

**Learning by Ear 2014**

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

**EPISODE 18: Strange Proposals**

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**List of characters by scene:**

**INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR**

**SCENE 1: MERCY IS RELEASED**

- OFFICER (M/F, ADULT)
- LULU (F, 40s)
- MERCY (F, 18)

**SCENE 2: DAN'S GOOD KARMA**

- DAN (M, 19)
- OLD LADY (F, 60s)

**SCENE 3: TINA AND TRUDY DISCUSS PROSTITUTION**

- PROFESSOR NYAMBUNE (M, 50s)
- STUDENTS: 5-8 (M/F, 20s)
- TINA (F, 19)
- TRUDY (F, 18)

**SCENE 4: NIKI'S STRANGE PROPOSAL**

- NIKI (M, 20)
- MERCY (F, 19)

## **INTRO**

### **1. NARRATOR:**

Hi there! Good to have you back on our radio series “Crossroads Generation”! We’re in the middle of the third season, called “Facing the Future”, and a lot has happened so far... 19-year-old Dan Kanyama hasn’t been the nicest guy in the past. He’s the father of a three-year-old daughter, but he left the country right after his ex-girlfriend Mercy gave birth and has never seen their child. Now he’s back, living in the slums, looking for a job – and showing a new, selfless side to his personality:

### **2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 17, LINES 74-78**

*OLD WOMAN: Help! I’m here, in this ditch!*

*DAN: Oh no! Are you hurt?*

*OLD WOMAN: I think I’ve twisted my ankle.*

*DAN: Here, let me help you!*

### **3. NARRATOR:**

Mercy is now studying journalism at university, together with her friends Trudy and Tina. Tina recently told Mercy a secret:

#### 4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 15, LINES 71-76

*TINA: (...) you can't tell anybody about this, okay? (...)*

*MERCY: I promise, Tina.*

*TINA: (...) That man is not my boyfriend... He's a client. (...)*

*MERCY: (shocked) What?! You're a ... a ... a call girl?*

#### 5. NARRATOR:

Later that night, the girls were involved in a car accident, and Mercy was arrested for drunk-driving without a licence. Her boyfriend Niki was shocked when he found out, and when he came to visit her at the police station they got into a fight.

#### KW BEGIN

#### 6. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 17, LINES 45-48

*NIKI: Mercy, tell me: when did you start drinking? And why?*

*MERCY: (snaps) Oh, great! Why is everyone asking me that question?*

*NIKI: I'm concerned.*

*MERCY: (aggressive) Who are you? My mother?*

#### KW END

#### 7. NARRATOR:

We start this 18<sup>th</sup> episode, entitled "Strange Proposals", at the police station...

**SCENE 1: MERCY IS RELEASED**

**8. ATMO: POLICE STATION ATMO**

**KW BEGIN**

**9. LULU:** I don't know how to thank you, officer.

**10. OFFICER:** Don't thank me. Thank my boss. She was the one who decided to let your daughter off with just a warning, since she's a first offender.

**11. LULU:** Well, I'm very grateful. She's only 18. And she was really scared.

**12. OFFICER:** She's very lucky that the owner of the car isn't pressing charges.

**KW END**

**13. SFX: DOOR OPENS**

**14. SFX: FOOTSTEPS MERCY APPROACH**

**15. MERCY:** (unsure) Mum!

**16. LULU:** Hello, Mercy.

**17. OFFICER:** Mercy Msoto, you're free to go.

**18. MERCY:** (sniffs) Thank you, Officer! Thank you so much!

19. **OFFICER:** Don't let me see you back here again. Next time, we won't be so lenient!
20. **MERCY:** Mum, where's Linda? I want to see her, I really missed my little girl!
21. **LULU:** **(still angry at Mercy)** Do you want her to see her mother coming out of the police station in this state? I left her with the neighbours. Now come on! Let's go!
22. **SFX: DOOR OPENING**
23. **ATMO: CITY TRAFFIC**
24. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS OF TWO PEOPLE WALKING OUTSIDE**
25. **MERCY:** Mum, I told you, I'm really sorry! I've had a lot of time to think while I was in the cell, and... from now on, I want to be a good daughter, and a good mother! I'm so grateful for your help with Linda and with my studies, and I'm sorry I let you down. I won't disappoint you again, I promise!

26. **LULU:** All right. Let's not fight any more. But from now on I want you to work hard and concentrate on your studies. Understood?
27. **MERCY:** Yes, yes – I promise. **(pause)** Is there any news about the court case? Do you think you'll get our little girl back who my father sold?
28. **LULU:** I really hope so. But I don't know... The judge is supposed to give his verdict soon.

## **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

### **SCENE 2: DAN'S GOOD KARMA**

29. **ATMO: SLUM ATMO, LIGHT TRAFFIC**
30. **SFX: TWO PEOPLE WALKING ON MUD**
31. **OLD WOMAN:** Dan, it's very kind of you to help me. Life here in the slums isn't easy for old people.
32. **DAN:** Don't mention it.
33. **OLD WOMAN:** And I must say, I'm really impressed by your plans to collect the garbage here in the slums and dispose of it.

**34. DAN:** Thank you. But unfortunately, nobody else seems interested in my idea. So I think I'll just have to find another job on a building site...

**35. OLD WOMAN:** Here we are – this is my house.

**36. SFX: FOOTSTEPS STOP**

**37. SFX: DOOR OPENING**

**38. OLD WOMAN:** Please, come in!

**KW BEGIN**

**39. DAN:** No, I think I'll go back now. It'll start to rain again soon.

**40. OLD WOMAN:** Young man, I'm not letting you go without a cup of tea after all the kindness you've shown me, picking me up out of that ditch and offering me your help on the way back here.

**41. DAN:** Okay, then... How could I refuse such a nice offer.

**KW END**

**42. SFX: FOOTSTEPS WALKING IN**

**43. DAN:** Wow! Your home is beautiful... What are these ornaments on the walls?

44. **OLD WOMAN:** Those are decorations I used to make when I was younger.

**FLASHBACK: Ep. 19, line 2**

45. **DAN:** What are they made from?

46. **OLD WOMAN:** Plastic bags.

47. **DAN:** **(surprised)** No way! How's that possible?

48. **OLD WOMAN:** It's easy: you cut them into strips, and then knit them together into whatever shape you like.

49. **DAN:** Do you sell them?

50. **OLD WOMAN:** I used to, when I was younger. Now I'm too old, and my hands don't work as fast as they used to.

51. **DAN:** I see...

52. **OLD WOMAN:** Here, take some tea. It's still hot.

53. **SFX: TEA POURED INTO CUPS**

54. **SFX: THEY DRINK TEA**

55. **DAN:** Thank you. Listen... I was wondering...

56. **OLD WOMAN:** What is it?

**FLASHBACK: Ep. 21, line 2 / Ep. 19, line 2**

57. **DAN:** Could you teach me how to make those ornaments?



58. **OLD WOMAN:** (chuckles, surprised) You want to learn knitting?

59. **DAN:** Yes, please!

**KW BEGIN**

60. **OLD WOMAN:** Well, they say one good turn deserves another...  
And I certainly don't get many such requests from  
handsome young men like you!

61. **DAN:** So – do we have a deal?

62. **OLD WOMAN:** We do! When do you want to start?

63. **DAN:** As soon as possible!

**KW END**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

### **SCENE 3: TINA AND TRUDY DISCUSS PROSTITUTION**

**64. ATMO: CLASSROOM ATMO AT UNIVERSITY**

**65. SFX: PAGES BEING TURNED, SCRIBBLING ON PAPER**

**66. PROF:** All right, everybody! Before we end our lecture for today, I would like to talk to you all about something. One of your fellow students came to me with the idea of starting a university radio station. I think this is an excellent idea! It gives you all the opportunity to put what you've learned into practice.

**67. STUDENTS:** (whisper: “Wow, that sounds interesting... But it will be a lot of work...” etc.)

**68. PROF:** This will be something you'll have to do during your free time. But I can assure you that it can be very rewarding, and a lot of fun. I suggest that all those who are interested in the project come to our first meeting next Thursday at four o'clock. You should bring along ideas for stories and topics that you think will be of interest to our future listeners.

**69. STUDENTS: (murmur)**

**70. PROF:** That'll be all. Have a good day!

**71. SFX: COMMOTION AS CLASS DISPERSSES**

**72. TRUDY:** Hey, Tina! Wait!

**73. TINA:** What's up, Trudy?

**74. TRUDY:** Have you heard anything about Mercy?

**75. TINA:** She told me she was released today, she just didn't make it to class.

**76. TRUDY:** Oh, great, that's good to know. Listen, can I ask you something?

**77. TINA:** Sure. What is it?

**78. TRUDY:** It's about this radio project!

**KW BEGIN**

**79. TINA:** Oh, I think it's really cool. But I won't have time for it... With my sisters and my brother at home, I barely have time for my regular homework...

**80. TRUDY:** I really want to be part of it!

**81. TINA:** Are you sure? Last time you published an article, when you wrote about Mukaraba, you used information Mercy told you in confidence, and got both of you in a lot of trouble!

**82. TRUDY:** I know... I want to prove that I can do better!

**83. TINA:** Okay...

**KW END**

**FLASHBACK: Ep. 19, line 4**

**84. TRUDY:** I want to report on women's rights. And I was wondering... Tina, you know the club you like to go to, the one you took me and Mercy to the other night? ... Would you be able to put me in touch with some of your friends there?

**85. TINA:** Sure, why?

**86. TRUDY:** I'm thinking of doing a story on prostitution.

**87. TINA:** **(offended)** Excuse me, what? Are you calling me and my friends prostitutes?

**88. TRUDY:** No, no, Tina, of course not! I... I just thought that... I mean, everybody knows that prostitutes look for clients in clubs.

**KW BEGIN**

**89. TINA:** I go to clubs. That doesn't make me a prostitute!

**90. TRUDY:** Come on, Tina. You know I didn't mean it that way!

**91. TINA:** **(sighs)** Sorry. I didn't mean to snap at you.

**92. TRUDY:** It's all right. So... will you help me?

**KW END**

**93. TINA:** I think you should look for another topic, Trudy.  
Please, let that story go.

**94. TRUDY:** Why?

**95. TINA:** It's too dangerous. I happen to know that the people behind the prostitution racket are really powerful!

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

## **SCENE 4: NIKI'S STRANGE PROPOSAL**

**96. ATMO: UNIVERSITY GROUNDS ATMO**

**97. SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS**

**98. NIKI:** (from) Hey, Mercy! You're back!

**99. MERCY:** (uncomfortable) Hi Niki...

**100. NIKI:** (closer) You could have called me! I would have picked you up! I --

**101. MERCY:** (angry again) To tell me over and over again what I did wrong?

**102. NIKI:** (shouts) No! To tell you that I care about you! Listen! I don't want a drunkard for a wife!

**103. MERCY:** What???

**104. NIKI:** (calmer) You heard me! I love you, Mercy, and I want to marry you, but I don't want to marry a drunkard!

**105. MERCY:** Is that what you think of me, Niki? A drunkard?

**FLASHBACK: Ep. 20, line 4**

**106. NIKI:** No, that's not what I mean... I... You're not even listening to me. I just said I want to marry you.

**KW BEGIN**

**107. MERCY:**                   **(confused)** Uh... interesting way of proposing, Niki!

**108. NIKI:**                   I've been thinking a lot about this lately. And I hadn't planned to ask you like this, but... I want to marry you! Who do you think gave your mum the money for your bail?

**109. MERCY:**               What?! She told me she borrowed it from her women's group.

**110. NIKI:**                   Well...

**111. MERCY:**               I didn't know! Niki – look, my Mum and me, we'll pay you back, I promise!

**112. PAUSE**

**113. MERCY:**               Why did you do all this? I mean... I yelled at you when you came to visit me at the police station... And now you're asking me to marry you?

**KW END**                   **(deep breath)** I just don't know if this is the right time... I...

**114. NIKI:**                   Is it because of my mother? Because I don't care what she says. I love you!

**115. MERCY:** I don't care about your mother, I care about you!  
And I love you, too. But I can't help feeling that  
you're having problems with... well, that you're  
having second thoughts about me... because of  
Linda.

**116. NIKI:** I have to admit, it's still not easy for me. But I want  
to be with you! And I want to be there for your  
daughter, too. Even if I'm not her real dad. Please -  
think about it, Mercy, okay?

**OUTRO – NARRATOR:**

And as Mercy thinks about it, we'll take a break there for today! But if you  
want to, you can head over to our webpage at [dw.de/lbe](http://dw.de/lbe) to watch Tina's  
video diary. She has something important to think about, too... You can  
also follow us on Facebook and comment on what's been happening in  
Crossroads Generation. Bye for now!