO: SWIMMING POOL ATMO, PEOPLE TALKING

96. SFX: SWIMMING POOL

97. TRUDY: Come on, Anita, let’s sit here so we can see the whole pool.

98. ANITA: Okay, Trudy. It’s just a pity Mercy couldn’t come. But of course she has plenty of other things to deal with right now.

99. COMMENTATOR: (over the loudspeaker) Ladies and gentlemen, at this interschool sports festival, please welcome our participants in the swimming competition!

KW BEGIN In the first lane, Joseph Libunda from Nelson Mandela School!

100. HUGE CROWD: (applause)

101. COMM.: In the second lane, Francis Kobia from Ubuntu College!

102. CROWD: (applause)

103. COMM.: And in the third lane, Niki Jumbe from Bongo Academy!

104. CROWD: (applause)

105. ANITA/TRUDY: (scream) Ni-ki! Ni-ki!

KW END

106. COMM.: Swimmers: on your marks... get set... go!

107. SFX: STARTING GUN

108. SFX: PEOPLE DIVE INTO THE POOL AND SWIM.

109. ANITA/TRUDY: (scream) Go, Niki! Go, Niki!

110. COMM.: And off they go! Francis Kobia in the second lane has taken an early lead – but that’s an amazing turn there by Niki Jumbe!

111. TRUDY/ANITA: Yeah! Go Niki!

112. COMM.: Jumbe is now overtaking Kobia – and he takes the lead as we head towards the finish line – and he’s surging forward – and... Niki Jumbe wins! Amazing! What a spectacular finish there by the winner, Niki Jumbe of Bongo Academy!

(FADE UNDER)

113. CROWD: (cheers)

114. ANITA/TRUDY (cheer more)

115. ANITA: Wow, Niki told me he’d been swimming a lot lately. But did you know he was that good, Trudy?

116. TRUDY: I had no idea, Anita!

KW begin

117. COMM.: I am standing here next to one of Niki Jumbe’s greatest supporters, who’s been cheering him on enthusiastically: his head teacher, Principal Juliette. Madame Juliette, how do you feel about Niki’s performance?

118. JULIETTE: **(excited, loudspeaker)** Niki has done Bongo Academy proud! This is the first time we’ve ever won an interschool sports competition at this level! I’m hugely excited.

119. COMM.: And here comes the new champion himself, Niki Jumbe. So how do you feel right now, Niki?

120. NIKI: **(panting, loudspeaker)** I’ve never felt this great before! It’s an amazing feeling!

121. COMM.: You’re relatively new to swimming, aren’t you. How come we haven’t heard of you before?

122. NIKI: **(still panting)** Well, I’ve only just discovered that I’m good at it.

123. COMM.: And how did you discover that?

124. NIKI: To be quite honest with you: I’d been having a lot of trouble lately. I’d even started to get involved in drugs, so I was looking for a way out of all that. Thanks to peer counselling, and the support of my parents and my friends, I learned there’s a better kind of addiction: the high you get from doing sport!

125. COMM.: And how has sport helped you solve your problems?

126. NIKI: I was able to make new friends through swimming, and it gave me back my sense of self-esteem.

127. COMM.: And what better way to do that than by becoming this year’s new interschool competition champion! Nicholas Jumbe, everyone!

128. CROWD: APPLAUSE

129. OUTRO – NARRATOR:

And that’s where we say goodbye to Niki, Anita, Trudy, Mercy, Dan and all the others – at least for now. This was the last episode of the second season of our series, called “Crossroads Generation – Facing the Consequences”, written by James Muhando. If you don’t want to say goodbye just yet, take a last look at Anita’s video diary, where you can hear how she feels about the latest events... You’ll find it on our webpage, dw.de/lbe. That’s also where you can listen to the entire two seasons of Crossroads Generation again. We’re looking forward to your comments on our Facebook page! For now, until next time: take care!