

Learning by Ear 2013

"Crossroads Generation" – Facing the Consequences

EPISODE 12: You Break The Rules, You Pay The Price

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List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: AT BONGO ACADEMY

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

SCENE 2: AT THE POLICE STATION

- **OFFICER MNENE (M, 45)**
- **MUKARABA (M, 45)**
- **MSOTO (M, 45)**
- **3 OTHER INMATES (MALE, ADULTS)**

SCENE 3: AT BONGO ACADEMY

- **JULIETTE (F, 50)**
- **MERCY (F, 15)**
- **JAEL (F, 15)**
- **CROWD OF STUDENTS (5-8, MIXED GENDER)**

SCENE 4: IN THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

- **JULIETTE (F, 50)**
- **MERCY (F, 15)**
- **NIKI (M, 16)**
- **DAN (M, 16)**

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hi there! Today it's episode 12 of “Crossroads Generation – Facing the Consequences”. In our radio drama we're following the daily lives of a group of African teenagers. They're all students at the posh Bongo Academy high school – or at least, they are at the moment. But the principal has just told Niki's father that his son is being suspended for drug abuse:

KW BEGIN

2. EPISODE 11, LINES 118 – 119:

JULIETTE: *Our school guard has seen him several times with a man at the school fence who happens to be a known drug dealer. I'm afraid your son has been smoking marijuana.*

JUMBE: *What? Our Niki? (...)*

KW END

3. NARRATOR:

Mercy has a lot on her mind, too. Her father Msoto is being held at the police station for a robbery he didn't commit.

4. EPISODE 7, LINES 104 – 105:

SFX: BILLS BEING COUNTED AND HANDED OVER

MUKARABA: *Here’s the money, Officer. Now you make absolutely sure that Msoto rots in the cells forever and nobody ever finds out I framed him for the robbery.*

5. NARRATOR:

On top of all this, Banda, one of Mercy’s younger brothers, is ill. She took him to the hospital and missed class in the morning. Her classmate Trudy took advantage of this to betray Mercy’s trust:

6. EPISODE 11, LINES 58 – 67:

TRUDY: *Principal Juliette, there is something I have to tell you. (...)*

60. *It is about Mercy. (...)* **66.** *(...) She...she’s pregnant*

JULIETTE: *What?*

7. NARRATOR:

The father of the baby is Dan, one of Mercy's classmates. Right now, though, Dan’s mind seems to be elsewhere. Listen in to today’s episode, called “You Break The Rules, You Pay The Price”.

SCENE 1: AT BONGO ACADEMY

8. SFX: SCHOOL ATMO, BREAKTIME, OUTSIDE

9. SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS (BIKO):

10. BIKO: (pants) Hey, Dan! Wait up!

11. SFX: FOOTSTEPS STOP

12. DAN: What is it, Biko?

13. BIKO: Here – a letter came for you. The stamp says Laboria, and it looks like it’s a girl’s handwriting. You didn’t tell me you had a sister!

14. DAN: Are you going to give me the letter, or are you going to interrogate me, Officer?

15. BIKO: (laughs) Okay! Here you are.

16. SFX: LETTER EXCHANGED

17. SFX: LETTER RIPPED OPEN

18. DAN: (reads) “My darling Dan, ...”

19. BIKO: (jokes) Uuh!

20. DAN: Shut up and let me read this alone!

21. SFX: PAPER RUSTLE AS BIKO SNATCHES LETTER

22. DAN: Hey! Come on, Biko, give me back that letter. It’s private!

23. BIKO: No, it’s interesting! I’ll read it for you! **(reads, imitates a girl’s voice)** “My darling Dan, I haven’t heard from you for a long time. You haven’t answered any of my emails. I don’t even know if you’re okay, or whether the promise you made to me still stands...”

KW BEGIN

24. DAN: Stop it, Biko! Come on, give me the letter!

25. SFX: COMMOTION AND PAPER RUSTLE AS DAN TRIES TO GET THE LETTER BACK

26. BIKO: **(laughs)** You might beat me at basketball, but you can’t win this fight! Don’t you wanna know how the letter goes on?

27. DAN: It’s none of your business!

KW END

28. BIKO: **(continues reading)** “I still love you, even though you’re so far away. I’m preparing a surprise that will prove to you just how much I love you. Your sweetheart, Anita.” **(normal voice)** Uh-oh...

29. DAN: Just shut up, will you.

30. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: AT THE POLICE STATION

31. SFX: ATMO INSIDE CELL AT POLICE STATION

32. SFX: INMATES CHAT IN LOW VOICES WHILE EATING

33. OFFICER MNENE: (heard at a distance, speaking to Mukaraba)

So, Councillor Mukaraba, this is where Msoto and the others are being held at our police station. You can go in. I'll be just out here.

34. SFX: FOOTSTEPS: MUKARABA APPROACHES

35. MUKARABA: Thanks, Officer.

36. MSOTO: Oh, look who's here. The councillor himself. How are you, Mr. Mukaraba? Make yourself comfortable. What did they arrest you for?

KW BEGIN

37. MUKARABA: (chuckles)

38. MSOTO: Excuse my bad manners! What will you have for lunch? Steak? Wine? Oops! I forgot – we’re at the police station. In this cell we don’t serve the kind of gourmet food you’re used to. But here – you can have my boiled cabbage instead.

39. INMATES: LAUGH

40. MUKARABA: **(in a low voice)** I warn you, Msoto! Don’t push it!

41. MSOTO: Mr. Mukaraba, in here, it doesn’t matter how much money you have on the outside. In here we’re all the same. Criminals!

42. MUKARABA: And it seems you don’t know the first thing about what it means to have money. Do you? It means that, for the right price, you can buy anything.

43. MSOTO: **(still self confident)** Oh, really? Is that so? Then what are you doing in a police cell?

KW END

- 44. MUKARABA:** **(laughs calmly)** In case you hadn’t noticed, unlike you, I’m a free man. I didn’t come here to share this nice little cell and your delicious cabbage with you. I came here to warn you. Stop harassing me! Didn’t you ever ask yourself why you were arrested for a crime you didn’t commit?
- 45. MSOTO:** What are you talking about?
- 46. MUKARABA:** I’m talking about the robbery, Msoto. I organised the robbery at the Jumbes’ house, and I got you blamed for it.
- 47. MSOTO:** **(shocked)** What?! So it was *you* all along?
- 48. MUKARABA:** **(low voice, menacingly)** Sssh! Keep your voice down! Or do you want your new friends in here to know all about our little secret? I put you in here to get you out of the way, so I could enjoy life with my wife and *our* baby. You were becoming a threat to our peaceful family life, if you know what I mean...
(calmly but threateningly) Think what else I could do if you – and especially your wife – continue to play your little game. Don’t forget: you sold your baby to me, and I paid you in full!

- 49. MSOTO:** Mukaraba, you can't do this --
- 50. MUKARABA:** **(cuts in)** Stop bothering me, Msoto, or I will cause you more trouble than you can even begin to imagine.
- 51. MNENE:** **(calls from far)** Mr. Mukaraba. Please come with me. Visiting time is over.
- 52. MUKARABA:** See you around, Mr. Msoto! And tell your wife to keep away from my house. She keeps coming and peeping into my compound, looking for a baby that is rightfully mine! If I see her sneaking around there one more time, my dog Linux will not be quite so friendly.
- 53. MSOTO:** **(to himself)** Damn it!
- 54. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

SCENE 3: AT BONGO ACADEMY

55. SFX: BONGO ACADEMY CLASSROOM, STUDENTS MAKING NOISE

56. SFX: HIGH-HEELED FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING

57. SFX: DOOR CLOSSES LOUDLY

58. JULIETTE: (trying to control her anger) Silence!

59. CLASS: (immediately falls silent)

60. JULIETTE: Every school has rules that each and every student MUST abide by! Rules are not there to punish you. They are there for your own good. But I’ve told you all again and again that if you’re caught breaking the rules you *will* be punished. Unfortunately, it seems that when I said that I was talking to a brick wall. Some of you simply refuse to listen. Will the following students please step forward. Nicholas Jumbe.

61. SFX: CHAIR SCRAPING

62. SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS NIKI STEPS FORWARD

63. CLASS: (murmurs)

64. JULIETTE: Daniel Kanyama!

65. SFX: CHAIR SCRAPES

66. SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS DAN STEPS FORWARD

67. CLASS: (more murmurs)

68. JULIETTE: Silence! (calls) Mercy Msoto!

69. CLASS: (even more noise)

70. JULIETTE: (to herself) Where is --

71. SFX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

72. SFX: FOOTSTEPS MERCY

73. JULIETTE: Mercy, is this the time you come to class? The school day is almost over!

74. MERCY: (panting) I'm sorry, Madame Juliette, I had to take my little brother to hospital.

75. JAEL: (shouts) Ha! Slum girl is busted!

76. CLASS: (laughs)

77. JULIETTE: Jael, if you don't shut up you'll be the next one I call up here! (to the culprits) Mercy, Dan, Niki: you three are coming with me to my office. (to the class) The rest of you: answer the questions on page 145 of your books. I want everyone to work silently until I come back.

78. SFX: FOOTSTEPS JULIETTE AND THREE STUDENTS LEAVE

79. SFX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

80. CLASS: (breaks into speculative noise) What did they do?
... I heard, Dan was caught sneaking out ... Really?
etc. (fade out)

81. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

OR FADE FROM CLASSROOM TO OFFICE ATMO

SCENE 4: IN THE PRINCIPAL’S OFFICE

82. ATMO: JULIETTE’S OFFICE ATMO (DURING CLASS)

83. JULIETTE: Now. Do you know why I called you here?

84. MERCY/DAN/NIKI: No, Madam Juliette.

85. JULIETTE: Fine. Let’s start with Niki. (sarcastic) Apparently, Mr. Nicholas Jumbe is the drug lord of Bongo Academy. He not only smokes marijuana, he also drinks alcohol. Do you have anything to say for yourself, Niki?

86. NIKI: (timidly) No, Madame.

- 87. JULIETTE:** And then there’s Mr. Daniel Kanyama, heir to the famous Kanyama corporation, and Bongo’s number one womaniser! Apparently, Dan and Mercy have been playing husband and wife, and are now expecting their first-born! Isn’t that right, Dan?
- 88. DAN:** **(silence)**
- 89. JULIETTE:** Mercy?
- 90. MERCY:** **(silence)**
- 91. JULIETTE:** Now as they say, when you sow, there comes a time to reap. The three of you are hereby suspended from Bongo Academy. You break the rules, you pay the price! All of you, pack your things and go. You’ll hear from us as soon as the board of directors has decided what to do with you.
- 92. ALL THREE STUDENTS REACT AT SAME TIME**
- 93. DAN:** But... I didn’t--
- 94. NIKI:** Please --
- 95. MERCY:** **(Cries)** I’m so sorry...
- 96. JULIETTE:** No buts, no pleading, and no excuses. I’m extremely disappointed in your behaviour. All of you.

97. OUTRO – NARRATOR:

And that’s where we end today’s episode of Crossroads Generation, a Learning by Ear radio drama. How will Niki, Dan and Mercy take the news? And what do you think: is the principal right to suspend the three of them? You’re welcome to discuss this on our Facebook page. If you’d like to listen to this or any other episode again, just visit our website at dw.de/lbe. And if you want to check out the stories making headlines in Africa in the real world, tune in to DW’s radio show Africalink, or check dw.de/Africa. Until next time - take care!