

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 4: Facing New Challenges

EPISODE TWELVE: Give Me a Chance!

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List of characters by scene:

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- **MERCY – F 19**
- **LULU - F 40s**

SCENE 2: ANITA MEETS TINA

- **TINA - F 20**
- **ANITA - F 19**
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SCENE 3: DAN’S HOUSE IS LEAKING

- **DAN - M 19**

SCENE 4: ‘LIVING POSITIVE’ MEETING

- **LUCY - F (ADULT)**
- **NIKI - M 19**
- **MERCY - F 19**
- **DEDE - M (ADULT)**
- **CROWD - (4-5 MIXED ADULTS)**

INTRO:

1. **NARRATOR:** Hello and welcome back to Crossroads Generation. Glad you could tune in to our ongoing radio drama about a group of African teenagers. We're on our fourth season, called "Facing New Challenges". Last time, Paulo got angry with Anita when she offered him help with his daughter, Noni. Noni is disabled, and she also suffers from epilepsy. Anita works at a school for children with special needs, so she knows all about how to support them. But Paulo wasn't interested:

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 11, LINE 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.

3. **NARRATOR:** Paulo believes that Noni is bewitched, and that only a sorcerer can help. Meanwhile, in Niki and Mercy's relationship, things have taken a new turn. They've decided to join a support group in order to adapt better to life with Niki's HIV infection. So far they haven't told anyone in their family about Niki's infection - but this secret they've kept so closely is just about to leak. Mercy's brothers, Kadu and Banda, came to visit, and overheard them talking about Niki's infection:

4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 11, LINES 98-100

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

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

BANDA: *We have to tell Mum!*

5. NARRATOR: A few days have passed since then. Today's episode, "Give Me a Chance", starts in the Tandika slums, where Mercy is visiting her mother, Lulu.

SCENE 1: LULU SENDS MERCY PACKING

6. ATMO: SLUM ATMO, DAYTIME

7. SFX: UTENSILS BEING WASHED

8. MERCY: Mum, thanks for lunch. It was delicious! Great that I could just drop in between university and ... yeah, I'm sorry I have to go already, Niki and I have an appointment this evening.

9. LULU: SILENT

10. MERCY: Oh, but before I go, let me help you with the dishes.
(REALIZES) Hey, Mum, why did you put my plate and cutlery in a separate container?

11. **LULU:** **(FLAT)** Because you're a guest, and we don't want to mix them with the children's. You know how dirty and messy they can be.

12. **MERCY:** **(SURPRISED)** Really? Mum, you don't have to do that. I'm not a guest here. Come on, who do you think you're talking to? I'm your daughter - I grew up here! Let me help you with those before I go.

KW BEGIN

13. **LULU:** **(ALARMED)** No, no! It's okay.

14. **MERCY:** Come on, Mum, go and sit down. I can't let you wash up while I'm here.

KW END

15. **LULU:** **(SNAPS)** I said I'll do it!

16. **MERCY:** Woo! What did I do? Did I say something wrong?

17. **LULU: SILENT**

18. **MERCY:** Mum?

19. **LULU: SILENT BUT FOR THE WASHING UP**

20. **MERCY:** Mum, are you okay?

21. **LULU:** **(SHOUTS)** No! I am not okay, Mercy, all right? I am NOT okay!

22. **MERCY:** What's wrong?
23. **LULU:** YOU are what's wrong! YOU, Mercy!
24. **MERCY:** What are you talking about? What have I done?!
25. **LULU:** How could you...? How could you, in your right mind, marry someone who has AIDS? With all your education, Mercy? How? **(SIGHS)**
26. **MERCY:** Excuse me? What are you talking about?
27. **LULU:** **(SHOUTS)** You know what I'm talking about!
28. **MERCY:** I... I don't think I understand....
29. **LULU:** I'm talking about that so-called husband of yours, Niki, you fool! You knew he had AIDS and you still went ahead and married him?!
30. **MERCY:** Mum, who told you this? Niki doesn't have AIDS.
31. **LULU:** Don't lie to me! Shut your mouth and stop lying to me! Your brother Banda overheard you talking.
32. **MERCY:** Mum! Listen to me! Niki does not have AIDS. Yes, he is HIV positive, but he does not have AIDS yet.

Flashback Ep. 17, line 4

33. LULU: Get out of my house! Get out of my house right now,
before you infect my children with that devil's
disease! You think I'm a fool?

34. MERCY: Mum, wait...!

35. LULU: **(ANGRY)** I said get out!

36. MERCY: **(SIGHS)** Okay, fine. I'm going. You don't have to yell
at me!

37. SFX: FOOTSTEPS LEAVING

38. SFX: DOOR OPENS, BANGS SHUT

39. LULU: You stupid girl!

Musical interlude

SCENE 2: ANITA MEETS TINA

**40. ATMO: UNIVERSITY CANTEEN, PEOPLE TALKING, CUTLERY
ETC.**

41. WAITER: Hi, Tina! Loved your radio show yesterday.

42. TINA: Oh - thanks, Red!

43. WAITER: So what can I get you today?

44. TINA: Just a cup of black coffee, please.

45. WAITER: Right away!

46. TINA: **(TO HERSELF)** Anita had better be on time, or she'll
have to wait until after my show ... Oh, there she is!
(CALLS) Hey, Anita! Over here!

47. ANITA: **(FROM FAR)** Oh - hi, Tina!

48. SFX: FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING

49. ANITA: **(PANTING)** Hi Tina. Sorry, I almost missed the bus.

50. TINA: Don't worry, you're not late.

51. WAITER: Here you go.

52. TINA: Thanks, Red. **(TO ANITA)** Will you have something?

53. ANITA: No, no! I'm fine. Look, I know you're busy, so I'll get
straight to the point. The other day I met a girl who's
in a very bad situation.

54. TINA: Okay...
55. ANITA: She lives in the slum and as well as being disabled she also suffers from epilepsy.
56. TINA: Disabled? In what way?
57. ANITA: Well, in our school we work with children who had polio when they were younger. Noni must have had it, too. She has all the symptoms – a withered leg, for example, and her arms are paralysed. If only more people knew that you can vaccinate against polio!
58. TINA: Really?
59. ANITA: Sure. But the saddest thing is that her father keeps her chained to the bed, so that she **(MIMICS)** *'doesn't hurt herself.'* They leave her alone when they're out, and she goes to the toilet right there. It was such an awful sight!
60. TINA: Really? Who would do such a thing?

Flashback Ep. 13, line 2

61. ANITA: Believe it or not, he thinks the girl's bewitched.
62. TINA: **(SURPRISED)** What?

63. **ANITA:** Imagine! I suggested that she should come to our school, but he got really angry and sent me away.

64. **TINA:** Oh no!

65. **ANITA:** So I started thinking... What if, through your show, we could highlight her story? Because I know there are lots of families like this one, who hide disabled children away.

66. **TINA:** You know what? This is something I'd definitely like to do. I'll check with Mercy - she's my producer - but I don't see why she would object.

67. **ANITA:** Tina, that's great. I can't thank you enough. I just really felt for that poor girl - I wanted to do something.

KW BEGIN

68. **TINA:** Absolutely. It would be even better if we could talk to her or her family, but it doesn't sound as if they'll cooperate. So I guess you're the next best person to interview, since you're a teacher at the special school and have seen and talked to this particular family.

KW END

Musical interlude

SCENE 3: DAN'S HOUSE IS LEAKING

69. ATMO: SLUM ATMO

70. SFX: SOUNDS OF SHOVELLING AS SOMEONE SCOOPS MUD

71. DAN: (TO HIMSELF) Why won't people listen to me?
(MIMICS) 'Oh, Dan, stop exaggerating - all this talk about environmental protection - we don't see that there's any need'. Oh, really. Well if someone doesn't do something about these blocked drains very soon, we're all going to be in big trouble. My house is already starting to flood. If I don't unclog this drain, it's only a matter of time before I'm swimming in my own house. **(LAUGHS)**

72. SFX: SHOVELLING

73. DAN: I don't know why nobody cares about this slum. Not the government - not even the people who live here.

74. SFX: SHOVELLING

75. **DAN:** Maybe I could organize a big clean-up day. Get the whole community involved. Hmm... That would certainly be a way of raising awareness about basic things we can all do to take care of our environment.

76. **SFX: MESSAGE TONE**

77. **DAN:** Oh! A message from Anita... **(READS)** *'Hi Dan, can I see you later today?'* I wonder what she wants to talk about. I still kind of like her... **(SIGHS)** But actually, those days are long gone... And I'm pretty much over Mercy now, as well. Tina, though... I really like her manner - she's so easy and confident. Maybe I should do something about it...

Musical interlude

SCENE 4: 'LIVING POSITIVE' MEETING

78. ATMO: NOISY MEETING

79. CROWD: (CONVERSES IN LOUD TONES, LAUGHTER, ETC)

80. LUCY: Hello, everyone - welcome to the Living Positive Support Group meeting! May I have your attention, please?

81. CROWD: NOISY

82. LUCY: Excuse me!

83. CROWD: CALMS GRADUALLY

84. LUCY: Thank you very much. Good afternoon.

85. CROWD: Good afternoon.

86. LUCY: My name is Lucy, and I am HIV positive!

87. CROWD: APPLAUSE

88. LUCY: As we do at the start of every meeting, will you join me in saying our daily statement? Here we go...

89. CROWD: (IN UNISON) I am HIV positive. I am a child of the Earth like everybody else. I will do all that can be done, because I am able and capable. I will live positively. I will hold my head high and walk tall. For

I am a child of the Earth! Like you, and you, and
you.

90. CROWD: APPLAUDS

91. LUCY: Thank you. Thank you! First, let me thank all of you for coming. For those of you who are new here, this is the Living Positive Support Group, and you're all very welcome here. All of us here are either affected or infected by HIV, and this group exists to offer support and help to people with HIV or AIDS.

92. CROWD: APPLAUDS

93. LUCY: We speak freely here, and anything that you say or hear stays strictly within these four walls. Isn't that so, my friends?

94. CROWD: Yes! - Right! - That's true *etc.*

95. LUCY: Now, before I invite the first person to speak, I'd like to introduce our newest members. Everybody: please put your hands together for Niki Jumbe and his wife Mercy Msoto-Jumbe.

96. CROWD: APPLAUSE

- 97. LUCY:** Niki and Mercy, please just introduce yourselves briefly to the group.
- 98. NIKI:** Hi, as you've just heard, my name is Niki Jumbe, and I'm HIV positive. This is my first time here, so please bear with me if I don't share my experiences today.
- 99. CROWD APPLAUDS**
- 100. MERCY:** And I'm Mercy, Niki's wife. I'm not HIV positive, but I support people who are, and I believe they should be given a chance to live normally - because they *are* normal!
- 101. CROWD: LOUDER APPLAUSE**
- 102. LUCY:** So, Niki and Mercy, today you can just listen to what goes on here and whenever you're ready to share your experiences, please feel free to do so. No pressure... Let's welcome our first positive liver. Everybody give a big hand to Dede!
- 103. CROWD: APPLAUDS**

104. DEDE: Thank you! Thank you. My name is Dede and I'm HIV positive. I'd like to tell you about what happened to me this week at work **(FADE OUT)**

OUTRO:

And we'd like to thank you too, for tuning in. Well, now Mercy has started to experience being stigmatized - by her very own mother! Let's hope she and Niki get the support they're hoping for from the 'Living Positive' support group. If you'd like to hear this or any of the previous episodes again, just visit our website, dw.de/lbe. You can also follow us on Facebook. Until next time - bye bye!