

Learning by Ear 2013

"Crossroads Generation" – Facing the Consequences

EPISODE 24: A Twist in the Tail

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List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: MSOTO RELEASED

- **INSPECTOR MARY (F, 40s)**
- **MSOTO (M, 45)**
- **COP (M, 35)**

SCENE 2: THE JUMBES MEET MSOTO

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

SCENE 3: MERCY COMPLAINS ABOUT EATING MEAT

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

SCENE 4: JUMBE CALLS MUKARABA

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

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hi there – welcome back to our radio drama, “Crossroads Generation”. We’re already on the 24th episode of this second season. Last time, Mercy’s mother Lulu was surprised by a group of girls from the local youth centre. They were led by Anita, a peer counsellor and exchange student from Laboria. And they had some good advice for Lulu:

2. EPISODE 23, LINES 94 – 108:

ANITA: *But just imagine, Mama Mercy, if you had your own little business...*

LULU: *Oh, of course that would be wonderful. But it’s impossible. (...)*

ANITA (108): *What if you brought vegetables from upcountry and sold them here in the city?*

3. NARRATOR:

Some time has passed since that conversation. So let's find out whether Lulu's plan has worked out! And what about Mercy's father Msoto? The last we heard of him, he was still being held at the police station. He was accused of robbing the Jumbes, the wealthy family of Mercy's classmate, Niki. But Msoto's innocent! Local politician Mukaraba was the one behind all that:

KW BEGIN

4. EPISODE 7, LINES 105 - 108:

MUKARABA: *Here's the money, Officer. Now you make absolutely sure that Msoto rots in the cells forever and nobody ever finds out I framed him for the robbery.*

MNENE: *(...) I assure you, Msoto won't be getting out for a very long time!*

KW END

5. NARRATOR:

Today's episode is called "A Twist In The Tail", and it starts with Msoto, who's finally about to leave the police station...

SCENE 1: MSOTO RELEASED

6. SFX: POLICE STATION ATMO

7. SFX: RUMMAGING IN BAG

8. INSP. MARY: Have you confirmed that all your property is in that bag, Mr. Msoto?

9. MSOTO: I'm missing my watch, Inspector Mary.

10. INSP. MARY: **(calls)** Officer!

11. COP: **(from a distance)** Yes, Madam Inspector?

12. SFX: FOOTSTEPS - COP APPROACHING

KW BEGIN

13. INSP. MARY: Who's in charge of the prisoners' belongings while they're in prison?

14. COP: **(on mic)** Usually it's the arresting officer.

KW END

15. INSP. MARY: This man's watch is missing. Do you know anything about it?

16. COP: No, Madam. Officer Mnene was the one in charge of this case.

17. INSP. MARY: **(not amused)** Him again? Isn't it enough that he falsely accused Msoto of robbery? If those two gangsters hadn't given themselves up, nobody would ever have known about the "arrangement" former officer Mnene had with Councillor Mukaraba! I've had enough of his corruption! Officer, please find Mnene and bring him here! He has to give this man his watch.

18. COP: But Madam, Officer Mnene left the police station before you even fired him. We don't know where he is.

19. INSP. MARY: You're a policeman, aren't you? Your job is to find and arrest criminals! Officer Mnene is facing corruption charges. So go and find him now!

20. COP: Yes, Madam.

21. SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS COP LEAVES

KW BEGIN

22. INSP. MARY: **(to Msoto)** Police officers are supposed to serve and protect the citizens, not intimidate them and steal from them. Mr. Msoto, on behalf of the entire police department, I can only apologise that you were falsely imprisoned for robbery with violence, a crime the arresting officer knew perfectly well you didn't commit. **(sighs)** Please sign here.

23. SFX: PEN WRITING ON PAPER.

24. MSOTO: Here you are, Madam Inspector.

25. SFX: PAPER HANDED OVER

KW END

26. INSP. MARY: Mr. Msoto, you're free to go now.

27. MSOTO: Thank you, Inspector Mary.

28. INSP. MARY: **(continues)** But remember, there are some very important conditions. 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.

- 29. MSOTO:** Yes, Inspector Mary.
- 30. INSP. MARY:** And you are not to go within a hundred feet of your wife's house. She has asked us to inform you that she does not wish to see you. You can see your children once a month, but you are not allowed to live with her, or with them. Understood?
- 31. MSOTO:** **(sighs)** Yes, Madam.
- 32. INSP MARY:** All right, then. You are free to go.
- 33. SFX: FOOTSTEPS MSOTO LEAVE**
- 34. MUSICAL INTERLUDE (OR FADING OF ATMOS)**

SCENE 2: THE JUMBES MEET MSOTO

35. ATMO: OUTSIDE THE POLICE STATION (PEOPLE TALKING, POLICE RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES ON WALKIE-TALKIES, SIRENS HEARD)

36. MRS. JUMBE: Jumbe, my husband, is it really today that they're releasing Msoto?

37. JUMBE: That's what I was told...

38. MRS. JUMBE: I feel so guilty that we sent an innocent man to jail. All this time we were so convinced that he was responsible for the robbery at our house!

KW BEGIN

39. JUMBE: He wasn't in jail. He was just being held at the police station.

40. MRS. JUMBE: You know that's pretty much the same thing.

KW END

41. JUMBE: Your boyfriend is the one to blame for all this.

42. MRS. JUMBE: **(not amused)** What do you mean, my boyfriend?
Jumbe, after all these years of being married to me,
you still can't get past the fact that I was once
engaged to Mukaraba?

43. JUMBE: I'm sure he organized the robbery just to get back at
me. Why else would he do it?

44. MRS. JUMBE: That's ridiculous! I don't understand it, either. But do
you seriously think it's because of something that
happened so long ago?

KW BEGIN

45. JUMBE: I can't think of any other reason... **(convinced)** No.
He wanted to get back at me! I'm sure of it! He still
blames me for asking you to marry me even though
I knew he was in love with you. **(sighs)** And yet he's
seemed so happy lately – busy with politics, and his
little girl...

KW END

46. MRS. JUMBE: **(sees Msoto)** Oh, look, there's Msoto! Oh God! He looks so thin. **(shouts)** Hey, Msoto! Over here!

47. SFX: FOOTSTEPS APPROACH ON PAVEMENT

48. MSOTO: **(approaching, sarcastic)** Oh great! Mr. and Mrs. Jumbe. What do you two want from me? Are you sending me back to the cells again?

49. JUMBE: Msoto, we wanted to say that we're truly sorry for what happened. The police told us about the two robbers who gave themselves up. We know now that Mukaraba was behind this, and that you had nothing to do with it.

50. MRS. JUMBE: If there's anything we can do for you to show you how sorry we are... Anything!

51. MSOTO: **(sighs)** I need a place to stay.

52. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: MERCY COMPLAINS ABOUT EATING MEAT

53. ATMO: TANDIKA SLUMS, DAYTIME

54. SFX: IRON PLATES AS THEY EAT

KW BEGIN

55. LULU: (full mouth) Eat, Banda! The doctor says you have to regain your strength! You're still recovering from TB, remember!

56. BANDA: (full mouth) Yes, Mama.

57. LULU: You too, Mercy. A pregnant mother needs to eat.

KW END

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

59. 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? Now you're complaining about too much meat?

- 60. MERCY:** You could buy fish for a change. It contains a lot of nutrients that are very important for the development of the body!
- 61. LULU:** **(laughs)** Oh Mercy, you and your books! I'm sure you're right. But I think meat is good. And you know, your brothers love meat. Look at Banda here!
- 62. BANDA:** **(full mouth)** Yes, I love it!
- 63. LULU:** **(laughs)** And Kadu, our little businessman, will gobble it up as soon as he gets home.
- 64. MERCY:** Where is Kadu, by the way? Did he go upcountry with Mosy again?
- 65. LULU:** Yes. He really enjoys supervising the vegetables they bring from my parents' garden.
- 66. MERCY:** That's nice. But you know, Mum, I think Kadu and Banda should go to school.
- 67. LULU:** Not everybody can get a scholarship like you, Mercy. I am saving some money. Maybe next year they can go.

68. MERCY: They're releasing Dad today from the police station today. Maybe he'll get a job, and then with both your incomes you'll be able to pay for their schooling.

69. LULU: **(not amused)** Don't talk to me about Msoto!

70. MERCY: But he is our dad.

71. LULU: Mercy, your father is not coming back to this house.

KW BEGIN

72. MERCY: But, Mum --

73. LULU: **(commanding)** Forget it, Mercy. We've talked about this before. **(proudly)** I'd never have thought it, but I can take care of my family all by myself now.

74. MERCY: **(sulks)**

KW END

75. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: JUMBE CALLS MUKARABA

76. ATMO: AT THE JUMBES', INTERIOR, EVENING

77. SFX: CELL PHONE DIALLING, CALLING TONE

78. MUKARABA: (answers at the other end, on phone) Hello? This is Mukaraba speaking.

79. JUMBE: Hello. This is Jumbe.

80. MUKARABA: (short pause) Oh, Jumbe. To what do I owe the pleasure? It's a long time since I heard from you.

81. JUMBE: (not amused) Cut the crap, Mukaraba. Guess who I met this afternoon? Msoto. I know everything.

82. MUKARABA: What the hell are you talking about, Jumbe? Can't you speak plainly? I don't have much time. Some of us have jobs to do.

83. JUMBE: You mean you have other robberies to organise? Framing innocent watchmen like Msoto?

84. MUKARABA: (silent)

85. JUMBE: After all these years, you're still so angry with me for marrying Janet?

86. MUKARABA: **(laughs)** Do you really think I'd get my hands dirty just because of that old story? **(pause)** Well, but since you've brought it up again... You knew she was my girlfriend, but did that stop you from marrying her? No. **(deep breath)** You were my best friend back then, Jumbe.

KW BEGIN

87. JUMBE: Janet was an adult. It was her decision. So my advice to you is to respect that, and move on, Mukaraba! You hear me?

88. MUKARABA: Oh no! This is not over, Jumbe.

KW END

89. JUMBE: Mukaraba, the police are on their way to pick you up as we speak.

90. MUKARABA: **(laughs)** I wouldn't be too sure about that.

91. JUMBE: Oh... did I mention that your friend Officer Mnene has been fired?

92. MUKARABA: **(shocked)** What? **(pulls himself together)** Huh -
well, he's not my only friend. If you know what I
mean...

93. JUMBE: Have a nice life, Mukaraba. I hope you enjoy it – in
prison.

94. MUKARABA: Say hi to Janet for me!

95. SFX: PHONE REPLACED

96. OUTRO - NARRATOR:

What a turn of events! So it seems Mukaraba and Jumbe are old schoolfriends! And they've been fighting over a girl – just like the Jumbes' son, Niki, fought with his classmate Dan over Mercy... To find out how the story continues for them, and what happens to Mercy and her family, be sure to tune in next time! And don't forget to go online to watch Anita's latest video diary. You'll find it on dw.de/lbe. You can also follow us on Facebook. Until next time, take care!