

**Learning by Ear 2013**

**Crossroads Generation – Facing Tough Choices**

EPISODE SIXTEEN: In the Lion's Den

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**List of characters by scene:**

**SCENE ONE: JUMBE AND FAMILY HAVING LUNCH AT HOME**

- JUMBE (M, 45)
- MRS. JUMBE (F, 35)
- NIKI (M, 16)

**SCENE TWO: MERCY IN DAN'S ROOM**

- DAN (M, 16)
- MERCY (F, 15)
- BIKO (M, 16)

**SCENE THREE: BANDA AND KADU BEG IN OUANGO**

- BANDA (M, 8)
- KADU (M, 8)

**1. INTRO - NARRATOR:**

Great to have you with us for the sixteenth episode of Learning by Ear's "Crossroads Generation", entitled "In the Lion's Den". First, let's see what's happened so far:

Dan invited Mercy to his room, although girls are strictly forbidden in the boys' dormitory. In a conversation with her best friend, Trudy, she confessed her doubts:

**2. MERCY (EP 15, 79):** "I'm scared. I don't want to disappoint him, but I don't think it's right, either. What should I do?"

**3. TRUDY (LINE 84):** "If I were you, I wouldn't be sitting here in the library right now reading books and doing my head in."

So Mercy set her doubts aside and sneaked in the boys' area to meet Dan in private. It seems she's trying to escape the trouble at home: her mother Lulu has just walked out on Mercy's father, after he sold their newborn baby. Lulu had also found out that her twin sons, who were supposed to be living with their aunt in the neighbouring country, had mysteriously disappeared:

**4. MSOTO (EP 12, 42):** "Lulu, what did you tell the police?"

**5. LULU:** "I reported Banda and Kadu missing. That's all. Are you happy now?"

**6. MSOTO (LINE 56):** "Lulu, remember who you are talking to! I am still your husband."

Meanwhile, Niki made a terrible discovery. When he got home after school, he found his mother tied up and the house ransacked. But the police still have no leads on the robbers. How will the Jumbe family cope with the shock? Let's listen in... They've just gathered around the table for lunch.

## **SCENE ONE: JUMBE AND FAMILY HAVING LUNCH AT HOME**

**7. SUBURB ATMO, MIDDAY**

**8. SFX: SOUNDS OF PEOPLE EATING LUNCH, CUTLERY ETC.**

**9. JUMBE:** (trying to break the silence) Erm.. So, Niki. How's school?

**10. NIKI:** School's fine, Dad.

**11. SFX: MORE CUTLERY SOUNDS**

**12. MRS. JUMBE:** (bitterly) Why haven't the police caught the robbers yet? It's been days, and we still haven't heard a word from them!

**KW BEGIN**

**13. JUMBE:** (politely) I'm sure they're doing their best. Investigations take time. I'm so glad nothing happened to you, Mama Niki.

**14. MRS. JUMBE:**       **(with pain)** Nothing happened to me? What are you talking about? Do you have any idea how scared I was? How scared I still am? I could have been killed!

**15. JUMBE:**               **(sighing heavily)** Yes, I know, Mama Niki. But you weren't killed. You're alive and well, that's why I say I'm glad.

**16. NIKI:**                   Can't we talk about something else? All this talk about death and robbers is really depressing.

**17. JUMBE:**               I agree. We have to move on with our lives.

**18. MRS. JUMBE:**       **(hits back)** It's easy for you two to sit there and say that. You didn't have to deal with being tied up and having a knife held to your throat!

**KW END**

**19. JUMBE:**               **(concerned)** But, my dear, there's nothing more we can do. It's a police case. They're searching for the robbers right now.

**20. MRS. JUMBE:**       Searching! I could take them straight to the person who planned this robbery!

**21. JUMBE & NIKI:**   **(shocked reaction)**

**22. JUMBE:**               **(excited)** Do you remember their faces? Do you know who the robbers were?

- 23. MRS. JUMBE:** No. I already said, they were wearing masks. But I know for sure who's involved.
- 24. JUMBE:** Who? Tell us! Don't keep us in suspense!
- 25. MRS. JUMBE:** Our former watchman. That drunkard Msoto!
- 26. NIKI:** **(utterly shocked)** No way! Mum, how can you even say that? Msoto is Mercy's dad. He wouldn't do something like that!
- 27. JUMBE:** Niki, what do *you* know? **(pondering the idea)**. Mama Niki, you may be right. How come I never thought of him? First he quits his job for no reason at all, and then a few days later we're robbed!
- 28. NIKI:** But Mama, did you recognize his voice?
- 29. MRS. JUMBE:** **(defensively)** No - I mean, I don't remember. But he knew our daily routine very well. So he can exactly tell when we left the house and when we came back in.
- 30. NIKI:** **(surprised)** Dad, please, don't fall for this. I'm sure Msoto had nothing to do with this.
- 31. JUMBE:** No! Come to think of it, Msoto probably has everything to do with this robbery. I'm pretty sure of it. He must be part of the plot.

**32. NIKI:** I will not listen to this! I can't believe what you two are saying!

**33. SFX: CHAIR BEING PUSHED BACK**

**34. JUMBE:** (orders) Niki, sit down and finish your meal!

**35. NIKI:** I'm going to my room.

**36. SFX: FOOTSTEPS WALKING AWAY**

**37. JUMBE:** (sighs)

**38. MRS. JUMBE:** So what are you going to do about it?

**39. JUMBE:** What? Niki or Msoto?

**40. MRS. JUMBE:** Msoto, of course! Leave Niki alone. He's just a kid.

**41. JUMBE:** Well, I don't know. I can't just have him arrested without evidence. First I'll try to find out more about him. As soon as I get anything, I'll inform the police.

**42. MRS. JUMBE:** But be careful, Jumbe... Msoto could be a dangerous man.

**43. JUMBE:** Don't you worry. I know how to deal with danger.

**44. MUSIC INTERLUDE**

**SCENE TWO: MERCY IN DAN'S ROOM**

**45. SFX: DAN TIDIES UP HIS ROOM (THINGS MOVED, STEPS), LOCKER DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES**

**46. SFX: GENTLE KNOCK ON DOOR**

**47. DAN:** Who is it? Just a second...

**48. SFX: DOOR CREAKING OPEN**

**49. DAN:** **(pleasantly surprised)** Hi Mercy! Oh, what a nice surprise. I thought you wouldn't make it! Come in. Come in...

**50. MERCY:** **(unsure of herself)** Hi. Erm... thanks. Where do you want me to sit?

**51. DAN:** Wherever you like. Let me close the door first.

**52. SFX: CREAKING DOOR BEING CLOSED**

**53. DAN:** That's better, isn't it?

**54. MERCY:** I don't know... Not really... Is this how you live?

**55. DAN:** Er - well, yes. Don't you like my room? Actually, I did a lot of tidying up before you came. **(clears throat)** That's because you're a special guest.

**56. SFX: PATTING THE BED**

**57. DAN:** So come and sit down, relax; let's have a good time.

- 58. MERCY:** How's your friend Biko doing? I thought I'd find him in your room.
- 59. DAN:** Biko's okay. Yes, he likes to spend time here, but he's out right now. Are you all right, Mercy? You seem a bit tense.
- 60. MERCY:** I... I'm sorry... I feel like I just stepped into the lion's den. **(laughs a little)**
- 61. DAN:** **(gentle laugh)** That's funny. And, what, I'm supposed to be the lion?
- 62. MERCY:** I don't know. I don't think I should be here, Dan. I don't feel comfortable.
- 63. DAN:** Maybe some music will help you to relax a bit. Just give me one sec... **(stretches out to press play)**
- 64. SFX: BED SQUEAKING**
- 65. SFX: BUTTON PRESSED**
- 66. SFX: SMOOTH MUSIC PLAYS IN BACKGROUND**
- 67. DAN:** Here we go. How do you like that? Relaxing, eh? I listen to this music almost every day. It reminds me so much of ... you!
- 68. MERCY:** **(giggles)** Really? And how does it remind you of me?



**69. DAN:** It's kind of soothing and gentle. Just like you.

**KW BEGIN**

**70. MERCY:** Dan, where did you learn to do all this?

**71. DAN:** **(caught off guard)** Huh? I don't follow you. To do what?

**72. MERCY:** All these things, with the slow music, the nice words - not to mention getting the guard to help sneak me into your room. Who taught you all these things?

**73. DAN:** Well, because I'm crazy about you, I'll tell you the truth. Hollywood.

**74. MERCY:** **(shocked)** Hollywood, as in the U.S.? You've been to Hollywood? You never told me that!

**75. DAN:** **(bursts out laughing)** Nooo, Mercy! I mean Hollywood movies! I've learnt a lot about how to treat a lady from watching movies. By the way, do you like movies? I have all the latest!

**76. MERCY:** **(still shocked)** Dan! You watch movies in school? Isn't that forbidden?

**77. DAN:** Yeah... but who cares.

**KW END**

- 78. DAN:** Mercy, come and sit here beside me. You've been standing the whole time. Here - take my hand.
- 79. MERCY:** Dan, I really want to believe you. but I'm so scared. I don't know what to do. I feel totally confused. I've never felt like this before.
- 80. DAN:** Trust me, Mercy. I'll never hurt you or do you any harm. I'm just so happy to have you here. I never thought you'd come! Give me your hand. Don't worry. It's just you and me. We'll just go one step at a time. Trust your heart.
- 81. SFX: MERCY'S FOOTSTEPS CAUTIOUSLY MOVING CLOSER**
- 82. DAN:** (**proudly**) Great. Now sit down next to me.
- 83. SFX: RAPID KNOCKING ON DOOR**
- 84. MERCY:** (**reacts in fear**) Oh no! Oh no! Dan, what shall I do?
- 85. DAN:** (**curses**) Who is it?
- 86. BIKO:** (**behind the door, in panic**) It's Biko! Red alert! Red alert!
- 87. MERCY:** Red alert? What's that supposed to mean?

**88. DAN:** Red alert is our way of saying the Principal's on her way. She's doing her random dorm inspections! I don't believe it! Quick, we have to get you out of here!

**89. SFX: BED SQUEAKING AS DAN GETS UP**

**90. SFX: FOOTSTEPS RUSHING TO THE DOOR**

**91. DAN:** Stay close behind me. It'll be all right, Mercy.

**92. SFX: CREAKING SOUND OF DOOR OPENING**

**93. FOOTSTEPS RUSHING OUT OF THE ROOM INTO THE CORRIDOR**

**94. MUSIC INTERLUDE**

**SCENE THREE: BANDA AND KADU BEG IN OUANGO**

**95. SFX: BUSY STREET ATMO... COINS JINGLING IN METAL CAN**

**96. KADU:** Help us... Please give something... **(To Banda)**  
Banda, I'm cold and hungry!

**97. BANDA:** Me, too, Kadu. But we have to keep begging, otherwise we'll go hungry. And it's really cold here in Ouango.

**KW BEGIN**

**98. KADU:** Maybe we should go back to the gold mine. At least there was food there.

**99. BANDA:** No way. Remember how they beat us? And the work was so hard! We'll go back to Kisimba. I miss Mama and Mercy and Dad.

**100. KADU:** Me, too, Banda. But how can we get there? Aunty Lena's the only one who can take us back. People here don't even understand our language. They don't want to help us.

**KW END**

**101. BANDA:** Maybe we should start shouting the name of our home, "Tandika". Everybody knows the Tandika slum, and that it's in Kisimba!

**102. KADU:** Yes! Good idea. Let's try it...

**103. KADU/ BANDA:** Tandika! Tandika! We need money to go to Tandika!  
Please help...

**104. SFX: COINS BEING DROPPED IN CAN**

**105. MUSIC THEME INTERLUDE**

**106. OUTRO - NARRATOR:**

And that brings us to the end of the sixteenth episode of Learning by Ear's "Crossroads Generation". Will Mercy's brothers earn enough to make it home, or will their aunt Lena find them first? It's "red alert" in Dan's room – will the Principal catch him with Mercy? Don't miss the coming episode to find out. If you'd like to listen to a repeat of this programme, visit our website, [dw.de/lbe](http://dw.de/lbe). You can also follow us Facebook. Until next time - take care.