

Learning by Ear 2013

"Crossroads Generation" – Facing the Consequences

EPISODE 25: By the Way...

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List of characters by scene:

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- LULU (F, 40)
- MSOTO (M, 45)

SCENE 2: BANDA, KADU AND MOSY RETURN FROM UPCOUNTRY

- BANDA (M, 8)
- KADU (M, 8)
- MOSY (M, 30s)

SCENE 3: MRS. JUMBE TALKS TO LULU AT THE MARKET

- TRADER 1 (F/M, ADULT)
- TRADER 2 (F/M, ADULT)
- LULU (F, 40)
- CUSTOMER (F, 35)
- MRS. JUMBE (F, 35)

SCENE 4: MERCY IS NOT FEELING WELL

- LULU (F, 40)
- MERCY (F, 15)

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Good to have you back for our radio drama, “Crossroads Generation – Facing the Consequences”! We’re on the 25th episode of this second season, and there’s been a lot going on recently. In the last episode, Mercy’s father Msoto was released from the police station. He’d been held there for months on suspicion of carrying out a robbery at the house of Mercy’s classmate Niki Jumbe. Eventually it was proved that he didn’t do it, and Mr. and Mrs. Jumbe are now very remorseful for suspecting him. But when Inspector Mary released Msoto, she reminded him that he’s still being charged with another crime:

2. EPISODE 24, LINES 28 – 29:

INSP. MARY: *You have admitted that you sold your own child to Mr. Mukaraba and for that you will have to be punished. You will report to the police station every day from now on, Msoto. We’ll let you know when your case will be heard.*

MSOTO: *Yes, Inspector Mary.*

3. NARRATOR:

While Msoto was in prison, his wife Lulu was struggling to feed her pregnant daughter Mercy and her twin sons Kadu and Banda. But now she’s started her own business, and their financial difficulties seem to be over:

KW BEGIN

4. EPISODE 24, LINES 58 - 59:

MERCY: Mum, ever since you opened that vegetable stall, all we eat is meat.

LULU: Have you already forgotten how we used to eat green kale and sugarless porridge all the time because we didn’t have any money?

KW END

5. NARRATOR:

This 25th episode is called “By the Way...”, and it starts at Mercy’s home, where her mother Lulu is very busy...

SCENE 1: MSOTO VISITS LULU AT HOME

6. ATMO: TANDIKA, INSIDE MERCY’S HUT, DAYTIME

7. SFX: VEGETABLES BEING PACKED IN PLASTIC BAGS

8. LULU: (to herself) I need to hurry up and pack these vegetables. My customers will complain if I’m late!

9. SFX: KNOCK ON THE DOOR

10. LULU (to herself) Who can that be? **(shouts)** Come in!

11. SFX: DOOR SLOWLY OPENING

12. MSOTO: (shyly) Hello Lulu, my wife...

13. SFX: TWO FOOTSTEPS

14. LULU: (coldly) Msoto. What are you doing here? Weren’t you told at the police station that you’re not welcome in this house?

KW BEGIN

15. MSOTO: (desperate) But Lulu, this is house. Mercy and the boys are my children. How can you deny me entry to my own house?

16. **LULU:** **(sarcastic)** Your house? The last time I checked, I was the one paying the rent and feeding the children you so proudly call yours. And I didn’t sell any of them in order to do it.

KW END

17. **MSOTO:** My wife, please – I am so sorry I sold our baby girl to Mukaraba. But they’ve said we have a real chance of getting her back.

18. **LULU:** Excuse me – *we?! For your information: when they let me have my daughter, you will not come within a hundred feet of her. Do you understand me?*

19. **MSOTO:** But...

20. **LULU:** **(cuts him short)** And by the way, your daughter, the one you didn’t sell, is pregnant.

21. **MSOTO:** What? Mercy’s pregnant? **(sighs)**

KW BEGIN See? I always said it was a waste of time educating girls! We should have married her off when we had the chance!

22. **LULU:** Unbelievable! You still talk like that, after everything you’ve done? **(clicks her tongue)**

KW END And in case you've forgotten: our baby girl was not the only child of ours you sold. You gave our two boys away to your sister Lena, who sent them to work in the mines! I'm glad she's paying for what she did to them. Banda almost died because of a sickness he caught there. And Kadu still has nightmares.

23. MSOTO: Lulu, please --

24. LULU: Just go, Msoto, before I call the police.

25. MSOTO: **(sighs)** All right.

26. LULU: And don't come back here again!

27. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: BANDA, KADU AND MOSY RETURN FROM UPCOUNTRY

28. ATMO: MOVING TRUCK, LIGHT TRAFFIC ON COUNTRY ROAD

29. BANDA: Mosy, how long do we need to ride in your truck before we're back in the city?

30. KADU: **(excited)** I know, Banda! I know! We pass Kido town, and then we cross the bridge, and then we'll be in the city. Right, Mosy?

31. MOSY: **(chuckles)** Not quite, Kadu. We still have three more towns to pass before Kido. I thought you'd know by now. We've made so many trips together to bring back your mother's vegetables from upcountry...

KW BEGIN

32. BANDA: Mosy, are there highway robbers on this road?

33. MOSY: No, Banda, in all the time I've been driving along this road I've never seen robbers here. And I always make sure I'm home before it gets dark. So there's no need to be afraid....

34. SFX: FAST MOVING TRUCK APPROACHES, HONKS AND OVERTAKES.

35. MOSY: **(shouts angrily at the driver)** Hey, what's wrong with you? It says no overtaking here!

36. BANDA: **(excited)** Wow! Look at that truck! It's going so fast. Mosy, go faster! Like they do in the movies.

37. KADU: **(excited)** Yes, Mosy! Our truck's newer than that one. He can't beat us!

38. MOSY: No. Kids. That is dangerous driving. That driver almost hit us. Do you have your safety belts on, like I told you?

39. KADU/BANDA: Yes, Mosy.

40. KADU: When I grow up I want to be a businessman like you and buy a good truck like this one. And I’ll drive it carefully, like you do.

41. MOSY: **(laughs)** Aha, changed your mind already? A few seconds ago you sounded like you wanted to be a rally driver.

42. THEY LAUGH

43. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: MRS. JUMBE TALKS TO LULU AT THE MARKET

44. ATMO: OPEN AIR MARKET ATMO

45. TRADER 1: **(shouts in the background)** Cheap clothes here! You can look at them for free! We don’t charge for checking them, or even trying them on! Cheap clothes!

- 46. TRADER 2:** Fifty cents! Fresh oranges for fifty cents. Fresh vegetables, too! **(FADE UNDER)**
- 47. SFX: VEGETABLES CUT ON A BOARD**
- 48. LULU:** **(to herself, confidently)** They can shout all they want, but my freshly-cut kale is the best! And I'm sure my customers know that by now...
- 49. CUSTOMER:** Hello, Mama Mercy!
- 50. LULU** Hello! How many bunches do you want?
- 51. CUSTOMER:** Two bunches of kale, please, and two tomatoes.
- 52. LULU:** Do you want the kale ready-cut?
- 53. CUSTONER:** No, I'll do that myself.
- 54. LULU:** As you wish, Madam.
- 55. SFX: VEGETABLES BEING WRAPPED IN A PLASTIC BAG**
- 56. SFX: BILLS BEING EXCHANGED.**
- 57. LULU:** Here you are. And here's your change.
- 58. SFX: COINS JINGLE**
- KW BEGIN***

59. CUSTOMER: Thanks, Mama Mercy. Your vegetables are always very tasty. But you don't bring enough! I've come here on several occasions only to find you've run out.

60. LULU: **(laughs)** Well, we only started the business recently. But Mosy and my sons are on their way now with more fresh veggies from upcountry.

61. CUSTOMER: That's good to hear...

KW END

62. SFX: VEHICLE APPROACHES AND COMES TO A STOP

63. CUSTOMER: **(startled, screams)** Hey, you, watch where you're going with that big car of yours! Can't you see I'm standing here?

64. SFX: WINDOW ROLLS DOWN

65. MRS. JUMBE: **(from the car)** Sorry, Madam. I wasn't going to hit you. I was just looking for a place to park. This place is so crowded. I'm looking for a lady called Lulu. I'm told she sells vegetables around here. Do you know her?

66. CUSTOMER: I don't know any Lu --

67. **LULU:** That’s me.

68. **CUSTOMER:** Oh! I didn’t know your name was Lulu. I mean, we always call you Mama Mercy.

69. **LULU:** (to Mrs. Jumbe) How many bunches do you want?

KW BEGIN

70. **MRS. JUMBE:** I don’t want any kale...

71. **LULU:** We also have fresh tomatoes and onions. I can sell them to you at a discount...

KW END

72. **MRS. JUMBE:** Lulu, sorry, I’m not here to buy anything. I was just wondering if we could talk.

73. **LULU:** Talk? What about? I don’t know you.

74. **MRS. JUMBE:** My name is Mrs. Jumbe. Your husband used to work for us. He’s staying with us now he’s been released from the police station.

75. **LULU:** *You’re* Mrs. Jumbe? Hmm... What does Msoto want from me? I’ve already told him to stay away from us.

76. **MRS. JUMBE** Please, Lulu, get in the car. Let’s talk privately.

77. **LULU:** Can’t you see I’m busy here? I can’t leave my stall unattended.

- 78. MRS. JUMBE:** It's all right, don't worry. We can talk right here. I won't drive away - you can keep an eye on your stall from inside the car.
- 79. CUSTOMER:** I can keep an eye on it for you, Mama Mercy. Go and hear what the lady has to say.
- 80. LULU:** **(reluctantly)** Well... okay. But only for a few minutes. Do you know the prices?
- 81. CUSTOMER:** Of course. Don't keep the lady waiting. Go!
- 82. SFX: FOOTSTEPS LULU**
- 83. SFX: CAR DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES**
- 84. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

SCENE 4: MERCY IS NOT FEELING WELL

85. ATMO: TANDIKA, INSIDE MERCY'S HUT, DAYTIME

86. MERCY: SNORES

87. SFX: DOOR OPENS

88. SFX: FOOTSTEPS - LULU ENTERS

89. LULU: Hey Mercy, wake up! What are you doing on the bed? Just because it's Saturday doesn't mean you can sleep all day! I've been hard at work for hours!

90. MERCY: **(wakes up, lazily)** Hi, Mum. Are you back already?

91. LULU: Mercy, why haven't you cooked yet?

92. MERCY: **(lazily)** I don't feel very well. I think I need to talk to Dr. Roberts about it next time I see him.

KW BEGIN

93. LULU: Why? What's the problem?

94. MERCY: I feel kind of weak and dizzy.

95. LULU: Come on, don't be lazy! That happens to every pregnant woman. You have to help me cook before the boys burst in here demanding food.

96. MERCY: **(groans as she stands)** Pheeew...

KW ED

97. LULU: Come on, Mercy! You’re only eight months pregnant.
You can still help me! Cut those tomatoes.

98. SFX: SHUFFLING FOOTSTEPS - MERCY

99. SFX: PLATE AND PLASTIC BAG BEING PLACED ON TABLE

100. SFX: TOMATOES CUT SLOWLY

101. LULU: So guess who came to see me today.

102. MERCY: Who?

103. LULU: Mrs. Jumbe.

104. MERCY: The mother of my schoolmate Niki? What did she want?

105. LULU: **(sarcastically)** That crazy woman wants to pay for your brothers’ schooling! She says your dad is living with them now. Can you imagine?

106. MERCY: **(happily)** What? Mum, that’s very good news. Kadu and Banda will be so happy! I hope you said yes.

107. LULU: Are you as crazy as that woman? Of course I’m not going to take her charity. I told her to keep her money!

KW BEGIN

- 108. MERCY:** **(taken aback)** Why did you do that, Mum? Banda and Kadu need to go to school.
- 109. LULU:** Kadu and Banda will go to school, one day. Surely you don't expect me to take money from your father's new friends, after everything he did?
- 110. MERCY:** **(struggles to catch her breath)** But Mum, can't you see Dad's trying to be better?

KW END

- 111. LULU:** I'm saving some money, and I'll send my boys to school myself.
- 112. MERCY:** **(breathing with difficulty)** When will that be?
- 113. LULU:** Are you okay, Mercy?
- 114. MERCY:** I'll... I'll be fine. I think I just need to lie down again... Mum, please, I think you have to go back to Mrs. Jumbe and tell her you're sorry and you'll accept her offer. It seems she's a very nice person. Just like her son Niki!
- 115. LULU:** I said no! We may be poor, but we're not beggar--
- 116. SFX: THUD AS MERCY FALLS DOWN**
- 117. SFX: UTENSILS (PLATE, PAN, ETC.) DROP**

118. LULU: (urgently) Mercy! Mercy, are you okay? (slaps her cheeks)

119. SFX: SLAPS ON CHEEKS

120. LULU: Mercy! Mercy! Oh no... she’s so hot...

121. OUTRO – NARRATOR:

What’s happening to Mercy? Will she be okay? And what about Trudy and Anita, Mercy’s friends from school? We haven’t heard from them in a while. But we’ll see them again very soon... in the final episode of this second season of “Crossroads Generation”. So don’t forget to tune in next time! If you missed one of the previous episodes, just visit our website www.dw.de/lbe to listen to it again. You can also follow us on Facebook. Bye!