

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 4: Facing New Challenges

EPISODE ELEVEN: What More Do You Want?

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INTRO:

1. **NARRATOR:** Good day to you and welcome to our radio series Crossroads Generation, about a group of young Africans, the challenges they face in their daily lives and how they deal with them. This is the eleventh episode, called “What More Do You Want?” Previously, Mercy and Niki visited Counsellor Margaret to find out whether it was possible for them to have a baby together, even though Niki is HIV positive:

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 10, LINE 62

***MARGARET:** What if I told you that under certain conditions it is possible to have a child with an infected person and remain uninfected?*

3. NARRATOR: This is good news for Mercy and Niki. But will they really go for it and try to have a baby? By the way: apart from Counsellor Margaret, so far only Mercy and her close friend Tina know that Niki is HIV positive. It's a well-kept secret, because they're worried about all the prejudices against HIV positive people. In the nearby slum, 12-year-old Sama wanted to introduce her friend Kadu to her sister Noni. But Noni had a seizure and Kadu ran away. It was lucky that Anita was passing by and heard Sama calling for help, as she tried to calm her epileptic sister:

4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 10, LINES 86, 90-93

ANITA: Oh no - quick, get that spoon out of her mouth! (...)

ANITA: Pass me that pillow to rest her head on.

SAMA: (CRIES) Oh, thank you! The fit has stopped!

5. NARRATOR: Anita works at Kisimba Special School for pupils with disabilities, so she knows exactly what to do. After Anita had helped Sama calm Noni, she wanted to talk to the girls' father, Paulo, but they had to wait for him to get back from work. Let's join Anita, Sama and Noni in the Tandika slum as Paulo returns ...

SCENE 1: PAULO SENDS ANITA AWAY

6. **ATMO: SLUM ATMO**

7. **PAULO:** **(CALLS FROM OUTSIDE)** Sama! Where are you?

8. **SAMA:** I'm here, Dad. In Noni's room.

9. **SFX: DOOR CREAKS OPEN**

10. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS COME IN**

11. **PAULO:** That's a good girl. You're always taking good care of your sis-- **(SUDDENLY)** What's going on here? Who is this?

12. **SAMA:** Dad, this is Anita. Noni had another fit. It was very violent this time. Anita here helped me.

13. **PAULO:** **(UNFRIENDLY)** Thank you for helping us, Anita, but I'm here now. You can go.

14. **ANITA:** Baba Sama, I work at Kisimba Special School. I think we may be able to help Noni.

15. **PAULO:** You cannot help us, young girl. My daughter has been bewitched. So unless you're a sorcerer and

can remove the spell, I suggest you leave me and my family alone.

16. **ANITA:** Sir, we deal with children just like her at our school. I assure you, there are ways of helping her other than by witchcraft. We educate the children, but not only that - our staff is also trained to care for them in the best way possible. And there are therapies that could also improve her health. It wouldn't cost you a thing! It's all paid for by well-wishers!

Flashback Ep. 12, line 2

17. **PAULO:** **(SARCASTIC)** Young girl, I said leave us! Who do you think you are? An angel of God? Just because you helped Noni does not mean you suddenly get to make decisions in my house.

18. **SAMA:** Dad, please...!

19. **PAULO:** Shut up, Sama!

20. **ANITA:** All right! But I'll leave you my number, in case you change your mind!

21. **SFX: QUICK SCRIBBLING**

22. **SFX: PAPER TORN FROM NOTEBOOK**
23. **SFX: PAPER HANDED OVER**
24. **ANITA:** Goodbye!
25. **SFX: STEPS LEAVING**
26. **SFX: DOOR CREAKS OPEN, SHUTS**
27. **PAULO:** **(ANGRY)** You too, Sama! Get out of here! NOW!
28. **SAMA:** Yes, Dad.
29. **SFX: QUICK FOOTSTEPS LEAVING**
30. **PAULO:** **(CALLS AFTER HER)** Next time I catch you
bringing strangers into this room, you'll wish you had
never been born!

Musical interlude

SCENE 2: JUMBE CALLS ABOUT A GRANDSON

31. **ATMO: TRAFFIC, HORNS BLARING, PEOPLE RUNNING, ETC.**

32. **SFX: DRIZZLE**

33. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS PEOPLE WALK ON SOGGY GROUND**

34. **NIKI:** I wish we had a car, what with all this rain! I don't know why the buses seem to stop running whenever it rains.

35. **MERCY:** Well, you were too proud to accept your dad's offer to give us a car. Now you have to pay the price.

36. **NIKI:** We're almost there now, don't worry, my dear Mer--

37. **SFX: PHONE RINGS**

38. **NIKI:** Oh no, not now!

39. **SFX: PHONE CALL REJECTED**

40. **NIKI:** It's my dad. I'll call him later. He has been giving me grief about wanting a grandson. I know that's why he's calling again.

41. **MERCY:** Is *that* why you've been hassling me about having a baby?

42. **NIKI:** Please, Mercy, don't start on at me again. I've said I'm sorry. It's just that sometimes I don't really feel that I'm loved, and it would be great to have someone --
43. **MERCY:** Niki! I knew you had HIV when we got married, and I married you anyway. What more can I do to prove that I love you?
44. **NIKI:** I'm sorry. I --
45. **KADU/BANDA:** Hi, Niki! Hi, Mercy!
46. **MERCY/NIKI:** **(SURPRISED)** Kadu, Banda!
47. **MERCY:** What are you doing here, my dear brothers?
48. **BANDA:** Mum said we could visit if we wanted, but only for a few hours.
49. **KADU:** Your door was locked when we got here, so we decided to wait.
50. **MERCY:** In the rain, without an umbrella?
51. **BANDA:** Well, we didn't know where else to go.
52. **SFX: DOOR BEING OPENED**

53. **NIKI:** Come on, boys, don't just stand there - come in and get out of those wet clothes!

Musical interlude

SCENE 3: ANITA CALLS TINA

54. **ATMO: UNIVERSITY HOSTEL, LATE EVENING**
55. **SFX: RAINFALL**
56. **STUDENT: (FROM AFAR)** Hey Tina, how are you doing?
57. **SFX: SOMEBODY STEPPING IN PUDDLES OF WATER**
58. **TINA:** Argh! I wish they'd do something about these puddles - my shoes are all muddy!
59. **STUDENT:** Ha, yeah! Have a nice evening anyway! Bye!
60. **TINA:** You too! Bye!
61. **SFX: RUMMAGING IN BAG**
62. **TINA: (PANTING, TO HERSELF)** Damn! Where the hell is my key? Ah, here it is!
63. **SFX: KEYS JINGLING; KEY TURNING IN LOCK**
64. **SFX: DOOR OPENS**

65. TINA: I hate this weather! My clothes are always soaking wet by the time I get home. **(SIGHS)** I guess Dan may be right after all with that climate change thing he keeps going on about... I actually kind of like Dan. He's a simple guy in lots of ways, and in others he's really deep! I think he quite likes me too... But when I think about how badly he treated Mercy when they were together... Hm. That was a long time ago... Maybe he's changed. What about Anita, though? I don't trust Anita... the way she looks at him... Hmm. Maybe I should do something about it before she pounces! In fact, I think I will...

66. SFX: TINA'S PHONE RINGS

67. TINA: Who's this? **(CHUCKLES)** Talk of the devil... Anita! Why would she be calling me?

68. SFX: PHONE ANSWERED

69. TINA: Hi - Anita?

70. ANITA: **(ON PHONE)** Hey Tina, sorry to call so late but there's something I really need to talk to you about.

71. **TINA:** Sure: go ahead!
72. **ANITA:** Do you think you could interview me on your radio show?
73. **TINA:** **(CONFUSED)** Interview you on my show...? Sorry, I don't understand. You know what my show's about, right?
74. **ANITA:** Sure I do. It's about women, and I'm a woman.
75. **TINA:** But not just any women - they have to be women who make a difference, women who --
76. **ANITA:** **(INTERRUPTS)** Listen, would you just meet me, please? For a few minutes, sometime this week? Then I can explain to you in person what it's all about.
77. **TINA:** Okay. Say... Wednesday at ten o'clock? At the university canteen? You can't miss it. It's the big yellow building.
78. **ANITA:** Thanks a lot, Tina. I'll be there.
79. **SFX: PHONE DISCONNECTS**

80. **TINA:** **(TO HERSELF)** I wonder what she wants to talk about!

Musical interlude

SCENE 4: KADU TELLS BANDA ABOUT NONI

81. **SFX:** HEAVY RAIN OUTSIDE

82. **SFX:** CUTLERY TAKEN AWAY AS PEOPLE FINISH EATING

83. **KADU:** Thanks for dinner, Mercy.

84. **BANDA:** Yeah. It was really delicious!

85. **MERCY:** You're welcome, my brothers.

86. **NIKI:** You know, I think I'll go to bed, if you don't mind. I'm really tired. Sleep well, boys - I'll see you in the morning.

87. **BANDA/KADU:** Good night, Niki.

88. **MERCY:** So what did Mum say when you told her you wouldn't be coming home tonight?

89. **BANDA:** She thought we were lying when we told her the buses weren't running because it was raining so heavily .
90. **KADU:** I'm sure she'll punish us when we go back tomorrow.
91. **MERCY:** Don't worry. I'll talk to her. She'll understand.
(SIGHS) All right, you boys can sleep on the floor. Just spread out the cushions over there - you can sleep on those.

KW BEGIN

92. **BANDA:** Where does Linda sleep?
93. **MERCY:** On the couch, usually, but she can sleep with us in the bedroom tonight. As you can see, the house isn't that big!

KW END Good night, boys!

94. **KADU/BANDA:** Night, Mercy!
95. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS GOING AWAY, DOOR SHUT**

96. **BANDA: (WHISPERS)** Kadu! Did you hear what our sister was saying when she and Niki got home?

97. **KADU:** No. What?

Flashback Ep. 12, line 4

98. **BANDA:** Mercy said, '*I knew you had HIV when we got married*'...

99. **KADU:** HIV? Niki has HIV? Isn't that the bad disease - AIDS?

100. **BANDA:** We have to tell Mum!

101. **KADU:** Banda...

102. **BANDA:** Yes, Kadu?

103. **KADU:** Before we came to visit Mercy I saw something really scary.

104. **BANDA:** What?

105. **KADU:** Sama's sister, Noni. I think she has the demons that Dad used to talk about.

106. **BANDA:** Why? What was she doing?

107. KADU: She was foaming at the mouth, and thrashing about all over the place!

108. BANDA: Kadu! What if the demons entered you?!

109. KADU: Demons? No, no, they didn't! I didn't touch her. And I ran away very fast.

OUTRO:

And that's the end of Crossroads Generation for today! Will Kadu and Banda really tell their mother that Niki is HIV positive? If they do, how will she react? Niki doesn't know yet that Kadu and Banda have discovered his secret - but he has some other concerns he's been confiding to his video blog. To find out what they are, just go to dw.de/lbe. And if you want to know what it is that Anita's so keen to tell Tina, don't forget to tune in again next time. Bye bye!