

Learning by Ear 2013

"Crossroads Generation" – Facing the Consequences

EPISODE 3: Nocturnal Adventures

AUTHOR: James Muhando

EDITORS: Friederike Müller, Daniel Pelz, Madelaine Meier

COPY EDITOR: Charlotte Collins

List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: MSOTO INTERROGATED

- OFFICER MNENE (M, 45)
- MSOTO (M, 45)

SCENE2: LULU AT THE MUKARABAS'

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

SCENE 3: NIKI LOOKS FOR MERCY

- NIKI (M, 16)
- TRUDY (F, 15)
- OLD SENILE WOMAN (F, 70)

SCENE 4: MERCY VISITS DAN AT NIGHT

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

INTRO

1. NARRATOR

Hello there! Good to have you back for this third episode of "Crossroads Generation – Facing the Consequences". Before we start, let's recap on what's happened so far. After sleeping with Dan, Mercy Msoto found out that she was pregnant. She can't believe that Dan is refusing to take responsibility:

2. EPISODE 1, LINES 9 – 10:

MERCY: *Dan hasn't talked to me since the day I told him I was pregnant... Before that, he said he was crazy about me. Why is he doing this to me?*

TRUDY: *Mercy, my friend, that's what all they all say.*

3. NARRATOR:

Their classmate Niki Jumbe doesn't know what's going on. He just feels rejected by Mercy, and as a result he's turned to drugs and bad company:

KW BEGIN

4. EPISODE 1, LINES 66 – 67:

NIKI: *What do you think the principal will do to me if she sees me with a... a...*

PEDDLER: *A what? A drug dealer? You should have thought about that before smoking MY ganja and not paying when you said you would.*

KW END

5. NARRATOR:

Meanwhile, Mercy's father Msoto has been at the police station for some time now. He's suspected of robbing Niki's parents. And he has another secret he shares with a man called Mukaraba:

6. SEASON 1, EPISODE 7, LINES 28-29

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

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

7. NARRATOR:

This episode is called "Nocturnal Adventures", and we start with Msoto being interrogated at the police station.

SCENE 1: MSOTO INTERROGATED

8. ATMO: POLICE STATION

9. MSOTO: Officer, I already told you: I wasn't even working for Jumbe any more when the robbery happened.

10. OFFICER MNENE: And that's exactly the point, Msoto. You resign from work, and shortly after that, a robbery takes place at your former boss's house. **(ironically)** What a coincidence! Did you get another job after you resigned?

11. MSOTO: No.

12. MNENE: How many children do you have?

13. MSOTO: **(hesitates)** Three.

- 14. MNENE:** Hmm! Let's see: three children, your wife and yourself... *five* people, living in the city, and all of them needing food and clothing. **(sternly)** How do you take care of your family without a job?
- 15. MSOTO:** I...
- 16. MNENE:** Who is Mukaraba?
- 17. MSOTO:** **(suddenly scared)** Councillor Mukaraba has nothing to do with this.
- 18. MNENE:** Why are you sending your wife to get money from him, then?
- 19. MSOTO:** **(realizes)** You listened in to my phone conversation! Is that even legal?
- 20. MNENE:** I told you, you have no rights here. At least, not until you tell me the truth.
- 21. MUSICAL INTERLUDE (tense music)**

SCENE 2: LULU AT THE MUKARABAS'

22. ATMO: QUIET NEIGHBOURHOOD IN THE EVENING; CRICKETS

23. LULU: (to herself) So this is where this man Mukaraba lives. Wow! His house is huge!

24. SFX: DOG GROWLS AND BARKS MENACINGLY

25. LULU: (screams) Wuuui! This dog is going to kill me! Help!

26. SFX: STEPS AS MUKARABA APPROACHES

27. MUKARABA: (to the dog) Hey, Linux! Stop that right now!

28. SFX: DOG WHINES AND STOPS BARKING

29. MUKARABA: (to Lulu) You're lucky I was taking a walk outside. Linux would have ripped you to pieces. Who are you?

30. LULU: (still out of breath) My name is Lulu. My husband Msoto told me to come and see you.

31. MUKARABA: (angry) What does that crook want from me now?

32. LULU: Msoto has been arrested.

33. MUKARABA: (interested) Arrested? Really? For what? Come in - let's talk inside.

34. SFX: GATE/DOOR BEING OPENED

35. SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS THEY ENTER

36. MUKARABA: Have a seat.

37. SFX: CLOTHES RUSTLING AS THEY SIT

38. MUKARABA: Now tell me: why did they arrest your husband?

39. LULU: **(hesitates)** Somebody robbed his former boss.

40. MUKARABA: **(pleased)** Aha...

41. LULU: **(firm)** They suspect him. But he's not a thief!

42. MUKARABA: And you came here just to tell me this?

43. LULU: **(hesitates)** No... My children are hungry and we have no food. My husband said you could help us.

44. SFX: FIST BANGING ON TABLE

45. MUKARABA: **(getting angry)** Listen, if this is about the baby, I honoured my part of the deal. I paid him. In full! I don't know why you people can't understand that. A deal is a deal!

46. LULU: **(confused)** Baby? What baby?

47. MUKARABA: The baby he brought... Oh... **(realises he has let the cat out of the bag)** Don't tell me you didn't know about the baby.

48. SFX: LULU GETS UP

49. LULU: Are you the one Msoto sold my baby to? **(frantic)** I want my child back. I want my baby! **(continues to scream)**

50. MUKARABA: **(harshly)** Listen! I paid a lot of money for that baby! And you can't even feed the ones you have!

51. SFX: RUSTLING OF CLOTHES AS LULU ATTACKS MUKARABA

52. MUKARABA: Hey, get off me!

KW BEGIN

53. LULU: **(goes berserk)** Give me my daughter!

54. MUKARABA: **(trying to calm her)** Look, I will give you more money. But this is the last time!

55. SFX: BILLS BEING COUNTED

56. LULU: No! Keep your money! I just want my daughter!

KW END

57. SFX: BABY CRYING IN ANOTHER ROOM

58. LULU: Is that her? My baby, my baby!

**59. SFX: MUKARABA GRABS LULU AND DRAGS HER TOWARDS
THE DOOR**

60. SFX: DOOR OPENS

61. MUKARABA: (threatening) Get out and don't come back, or I'll
set my dog on you! And don't you dare talk to
anybody about this!

62. SFX: DOOR BEING SLAMMED

63. SFX: LULU BANGS AGAINST THE DOOR

64. LULU: (screams desperately) I want my baby!

65. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: NIKI DECLARES LOVE TO AN OLD WOMAN

66. ATMO: STREET ATMO, LIGHT TRAFFIC, AT NIGHT

67. SFX: RAIN AND THUNDER

68. SFX: DRUNKEN FOOTSTEPS ON WET GROUND

69. NIKI: (drunk tone: he is practising his words)

"I, Niki Jumbe, love you, Mercy Msoto. Mercy, why don't you love me the way I love you? I don't care that you've been with Dan. I love you anyway!" Yes! That's what I'm going to say! Ah! There's her house.

70. SFX: FOOTSTEPS STOP

71. NIKI: (calls out) Mercy, open your window!

(to himself) Oh - she's turned on the lights!

(shouts) It's me, Niki! I brought you flowers! I love you, my beautiful princess!

72. SFX: STEPS APPROACHING ON WET GROUND

73. TRUDY: Niki? What on earth are you doing?

74. NIKI: Oh, Trudy! My friend and classmate Trudy! Give me a hug.

75. SFX: CLOTHES RUSTLING AS THEY HUG

76. TRUDY: You smell like a skunk. **(disgusted)** Niki, are you drunk? When did you start drinking?

77. NIKI: I'm in love with a girl who won't even talk to me.

KW BEGIN

78. TRUDY: What girl? I thought you were in love with Mercy?

79. NIKI: Yes, Mercy! And I know she feels something for me, too. I can see it in her eyes.

KW END

80. TRUDY: How romantic! But didn't you know that Mercy's family'd moved back to Tandika slums?

81. NIKI: What? You're lying.

82. SFX: WINDOW OPENS

83. OLD WOMAN: **(from afar)** Oh, my handsome young sailor! I love you too! Wait for me, my secret admirer, I'm coming down!

84. SFX: WINDOW CLOSED

85. TRUDY: Oops! And there's the proof!

86. **NIKI:** (panics) Oh my god! I have to leave.

87. **SFX: STEPS ON WET GROUND RUNNING AWAY**

88. **TRUDY:** (calling after him) Hey, you drunk handsome sailor! Why don't you at least leave her the flowers?
(laughs)

89. **SFX: DOOR OPENS**

90. **OLD WOMAN:** (calling) Wait for me! Stop! Where are you going?

SCENE 4: MERCY VISITS DAN AT NIGHT

91. **ATMO: DORMITORY AT NIGHT**

92. **SFX: STEPS MERCY**

93. **MERCY:** (to herself) I have to be careful! It was lucky that the watchman fell asleep. Otherwise I'd never have managed to sneak into the boys' dorm at night!

94. **SFX: STEPS STOP**

95. **MERCY:** (takes a deep breath) Here we go.

96. **SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR**

97. **DAN:** (sleepily, from inside) Who is it?

98. MERCY: **(whispers)** Dan, it's me, Mercy. Please open the door.

SILENCE

99. MERCY: Dan?

100. SFX: FOOTSTEPS DAN APPROACHING FROM INSIDE

101. SFX: DOOR OPENS

102. DAN: **(annoyed)** Mercy, what are you doing here at two o'clock in the morning?

103. MERCY: **(whispers)** Please, let me in.

104. DAN: What do you want, Mercy? Whatever it is, say it quickly and then leave.

105. SFX: MERCY'S FOOTSTEPS ENTERING

106. SFX: DOOR CLOSES

107. MERCY: **(breaks down)** You said you were crazy about me! What happened to you?

108. DAN: **(coldly)** Nothing happened to me. But something clearly happened to *you*! And I'm not about to take responsibility for something I didn't do.

109. MERCY: But you're the father! I've never slept with anyone apart from you.

KW BEGIN

110. DAN: How do I know that?

111. MERCY: Dan, you know I was a virgin when I slept with you. What other proof do you need? You promised you would never leave me.

112. DAN: That was before you started sleeping around with other boys and accusing me of making you pregnant!

113. MERCY: **(shocked)** How - how can you say something like that?

KW END

114. DAN: Mercy, you have to get rid of it!

115. MERCY: No! Dan, think of the baby - *our* baby. I know it's difficult, but we can do this together.

116. DAN: **(aggressively)** Get out or I will call the watchman!

117. MERCY: But I can't do this alone. I don't even have money to get ri... to do that!

118. DAN: Get out!

119. SFX: STRUGGLE AS SHE IS PUSHED OUT

120. SFX: DOOR CLOSED

121. SFX: DOOR HIT

122. MERCY: **(hits door and cries)** Dan, please don't do this!
Please!

123. OUTRO – NARRATOR:

And that's it for today's episode of Learning by Ear. Is this really all Dan has to say to Mercy? Join us next time to find out! If you want to listen to this episode again, visit our webpage on www.dw.de/lbe. There's also a new episode of the Learning by Ear video diary waiting for you, with more insights on "Crossroads Generation" - and a very different view of Dan... Don't forget, too, that you're always welcome to discuss what you've just heard on our Facebook page. See you soon!