

Learning by Ear 2013

"Crossroads Generation" – Facing the Consequences

EPISODE 15: In a Foreign Land

AUTHOR: James Muhando

EDITORS: Friederike Müller, Maja Braun, Madelaine Meier

COPY EDITOR: Charlotte Collins

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SCENE 2: ANITA ARRIVES AT BONGO ACADEMY

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INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hi there, and welcome back to our radio drama “Crossroads Generation – Facing the Consequences”. We’re glad you’ve joined us for this fifteenth episode! A lot has happened so far. Trudy, for example, recently moved in with Manoti, a man who’s much older than she is.

KW BEGIN

2. EPISODE 13, LINE 9:

MANOTI: Here we go! Welcome to your new home, Trudy. Or should I say... Mrs. Manoti?

KW END

3. NARRATOR:

Mercy and Dan have been suspended from their school, because they slept together and Mercy got pregnant. But Dan comes from Laboria, where there’s recently been a civil war, and the situation at home is still unstable. He can’t reach his dad, a wealthy businessman, back at home. But someone else from Laboria has been trying desperately to reach Dan in Kisimba, and even sent him a love letter while he was still at the school:

4. EPISODE 12, LINES 22 – 29:

DAN: Hey! Come on, Biko, give me back that letter. (...)

BIKO: (...) **23.** *I'll read it for you (...)* **28. (reads)** *I'm preparing a surprise that will prove to you just how much I love you. Your sweetheart, Anita. (normal voice) Uh-oh...*

DAN: *Just shut up, will you.*

5. NARRATOR:

Dan's father, Kanyama, owns a mining company in Laboria. Mercy's two younger brothers Kadu and Banda were sent there by their aunt and made to work in the mines, but they managed to escape:

6. EPISODE 1, LINE 94:

BANDA: *Kadu, we're not allowed to talk about the mines! That's what Aunty Lena and that man Kanyama told us.*

7. NARRATOR:

This episode is called “In a Foreign Land”, and we start in Laboria, where we find Dan's father Kanyama. And he's not alone...

SCENE1: LENA AND KANYAMA IN LABORIA

8. ATMO: COUNTRYSIDE

9. SFX: MACHINE GUN FIRE IN THE DISTANCE

10. LENA: Sounds like the military is patrolling again. Kanyama, I think we should soon be able to leave our hiding place.

11. KANYAMA: Lena, that’s not a good idea.

12. LENA: But everyone else has gone back to normal life now! They’re just going about their business and walking around freely.

13. KANYAMA: You and I are not ordinary people. You know that. The minute we leave this building we’ll be arrested. The police are looking for us on child labour and trafficking offences after they found all the children working in my mines!

14. LENA: But I can’t live like this much longer! Look at this house – it’s a ruin. That’s why the people who lived here ran away. How long are we going to stay in hiding?

15. KANYAMA: Until they stop looking for us.

KW BEGIN

- 16. LENA:** And how are we going to survive? We can't even buy food any more.
- 17. KANYAMA:** Precisely! We've used up all your money over the last two months. So how do you plan to get home? Walk? Hijack a plane?
- 18. LENA:** You promised you'd give me the money back when the war was over.
- 19. KANYAMA:** Yes. But you know my accounts are frozen. I can't even send any money to my own son over in Kisimba. I don't know how Dan is surviving at school without pocket money. I haven't heard from him in such a long time...
- 20. LENA:** I'm sure he'll manage somehow.

KW END

- 21. KANYAMA** **(sighs)** I just can't believe this has happened to me. From a king to pauper, overnight. I hope my wife still believes I'm on a business trip. It was lucky that I sent her up-country to her parents before all hell broke loose.

- 22. LENA:** (trying to calm him down) Look, Kanyama, I'm sure you'll get your mines back once things have settled down a bit.
- 23. KANYAMA:** (laughs bitterly) How? In case you've forgotten, the new military government is not on my side. No more ministers to bribe so they can keep me in business. I've lost everything, Lena!
- 24. LENA:** Oh, stop being so selfish. I've lost everything, too. All my life's savings! You've had the lion's share of them... And after my two nephews ran away from your mines, I don't even dare turn to my brother Msoto for help.
- 25. KANYAMA:** Don't worry. We made sure the boys knew not to tell anybody about working in the mines. They'll be too scared.
- 26. LENA:** Who knows what they've told their parents by now... Anyway: you got me into this position. Now I want you to get me out of here! And I suggest you come with me.

27. KANYAMA: Come on, Lena, be sensible. How on earth would we cross the border?

28. LENA: **(losing her temper)** Just get me out of here, Kanyama!

29. KANYAMA: **(sighs)**

30. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: ANITA ARRIVES AT BONGO ACADEMY

31. ATMO: JULIETTE'S OFFICE ATMO

32. SFX: MARKING PAPERS: PEN SCRIBBLING, PAPERS BEING SHUFFLED

KW BEGIN

33. SFX: PEN PUT DOWN

34. JULIETTE: **(to herself)** Oh no! I'm late for the disciplinary meeting. But there's still so much to do here...

35. SFX: PHONE BEING PICKED UP, DIALLING NUMBER

36. JULIETTE: Hello, Beatrice. If anyone’s still waiting to see me, please ask them to come back tomorrow. **(pause)**
What? ...Who?... **(pause, remembers)** Ah! The exchange student from Laboria? Okay, please tell her to come in. And call the disciplinary committee to tell them I may be a few minutes late. Thanks.

37. SFX: PHONE REPLACED

KW END

38. SFX: KNOCK ON THE DOOR

39. JULIETTE: **(calls)** Come in.

40. SFX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

41. SFX: FOOTSTEPS - ANITA APPROACHES

42. ANITA **(confidently)** Hello, I’m Anita Nyomoozi from Laboria.
You must be Principal Juliette. Pleased to meet you.

43. JULIETTE: Welcome to Kisimba, Anita, and to Bongo Academy.
Have a seat.

44. ANITA: Thank you.

45. SFX: CHAIR PULLED OUT AS SHE SITS

46. JULIETTE: Tell me, how bad are things in your country now?

- 47. ANITA:** The fighting’s stopped in most areas, now that the army has taken over. But the situation is still far from stable. My family’s very relieved that I can be here in Kisimba right now.
- 48. JULIETTE:** May I see your papers, please?
- 49. ANITA:** Of course, Principal Juliette.
- 50. SFX: BAG OPENED WITH ZIPPER**
- 51. SFX: PAPERS TAKEN OUT AND HANDED OVER**
- 52. ANITA:** Here they are.
- 53. SFX: PAPER SHUFFLED**
- 54. JULIETTE** (**flips papers**) Anita Nyomoozi ... sixteen years old ...
Hmm. I see you have very good grades, Anita.
- 55. ANITA:** Thank you, Madame.
- 56. JULIETTE:** (**reacts to something she’s just read**) Oh, interesting! It says here that you’re also a trained peer counsellor. I assume you’d like to continue this work here at the youth centre?
- 57. ANITA:** Oh yes, please, Madame Juliette. I worked at a youth centre at home in Laboria, and I’d certainly like to use my skills here if possible.

KW BEGIN

58. JULIETTE: That’s a very good idea. But how would you plan to do that and still get your school work done?

59. ANITA: With your permission, I’d go there after class and at weekends. School work comes first, of course.

60. JULIETTE: **(impressed)** Hmm! Impressive. I think you’ll be a lot of help around here, Anita.

61. ANITA: Thank you, Madame. I’m looking forward to it.

KW END

62. JULIETTE: I like it that you sound so confident. But I hope you’re also well-behaved. We don’t take kindly to bad behaviour here at Bongo Academy, or to pupils breaking the rules. In fact, we recently had to suspend three students for lack of discipline. I assure you that if you misbehave I won’t treat you any differently just because you’re here on an exchange program.

63. ANITA: Yes, Madame Juliette, I understand. I won’t disappoint you.

64. JULIETTE: Good. Now I’ll take you to join your new class.

65. ANITA: Um – may I ask you something, Principal Juliette?

- 66. JULIETTE:** Go ahead.
- 67. ANITA:** Do you know Dan Kanyama?
- 68. JULIETTE:** Yes, of course. Actually, Dan is one of the students we suspended.
- 69. ANITA:** **(surprised)** What? Why?
- 70. JULIETTE:** For lack of discipline, as I said. We suspended him two months ago. How do you know him?
- 71. ANITA:** **(stammers)** He’s... we’re... family friends. I... I had no idea....
- 72. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

SCENE 3: AT MANOTI AND TRUDY’S PLACE

- 73. ATMO: MUSIC IN THE BACKGROUND**
- 74. SFX: CELLPHONE RINGING**
- 75. SFX: BEEP AS PHONE IS ANSWERED**
- 76. MANOTI:** Manoti speaking? ... **(sweet voice)** Hello! Yes, my sweet Lily. You know you’re the only woman for me...
Of course I do. We’ll see each other tomorrow. I’ll come to your place...
- 77. SFX: DOOR OPENS**

78. MANOTI: (whispers urgently) I have to go. I'll call you later...

79. SFX: PHONE DISCONNECTS

80. MANOTI: (overly friendly) Trudy! You're back already!

81. SFX: FOOTSTEPS TRUDY APPROACHING

82. TRUDY: Hello Manoti! Who was that on phone? Your mother?

83. MANOTI: (laughs sheepishly) Yeah, that was my mother. How was school?

84. TRUDY: Fine. But I'm a bit tired and hungry.

85. MANOTI: So am I. Why don't you cook us something delicious?

86. TRUDY: Um... well, I have a lot of homework...

87. MANOTI: (a bit annoyed) Okay, then I'll help you prepare the food. You know that means a lot, don't you? I never usually cook!

88. TRUDY: I know... Thank you. You know what?

89. MANOTI: Hmm?

90. TRUDY: I'm really glad I moved in with you, Manoti.

91. MANOTI: (pleased with himself) Pleased to hear it.

92. SFX: THEY KISS

93. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: AT THE MSOTOS'

94. ATMO: TANDIKA; INSIDE MERCY'S HOUSE, DAYTIME

95. MERCY: (crying)

96. KADU: Mum, why's my sister Mercy crying?

97. LULU: Because she wants to go back to school.

98. KADU: Banda and I don't go to school, but we don't cry!

99. LULU: Well, that's good! You're boys, and boys don't cry.

100. KADU: That's what Aunty Lena said. We're not sissies!

101. LULU: (strict) Don't ever mention that name to me again!
(to Mercy) Mercy, stop this crying and eat something.

KW BEGIN

102. MERCY: I don't want to eat.

103. LULU: You've been crying for two months now, and what good has it done you?

KW END

104. MERCY: I'm not hungry. I just want to go back to school.

105. LULU: What do you want me to do? I've spoken to your Principal, and she says there's nothing more she can do.

106. MERCY: (cries)

KW BEGIN

107. **LULU:** She suggested you could do vacation training.
108. **MERCY:** **(still sniffing)** What’s vacation training?
109. **LULU:** She said it was training to do something you’re best suited for... I didn’t quite get it.
110. **MERCY:** **(still crying, but can’t fight laughing)** Vocational training mum, not vacation training!
111. **LULU** **(amused)** Yeah, whatever. Go on, laugh at your poor semi-literate mother. Not all of us were lucky enough to get presidential bursaries and go to a posh school.

KW END

112. **KADU:** Mercy, don’t cry any more. When I grow up I’ll work hard and I’ll send you to school.
113. **THEY LAUGH**
114. **MERCY:** Oh Kadu, thank you, my little brother! You never know, I might just take you up on that one day.

115. OUTRO – NARRATOR:

So, that’s it for today’s episode of Learning by Ear! Mercy is sad that she can’t go to school, and meanwhile Anita has just arrived at Bongo Academy as an exchange student. Of course, she tried to hide her shock in front of Principal Juliette when she heard that her boyfriend Dan had been suspended... Want to know how she really feels? Then check out her video diary on our website, dw.de/lbe. If you’d like to listen to this or any other previous episode again, you can find them on our website, too. And we’re looking forward to reading your comments on our Facebook page! Until next time - goodbye!