

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 4: Facing New Challenges

EPISODE THIRTEEN: Differently Able

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- PAULO - M 40s
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SCENE 2: MERCY HELPS NIKI TAKE HIS DRUGS

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- ANITA - F 19
- TINA - F 20
- PAULO - M 40s
- VICTOR – M, ADULT
- RANGER – M, ADULT

INTRO:

1. **NARRATOR:** Hi there! You're listening to Crossroads Generation! Glad to have you back. We're in the middle of the fourth season, entitled "Facing New Challenges". Previously, Anita helped the teenager Noni when she was having an epileptic fit. Noni is disabled, and her father Paulo keeps her chained up at home. He believes that Noni is bewitched, and that only a sorcerer can help her. But Anita knows there are other ways to support people with disabilities, because she works at a school for pupils with special needs. She offered Paulo some help for Noni, but he wouldn't accept it. So Anita had another idea about how to address Noni's situation, and she talked to Tina about it. Remember, Tina's a radio presenter...

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 12, LINES 61-65

***ANITA:** Believe it or not, he thinks the girl's bewitched.*

***TINA:** (SURPRISED) What?*

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

***TINA:** Oh no!*

***ANITA:** So I started thinking... What if, through your show, we could highlight her story?*

3. **NARRATOR:** Today we'll meet Noni's father Paulo again, this time deep in the Tandika forest, where he's working for the corrupt businessman

and former politician Mukaraba. Mukaraba was behind the murder of Mercy's friend Trudy, who was reporting on his involvement in certain illegal activities:

KW BEGIN

4. FLASHBACK: SEASON 3, EP. 19, LINES 114-116; 122; 134-135

TRUDY: *(calls, scared)* Hello? Who's there?

MNENE: *(low and threatening)* Shut your mouth, you stupid slut. That cold thing you can feel against your neck? That's a gun. One false move, and I'll pull the trigger! Understand?

TRUDY: *(muffled)* Mhh!

MNENE: *(panicked)* Hey! I said don't move!

SFX: GUNSHOT

KW END

5. NARRATOR: Trudy and Tina became friends at university, and before that Trudy was at school with Mercy and Anita. After graduation, though, Anita moved back to her home country, Laboria. She lost contact with most of her friends in Kisimba – including Mercy. Talking of Mercy: she and Niki have had a difficult start to their marriage, but their relationship is slowly improving. So let's get started! Today's episode is called "Differently Able", and we're heading off into the Tandika forest...

SCENE 1: PAULO AT WORK

6. **ATMO: FOREST ATMO**

7. **SFX: SOUND OF CHAINSAW CUTTING**

8. **SFX: TREES FALLING**

9. **VICTOR:** **(SPEAKS OVER CHAINSAW)** Paulo, you have to
lend me some money or my children will go
hungry...

KW BEGIN

10. **PAULO:** **(SHOUTS)** I can't hear you, Victor! Wait a moment!

11. **SFX: CHAINSAW GOES OFF**

12. **VICTOR:** I said you have to lend me some money or my
children will starve.

KW END

13. **PAULO:** I'm sorry, Victor, I'm not doing very well, either. This
is the first day's work I've had all week. But I think
we can probably ask the boss for an advance.

14. **VICTOR:** You think he'll advance us some money?

15. **PAULO:** Mukaraba's not a poor man. He went into the timber
business after they barred him from politics -
remember that scandal about his illegal adoption?

They say he's making even more money now than before!

16. **VICTOR:** But I heard on the radio that the government is hunting down illegal loggers. Are you sure Mukaraba has permission to cut down trees here in Tandika forest?
17. **PAULO:** Well, he said he had a license. But don't worry: even if he doesn't, he'd always find a way out...
18. **VICTOR:** We should be careful, though. If the forest rangers catch us, it might be a while before Mukaraba can bribe someone to get us out!
19. **PAULO:** Stop worrying! Nothing's going to happen.
20. **VICTOR:** I've never understood *why* they stop people cutting down trees. What's the problem? I mean, how do they expect us to earn a living?
21. **PAULO:** They say that trees bring rain. **(CHUCKLES)**
Ridiculous!
22. **VICTOR:** Such a lie! Look at all the rain we've had in Tandika these past months!

23. PAULO: I know, right? And yet there are hardly any trees left round here!

24. VICTOR/PAULO: LAUGH

KW BEGIN

25. SFX: CHAINSAW RESUMES

26. PAULO: (SHOUTS) Victor, watch out! It's falling your way!

27. SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS IN UNDERGROWTH AS SOMEONE RUNS FOR DEAR LIFE

28. SFX: CHAINSAW STOPS, TREE CRACKS AS IT FALLS AND CRASHES TO THE GROUND

29. VICTOR: (LAUGHS) Wow! That was close!

30. PAULO: (LAUGHS) You're a lucky son of a gun, Victor!

31. VICTOR: That's it! No more work until I've had my lunch. I'm not going to die on an empty stomach!

32. THEY LAUGH

33. VICTOR: Come on - we'll share the beans my wife packed for me.

KW END

Musical interlude

SCENE 2: MERCY HELPS NIKI TAKE HIS DRUGS

34. **ATMO: QUIET NEIGHBOURHOOD, NATURE SOUNDS**

35. **SFX: TWO PAIRS OF JOGGING FOOTSTEPS**

36. **MERCY:** (PANTS) Niki, wait! I can't take any more!

37. **NIKI:** (PANTS EASIER) Come on, lazybones! You can do it.

38. **MERCY:** I can't! You're going too fast!

39. **NIKI:** Okay. For you, my darling, I will slow down!

40. **SFX: STEPS GET SLOWER**

KW BEGIN

41. **MERCY:** We've been running for more than twenty minutes now!

42. **NIKI:** Only twenty more to go!

43. **MERCY:** No, you go on: I'll wait for you here!

44. **NIKI:** (LAUGHS) No way! I'm not leaving you here alone to be snatched away by hungry hyenas. Look at them staring at you!

45. **MERCY:** (SCARED) Hyenas? Where?

46. **NIKI:** (LAUGHS) I mean those men over there! They're looking at you like hungry hyenas.

47. **MERCY:** **(LAUGHS)** Stop it, Niki! You scared me. I thought you meant real hyenas.

48. **NIKI:** **(LAUGHS)** What would real hyenas be doing here?

49. **MERCY:** Well, you never know, with all these bushes around. Anything could be hiding in there!

SILENCE

KW END

50. **NIKI:** Mercy?

51. **MERCY:** Yes, Niki.

52. **NIKI:** I love you.

53. **MERCY:** **(SMILING)** You've told me that about twenty times today!

54. **NIKI:** And even that's not enough! I've been acting like a fool lately, but you've been so supportive of me.

55. **MERCY:** Niki: it's okay. Just... please promise me that you won't go back to the self-pity and the mood swings!

56. **NIKI:** No, that's the old Niki. This is the new Niki talking - and you, my darling, are about to have the time of your life! I think the support group was very helpful.

It's made me see things in a very different light. And
I thank you for that!

57. **MERCY:** **(SMITTEN)** Oooh! That's so sweet! Hey, time for your drugs, big boy. Come on, open up!
58. **NIKI:** **(LAUGHS)** Yes, Mama!
59. **MERCY:** **(LAUGHS)** No, no, don't call me that! You make me feel like Mrs. Jumbe senior.
60. **THEY LAUGH**
61. **SFX: TABLET POPPED FROM FILM**
62. **SFX: BOTTLE UNSCREWED**
63. **NIKI:** **(SWALLOWS)** Thank you for carrying my medicine around... and for always reminding me to take it. My sweet, sweet wife!
64. **MERCY:** Stop it, will you! You're making me blush.
65. **NIKI: LAUGHS**

Musical interlude

SCENE 3: ANITA LEARNS THAT TRUDY DIED

66. **ATMO: STUDIO ATMO**

Flashback Ep. 14, line 6

67. **ANITA:** Hi, Tina. Thanks so much for organizing this show.
Is Mercy around? I can't wait to see her.

68. **TINA:** No, she isn't. She's been having some personal issues, but she gave me the go-ahead to interview you.

69. **ANITA:** Oh no! Would you give me her number? I'm dying to see her and Trudy again. It's been so long since we last met.

70. **TINA:** Oh my God! You don't know, do you?

71. **ANITA:** Know what?

72. **TINA:** Trudy... I don't know how to tell you this....

73. **ANITA:** Tell me what? Tina, you're scaring me.

74. **TINA:** Trudy... Trudy's dead!

75. **ANITA:** **(GASPS)** What?

76. **TINA:** I'm so sorry, Anita. I thought you knew!

77. **ANITA:** Oh God! That can't be true! Please - tell me you're lying!

78. **TINA:** No, I'm afraid not.
79. **ANITA:** No! **(CRIES)**
80. **TINA:** Anita, I'm so sorry. Maybe we should cancel the interview - do it another day...?
81. **ANITA:** No, no! I'll do it. I just... Just give me a minute.
82. **TINA:** Are you sure?
83. **ANITA:** **(STILL SNIFFING)** Yes... I'll be fine.

Musical interlude

SCENE 4: PAULO HEARS ANITA'S INTERVIEW

84. **ATMO: FOREST ATMO, SOUNDS OF NATURE**
85. **SFX: PLATES AND SPOONS AS PEOPLE EAT**
86. **VICTOR:** Hey Paulo, good to have a break at last! Let's switch on the radio.
87. **PAULO:** Radio? You have a radio with you?
88. **VICTOR:** Yes, a small pocket radio. I like carrying it with me so I don't get bored.
89. **SFX: RADIO SWITCHED ON**

- 90. TINA (ON RADIO):** ...her name is Anita. Anita works as an assistant teacher at Kisimba Special School, where they take care of children with special needs. She has an interesting story to share with us, so without further ado, Anita, what is this story you've been burning to tell?
- 91. VICTOR:** Argh! Another boring interview. I'll change the channel...
- 92. PAULO:** **(URGENTLY)** No! No! Wait!
- 93. ANITA (ON RADIO):** Thank you. Well, I'm here today to speak on behalf of a group that doesn't have a voice: children with disabilities, many of whom are suffering unnecessarily at this very moment.
- 94. TINA:** What do you mean when you say they're suffering?
- 95. ANITA:** Well, parents of children with disabilities will often hide them away. It may be because they're ashamed of them, or it may be that they truly believe it's the best way to protect them from danger...
- 96. TINA:** Which is quite understandable, isn't it?

- 97. ANITA:** Oh, absolutely! But look at it this way. If you hide that child away, he or she may never grow mentally, or even physically, because they lack social interaction and stimulation. It's vital that children get this in order for them to grow and develop. They need it even for basic things, like learning to talk, or how to take care of themselves...
- 98. TINA:** But Anita, what if the child is a danger to himself, or to others?
- 99. ANITA:** What people don't always understand is that people with disabilities need a lot of love and understanding - probably even more than others. Recently, I met a girl in Tandika whose father had chained her to her bed. The family leaves the poor girl at home on her own when they go out to work and to school. She's just left there, chained to her bed, where she soils herself, injures herself... and all because her father is afraid that the girl will hurt herself if she's set free.
- 100. PAULO:** **(MUTTERS UNDER HIS BREATH)** I'll kill her!

101. **TINA:** But what can they do in such a case? The man has to go out and work to feed his family. If he stays at home taking care of her, what will she eat?

102. **ANITA:** There are special institutions, like the place where I work, where children like her are taken care of professionally! I offered the father a place for the girl at our school, but he turned me down...

103. **RADIO SWITCHED OFF**

104. **PAULO:** **(UNDER HIS BREATH)** Stupid! Stupid woman!

105. **VICTOR:** What is it, Paulo?

106. **PAULO:** **(ANGRILY KICKS SOMETHING)** Damn stupid, snooping woman!

107. **VICTOR:** Paulo! Why are you so angry? What woman are you talking about?

108. **RANGER:** **(SHOUTS)** Hey, you two! Freeze!

Flashback Ep. 14, line 2

109. **VICTOR:** **(URGENT)** Run, Paulo! Run! Forest rangers!

110. **PAULO:** Shit! The chainsaw!

111. **VICTOR:** Leave it!

**112. SFX: TWO PAIRS OF FOOTSTEPS RUNNING THROUGH THE
WOODS**

113. RANGER: (FROM AFAR) I said stop right now! Or I'll shoot!

114. SFX: GUNSHOT AS FOOTSTEPS DISAPPEAR

**115. RANGER: (SHOUTS FROM AFAR) Next time you won't be so
lucky!**

OUTRO:

It looks as if Paulo's managed to get away - but he was really angry about Anita's radio interview. Will it make things better or worse for his daughter, Noni? Find out next time on Crossroads Generation. Oh, and Niki has something he wants to share with you - go to dw.de/lbe to check out his video blog. And if you want to let us know what you think about any of the issues raised on the programme, please get in touch via Facebook. Until next time, take care!