

Learning by Ear 2013

Crossroads Generation - Facing Tough Choices

EPISODE SEVEN: Where’s the Little Baby?

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List of characters by scene:

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- **MUKARABA (M, 45)**
- **MSOTO (M, 45)**

SCENE 2: NIKI AND JUMBE HAVE A CHAT AT THE SWIMMING POOL

- **JUMBE (M, 45)**
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SCENE 3: LULU AND MERCY IN HOSPITAL

- **LULU (F, 40)**
- **MERCY (F, 15)**
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- **MSOTO (M, 45)**

1. INTRO - NARRATOR:

Welcome to "Crossroads Generation", a Learning by Ear radio drama about three everyday heroes: Niki, Mercy and Dan. These teenagers go to school at the Bongo Academy high school - one of the top schools in their country. But they don't just do their learning in class. Every day they have to make tough, often crucial decisions, and we're following them on their way. Let's recap on what's happened so far.

Mama Niki is worried about her son. She caught him in front of the computer, trying to hide the screen. Later she confided her shameful suspicion to her husband:

2. MRS. JUMBE (EP 06, LINE 48): "I suspect that Niki is watching... erm... how can I put this...? I think he's watching naked women on the Internet."

3. JUMBE: "What? [...] Niki is watching porn?"

4. MRS. JUMBE (52): "I think it's high time you two had a talk, man to man!"

Mercy's mum Lulu has given birth to a girl, but her husband Msoto has decided to give the baby away:

5. MSOTO (EP 05, 106): "Lulu, give me that baby..."

6. LULU (EP 04, 39): "No! No, no, no, no, no way! Msoto, you can't do that!"

7. MSOTO (EP 04, 47): "I am going to find someone who can take good care of our baby. We can't afford to raise another child."

8. MSOTO (EP 05, 111): "If Seda or anyone else asks you what happened to the baby, tell them it died a few minutes after you gave birth."

Lulu was in shock when Msoto left the house with her newborn baby girl. But where did Msoto take his daughter? "Where's the Little Baby?"- That's the title of this, the seventh episode. We find Msoto standing outside the gate of the Mukaraba family, one of the wealthiest families in town. What will happen now? Sit back and find out.

SCENE 1: MSOTO AT MUKARABA'S RESIDENCE

9. SFX: DOGS BARKING LOUDLY AT STRANGER

10. SFX: DOORBELL BEING RUNG SEVERAL TIMES

11. MSOTO: (from outside gate) Hello, Mr. Mukaraba. Can you please open the gate? And tell your dogs to shut up. They'll wake the --

12. SFX: GATE DOOR BEING OPENED AUTOMATICALLY

13. MUKARABA: (ordering from a little distance away) Silence, you silly dogs! Back to your corner!

14. SFX: DOGS MAKE SOFT NOISES AS IF SCARED, AND RUN OFF

15. SFX: BABY STARTS TO CRY

16. MUKARABA: (excited) Goodness me! Our baby is here! Guard, open the gate at once!

17. SFX: GATE BEING OPENED AUTOMATICALLY

18. SFX: FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING

19. MUKARABA: (happily) Come in... Come in, my friend. Everything is ready. The nurse is waiting. And as soon as my wife comes home she will take over. Is it a boy or a girl?

20. MSOTO: I'm sorry, Councillor Mukaraba... but it's a girl.

21. MUKARABA: Sorry? Why sorry? A child is a child. We've been trying to get a child for more than ten years! We've done everything possible, but without success. This is simply a miracle! May I hold her?

22. SFX: FOOTSTEPS OF TWO MEN WALKING INTO HOUSE

23. MSOTO: No! Not yet. I want my money first.

24. MUKARABA: Your money - sure, no problem. It's right inside the house. Come in. Come in my friend.

25. SFX: DOOR CLOSING

26. MUKARABA: Sit down, please...

27. SFX: MSOTO SITTING ON SOFA

28. MUKARABA: Good. So - here is your money. 40,000 in new bank notes. You can count it if you wish.

29. MSOTO: No need for that. I trust you, Mukaraba. Here - the baby is all yours.

30. SFX: BABY IS TAKEN BY MUKARABA

31. SFX: BABY CRIES EVEN MORE

32. MUKARABA: (tries to calm it down) It's all right, my little angel.
Daddy's here now.

33. MSOTO: (shouts) What are you saying? I am her daddy!

34. MUKARABA: (stern warning) Now listen to me, you fool! As soon as you step out of my compound, this child will take on my name. If you want to change your mind, you'd better do it right now!

35. MSOTO: (apologetic) I'm sorry. I got carried away. Of course, she's now your daughter.

36. MUKARABA: And you're sure your wife will co-operate on this? I don't want any scandal, Msoto!

37. MSOTO: She will. I've already spoken to her.

38. MUKARABA: And she'll tell everybody that the baby died just after she gave birth, right?

39. MSOTO: Yes. That was the agreement. It's been done.

40. MUKARABA: Good. Now take your money and get off my property. This stays between you and me. Even Jumbe, your employer, should not know about this. He’s a family friend of ours.

41. MSOTO: Of course. You can trust me on this, Mr. Mukaraba.

42. MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: NIKI AND JUMBE HAVE A CHAT AT THE SWIMMING POOL

43. SFX: PEOPLE SWIMMING IN A POOL

44. JUMBE: **(tired from swimming)** Niki! Your swimming has really improved. You're getting faster and faster every time.

45. NIKI: **(also tired from swimming)** Thanks, Dad. I like swimming. It was a good idea to come to this tourist hotel – it’s a nice pool.

KW BEGIN

46. JUMBE: Oh really? Is it just the pool you like? Or are you also enjoying some other things around here?

47. NIKI: **(confused)** I don’t follow you, Dad.

48. **JUMBE:** Look around you! There are plenty of women in bikinis. Don't you like... er... watching them?
49. **NIKI:** **(embarrassed)** Dad! You're embarrassing me. Do you think I'm a peeping Tom?
50. **JUMBE:** Niki, Niki. I keep telling you: I'm your father. You can be honest with me.
51. **NIKI:** I *am* honest with you.

KW END

52. **SFX: WET STEPS AROUND THE POOL**
53. **SFX: TOURIST DIVES IN SWIMMING POOL**
54. **JUMBE:** **(angry)** Hey! Learn how to dive first, before you come here and splash water over people. **(to Niki)** Listen, son, your mother is very worried.
55. **NIKI:** Worried about what?
56. **JUMBE:** About you, obviously. She says she caught you, erm, should I say... red-handed?
57. **NIKI:** **(totally confused)** Well, now I can't follow you at all. What's all this about, Dad?
58. **JUMBE:** Niki, your mother says she saw you watching explicit material on the Internet. **(whispers)** Porn.

59. **NIKI:** **(surprised)** You’ve got to be kidding!
60. **JUMBE:** Now, don’t overreact. I know that this is an important physical and emotional stage in your life, and that it can be confusing, dealing with these kind of feelings. But Niki, material like this could really ruin --
61. **NIKI:** I’ve never done anything like that! It’s never even crossed my mind. Mum did catch me on the Internet in the morning, it’s true; but I was searching for lyrics.
62. **JUMBE:** Lyrics? As in song lyrics?
63. **NIKI:** **(slowly coming out with the truth)** Well... not really... As in how to write a love letter. There’s this girl... I think I like her.
64. **JUMBE:** **(starts to realize)** Ah, now I see. You were googling love letters, and you didn’t want your mum to see that. I get the picture. Okay, then let’s just forget this conversation, shall we? But why didn’t you come to me? **(Proudly)** I’m the king of love letters.
65. **NIKI:** Oh, don’t start, Dad.
66. **JUMBE:** For real, boy! How do you think I ended up with a beautiful woman like your mother?

67. **NIKI:** (changes topic) Yeah, Dad, whatever. Look, the sun's almost gone. I think it's time to go home.

68. **MUSIC INTERLUDE**

SCENE 3: LULU AND MERCY IN HOSPITAL

69. **SFX: PUBLIC HOSPITAL ATMO**

70. **LULU:** (weak voice) Aaaah... Mercy. What happened?

71. **MERCY:** (happily) Mum! Oh, thank God, you can talk. You've been out for hours. The doctor says it's all going to be okay. They say you lost a lot of blood, that's why you have the drip.

72. **LULU:** Doctor? How did I end up in hospital?

73. **MERCY:** Don't you remember anything, Mum? Oh - here comes the doctor. His name is Dr. Charity. Doctor - my mother doesn't seem to remember anything about what happened. She hasn't gone crazy, has she?

74. **SFX: STEPS DR. CHARITY ARRIVES**

75. **DR. CHARITY:** No, Mercy, your mother is absolutely fine. This does sometimes happen when a mother loses a child at birth. She’s been through a very difficult and traumatic experience.

KW BEGIN

76. **LULU:** **(starts to cry)** My baby - I want my baby girl.

77. **DR. CHARITY:** It’s okay for her to cry. It’ll help her deal with the loss. Do you have any idea what happened to the baby?

78. **MERCY:** No! I was in school. I came home and found my mother lying on the floor. Alone - there was no midwife, and no sign of my dad, either. Mum just said my dad would explain everything, but I haven’t seen him since I came home from school.

79. **DR. CHARITY:** Do you have any idea where he could be?

KW END

80. **SFX: MSOTO COMES IN, PANTING FROM RUNNING**

81. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS - MSOTO ARRIVING**

82. **MSOTO:** **(panting)** Hello, everyone. Hello, Doctor!

83. **MERCY:** Dad, where have you been?

84. **DR.CHARITY:** Oh, so you are the father. Good. Because I need to get some answers. Your wife was brought here in very bad shape after giving birth at home. I need to know: where’s the little baby?
85. **MERCY:** Dad, what happened to her?
86. **MSOTO:** **(acting sad)** Well... Right after the baby came... **(fake tears)** she stopped breathing. And to spare my wife and family further pain, I went straight away and buried her. I can assure you, it was a decent burial.
87. **DR. CHARITY:** That was not the right thing to do. But it does explain things. I’ll need you to come and sign some papers stating exactly what you just told me. So that we can officially document the death of your baby. For now, please make sure that the patient gets enough rest. She’s looking much better now; I think she can go home soon.
88. **SFX: HOSPITAL CURTAIN BEING DRAWN SHUT**
89. **MSOTO:** Trust me, Mercy, your little sister is in a better place.
90. **MUSIC INTERLUDE**

91. OUTRO - NARRATOR:

And that's where we'll stop for today. Join us next time on "Crossroads Generation" to find out what happens next. If you'd like to listen to this episode again, or if you missed some of the earlier ones, don't worry – you can catch up on all the episodes, as well as Dan's video diary, simply by visiting our website: dw.de/lbe. Until next time, it's bye-bye from us.