

**Learning by Ear 2014**

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

**EPISODE 1: Here We Go Again**

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**List of characters by scene:**

**INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR**

**SCENE 1: UNIVERSITY LECTURE HALL**

- PROFESSOR NYAMBUNE (M, 50s)
- MERCY (F, 18)
- TINA (F, 19)
- TRUDY (F, 18)
- 5-8 STUDENTS (M/F, YOUNG ADULTS)

**SCENE 2: IN THE GYM**

- NIKI (M, 19)
- MAN (M, 30s)

**SCENE 3: MSOTO VISITS LULU**

- KADU (M, 11)
- BANDA (M, 11)
- LULU (F, 40s)
- MSOTO (M, 40s)

**SCENE 4: DAN LEAVES HOME**

- DAN (M, 20)
- KANYAMA (M, LATE 50s)

## **INTRO**

### **1. NARRATOR:**

Hello there and welcome back to “Crossroads Generation”! Today, we start a brand new season of our radio series about young Africans and the challenges they face in their everyday lives. This third season is called “Facing the Future” and we’re about to meet our young heroes again. Do you still remember them? There’s Mercy Msoto, who got pregnant when she was only 15. When we last met her, she’d just had her baby:

### **KW BEGIN**

### **2. FLASHBACK: SEASON 2, EPISODE 26, LINES 63-68**

*TRUDY: Your baby’s so lovely... Have you chosen a name for her?*

**SFX: SMS RECEIVED**

*MERCY: Not yet....*

*ANITA: Hey, who’s sending you a message?*

**SFX: BEEP AS SMS IS OPENED ON CELL PHONE**

*MERCY: Let’s see... (reads) “Hi Mercy, I heard you’re in the hospital. Hope you’re all right. And the baby too. Dan.”*

### **KW END**

### **3. NARRATOR:**

Dan Kanyama used to be Mercy's classmate. He's the father of the little baby girl, and he comes from the neighbouring country, Laboria. But he didn't seem to care much about Mercy after they slept together. And then, there's Niki Jumbe! He was really in love with Mercy, but at the time she didn't return his affection...

Things have been difficult for Mercy at home, too. Her father Msoto used to drink a lot, and he got his family into all kinds of trouble:

### **KW BEGIN**

#### **4. FLASHBACK: SEASON 2, EPISODE 25, LINES 17, 23-25**

***MSOTO:** My wife, please – I am so sorry I sold our baby girl to Mukaraba.*

*But they've said we have a real chance of getting her back.(...)*

***LULU:** Just go, Msoto, before I call the police.*

***MSOTO:** (sighs) All right.*

***LULU:** And don't come back here again!*

### **KW END**

**5. NARRATOR:**

So Mercy's mother Lulu threw him out, and took care of Mercy's younger brothers Kadu and Banda all by herself.

Since then, three years have passed. Let's find out what Mercy, Niki and Dan have been up to in the meantime - in this first episode, entitled "Here We Go Again"! We catch up with Mercy and her friend Trudy as they're about to start a brand-new chapter in their lives...

**SCENE 1: MERCY AND TRUDY'S FIRST DAY AT UNIVERSITY**

**6. ATMO: LECTURE HALL AT UNIVERSITY**

**7. STUDENTS: CHATTING, LAUGHING**

**8. TRUDY:** (close to mic) Gosh, Mercy! So this is what university feels like!

**9. MERCY:** (close to mic) Right, Trudy. Not so different from Bongo Academy, is it?

**10. TRUDY:** Oh, it's completely different from our high school!

**11. MERCY:** How?

**12. TRUDY:** Can't you smell the air of freedom?

**13. MERCY/TRUDY: LAUGH**

14. **TINA:** Hi, I'm Tina. Is it okay if I sit next to you?
15. **MERCY:** Sure.
16. **SFX: STEPS PROF. NYAMBUNE COMING IN**
17. **PROF. NYAMBUNE: (from afar, throughout the scene)**  
**(speaks over them)** All right! Settle down now.
18. **SFX: STUDENTS SITTING DOWN (CHAIRS, CLOTHES RUSTLING)**
19. **STUDENTS: (calming down gradually)**
20. **PROF. NYAMBUNE:** That's better. Welcome to the first lecture of your course in journalism. Of course, I don't need to remind you that you're no longer in high school. I expect you to behave like the university students you are!
21. **STUDENTS LAUGH**
- KW BEGIN**
22. **PROF. NYAMBUNE: (deep breath)** So... What is journalism?  
...Anyone?
23. **STUDENTS: MURMUR AND GRUMBLE**

**24. PROF. NYAMBUNE:** Murmuring and grumbling doesn't answer my question, does it?

**25. STUDENTS LAUGH**

**26. TRUDY:** Excuse me, sir...

**27. PROF. NYAMBUNE:** Yes?

**28. TRUDY:** Sorry to interrupt, sir, but what's your name?

**29. MERCY:** **(whispers, to Trudy):** Trudy, he's our professor. Don't be disrespectful!

**30. PROF. NYAMBUNE:** Ah - here's our first UNIVERSITY student! The rest of you are still high school students, it seems. Not all of my colleagues agree, but I think a university student should ask questions when something doesn't seem right. Especially if he or she wants to be a journalist!

**31. STUDENTS LAUGH**

**KW END**

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

**33. MERCY:** **(whispers, embarrassed)** Oh no, not now...

**34. TRUDY:** **(whispers)** Mercy, your phone!

35. **PROF. NYAMBUNE: (speaks over them)** My name is Professor....  
(pauses)
36. **SFX: MERCY'S PHONE STILL RINGING**
37. **PROF. NYAMBUNE:** Turn off your phone, for crying out loud!
38. **STUDENTS: (laugh, some say out loud)** Professor Turn-Off-Your-Phone-For-Crying-Out-Loud!
39. **SFX: RUSTLING OF CLOTHES AS MERCY RUMMAGES IN BAG**
40. **MERCY: (whispers)** Oh no, it's my mum! I told her not to call me during class! I hope everything's okay with Linda...

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

41. **PROF. NYAMBUNE: (strict)** All mobile phones should be switched off during my class!
42. **SFX: BEEP AS CALL IS DENIED**
43. **MERCY: (to herself)** Okay, I'll just have to call her after class... **(to professor)** Sorry, Professor.
44. **PROF. NYAMBUNE: (continues)** Where was I? ... Right. I'm Professor Nyambune. So: what is journalism? You, sitting next to 'Miss Ringtone'?

45. **STUDENTS:** (laugh)
46. **PROF. NYAMBUNE:** What's your name?
47. **TINA:** Tina.
48. **PROF. NYAMBUNE:** Well, Tina, what is journalism?
49. **TINA:** Journalism is writing with a purpose.
50. **PROF. NYAMBUNE:** You took that straight from the internet, didn't you?
51. **TINA:** Uhm... Yes. Is that wrong?
52. **PROF. NYAMBUNE:** No, it's not wrong. But it's not that simple either. We'll come to that later when we talk about how we source information. So, what is journalism?  
**(FADE UNDER)** Journalism is defined as the art of gathering and disseminating information to a mass audience. A journalist has to abide by certain rules...
53. **SFX: STUDENTS WRITING, PAPERS BEING SHUFFLED**
54. **TRUDY:** (to herself) Oh dear - here we go again! Just like in high school...

## **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**



**SCENE 2: NIKI IN THE GYM**

55. **ATMO:** **GYM ATMO, LIGHT TRAFFIC OUTSIDE**
56. **MAN:** **(huffs and puffs)**
57. **NIKI:** ... six, seven, eight... come on... nine, and ten!  
Good! Two minutes rest, then we'll finish the two remaining sets of weights!
58. **MAN:** **(panting)** This is hard!
59. **NIKI:** I know. But it does get easier.
60. **MAN:** **(grumpy)** Niki, right? You said your name was Niki?
61. **NIKI:** Yes. Niki Jumbe.
62. **MAN:** Aren't you a bit young to be a trainer in a gym?
63. **NIKI:** Well, I am only 19. But I love sport - and being fit isn't a question of age, is it?
64. **MAN:** But you need qualifications to be a trainer...
65. **NIKI:** Of course! I'm studying health and nutrition at university. I only work here part-time.
66. **MAN:** I see.
67. **NIKI:** I used to swim a lot when I was in high school, and then I joined the gym - and here I am.

**KW BEGIN**

68. **MAN:** So, tell me: what motivates you to exercise every single day? You want to look good for the girls, eh?

69. **NIKI:** **(laughs)** Well, they don't mind if I look good, of course... But exercise is not just about the way you look! It's about your health! I feel so much better when I'm moving my body...

70. **MAN:** But gyms are very expensive.

71. **NIKI:** Yeah, that's what my girlfriend says, too. But you don't have to exercise in a gym! Anybody can do sport. You can run outside, anywhere you like, and it won't cost you a thing. But since you're here...

**KW END** Let's get back to our exercises, okay?

72. **MAN:** Okay.

73. **NIKI:** One, two, three... **(FADE OUT)**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 3: MSOTO VISITS LULU**

**74. ATMO: TANDIKA SLUM, INDOORS**

**75. SFX: PAPERS SHUFFLING; WRITING**

**76. KADU:** Hey, Banda! Don't copy what I'm writing!

**77. BANDA:** What you're writing is stupid anyway! My story's much better!

**78. KADU/BANDA: LAUGH**

**79. LULU:** Kadu, Banda, be quiet! I just put my granddaughter Linda to sleep. You'll wake her up if you carry on like this! Now stop playing around and finish your homework. If you want to be bright students like your sister Mercy, you have to work hard at school!

**80. BANDA:** Yes, Mama.

**KW BEGIN**

**81. KADU:** Can we live at the university, too, then?

**82. LULU:** The university is a place you go to learn, not to live! Your sister only stays there because it's too far to travel every day from here. Now, finish your homework!

**KW END**

**83. SFX: WRITING**

**84. LULU:** (sighs, to herself) Oh, I have to call Mercy again! I really need to talk to her about Linda! I can't look after her tomorrow ...

**85. SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR**

**86. LULU:** (calls) Come in, it's open!

**87. SFX: IRON SHEET DOOR OPENS**

**88. MSOTO:** Hello Lulu, my wife?

**89. KADU/ BANDA: (bewildered)** Dad?!

**90. LULU:** Msoto! What are you doing here? I thought you were living upcountry?

**91. MSOTO:** (polite) Can I come in?

**92. LULU:** Msoto, I... I don't know...

**93. MSOTO:** Please, Lulu?

**94. LULU:** Okay... But you can't stay long. I have to go back to my shop soon.

**95. MSOTO:** Thank you.

**96. SFX: FOOTSTEPS ENTERING**

**97. SFX: IRON SHEET DOOR CLOSING**

**98. LULU:** Take a seat.

**99. MSOTO:** Thank you. Let's all close our eyes and pray.

**100. LULU:** **(utterly shocked)** Wha-- ?! - You're joking!

**101. MSOTO:** Lulu, please.

**102. LULU:** **(unsure)** Um... O...kay...

**103. MSOTO:** **(shouts/sings)** Oh, mighty King Karubu!

**104. KADU/ BANDA: (stifle a laugh)**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 4: DAN LEAVES HOME**

**105. ATMO: QUIET NEIGHBOURHOOD**

**106. SFX: RAINFALL OUTSIDE**

**107. SFX: RUSTLING OF PAPER**

**KW BEGIN**

**108. KANYAMA:** Dan, you will do as I tell you and sign here. I'm your father!

**109. DAN:** **(angrily)** I don't have to do anything you say, Dad. I'm an adult now, and I make my own decisions!

**110. KANYAMA:** An adult who still lives under MY roof. And as long as you are still under my roof you will do as I say.

**111. DAN:** Well - then I don't have to live here.

**KW END**

**112. KANYAMA:** Stop arguing with me, Dan! Tomorrow we will hand in these application forms to Laboria University and you will go there to study mining. You know very well that I'm not allowed to run a business any more after my time in prison. Who do you think is going to build up our company again? You have to think of the family, Dan!

**113. DAN:** It's not my fault that you ruined your dirty business! You know what? I don't have to listen to this crap any more. I'm leaving. Bye, Dad!

**114. SFX: FOOTSTEPS, CONTINUOUS - DAN WALKING AWAY**

**115. KANYAMA:** (from far) Come back this instant and sign this form!

**116. SFX: DOOR OPENS AND SHUTS**

**117. ATMO: OUTSIDE, RAIN FALLING**

**FLASHBACK: Ep. 3, line 2**

118. **KANYAMA:** (heard from afar, indoors) Fine! You can walk away, but you'll always come home in the end. And I'll be waiting!

119. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS ON WET GROUND, CONTINUOUS**

120. **DAN:** (to himself) Yeah, right! Keep waiting, you crazy old man! By the time you come to your senses I'll be away in Kisimba. I have a daughter there, after all! Even if her mother won't be too happy to see me after what happened between us...

**OUTRO – NARRATOR:**

So things are starting all over again for Dan, Niki, Mercy and Trudy, in our brand new season of "Crossroads Generation"! Tune in next time for more, and in the meantime, have a look at our webpage [dw.de/lbe](http://dw.de/lbe). There you'll also find a brand new video diary! Tina, the girl who sat next to Mercy and Trudy during their lecture, is sharing her thoughts about her first day at university. You can also follow us on Facebook, and discuss the start of "Crossroads Generation – Season 3" with other Learning by Ear fans. Until next time: bye-bye!