

Learning by Ear 2013

Crossroads Generation - Facing Tough Choices

EPISODE TWENTY-SIX: It Wasn't Me!

AUTHOR: Chrispin Mwakideu

EDITOR: Madelaine Meier, Ludger Schadomsky

COPY EDITOR: Charlotte Collins

List of characters by scene:

SCENE 1: JUMBE AT HOME WITH HIS WIFE

- **MRS. JUMBE (F, 35)**
- **JUMBE (M, 45)**

SCENE 2: MERCY TELLS DAN SHE IS PREGNANT

- **MERCY (F, 15)**
- **DAN (M, 16)**
- **GROUP OF STUDENTS (M/F, 15)**

SCENE 3: LULU AND THE TWINS MEET MERCY AT BONGO ACADEMY

- **LULU (F, 40)**
- **KADU (M, 8)**
- **BANDA (M, 8)**
- **MERCY (F, 15)**

SCENE 4: KANYAMA CALLS LENA FROM THE AIRPORT ABOUT KADU AND BANDA

- **TAXI DRIVER (M, 30)**
- **KANYAMA (M, 50)**
- **VOICE**

1. INTRO - NARRATOR:

Hello and welcome to "Crossroads Generation", a Learning by Ear radio novella about three young teenagers and their families. Before the story reaches its much-anticipated showdown, let's catch up with what's happened so far.

When Mercy didn't get her menstrual period, her friend Trudy advised her to consult Dr. Zito, who had to break some rather difficult news to her:

2. DR. ZITO (EP 25, 44): "Mercy. Please sit down. I've done the test now, and the results show that ... you are indeed pregnant."

3. MERCY: "Oh no! I'm better off dead!" (+ 56) "I'm pregnant! I can't believe this. I'm actually carrying Dan's child..."

So how will Dan react when Mercy tells him she's pregnant? Meanwhile, there's something Mercy still doesn't know: her twin brothers Banda and Kadu have just rejoined the family! But they'd only just got home when their father Msoto was arrested by the police, on suspicion of robbing the Jumbe family. Early the next morning, Lulu and her sons have rushed to Bongo Academy to tell Mercy the news, but on their way they had a strange encounter with Dan's father, Mr. Kanyama:

4. KANYAMA (EP 25, 103): "What! You? Here?! ... Oh - I'm sorry, madam. I thought I knew these boys."

5. BANDA: "Mum, tell him to go away. Please tell him he can't take us

back."

6. **LULU:** "Excuse me, sir, but my sons seem to be scared of you. May I know why?"

Kanyama just made excuses and rushed away. What's he hiding? And will they find Mercy? How will she react to everything that's happening in her life? We'll find out in today's episode: "It Wasn't Me!". But first, let's stop over at the Jumbe family home. Jumbe and his wife are just having lunch ...

SCENE 1: JUMBE WITH WIFE AT HOME IN THE MORNING

7. **DAYTIME ATMO**

8. **SFX: CUTLERY, MRS. JUMBE EATING**

9. **SFX: JUMBE TURNS THE PAGES OF HIS NEWSPAPER**

10. **MRS. JUMBE:** Tell me, what's in the news? Have they caught the robbers who almost killed me?

11. **JUMBE:** No. And don't exaggerate, Mama Niki - it wasn't that bad.

12. **MRS. JUMBE:** **(grumbling)** Hmm... As if you know how bad it was for me!

13. **SFX: NEWSPAPER FOLDED AND PLACED ON TABLE**

14. JUMBE: (curious) You know, Mama Niki, I really can't work out what's behind the change in our son! I don't understand it. Niki is turning into a bad boy. He's started smoking, he's rebellious with us - he even stole our car! But at the same time, he's still class prefect, and he came top of his class in Biology. It doesn't make sense.

15. MRS.JUMBE: It's what people call puberty! He simply doesn't know who he is or who he wants to be. So he's developed two faces. On the one hand, he's become disobedient, irresponsible and reckless. But on the other, he seems to be taking his studies seriously. At least that's something ...

KW BEGIN

16. JUMBE: But isn't it usually the case that when someone starts breaking the rules, his class work also suffers?

17. MRS.JUMBE: I don't know... Maybe he wants to impress somebody?

18. JUMBE: Oh! ... I hadn't thought of that.

19. MRS. JUMBE: That might be one explanation. But I guess he doesn't even really know what's going on himself

20. JUMBE: I think the truth is that you have spoilt Niki. And you are still spoiling him.

21. MRS. JUMBE: How can you blame me for --

KW END

22. SFX: MOBILE PHONE RINGING

23. JUMBE: Wait - I need to take this call. **(answers phone in bad tone)** Jumbe speaking - who is this? Who are you? ... Oh, Officer! Excuse me. How are you? ... **(pause)**. Some new information? Yes, please, go on! **(pause)**. Really? When? Yesterday in the evening! Wonderful! Well done, Officer! My wife and I are on our way to the police station. See you shortly.

24. SFX: MOBILE PHONE CALL ENDED

25. MRS. JUMBE: **(excited)** Don't tell me! Msoto has been arrested!

26. JUMBE: **(fondly)** I am telling you. Msoto has been arrested!

27. MRS. JUMBE: Ha!

28. MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE TWO: MERCY TELLS DAN SHE IS PREGNANT

29. SFX: INTERIOR CLASSROOM ATMO, BREAK TIME, STUDENT MURMURS

30. MERCY: (whisper) Dan, I know this isn't the right time or place but --

31. DAN: (still angry) Mercy, please, the teacher will be back any minute. I really don't want to --

32. MERCY: Dan, this is crazy! You can't just walk off each time I try to talk to you!

33. DAN: (cuts her short) Mercy, I --

34. MERCY: Just let me finish what I have to say, please!

35. DAN: Okay, okay. Go ahead. I'm all ears.

36. MERCY: You have to talk to your dad again. You can't leave Bongo Academy and go back to Laboria!

37. DAN: (laughs) And what do you want me to tell him exactly?

38. MERCY: (softly) Dan, I'm pregnant.

39. DAN: (disbelief) I didn't hear that. Can you repeat what you just said?

40. MERCY: I said I'm pregnant, Dan.

41. **DAN:** **(insensitive)** All right, I heard you! And why are you telling me this?
42. **MERCY:** **(shocked)** Why? Because you’re the one responsible. You’re the father. We’re going to be parents.
43. **DAN:** **(defensive)** Who? Me? No way! How? When? I am not responsible, and I’m not ready to be a father. Find someone else to blame.
44. **MERCY:** **(almost in tears)** You can’t do this to me, Dan. You can't deny your responsibility. It was YOU who wanted me to show you my affection!
45. **DAN:** No. I was just a friend to you. That’s all. **(dismissing her)** I’m sorry, Mercy, but I have to prepare for the next lesson.

KW BEGIN

46. **SFX: PAGES OF A BOOK BEING OPENED**
47. **MERCY:** **(total disbelief, loudly)** Dan, I can’t believe you’re doing this to me.
48. **SFX: CLASS REACTS WITH MURMURS AND WHISPERS**

49. **DAN:** (to the class) Will you people stop staring? Mind your own business. Haven't you ever seen two people having a conversation before?
50. **MERCY:** (crying uncontrollably) Dan, I trusted you with all my heart, and this is how you treat me?
51. **DAN:** (trying hard to control the situation) Mercy, it's okay. I know it's hard, but you'll manage somehow. Now please excuse me, I really have to concentrate on the next lesson.

KW END

52. **MERCY:** (breaks down in tears)
53. **SFX: MERCY'S FOOTSTEPS RUNNING AWAY**
54. **SFX: DOOR OPENED AND CLOSED**
55. **DAN:** Mercy - where are you going?
56. **SFX: CLASS REACTS WITH SUSPICION AND MURMURS**
57. **DAN:** (to class) Hey! Mercy's going through a hard time. I'm just trying to help! That's all.
58. **MUSIC INTERLUDE**

SCENE 3: LULU AND THE TWINS MEET MERCY AT BONGO ACADEMY

59. AMBIENCE SCHOOL CORRIDOR

60. LULU: Okay boys, here we are. Be good, now! This school has very strict rules. We don't want to annoy anybody! **(short pause)** Eh, I'm not sure where your sister's classroom is....

61. BANDA: But look, Mum! There she is!

62. LULU: Huh?

63. MERCY: **(crying outside door)**

64. KADU: **(excited about seeing Mercy)** Mercy! We're back!

65. SFX: FOOTSTEPS RUNNING

66. MERCY: **(tries to cover tears)** Kadu? **(excited too)** Banda! - Mum! What are you doing here? I thought you were with Grandma and Grandpa? I can't believe this!

67. LULU: **(concerned)** Mercy, what about you? Aren't you supposed to be in class? Why are you crying? Tell me, dear, what's the matter?

68. MERCY: **(weak but adamant)** No... I'm fine! Just fine...

69. LULU: I'm sorry, my dear, but I have some bad news. It's about your father...

70. MUSIC INTERLUDE

**SCENE 4: KANYAMA CALLS LENA FROM THE AIRPORT ABOUT KADU
AND BANDA**

71. TRAFFIC ATMO

72. SFX: CAR BOOT BEING CLOSED

73. TAXI DRIVER: Here’s your luggage, sir. I wish you a pleasant flight back to your country.

74. KANYAMA: Thank you, taxi driver, for rushing me to the airport. And for your services during my stay here. Here - this is for you...

75. SFX: BANK NOTES BEING COUNTED AND HANDED OVER

76. TAXI DRIVER: (excited) Thank you very much, Mr. Kanyama. You're a very generous man. Goodbye.

77. CAR DOOR OPENED, CAR ENGINE STARTED, CAR DRIVES OFF

78. KANYAMA: (Thinking aloud) Thank God, I got a flight for today! Those kids are a curse! How did they manage to get here? Who helped them? What if they tell the authorities here about me? No... I have to fly home as soon as possible!

79. SFX: FOOTSTEPS - KANYAMA WALKS INTO AIRPORT HALL

80. SFX: ELECTRIC DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

81. SFX: SUITCASE BEING ROLLED ALONG THE FLOOR

82. AIRPORT ATMO WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS ETC.

83. KANYAMA: (thinking furiously) I should never have trusted Lena.
Never mix business with pleasure. Now look at what's
happened! I have to let her know!

84. SFX: NUMBERS ON MOBILE PHONE BEING DIALLED

85. SFX: CALLING TONE

86. KANYAMA: Answer the phone, you stupid woman... (short pause)
Lena! Lena? Do you hear me? ... I saw your nephews!
... Are you deaf? I said I saw your nephews! ...
Yesterday! They're here, in Kisimba! With their mother.
Will you PLEASE explain to me how that is possible? ...
Lena? Lena!

87. SFX: PHONE CALL DISCONNECTED

88. KANYAMA: Damn!

89. SFX: AIRPORT ANNOUNCEMENT OF FLIGHT DELAY TO LABORIA

90. VOICE: "Due to technical problems flight number 305 to Laboria has been delayed by about forty-five minutes. We apologize to our customers for the inconvenience."

91. KANYAMA: Oh, for God's sake! What have I done to deserve this?

92. MUSIC INTERLUDE

93. OUTRO - NARRATOR:

As Kanyama prepares to board the plane that will take him out of the country, we wind up this twenty-sixth episode of "Crossroads Generation", and the last in part one – "Facing Tough Choices". But the story has only begun. Will Mercy go through with the pregnancy, or will she choose to have an abortion? Will Kanyama be held responsible for illegal child work and abuse? What about Msoto? Will the robbery charges be dropped, or will he go to prison? What will happen to Niki, Dan, Trudy, and the twin boys Kadu and Banda? All this awaits you in the second part of "Crossroads Generation – Facing the Consequences". The author of this series is Chrispin Mwakideu.

If you'd like to listen to all 26 episodes, please visit our website at dw.de/lbe.

And if you'd like to know what Dan really thinks about Mercy's pregnancy, you can watch his video blog online. You can also follow us on Facebook. Thanks for listening - until next time... And remember to make the right choices!