

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 3: Facing the Future

EPISODE 19: Good and Bad Surprises

AUTHOR: James Muhando

EDITORS: Friederike Müller, Yann Durand

COPY EDITOR: Charlotte Collins

List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: MERCY TALKS TO LULU ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

- LULU (F, 40s)
- MERCY (F, 19)

SCENE 2: DAN TASTES THE STREETS

- DAN (M, 20)
- LADY (F, ADULT)
- HAWKER 1 (M, ADULT)
- HAWKER 2 (M, ADULT)
- COP (M, ADULT)

SCENE 3: JUDGE HANDS OVER LULU'S BABY

- JUDGE RAY (M, 50s)
- MUKARABA (M, 50'S)
- LULU (F, 40s)
- MSOTO (M, LATE 40s)
- CROWD: 5-8 (M/F, ADULTS)

SCENE 4: TRUDY IS SHOT

- **TRUDY (F, 18)**
- **TINA (F, 19)**
- **MNENE (M, 40s)**

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hello everybody, and welcome to the next episode of “Crossroads Generation”! Last time, we followed 19-year-old Dan as he helped out an old lady in the slum where he lives. To thank him, she invited him into her house, where Dan saw she had some beautiful decorations...

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 18, LINES 45-48, 57-59

DAN: (...) What are they made from?

OLD WOMAN: Plastic bags. (...) It's easy, you cut them into strips and knit them together into whatever shape you like. (...)

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

OLD WOMAN: You want to learn knitting?

DAN: Yes, please!

3. NARRATOR:

Trudy is studying journalism, and she has an idea for a new story...

4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 18, LINES 84-86, 95, 95

TRUDY: (...) Tina, you know the club you like to go to? (...) Would you be able to put me in touch with some of your friends there?

TINA: Sure, why?

TRUDY: I'm thinking of doing a story on prostitution. (...)

TINA: I think you should look for another topic, Trudy. (...) It's too dangerous.

5. NARRATOR:

Meanwhile, Tina's and Trudy's friend Mercy has other things on her mind. Her family is involved in a court case about illegal adoption, because Mercy's father Msoto sold his newborn baby to the politician Mukaraba four years ago. Now Mukaraba is doing everything he can to hide the truth and save his reputation. This is episode 18, and it's called "Good and Bad Surprises". We start with Mercy, who's home from university to visit her mother and her three-year-old daughter, Linda.

SCENE 1: MERCY TALKS TO LULU ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

6. **ATMO: MARKET ATMO**

7. **SFX: COINS BEING COUNTED**

8. **LULU:** (to herself) 50, 60, 80... Damn! Too many coins...
Why isn't anyone paying in bills today?

9. **MERCY:** Hi, Mum.

10. **LULU:** Mercy! What are you doing here?

11. **MERCY:** I don't have any classes today or tomorrow, so I
thought I'd come home to help you with Linda. Is
she here with you?

12. **LULU:** She's playing with the neighbour's kids.

KW BEGIN

13. **MERCY:** And how are my little brothers? I passed by our
house, but nobody was there.

14. **LULU:** They should still be in school. They're fine! I just
hope Banda hasn't sneaked out to see his Dad
again! That crazy man...

15. **MERCY:** Is that where Banda's been getting all the 'King
Karubu' talk?

16. LULU: Of course. Your father's been stuffing him with his crazy religious nonsense! I don't know what to do about it any more. I won't be surprised if we see Banda preaching in buses soon, just like his useless father.

17. MERCY: **(laughs)**

18. LULU: **(serious)** It's nothing to laugh about. I'm afraid your dad is a lunatic, and I don't want your brothers growing up like him. But enough of that.

KW END How are you, Mercy?

19. MERCY: Fine, I guess.

20. LULU: What do you mean? Are you in trouble again?

21. MERCY: No, no, don't worry, Mum...

22. LULU: Then what is it? I always know when you're hiding things from me.

23. MERCY: Niki asked me to marry him.

24. LULU: Oh!

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: DAN TASTES THE STREETS

25. ATMO: EVENING, BUSY TOWN TRAFFIC NOISE

26. HAWKER 1: (shouts) Handkerchiefs! New, crisp, embroidered handkerchiefs!

27. HAWKER 2: (to hawker 1) I haven't sold anything since this morning!

28. HAWKER 1: Me neither. But we're lucky today – the local police haven't been round.

KW BEGIN

29. HAWKER 2: I think they must know that no one's buying today. So even if they arrest us, we have nothing to bribe them with!

30. HAWKER 1: (laughs) True. I wonder how they always know when we have money?

KW END

31. SFX: FOOTSTEPS ARRIVING

32. DAN: Hi. My name's Dan. Do you mind if I take this empty spot here next to you?

33. HAWKER 1: If you think you'll be lucky enough to sell something today...

FLASHBACK: Ep. 20, line 2

34. DAN: **(shouts)** Lady's bags, beautiful as ladybirds! New, lady's handbags, every one unique! **(to lady)** Hi there, lady? How do you like these bags?

35. SFX: RUSTLING AS LADY TOUCHES BAG

36. 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?

37. DAN: **(laughs)** A good salesman never reveals his secrets.

38. LADY: **(laughs)** Okay. How much?

39. DAN: 50 each.

40. LADY: Well... Hmm ... Okay, I'll take the pink one. Here's your money.

41. SFX: BILLS HANDED OVER

42. DAN: Thanks!

43. LADY: Bye.

44. **HAWKER 1:** Hey, new boy! You seem to have some pretty good stuff! Where do you get those ba --
45. **HAWKER 2:** **(whistles like a bird)** Quick! Run for your life!
46. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS HAWKERS RUN AWAY**
47. **HAWKER 1:** **(while running)** City police!
48. **HAWKER 2:** **(while running)** Run!!!
49. **DAN:** What? Where? I don't --
50. **SFX: RUSTLING OF CLOTHES AS OFFICER GRABS DAN**
51. **COP:** Come here! You're under arrest for hawking on the streets without a license!
52. **DAN:** But Officer, I'm just trying to make a living!
53. **COP:** Are you arguing with me?
54. **DAN:** Please let me go, Officer. I'm not a thief!
55. **COP:** If you want to go, you'll have to pay for our fuel.
56. **DAN:** But I don't have any money!
57. **COP:** Stop wasting my time, and --
58. **SFX: RUSTLING OF CLOTHES AS DAN BREAKS AWAY**
59. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS DAN RUNS**
60. **COP:** Hey, hey, stop! Don't run away! Stop right now!

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: JUDGE HANDS OVER LULU'S BABY

61. ATMO: COURT ATMO, PEOPLE MURMURING

62. SFX: GAVEL HITS TABLE

63. JUDGE RAY: Silence in court!

64. CROWD: SILENT

KW BEGIN

65. JUDGE RAY: This is my verdict in the case of the people versus Mukaraba. I find that the accused, Mr. Mukaraba, does have a case to answer.

66. CROWD: LOUD MURMURING

67. JUDGE RAY: Silence! Silence!

68. CROWD: CALMS DOWN

KW END

69. JUDGE RAY: In accordance with the law, and with the evidence presented in this court, Mr. Mukaraba, being a person of sound mind and a leader of society, is found to have bought a baby from Mr. Msoto.

70. CROWD: MURMUR

71. JUDGE RAY: There are laws in this country governing the adoption of children, and Mr. Mukaraba, being an aspiring lawmaker, should have known better. This court finds Mr. Mukaraba guilty, and I therefore order him to pay the plaintiff in this case a total of 100,000 --

72. CROWD: (erupts)

KW BEGIN

73. SFX: GAVEL HITS TABLE

74. MUKARABA: (shouts) You can't do this!

75. JUDGE RAY: Silence! Silence in court!

76. LULU: (from behind) Oh, thank God!

77. MSOTO: (from behind) Praise King Karubu!

78. SFX: GAVEL HITS TABLE

79. JUDGE RAY: (yells) Silence!!!

80. CROWD: (calms down)

81. JUDGE RAY: For the last time, another outburst like that and I will have all of you thrown out of court!

KW END

FLASHBACK: Ep. 24, line 2

82. **JUDGE RAY:** (clears throat) Further, I order that the child in question be handed over to Mrs. Lulu Msoto. Since the child is now with social services, they will help her to reintegrate into her natural family.
83. **LULU:** (from behind) Oh my God, my baby!
84. **MUKARABA:** We had a deal! You can't do this!

- 85. JUDGE RAY:** Silence! (**speaks over them**) Mr. Msoto was part of the conspiracy to sell his own child. But he has testified in this case, even though this meant implicating himself. Considering his contribution, I have decided that Mr. Msoto will not be given a prison sentence. Nonetheless, I am issuing a restraining order against Mr. Msoto. He may not come within three hundred meters of the child in question. Any direct contact is strictly forbidden! Additionally, I order that the prosecution in this case open a corruption investigation into Mr. Mukaraba, as he tried to bribe none other than the judge in this case. The money --
- 86. MUKARABA:** You took my money!!!
- 87. JUDGE RAY:** -- the money will be used to cover the costs of this trial, and to support social services, who have been taking care of the child.
- 88. MUKARABA:** (**threatening**) You don't know who you're messing with.

89. SFX: GAVEL

90. JUDGE RAY: All rise! Court is adjourned.

91. SFX: PEOPLE IN COURTROOM STAND UP AND LEAVE

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: TRUDY IS SHOT

92. ATMO: INSIDE THE UNIVERSITY HOSTEL, EVENING/NIGHT

93. SFX: DOOR CLOSING

94. SFX LIGHT SWITCHED ON

95. SFX: NEON LIGHT HUMMING

96. TRUDY: (to herself) Home at last! **(sighs)** This is really not an easy subject to work on. Once you look more closely, more and more stuff starts coming to the surface... But I think it's worth it. Trudy, you're doing a good job! **(laughs)**

97. SFX: TRUDY'S PHONE RINGS

98. TRUDY: Who's this? ... Oh – Tina!

99. SFX: BEEP AS CALL IS ANSWERED

100. TRUDY: Hi Tina!

101. **TINA:** (on phone) Hey, Trudy, are you home?
102. **TRUDY:** Yes, I just got back. I'm exhausted!
103. **TINA:** Of course! You've been working really hard! But you've almost finished now, haven't you?
104. **TRUDY:** Right: I ---
105. **SFX: SWITCH AS LIGHT/POWER GOES OUT**
106. **SFX: NEON LIGHT HUMMING STOPS**
107. **TRUDY:** Oh, damn it!
108. **TINA:** What was that?
109. **TRUDY:** Just another power cut. It's all dark in here. I'll have to go and find some candles. **(laughs)**
110. **TINA:** Okay. Take care, won't you?
111. **TRUDY:** Of course! See you tomorrow!
112. **SFX: BEEP AS PHONE DISCONNECTS**
113. **SFX: DOOR OPENING**
114. **TRUDY:** **(calls, scared)** Hello? Who's there?
115. **SILENCE**
116. **SFX: STEPS APPROACHING**
- KW BEGIN**

117. TRUDY: Mercy? Is that you?

118. SILENCE

119. TRUDY: Hello! This isn't funny! I'll scream! Whoever you are,
I'll --

KW END

120. SFX: RUSTLE OF CLOTHES AS TRUDY IS GRABBED

121. TRUDY: (muffled screams because her mouth is
covered)

122. MNENE: (low and threatening) Shut your mouth, you stupid
slut. That cold thing you can feel against your neck?
That's a gun. One false move, and I'll pull the
trigger! Understand?

123. TRUDY: (muffled) Mhh!

124. MNENE: Good! Now, I'm going to let go of your mouth, but
you have to do exactly what I tell you. If you
scream, I will shoot you. Okay?

125. TRUDY: (muffled) Mhhh! Mhh!

126. SFX: RUSTLING OF CLOTHES

127. MNENE: There!

128. **TRUDY:** Who are you? What do you want?

FLASHBACK: Ep. 20, line 6

129. **MNENE:** I will only ask you this once: Where's the material?
You know what I'm talking about! Don't move, just
tell me!

130. **TRUDY:** What... what are you talking about?

131. **MNENE:** Don't pretend you don't know!

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

133. **SFX: RUSTLING OF CLOTHES AS TRUDY MOVES**

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

135. **SFX: GUNSHOT**

136. **SFX: THUD AS SOMEONE FALLS.**

137. **MNENE:** Oh God! What have I done?

OUTRO – NARRATOR:

What just happened? Just when we thought everything would turn out well!
You really mustn't miss the next episode of "Crossroads Generation" if you
want to find out! Don't forget that you can also listen to this episode again,
or to previous ones, on dw.de/lbe. Until next time – bye!