

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 4: Facing New Challenges

EPISODE TWENTY-FIVE: Too Little, Too Late!

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List of characters by scene:

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- CROWD - 5-6 MIXED GENDER ADULTS (TINA TOO)
- TINA – F 19 (CROWD)
- DISTRICT COMMISSIONER (DC) - M ADULT
- DAN - M 19

SCENE 2: THE BOYS ENROL AT KISIMBA SPECIAL

- ANITA - F 19
- KADU - M 12
- BANDA - M 12
- LULU - F 40s

SCENE 3: DAN AND TINA TALK ABOUT THE MEETING

- TINA - F 20
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SCENE 4: THE PEOPLE RESOLVE THEIR ISSUES

- ANITA - F 19
- TINA - F 20
- CROWD OF WORKERS – MIXED ADULTS (4-5)

INTRO:

1. **NARRATOR:** Welcome back to Crossroads Generation. We're getting close to the end of this fourth season, "Facing New Challenges"! And we're glad you can join us for this twenty-fifth episode. With the help of their sister Mercy, the 12-year-old twins Kadu and Banda were recently awarded scholarships to attend Kisimba Special School. It is indeed special, because it's started an integrative programme in which disabled and non-disabled children learn together. Kadu recently had an unfortunate encounter with a disabled girl: Noni, the sister of his young friend Sama, who is also epileptic:

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 10, LINES 35-36; 41-43, 45-47

SAMA: *We're here. Promise you won't freak out, Kadu.*

KADU: *Why would I freak out, Sama? (...)*

SAMA: **(URGENT)** *Oh my God - Noni!*

KADU: **(SCARED)** *What... what is that? What's happening to her? (...)*

KADU: *I... I have to go, sorry. Banda and I have to catch the bus to town to see our sister Mercy... Bye.*

SAMA: **(STRAINED)** *Wait, Kadu - where are you going? You promised me you wouldn't freak out!*

3. **NARRATOR:** Thanks to the teacher Anita, Noni and Sama are now also at Kisimba Special School. So the three kids will probably meet again... The school has just recovered from a typhoid outbreak, a consequence of the devastating flood that hit Tandika. Many people died in the floods - among them Niki's mother, Mrs. Jumbe, who was also Dan's business partner. Others have lost their homes, and the streets are impassable. Dan is known for his commitment to the local environment, and in this episode he's speaking up on behalf of people who don't usually have a voice. Where is this? Let's find out, in today's episode: "Too Little, Too Late!"

SCENE 1: THE GOVERNMENT RESPONDS - TOO LATE!

4. **ATMO: ROWDY OPEN-AIR MEETING**

KW BEGIN

5. **CROWD:** No! No! - Enough! - We don't need to hear this!
(etc.)

6. **DISTRICT COMMISSIONER (DC):** Please, fellow citizens!
Please listen! I know you are angry. We are all --

7. **CROWD:** No! No! We don't want to listen. - We've lost our families, our houses... - How are we expected to live now? - Sit down! - We pay taxes too! (etc.)

KW END

8. **DC:** **(SPEAKS OVER THEM)** Please! Settle down!
(PAUSE) Let's try to understand each other, so that we can offer some solutions! We as the government have come here to talk about ways to prevent another disaster like this one, or at least be able to respond better. We need to listen to each other. If we just shout at each other, we won't make any progress! - Please! - *Please!*

9. **CROWD:** **CALMS DOWN**

10. **DC:** That's better! Now: can we have one person at a time? Yes, you.

11. **DAN:** Thank you, sir. My name is Dan. I'm very disappointed in this government! We are *all* very disappointed!

12. **CROWD:** Yes! - Very disappointed! (etc.)

13. DAN: The government never listens to us. For a long time now we've been asking it to move the Tandika garbage dump further away from the houses, but NO ONE ever listens!

14. CROWD: (SHOUTS ENCOURAGEMENT)

Flashback Ep. 26, line 4

15. DAN: We all know that one of the reasons Tandika flooded is because the dump is right where the drainage should be.

16. CROWD: SUPPORTS HIM

17. DAN: The dump is the source of all the water-borne diseases we've been experiencing! A lot of people are now suffering from typhoid.

18. CROWD: Yes! - True! - You tell them, Dan! (etc.)

19. DAN: Our government is very good at one thing: WAITING! It waits until something actually happens, and then the politicians come bumping out here in their four-by-fours to tell us they're sorry!

20. CROWD: ECSTATIC SUPPORT

21. **DAN:** But 'sorry' won't bring back our children or our mothers and fathers who perished in the floods.
22. **CROWD:** **GOES WILD**
23. **DAN:** **(CALMER)** The District Commissioner is talking about solutions. Well, it's not like you don't know what they are, Mr. DC. In other countries we hear they have early warning systems. Why don't we have them here?
24. **CROWD:** Yes! Yes! Tell them!
25. **DAN:** Other countries have rescue teams who are trained to handle situations like this... Why is it so difficult to have the same here?
26. **CROWD:** **WILDLY SUPPORT HIM**
27. **DAN:** And don't try and tell us there isn't any money. We know all about the expensive parties and foreign trips you and your officers have been taking at our expense!
28. **CROWD:** **EVEN WILDER. FADE OUT**

Musical interlude

SCENE 2: THE BOYS ENROLL AT KISIMBA SPECIAL

29. **ATMO: SCHOOL OFFICE, CHILDREN IN BACKGROUND**

30. **SFX: DOOR OPENS**

31. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS ENTERING**

32. **ANITA:** Sorry to keep you waiting, Mama Mercy. Hi Kadu, hi Banda.

33. **KADU/BANDA:** Hi, Auntie Anita.

34. **LULU:** **(POLITE)** That's okay, Anita. We're grateful you could see us at all!

35. **ANITA:** **(SIGHS IN FRUSTRATION)** We're swamped today. So many things to do... We've had our hands full dealing with all the typhoid patients! Anyway: as Mercy told you, the boys can come to our school now, and you won't have to pay any school fees.

36. **LULU:** You don't know how grateful I am! Thank you so much, Anita!

37. **ANITA:** You will have to buy your own books, though, so it's not completely free.

38. **LULU:** I know that. It's still much better than the other way round!

39. **ANITA:** As for you, boys: you know this is a special school, right?
40. **KADU/BANDA:** Yes, Auntie Anita!
41. **ANITA:** That means you'll be meeting children who may not have all the advantages you have. You will be courteous to them at all times.
42. **KADU/BANDA:** Yes, Auntie.
43. **ANITA:** And you'd better learn to address me as Teacher Anita. We don't want the other kids to think you're my favourites!
44. **KADU/BANDA:** Yes, Aunt-- ...Teacher!
45. **ANITA:** Oh, and Kadu...
46. **KADU:** Yes?
47. **ANITA:** You may already know that Sama and Noni go to school here, too. Sama told me about what happened between the two of you.
48. **KADU:** I'm sorry, Teacher...
49. **ANITA:** Don't apologize to me. I expect you to apologize to Noni and Sama. Is that clear?
50. **KADU:** Yes, Teacher.

51. **ANITA:** Good. Okay - you can go to your classroom now.

52. **SFX: DOOR OPENS, SHUTS**

53. **SFX: TWO PAIRS OF FOOTSTEPS GOING AWAY**

KW BEGIN

54. **LULU:** What has that naughty boy done now?

55. **ANITA:** It's nothing, Mama Mercy. Just children being children. **(CHANGES TOPIC)** Are you going to Mrs. Jumbe's funeral?

56. **LULU:** Of course. She is ... she was my daughter's mother-in-law. If I missed it, I'd never hear the end of it.

KW END

Musical interlude

SCENE 3: DAN AND TINA TALK ABOUT THE MEETING

57. ATMO: STREET ATMO, LIGHT TRAFFIC

58. SFX: TWO SETS OF FOOTSTEPS AND ONE SET OF CRUTCHES ON PAVED STREET

59. TINA: Wow, Dan, no one would think you'd only just been discharged from hospital - you were really on fire in that meeting!

60. DAN: Yeah, with these crutches I look like my grandpa, but I was so angry with them! I mean, Tina - what good does it do to bring us their rations of food and soothing words when people have already died?

61. TINA: But aren't you afraid you might get into trouble? I don't know how it is in your country, but our government doesn't take kindly to criticism.

62. DAN: **(ANGRY)** What can they do to me? I mean, I have no idea where my dad is, I've lost my business partner, Mrs. Jumbe – may she rest in peace - and that man just stands there on his high horse and talks about 'finding solutions'?!

63. **TINA:** **(SIGHS)** Well, I hope he didn't take it too badly! I admire your commitment, but please don't go on a limb.
64. **DAN:** Don't worry, babe.
65. **SFX: SMS TONE OF TINA'S MOBILE**
66. **TINA:** Oh, I just got a message from Anita. I have to run, Dan. See you later!
67. **DAN:** Okay, see you later!

Musical interlude

SCENE 4: THE PEOPLE RESOLVE THEIR ISSUES

68. **ATMO: SLUM ATMO**
69. **CROWD: TALKING ETC.**
70. **SFX: SHOVELS IN MUD, TRACTOR NOISE ETC.**
71. **ANITA:** **(SHOUTS)** All right, people! Hey! I think it's time to take a break! What exactly are you doing here anyway?
72. **SFX: SHOVELS, VOICES, TRACTORS ETC. CONTINUE**

- 73. TINA:** I don't think anybody wants to listen to you, Anita. They'd rather get on with the job.
- 74. ANITA:** Tina, I mean, it's quite understandable that they want to get rid of the garbage dump themselves, after what's happened. I know they're angry - they've been begging the authorities to move it for years.
- 75. TINA:** Exactly. And you saw how quickly the people organized trucks and tractors to move the dirt away, once they decided to do it themselves.
- 76. ANITA:** But where do they want to take all the waste? It doesn't make sense to act so hastily, without thinking things through. They'll just end up creating the same problem in a different place.
- 77. TINA:** You know, Anita, I'm kind of nervous about all this. It's like we've created a monster. Dan and his young environmental activists are blocking the garbage trucks from dumping here! There's a huge traffic jam on the highway.

78. **ANITA:** It's not a monster, Tina! It's a good thing that people have started getting involved. It means they've understood that we really can change things! But we have to act in a well-thought-out way, otherwise we won't achieve our goals. It may take a bit longer to get there, but the outcome will be much more sustainable.
79. **TINA:** I know! But Dan won't listen to me. I'm afraid the police might get involved, and --
80. **ANITA:** **(SHOUTS)** Okay! Listen up, people! Please listen!
81. **CROWD: GRADUALLY GO SILENT**
82. **ANITA:** Thank you, everybody! We really thank you for showing up in such large numbers to help move this dump. But if we don't stop now, we might all get into trouble with the police. And --
83. **CROWD:** No! - No way! - We have to finish this - We have to move the dump! - They can't stop us - Let them come - (etc.)
84. **ANITA:** What good will it do us if we all get arrested? I'm not saying we should give up on moving the dump - on

the contrary! But we need to think this through. We have to make a plan that can be a permanent solution!

- 85. CROWD:** But what'll that be? - That could take years! - We can't wait any longer! - We're sick of this - We've had enough! (etc.)
- 86. ANITA:** Listen. We really share your frustration. And we don't have a plan we can just pull out of a hat. But let's start working on one - together! We'll form a task force, examine all the possible options, and look carefully at how they'll affect the community.
- 87. TINA:** Yeah! And we'll start a campaign in the media - win even more local people over to our cause!
- 88. ANITA:** We can talk to experts and organizations who have experience in dealing with waste disposal.

- 89. TINA:** I'm sure you've all got lots of good ideas! If we work like this, we'll end up with more than just a quick fix - we can create a long-term plan that will move the dump for good!
- 90. CROWD:** Hmm... - I guess - Sounds reasonable - Do you think we can do it? - Okay, why not - Let's give it a try. (etc.)

OUTRO:

Wow! Sounds like the environmental movement in Tandika is really gathering momentum! We have to end here for today - but how will the authorities react to Dan's outspoken criticism? And if you're still wondering where Dan's father is, join us next time to find out - in the final episode of this season of Crossroads Generation. Check out our website dw.de/lbe if you'd like to listen to this or any previous episode again - and you can also contact us via Facebook. Till then, bye bye and take care!