

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 3: Facing the Future

EPISODE 14: A Pain in the Neck

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List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: MSOTO'S DAY IN COURT

- JUDGE RAY (M, 50s)
- MSOTO (M, LATE 40s)
- MUKARABA (M 50s)
- MINIMAL CROWD: 4-5 (MIXED GENDER, LULU TOO)
- LAWYER (M/F, LATE 30's)
- PROSECUTOR (M/F, ADULT)

SCENE 2: MERCY AND NIKI OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL

- MERCY (F, 18)
- NIKI (M, 19)

SCENE 3: TINA AND MERCY ON THE ROAD

- MERCY (F, 18)
- TINA (F, 19)

SCENE 4: MUKARABA IS ANGRY WITH MSOTO

- MUKARABA (M, 50s)
- MNENE (M, 40s)

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hello! Glad you tuned in for this next episode of “Crossroads Generation”, our radio series about a group of young Africans and the challenges they face in their daily lives. We’re in the middle of the third season, called “Facing the Future”. Last time, the university students Mercy and Trudy were worried about their friend Tina:

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 13, LINES 75-79

***MERCY:** We missed you in class yesterday and today. Are you okay, Tina?*

***TINA:** I’m fine. I’ll talk to you later.*

***SFX:** CALL ENDED*

***MERCY:** Tina, wait --*

***TRUDY:** What? Did she just hang up on you?*

3. NARRATOR:

Trudy and Mercy don’t know what kind of work Tina does on the side. But we’ll come to that later... Mercy has some other things on her mind. The father of her boyfriend Niki is in hospital. But when she went to see him, Niki’s mother didn’t give her a friendly welcome:

4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 13, LINES 104, 109-111

MRS. JUMBE: *(firm)* Young girl, please wait outside!

NIKI: *(sighs)* Mum, come on! Don't start!

SFX: **FAST FOOTSTEPS AS MERCY LEAVES**

NIKI: *Wait. Mercy! Where are you going -- Wait!*

MRS. JUMBE: *Huh! Good riddance!*

5. NARRATOR:

On top of all that, Mercy's family is dealing with a dark chapter in its history. Four years ago, Mercy's father sold his newborn baby to the politician Mukaraba. Now he's trying to make it right by testifying in court. This will be a big surprise for Mukaraba, who thought it was going to be easy to dismiss the case! This fourteenth episode, called "A Pain in the Neck", starts in the courtroom...

SCENE 1: MSOTO'S DAY IN COURT

6. ATMO: COURT ATMO

7. LAWYER: **(low voice)** So, Mr. Mukaraba, are you ready for our next day in court?

8. MUKARABA: Of course I am. With you as my lawyer I have nothing to fear. **(laughs)** Besides, this whole case is ridiculous. They might as well declare me innocent right now...

9. JUDGE RAY: Silence in court! The prosecutor will call the first witness for today.

10. PROSECUTOR: Our first witness is Mr. Msoto.

11. CROWD: **(murmurs: "Isn't that the man who sold her?" "That's the father", etc.)**

12. MUKARABA: What? I thought --

13. JUDGE RAY: Silence!

KW BEGIN

14. CROWD: Shame! Shame!

15. SFX: GAVEL HITS HARD SURFACE.

16. JUDGE RAY: Silence in court!

17. CROWD: GOES SILENT

18. **JUDGE RAY:** This is the final warning. One more outburst like that and I will have all of you thrown out of the courtroom. Prosecutor, please proceed!
19. **PROSECUTOR:** Thank you, Your Honour. **(to Msoto)** State your name for the record.
20. **MSOTO:** My name is Msoto.

KW END

FLASHBACK: Ep. 15, line 2

21. **PROSECUTOR:** Mr. Msoto, according to Inspector Mary, you're willing to tell us your side of the story, even if this means incriminating yourself?
22. **MSOTO:** That's right.
23. **PROSECUTOR:** Then please start by telling the court what your relationship with the child in this case is.
24. **MSOTO:** I am her biological father.
25. **PROSECUTOR:** Where were you when the baby was born?
26. **MSOTO:** At home with my wife.
27. **PROSECUTOR:** And what happened immediately after the baby was born?
28. **MSOTO:** I took her and gave her to Councillor Mukaraba.

29. **PROSECUTOR:** Why?
30. **MSOTO:** **(hesitates)** That... that was the agreement. I... I knew that he wanted a child, and that he couldn't have one himself --
31. **MUKARABA:** That's nonsense! I can father as many children as I like!
32. **JUDGE RAY:** Silence, Mr. Mukaraba! Please go on, Mr. Msoto.
33. **MSOTO:** At the time, I thought he could take care of our child better than we could. We had money problems, and we were not able at the time to take good care of her. But I regret what I did then, and King Karubu, my saviour, knows that I was misled ...
34. **PROSECUTOR:** Did Mr. Mukaraba pay you money as part of this agreement?
35. **MSOTO:** **(hesitates)** Yes, he gave me some money, but --
36. **MUKARABA:** *Some* money? It was -- **(falls silent)**
37. **LAWYER:** **(whispers to him)** Mr. Mukaraba, I would advise you to be quiet now!
38. **MUKARABA:** You're fired! What kind of lawyer are you if you didn't even know that Msoto would testify?

39. LAWYER: Mr. Mukaraba --

40. MUKARABA: Don't talk to me!

41. LAWYER: Your Honour, could we take a short break, please?

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: MERCY AND NIKI OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL

42. ATMO: OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL

43. MERCY: (crying)

44. SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING

45. NIKI: (as he approaches) Mercy! Mercy!

46. MERCY: (cries) Leave me alone, Niki.

47. NIKI: Mercy, I'm sorry about my mother. She can be such a pain in the neck sometimes!

48. MERCY: (cries)

49. NIKI: Mercy, come on. You know what my mother's like. She can be rude and arrogant, but she can't change my decision to be with you.

50. MERCY: She hates me, Niki. What did I ever do to her?

FLASHBACK: Ep. 15, line 4

51. **NIKI:** Just ignore her, Mercy darling. I love you!

52. **MERCY:** You have a strange way of showing it. Why haven't you been taking my calls?

KW BEGIN

53. **NIKI:** I sent you a text, didn't I?

54. **MERCY:** *'My father sick in hospital'*, that's what you wrote. But that doesn't explain why you don't pick up when I call, or why you haven't called me back!

55. **NIKI:** Mercy, I... I'm just confused. I don't know how to deal with... with --

56. **MERCY:** With my daughter Linda. Just say it!

57. **NIKI:** **(stammers)** I... I...

58. **MERCY:** That's what I thought!

KW END

59. **NIKI:** Mercy, I --

60. **MERCY:** You've been avoiding me ever since I brought my daughter to live with me.

61. **NIKI:** It's not like that...
62. **MERCY:** I always knew your mother didn't like us being together, and that she hates the fact I have a child who isn't yours... But I thought that was just her!
63. **NIKI:** **SILENT**
64. **MERCY:** Oh, great. Goodbye, Niki.
65. **NIKI:** Mercy...
66. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS MERCY LEAVES**

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: TINA AND MERCY ON THE ROAD

67. **ATMO: ON THE STREET**
68. **SFX: CAR APPROACHING**
69. **SFX: CAR HOOTING**
70. **MERCY:** **(still sad, to herself)** Stupid car drivers... Leave me alone!
71. **TINA:** **(shouts, from the car)** Hey, Mercy! It's me, you idiot!

72. **MERCY:** **(surprised)** Oh, Tina! Sorry, I thought it was --

73. **TINA:** **(interrupts)** -- some old guy trying to seduce you from his car? Mercy, you're so stubborn! **(laughs)**
...Hey, what's up? You look sad...

74. **MERCY:** I just had a fight with Niki.

FLASHBACK: Ep. 15, line 6

75. **TINA:** Sorry to hear that... Hey, Mercy, listen. I'm sorry I was abrupt on the phone last time you called. It wasn't a good time. How about I make it up to you and take you out for a drink tonight? We can drive around in this nice car... **(laughs)**

KW BEGIN

76. **MERCY:** I didn't even know you knew how to drive! Whose car is it? It's nice!

77. **TINA:** Well, it's mine!

78. **MERCY:** **(surprised)** Whaat? When did you -- how did you --
Where did you get the money to buy such an expensive car?

79. TINA: (laughs) You actually believed me? No: it belongs to a friend.

KW END

80. MERCY: Tina, I don't know. I have a lot of catching up to do... And I don't feel like --

81. TINA: Come on – it'll take your mind off that fight with Niki and everything. (convincingly) Hey, I might even let you drive!

82. MERCY: But I don't know how to drive!

83. TINA: Oh, it's easy! I'll show you...

84. MERCY: I don't know...

85. TINA: Well, I'm not forcing you. Just thought it could be fun... I'll pick you up tonight, okay?

86. MERCY: Aren't you going to class?

87. TINA: Next time. I have something else to do right now.

88. MERCY: But, Tina --

89. TINA: See you later!

90. SFX: CAR DRIVES OFF

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: MUKARABA IS ANGRY WITH MSOTO

91. **ATMO:** IN THE BROTHEL, CLUB MUSIC IN THE BACKGROUND
92. **MNENE:** (to himself) I have to count today's takings before Mukaraba comes bursting in...
93. **SFX: DOOR OPENS**
94. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS STOMP IN**
95. **MNENE:** Oh, hi, Boss. How was your --
96. **MUKARABA:** (interrupts angrily) Who the hell does this Msoto think he is? Doesn't he know who I am? DAMN! He should know better by now!
97. **MNENE:** Easy, Boss. What happened?
98. **MUKARABA:** That pain in the neck showed up in court as a witness. Can you believe it? The fool has turned against me! After I warned him again and again...

KW BEGIN

- 99. MNENE:** That's pretty stupid of him. I mean, he's the one who sold the baby to you! He's just implicating himself.
- 100. MUKARABA:** That's the thing – he did it anyway! I'm still trying to understand why. Maybe this Inspector Mary has offered him a deal or something.

KW END

- 101. MNENE:** Then offer him money. Money always works magic, especially if someone loves the bottle like he does.
- 102. MUKARABA:** You think I haven't tried that? I don't think it'll work any longer... Apparently he's now a servant of the mighty King Karubu, whoever that may be... No, I think I need to try something different.
- 103. MNENE:** King Who? **(laughs)** Sorry, Boss. **(pause)** I think you should talk to the judge. You're a respected leader, after all. People listen to you – especially when you come bearing gifts.
- 104. MUKARABA:** Wait – are you suggesting I bribe the judge?
- 105. MNENE:** Exactly!

106. MUKARABA: Good idea. **(pause)** Except that YOU will do it,
Mnene!

KW BEGIN

107. MNENE: **(shocked)** What? Why me?

108. MUKARABA: Because I say so. Why do you think I pay you so
much money?

109. MNENE: But... but...

110. MUKARABA: No buts! You will approach the judge on my behalf
and make the payment.

KW END

111. MNENE: Boss... I think --

112. MUKARABA: I don't pay you to think, Mnene. You will do as I say,
and that's that.

113. MNENE: **(sighs)**

OUTRO – NARRATOR:

And that's also where we end our programme for today! But don't worry, the next episode's not far off... And you can always check our webpage for more information about "Crossroads Generation", at dw.de/lbe. Until next time – bye-bye!