

**Learning by Ear 2013**

**"Crossroads Generation" – Facing the Consequences**

**EPISODE 6: Secrets**

**AUTHOR: James Muhando**

**EDITORS: Friederike Müller, Daniel Pelz, Madelaine Meier**

**COPY EDITOR: Charlotte Collins**

**List of characters by scene:**

**INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR**

**SCENE 1: DR. ZITO'S OFFICE**

- TRUDY (F, 15)
- DR. ZITO (M, 45)

**SCENE 2: AT THE POLICE STATION**

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

**SCENE 3: THE JUMBES LOOK FOR NIKI**

- NEWS PRESENTER (F, 25)
- JUMBE (M, 45)
- MRS. JUMBE (F, 35)
- NIKI (M, 16)

**SCENE 4: NIKI DRUNK AT HOME**

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

## **INTRO**

### **1. NARRATOR:**

Hello there! Welcome back to Crossroads Generation. We're on the second season, called "Facing the Consequences", and I bet you're all eager to know how the story of Mercy, Niki and the others continues, aren't you? Just to remind you where we left off: Niki has been in a bad mood ever since his classmate Mercy rejected him. Last time, he had a fight with his parents:

### **2. EPISODE 5, LINES 61 - 71:**

**JUMBE:** (...) *Your mother said good morning to you and all you can say is "if you say so"?*

**NIKI:** *Well, maybe it is a good morning for her... For me, it's not. (...)*

**SFX: SLAP ON FACE**

**JUMBE (65):** *Don't you dare answer your mother like that! (...)*

**CUTLERY THROWN ON PLATE/NIKI STANDS UP AND LEAVES**

**JUMBE (71):** *Niki, come back here!*

### **3. NARRATOR:**

At the same time, Mercy’s family has been struggling to survive since her father Msoto was arrested. He’s being held at the police station on suspicion of robbery. And that’s not his only problem. But we’ll come to that later...

His daughter Mercy is in trouble, too. She slept with her classmate Dan, who claimed to be in love with her, and now she’s pregnant. For Dan, there’s only one solution: abortion. Mercy’s friend Trudy is giving her the same advice:

### **4. EPISODE 1, LINES 10 – 11:**

***TRUDY:** (...) I think you should make up your mind soon to... you know...?*

***MERCY:** Trudy, I’m really not comfortable doing... you know what. Besides, where would I even get the money to pay Dr. Zito?*

Why is Trudy insisting that her friend Mercy gets an abortion? We’re about to find out today, in “Secrets”, the sixth episode...

**SCENE 1: DR. ZITO'S OFFICE**

**5. ATMO: AT DR. ZITO'S (INSIDE SHABBY SMALL HOUSE, TRAFFIC IN THE BACKGROUND)**

**6. DR. ZITO:** Trudy, you can't keep coming to me asking for money when you're not doing your job!

**7. TRUDY:** But Dr. Zito, I do do my job.

**8. DR. ZITO:** Oh yeah? When was the last time you brought me a patient? Three months ago?

**9. TRUDY:** All I'm asking for is a little money, Dr. Zito! I really need those new shoes!

**10. DR. ZITO:** I'm sorry, Trudy, but rules are rules. We agreed I'd pay you if you bring me girls who need help getting an abortion. No girls – no money.

**11. TRUDY:** Dr. Zito, please...

**12. DR. ZITO:** **(sighs)** Tell you what, Trudy. If you convince that friend of yours... what's her name again – Mercy? – I will pay you extra this time. Deal?

**13. TRUDY:** But I need money *now!*

***KW BEGIN***

**14. DR. ZITO:** Trudy, Trudy! You don't look like a poor girl to me...  
Why isn't your mother buying those shoes for you?

**15. TRUDY:** **(impatient)** I told you, my mum's not at home at the moment. Are you going to ask questions, or are you going to help me?

**16. DR. ZITO:** **(slimy)** Well, if your mother's not at home and you're feeling lonely, you can always come round to my house, and we'll see what we can do about it!

**17. TRUDY:** **(annoyed)** No, thanks! Do you think I don't know what you do to girls who come to your house? If you don't want to help me, just say so!

***KW END***

**18. SFX: STEPS TRUDY GOING AWAY**

**19. DR. ZITO:** Trudy, wait!

**20. SFX: FOOTSTEPS STOP**

**21. SFX: BILLS BEING COUNTED**

**22. DR. ZITO:** Fine – here’s twenty dollars. But I’m deducting it from your commission next time, okay?

**23. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 2: AT THE POLICE STATION**

**24. ATMO: INSIDE THE POLICE STATION, VISITING AREA**

**25. SFX: STEEL DOOR OPENS IN BACKGROUND**

**26. SFX: STEPS - MSOTO APPROACHES**

**27. MSOTO:** Lulu, my wife! Thank you for coming to visit me! Come here, give me a hug! You have no idea what it’s like being held at the police station...

**28. LULU:** **(stern)** Don’t you even think about it. Don’t touch me, you animal!

**29. MSOTO:** What did I do?

**30. LULU:** Oh, now you’re going to pretend you don’t know. I found her, Msoto. I found my daughter!

**31. MSOTO:** Mercy? Was she lost?

**32. LULU:** Not Mercy! The one you sold! My little angel I gave birth to months ago, whom you sold to that man Mukaraba!

**33. MSOTO:** **(angry)** I told you not to ask him any questions!

**34. LULU:** Did you really think I wouldn't find out? Oh, and for your information: I've reported this to the police, and they've told me they're processing it!

***KW BEGIN***

**35. MSOTO:** **(ironically)** Oh, well, thank you very much! Really - thanks, Lulu. Your plan has worked after all. You've ruined my life. I knew it! You always wanted me out of the way so that you could enjoy my wealth.

**36. LULU:** **(snaps)** What wealth, Msoto?

***KW END***

**37. MSOTO:** You've just sent me to prison, Lulu.

**38. LULU:** And that’s exactly where you belong. Prison! Do you even know what your sons went through in Laboria? They told me everything! Your sister didn’t take care of them! She sent them straight to work in the mines – in dark caves underground, where their supervisor beat them! Our little boys! Kadu has had nightmares every single night since they got back!

**39. MSOTO:** Lulu, my wife – you don’t know what it’s like, being responsible for taking care of a family when you don’t have a job, and --

**40. LULU:** **(angrily)** So you just give your children away? Sell them? I wanted to keep my baby girl, but you took her away from me! Now that I know where she is, I’ll do everything I can to get her back! I hope you rot in prison!

**41. SFX: STANDS UP AND LEAVES**

**42. SFX: STEPS LULU GOING AWAY**

**43. MSOTO:** When will I see you again?

**44. LULU:** **(calls from far)** Never!



## **45. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

### **SCENE 3: THE JUMBES LOOK FOR NIKI**

**46. SFX: CAR STARTED (HEARD FROM INSIDE)**

**47. SFX: ATMO INSIDE DRIVING CAR (JUMBE’S CAR)**

**48. MRS. JUMBE:** (panicking) Where could Niki be? He’s not answering his phone, the neighbours haven’t seen him, ...

**49. JUMBE:** Calm down, Mama Niki. We’ll find our son. Let’s just drive to the centre of town and look for him there...

**50. MRS. JUMBE:** Don’t tell me to calm down! It’s ten at night, and Niki hasn’t come home since you two quarrelled this morning.

**51. JUMBE:** (angry) Stop blaming me! I told you, we’ll find him!

**SILENCE**

***KW BEGIN***

**52. SFX: CAR RADIO IS TURNED ON**

**53. NEWS PRESENTER:** On the international scene, the upheaval in the neighbouring country of Laboria has reached a new peak. Protests against the government have got violent again, and according to our sources the rebels are not only attacking government buildings in the capital, but also a number of mines belonging to the Kanyama mining company. The death toll so far is at least 10, some of them underage children who were apparently working in the Kanyama mines illegally. The owner of the mines, Mr. Sospeter Kanyama, is said to be very close to government officials, but he hasn't been seen in the capital for some days now.

**(radio continues under conversation)** Let's have a look at the weather: the heavy rains that have been pounding most parts of the country may be bad news for city travellers, but they're good news for farmers who are expecting a bumper harvest...

**54. JUMBE:** Hmm, Mama Niki... That name Kanyama sounds very familiar to me.

**55. SFX: RADIO TURNED OFF**

**56. MRS. JUMBE:** (**angry**) How can you even be listening to the news  
when our son is missing?

***KW END***

**57. JUMBE:** (**deep breath**) He's probably just off having fun with  
some girl somewhere.

**58. MRS. JUMBE:** How can you say that? Niki's still a schoolboy!  
(**suddenly**) Stop! Did you see that?

**59. JUMBE:** What?

**60. SFX: CAR BRAKES**

**61. MRS. JUMBE:** There's someone lying by the side of the road. He  
could be hurt! Maybe he needs help...

**62. SFX: CAR GOES BACK**

**63. JUMBE:** I didn't see anything... Look, we'd better stay in the car  
and call the police. It could be robbers trying to trick us.

**64. SFX: CAR STOPS**

**65. JUMBE:** (**short pause while he observes**) ... Wait ... You're  
right, there's somebody lying on the ground... My  
goodness! It looks like Niki...

- 66. MRS. JUMBE: (worried)** What? Oh, my God, no! Not my son!
- 67. SFX: TWO CAR DOORS OPENS, JUMBES GET OUT, FEW FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL (TWO PERSONS)**
- 68. SFX: ATMO STREET SOUNDS, QUIET NEIGHBOUROOD, CRICKETS**
- 69. MRS. JUMBE:** Is he okay? Niki!
- 70. JUMBE:** Niki? Are you hurt?
- 71. NIKI:** **(drunk)** Me? Hurt? Noooo! Nobody can hurt the mighty Niki!
- 72. JUMBE:** Are you drunk? **(angry)** What is wrong with you, boy?
- 73. NIKI:** Your son is in love with a girl, but the girl is in love with another man. That's what's wrong.
- 74. MRS. JUMBE:** Oh, Niki! What's happening to you?
- 75. JUMBE:** You're wasting your time talking to a drunk. Just help me get him into the car.
- 76. MR. & MRS. JUMBE PANT AS THEY LIFT NIKI UP**
- 77. NIKI:** **(sings and laughs)** Yeah! Carry me home!
- 78. JUMBE:** **(more to himself)** Just you wait till we get there...

**79. SFX: CAR DOOR OPENED**

**80. SFX: CLOTH RUSTLE AS NIKI IS PUT INSIDE**

**81. SFX: CAR DOOR CLOSED**

**82. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 4: NIKI DRUNK AT HOME**

**83. ATMO: AT THE JUMBES', AT NIGHT**

**84. NIKI:** (pukes)

**85. SFX:** SOUND OF PUKING INTO A BUCKET

**86. MRS. JUMBE:** (worried) Oh, Niki. How could you drink so much?

**87. JUMBE:** Let me talk to him first! Niki – who do you think you are, behaving like that!

**88. NIKI:** Dad --

**89. SFX: SLAP ON THE ARM**

**90. MRS. JUMBE:** Don't hit him, Jumbe!

**91. JUMBE:** He's my son, and I'll slap him as often as I want.

**92. MRS.JUMBE:** But your way clearly isn't working. How many times have you beaten him lately?

**93. JUMBE:** **(sarcastic)** So what do *you* suggest we do, *Mrs. Human Rights Watch?*

**94. NIKI:** **(pukes)**

**95. MRS.JUMBE:** **(firmly)** I suggest you calm down right now! You can't reason with a drunk person. Let him rest, and then tomorrow the two of you can talk.

***KW BEGIN***

**96. JUMBE:** **(disgusted)** Talking didn't prevent him from getting into that state!

**97. MRS. JUMBE:** **(thoughtful)** Jumbe, I really think we've been going about this the wrong way. Perhaps we should try to be friends with him?

**98. NIKI:** **(mumbles to himself)** Friends... I don't want friends. I want Mercy...

**99. JUMBE:** Shut up and go to sleep.

***KW END***

**100. OUTRO – NARRATOR:**

And so, with Niki about to get a very bad hangover, we end today’s episode of “Crossroads Generation”, a Learning by Ear radio drama. Will Niki manage to get on his feet again? Will Mercy make up her mind whether or not to have the baby? Be sure to check out our next episode! For more information on the programme, just visit our webpage at [dw.de/lbe](http://dw.de/lbe). And don’t forget to join Learning by Ear on Facebook to discuss what you just heard with other listeners! Bye!