

**Learning by Ear 2014**

**Crossroads Generation – Season 3: Facing the Future**

**EPISODE 20: Gone**

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**List of characters by scene:**

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**SCENE 2: DAN BUMPS INTO MRS JUMBE**

- **DAN (M, 19)**
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- **LULU (F, 40s)**
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- **TINA (F, 19)**

## **INTRO**

### **1. NARRATOR:**

Hi there! Time for a new episode of our radio series “Crossroads Generation”! So much has been happening lately in the lives of our young heroes that I almost don’t know where to start... There’s 19-year-old Dan, who’s finally found a new job:

### **KW BEGIN**

### **2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 19, LINES 34-37**

***DAN:** (shouts) Lady’s bags, as beautiful as ladybirds! New lady’s handbags, every one unique! (...)*

***SFX:** RUSTLING AS LADY TOUCHES BAG*

***LADY:** Hmm... I like the mix of colours and the texture... In fact, I’ve never seen one of these before. What are they made of?*

***DAN:** A good salesman never reveals his secrets.*

### **KW END**

### 3. NARRATOR:

But Dan was selling his bags on the streets illegally, and he ended up having to run away from the city police. 18-year-old Mercy is closely linked to Dan: he's the father of her daughter, Linda. But Dan didn't take responsibility when Linda was born, so Mercy cut him out of their lives. The fact that she has a child has created problems between her and her boyfriend Niki. But lately, Niki seems to have made his peace with that:

### 4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 18, LINES 106, 116

*NIKI: (...) I just said I want to marry you. (...) Please - think about it, Mercy, okay?*

### 5. NARRATOR:

Mercy is at university studying journalism, as are her friends Tina and Trudy. The last we heard of Trudy, someone had sneaked into her room under cover of darkness:

### 6. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 19, LINES 129-135

*MNENE: (...) Where's the material? You know what I'm talking about!*

*Don't move, just tell me! (...)*

*TRUDY: I swear, I don't! I -- I --*

*MNENE: (panicked) Hey, I said don't move!*

*SFX: GUNSHOT*

**7. NARRATOR:**

What happened? Let's start right away to find out! This 20<sup>th</sup> episode is entitled: "Gone".

**SCENE 1: MNENE PANICS**

**8. SFX: NIGHT ATMO; LIGHT TRAFFIC (HEARD FROM INSIDE CAR)**

**9. SFX: PHONE BEING DIALLED; RINGING TONE**

**10. MNENE:** Pick up! Pick up!

**11. SFX: CALL IS PICKED UP**

**12. MUKARABA:** (on phone, sleepy) Hello?

**13. MNENE:** (Relieved) Mukaraba! Finally! I need your help.

**14. MUKARABA:** Is it done? Did you get the material?

**15. MNENE:** No! I --

**16. MUKARABA:** Then why are you calling me?

**17. MNENE:** Listen Mukaraba, something went terribly wrong.

The girl is dead.

**18. MUKARABA:** What?! What happened?

19. **MNENE:** She didn't want to give me anything, said she had no material... But then she moved, and I panicked, and --
20. **MUKARABA:** You idiot!
21. **MNENE:** **(cries)** It was an accident! I thought she was about to run for help. And you told me to do whatever it takes...
22. **MUKARABA:** **(deep breath)** All right! **(sighs)** Okay...Umm!  
Where are you now?
23. **MNENE:** In the car, next to the university building.
24. **MUKARABA:** Listen, get the hell away from there! Drive, now!  
And don't call me on this line again. Do you hear?  
I'll find a way to get in touch.
25. **SFX: LINE DISCONNECTS**
26. **MNENE:** Okay. Okay...
27. **SFX: CAR STARTS**

## **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 2: DAN BUMPS INTO MRS. JUMBE**

**28. ATMO: BUSY TOWN, PEOPLE, TRAFFIC**

**29. SFX: FAST FOOTSTEPS RUNNING**

**30. DAN:** (to himself, panting) Wow, the city police seem to be everywhere! Dan, you really have to watch out!

**31. SFX: RUSTLING OF CLOTHES AS HE BRUSHES MRS. JUMBE**

**32. SFX: FOOTSTEPS STOP**

**33. MRS. JUMBE:** (angry) Hey, you! Watch where you're going, young man!

**34. DAN:** I'm sorry, ma'am!

**35. MRS. JUMBE:** Where are you rushing to, anyway? There are other people using the streets here, boy!

**36. DAN:** I'm sorry. I really didn't mean to bump into you.

**37. MRS. JUMBE:** And what are those bags you're carrying? Did you steal them from someone?

**38. DAN:** No, ma'am, absolutely not. Actually, I sell them on the streets. I'm not a thief.

**39. MRS. JUMBE:** So why are you running around all scared like that?

40. **DAN:** It's a long story... But I swear to you, those bags are mine. I made them myself.
41. **MRS. JUMBE:** **(interested)** Really? Can I have a look at the yellow one here?
42. **DAN:** No problem.
43. **SFX: RUSTLING AS HE SHOWS THE BAG**
44. **MRS. JUMBE:** They look really nice! What are they made of?
45. **DAN:** I use discarded plastic bags, and then I **(uncomfortable)** ...mmm... I knit them...

**FLASHBACK: Ep. 23, line 4 / Ep. 25, line 2**

46. **MRS. JUMBE:** Are you serious? You mean these cute little handbags are made from plastic bags? From waste?
47. **DAN:** Yes. But of course they're all clean now.
48. **MRS. JUMBE:** I'll take three. How much are they?
49. **DAN:** 50 each.
50. **MRS. JUMBE:** OK.
51. **SFX: MONEY HANDED OVER**
52. **DAN:** Thanks. Here are your bags.

- 53. MRS. JUMBE:** Wow, my friends are going to be so jealous... You know what? These are way too good to be sold on the streets like this, running away from the police! What's your name?
- 54. DAN:** Dan Kanyama.
- 55. MRS. JUMBE:** Well, Dan, I am Mrs. Jumbe. I would very much like to discuss business with you. Here's my card.
- 56. DAN:** Wow. Thanks! Ehm... you said Jumbe?
- 57. MRS. JUMBE:** Yes, why?
- 58. DAN:** Nothing, just that I used to go to school with a boy called Niki Jumbe.

**KW BEGIN**

- 59. MRS. JUMBE:** You know Niki?
- 60. DAN:** Yes – are you...?
- 61. MRS. JUMBE:** He's my son. What a coincidence! Who knew that I would bump into Niki's friend? I'm just about to go and meet him! Should I tell him to call you?



**62. DAN:** (chuckles uncomfortably) Well, we weren't really the best of friends... Anyway, it was good meeting you, Mama Niki. I have to go now.

**63. SFX: FOOTSTEPS GOING AWAY**

**64. MRS. JUMBE:** (calls after him) Hey, call me, okay?

**KW END**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

### **SCENE 3: NIKI REVEALS HIS PLAN TO MARRY MERCY**

**65. ATMO: INSIDE DRIVING CAR**

**66. JUMBE:** Thanks for picking me up from the health clinic, Niki. (jokingly) And I bet your mum is happy, too – that she doesn't have to walk home with all her shopping bags.

**67. MRS. JUMBE:** (doesn't react) Niki, park close to the front door so your dad doesn't have to walk too far.

**68. NIKI:** Mum, Dad's *supposed* to walk and exercise! That's what everybody's been telling him!

**69. JUMBE:** Stop being dramatic, my wife! I'm fine. I may have diabetes, but I do still have two feet!

**70. SFX: CAR STOPS, ENGINE SWITCHED OFF**

**71. NIKI:** **(sighs)** Okay, we're here. If you don't need anything else, I think I'll go back to the university tonight.

**72. MRS. JUMBE:** Stop sulking, Niki. Is it still because of that girl? I'm just looking out for you. I don't want you to do something you'll regret in future.

**KW BEGIN**

**73. NIKI:** **(Annoyed)** You still treat me like an eight-year-old!

**74. MRS. JUMBE:** That girl's not in your league! Can't you see it, my son?

**75. NIKI:** **(shouts)** That girl is my choice, Mother! MY choice, not yours!

**KW END**

**76. MRS. JUMBE:** **(shouts)** Come on, Niki, use your brain! She has another man's child!

**77. NIKI:**                    **(shouts)** Mercy's daughter's name is Linda! And for your information, her real dad, that idiot Dan, walked out on her!

**78. MRS. JUMBE:** Dan? Dan Kanyama?

**79. NIKI:**                    That's right! He left her. But I'm going to be there for both of them! Linda will be part of our family when Mercy and I get married.

**80. MRS. JUMBE/JUMBE: (shocked)** What?!

**81. NIKI:**                    That's right! You heard me. I'm going to marry Mercy, and there's nothing you can do about it! I've already asked her!

**82. MRS. JUMBE:** Are you out of your mind?

**KW BEGIN**

**83. NIKI:**                    No, Mum! I'm perfectly fine.

**84. JUMBE:**                    All right, that's enough, both of you!

**85. MRS. JUMBE:** Right. You talk to this crazy son of yours, Jumbe!

**86. NIKI:**                    You are the crazy one here, Mum!

**87. JUMBE:**           **(shouts)** Enough! I said that's enough! **(Pause)**  
Niki, don't you talk to your mother like that! And as  
for you, Janet, this is your son's life and not yours!  
Let him make his own mistakes.

**88. MRS. JUMBE:** But I can't --

**89. JUMBE:**           You cannot live his life for him!

**90. NIKI:**             **(deliberately)** Thank you, Dad!

**KW END**

**91. JUMBE:**           **(calmer)** Now, Niki: have you thought about this?  
This is a huge responsibility.

**92. NIKI:**             I know what I'm doing, Dad!

**93. MRS. JUMBE:** Oh, I can't listen to this nonsense any longer!

**94. SFX: CAR DOOR BEING OPENED AND BANGED SHUT**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 4: MERCY LEARNS OF TRUDY'S DEATH**

**95. ATMO: IN TANDIKA SLUMS, INSIDE MERCY'S HOME**

**96. SFX: PLASTIC BAGS BEING PUT DOWN**

**97. LULU:** Thanks for helping me do the shopping, Mercy.

**98. MERCY:** No problem, Mum. So, tell me: when is my little sister Joy coming to live with you?

**99. LULU:** I have an appointment with social services tomorrow. And then we'll see.

**100. MERCY:** That sounds good!

**101. LULU:** Mercy... there's something I need to talk to you about.

**102. MERCY:** Yes?

**103. LULU:** **(sighs)** I don't know how to tell you this... But with Joy coming here, I just don't know how I can handle both her and Linda! It'll be too much, with your two brothers around as well...

**KW BEGIN**

- 104. MERCY:** I know... I've been thinking about that, too. But we might be able to find a solution... Maybe when – I mean, *if* - Niki and I...
- 105. LULU:** Are you saying you've been thinking about his proposal?
- 106. MERCY:** I think about it all the time... I'm so confused, Mum. I don't know what to do.
- 107. LULU:** Do you want to marry him?
- 108. MERCY:** His mother really doesn't like me.
- 109. LULU:** But you're marrying Niki, not his mother!
- 110. MERCY:** Mmm... You're right. And the last time we talked he told me that he wants us to be a family - me, Linda and him...

**KW END**

**111. SFX: MERCY'S PHONE RINGS**

**112. MERCY:** Sorry, I have to take this.

**113. LULU:** Sure.

**114. SFX: BEEP AS CALL IS ANSWERED.**

**115. MERCY:** Hello?

116. **TINA:** (on phone) Mercy? It's Tina.

117. **MERCY:** Hi Tina! What's up? You sound so serious!

**FLASHBACK: Ep. 21, line 4**

118. **TINA:** (almost in tears) Something... something's happened to Trudy.

119. **MERCY:** What? What happened?

120. **TINA:** Oh, Mercy...

121. **MERCY:** Tell me! What happened? Is she okay?

122. **TINA:** No, she's not okay... Mercy... I don't know how to say this... Can you come here?

123. **MERCY:** Tina, please! What's wrong?

124. **TINA:** She's... She's... She's dead.

125. **MERCY:** Oh no! No! No! I don't believe it! Please – tell me she's okay!

126. **TINA:** Mercy, Trudy's gone!

127. **MERCY:** (cries) No! You're lying! Trudy's not dead! She can't be dead!

128. **TINA:** Mercy, please, come here so that we can talk!  
There's something else you need to know.

**129. MERCY: (cries)**

**OUTRO – NARRATOR:**

And with that sad news, we end today's episode of "Crossroads Generation". What else does Tina want to tell Mercy? Maybe her latest video diary will give us a clue! You'll find it at [dw.de/lbe](http://dw.de/lbe). You can also follow us on Facebook. Bye for now!