

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 3: Facing the Future

EPISODE 13: A Garbage Collector?

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List of characters by scene:

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SCENE 1: MUKARABA URGES MSOTO TO DROP THE CASE

- LULU (F, 40s)
- MSOTO (M, LATE 40s)
- MUKARABA (M, 50s)

SCENE 2: BILLY REFUSES TO GET DIRTY

- BILLY (M, 20s)
- DAN (M, 19)

SCENE 3: MERCY AND TRUDY ARE WORRIED ABOUT TINA

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

SCENE 4: MERCY VISITS JUMBE IN HOSPITAL

- NIKI (M, 19)
- MERCY (F, 18)
- MRS. JUMBE (F, 40s)
- JUMBE (M, 50s)

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hi there! It's time to hear more about our young heroes Niki, Mercy, Dan and Trudy in our radio series "Crossroads Generation"! We're about to start the 13th episode of this third season. So what's happened so far? 19-year-old Dan has lost his job at a construction site, and is now searching for new opportunities.

KW BEGIN

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 12, LINES 82-85

DAN: So now what?

BILLIE: I don't know, Dan! I guess we both have to find a new job. (...)

DAN: Hey, seriously: you know what? We should be our own bosses!

KW END

3. NARRATOR:

Dan has a daughter with 18-year-old university student Mercy – but Dan left right after Mercy gave birth three years ago, and Mercy isn't keen to let him back into their lives. The fact that Mercy has another man's child is causing trouble in her relationship with her boyfriend, Niki Jumbe. But right now, Niki has other things to worry about:

4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 12, LINES 44-48

***NIKI:** (...) So, how are you, Dad? You sound a bit... strange.*

***JUMBE:** No, I'm fine! Just a slight headache... (...)*

***SFX:** THUD/ CLOTHES RUSTLING AS SOMEONE FALLS DOWN*

***NIKI:** Hello?... Hello, Dad...?*

5. NARRATOR:

What happened? We're about to find out. But let's pass by Mercy's parents' first! Four years ago, Mercy's father sold his newborn baby girl to the politician Mukaraba. Now he's ready to testify against him in court – but Mukaraba mustn't find out! Today's episode is called "A Garbage Collector?" We join Mercy's parents as they're arguing in front of their house.

SCENE 1: MUKARABA URGES MSOTO TO DROP THE CASE

6. ATMO: TANDIKA, OUTDOORS

7. **LULU:** Msoto, listen to me. I already told you that I don't like you putting all this talk about King Karubu into our sons' heads.

KW BEGIN

8. **MSOTO:** King Karubu will forgive you once you turn to him!

9. **LULU:** Leave it, Msoto. This is your belief, not mine! In all these years, you've been nothing but a bad influence on our kids. Just leave us alone!

10. **MSOTO:** But, Lulu, my wife --

11. **LULU:** How many times do I have to tell you: I'm not your wife any more! Besides, Inspector Mary told me that you need to stop this crazy behaviour if you want the court to take you seriously!

KW END

12. **MSOTO:** I will not bend in my belief in King Karubu... **(goes silent)**

13. **LULU:** What?
14. **MSOTO:** Look, over there... It's Mukaraba!
15. **LULU:** What does he want? Here, in Tandika slums?
16. **MSOTO:** I don't know.
17. **MUKARABA:** **(from far)** Hey! Msoto!
18. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING**
19. **MUKARABA:** **(acting sweet)** How are you, Msoto, my friend?
20. **MSOTO:** I'm not your friend.

KW BEGIN

21. **MUKARABA:** Hey, don't be like that. Look, can I buy you a drink while we talk? In private?
22. **MSOTO:** First of all, I don't drink any more; and secondly, whatever you have to say, you can say it right here, in front of my wife.
23. **LULU:** **(clears her throat)**
24. **MSOTO:** **(ignores her)** We don't keep secrets from each other.

KW END

- 25. MUKARABA:** Okay. I just want to talk to you.
- 26. LULU:** Last time we wanted to talk you set your dogs on us.
- 27. MUKARABA:** Come on, Lorna... it's Lorna isn't it? We're all friends here, aren't we? We shouldn't be like this. We're from the same tribe!
- 28. LULU:** **(laughs)** You don't even know my name and you call yourself a friend? And don't talk to me about tribes. What's that got to do with anything? Now please leave us alone and let the law take its course, Mr. Mukaraba.

29. MUKARABA: **(unfriendly)** That's exactly what we should do. Let the judge decide. And him alone. **(threatening voice)** Without you interfering in any way, you understand? If you know what's good for you, you'll stay right away from that court. This case could ruin my good name, and I will not stand by and let you do that. Don't forget – you were part of the deal! So remember: I could ruin your lives, and the lives of your children, too. Do you understand me?

30. MSOTO: Are you threatening us?

31. MUKARABA: I'm just giving you some good advice.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: BILLY REFUSES TO GET DIRTY

32. ATMO: SLUM ATMO, INSIDE DAN'S HUT

33. SFX: TAP TURNED ON, WATER RUNNING.

34. DAN: (happy) Oh, water! Finally! This is a miracle. The first time since I moved here! These taps never have water in them!

35. BILLY: Dan! How do you survive here in the slums, man?

36. DAN: What do you mean, Billy?

37. BILLY: (jokes) The place stinks from here to kingdom come! No water?!

38. DAN: So why don't you go back to your place? Do you even have a place to live, Billy?

39. BILLY: Oh, I do. Smaller than this, maybe, but at least it's not next to a garbage dump.

40. DAN: Oh yeah? So why are you still here? It's been two days and you don't seem to want to go home! Come on, tell me what's wrong.

41. BILLY: Dan... I... can't go there. I owe some people.

KW BEGIN

42. DAN: What did you do?

43. BILLY: **(sighs)** My mother lives upcountry, and when she got really sick a while ago, I had to buy her medicine and stuff. She even had to go to hospital!

44. DAN: Sorry to hear that. Is she better?

45. BILLY: Yes. Luckily. But I still haven't paid back the guys I borrowed the money from. They live in my neighbourhood, and they aren't the kind of guys you keep waiting too long, if you know what I mean. And now that I've lost my job...

KW END

46. DAN: Wow. I had no idea. What are you going to do now?

47. BILLY: I don't know, man.

48. DAN: Billy... I have an idea. I've been thinking about something. Remember what we talked about the other day? About being our own bosses?

49. BILLY: Yeah, but that was just a joke...

50. **DAN:** But we could be our own bosses! Seriously! See how big this garbage dump is?
51. **BILLY:** Yeah...
52. **DAN:** Think about where it all comes from. What if we were the ones collecting it? And... helping dispose of it better? Of course, we wouldn't make money immediately, but --
53. **BILLY:** **(laughs)** What? Me? A garbage collector? No way!
54. **DAN:** You haven't even heard the whole plan.
55. **BILLY:** I don't need to. I'm not collecting garbage, Dan!
Period!

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: MERCY AND TRUDY ARE WORRIED ABOUT TINA

56. ATMO: INSIDE CLASSROOM AT UNIVERSITY

57. SFX: STUDENTS LEAVING, BOOKS PACKED

58. TRUDY: So, lectures over for today... Hey, Mercy!

59. MERCY: **(unamused)** What, Trudy?

60. TRUDY: Can I talk to you?

61. MERCY: You are already, aren't you?

62. TRUDY: Please, Mercy. I want to apologize again. I really didn't mean to cause trouble with my article. I was just so excited to be doing my first interview...

KW BEGIN

63. MERCY: **(bitter)** I should have known... Selfish Trudy never cares about the effect her actions have on others.

64. TRUDY: Just so you know, this whole story was supposed to help. I did have good intentions. It was all about justice for your family and the people of Tandika!

65. MERCY: **(sarcastic)** Says Trudy the freedom fighter!

66. TRUDY: No need to be sarcastic!

KW END Look. It all ended well, thanks to that police inspector. And I'm glad you convinced me to go to the police with you.

67. MERCY: I'm not sure it *is* all over... Remember what Tina told us, about Mukaraba being a very dangerous man?

68. TRUDY: Right, yeah... That sounded really serious. By the way, have you seen her lately?

69. MERCY: No, I haven't! I'm going to call her to see if she's all right.

70. SFX: PHONE DIALLING

71. SFX: CALL BEING ACCEPTED

72. TINA: **(whispering, on phone)** Hello?

73. MERCY: Tina, it's Mercy! How are you?

74. TINA: I can't talk right now.

FLASHBACK: Ep. 14, line 2

75. **MERCY:** We missed you in class yesterday and today. Are you okay, Tina?
76. **TINA:** I'm fine. I'll talk to you later.
77. **SFX: CALL ENDED**
78. **MERCY:** Tina, wait --
79. **TRUDY:** What? Did she just hang up on you?
80. **MERCY:** She did! That's not like her...
81. **SFX: SMS RECEIVED**
82. **TRUDY:** Hey, you got a message...
83. **MERCY:** It's from Niki...
84. **SFX: BEEP AS SMS IS READ**
85. **MERCY:** (to herself) Oh no...

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: MERCY VISITS JUMBE IN HOSPITAL

86. ATMO: HOSPITAL ATMO

87. MRS. JUMBE: Jumbe, my husband, how are you feeling?

88. JUMBE: Come on, Mama Niki, you make it sound so serious.
I'm fine.

89. NIKI: It *is* serious, Dad! You're in hospital! What if I hadn't called? Who would have known that you'd collapsed? Who would have come looking for you and called the ambulance?

KW BEGIN

90. SFX: BED WITH SPRINGS

91. JUMBE: (**groans as he gets up**) Niki, help me put on these shoes. I need to go to the bathroom again. And then we have to get out of here.

92. NIKI: But the doctor said you need to stay here for observation before they let you go.

93. MRS. JUMBE: See? This is what I'm talking about. Your father takes it all too lightly. We haven't even had the results of the tests!

KW END

94. SFX: DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING

95. SFX: FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING

96. MERCY: Good evening, Mama Niki, Mr. Jumbe....

97. NIKI: Mercy! I'm so glad you could come!

98. JUMBE: **(friendly)** Hey, Mercy. Good to see you.

99. MERCY: Good to see you too, Mr. Jumbe.

100. MRS. JUMBE: **(whispers)** What's she doing here, Niki? How did she...? Niki, this is a family matter!

101. NIKI: Well, my girlfriend *is* family as far as I'm concerned!

102. MERCY: I'm sorry, I didn't mean to intrude...

103. JUMBE: No, Mercy, you're not intruding. You're welcome here.

FLASHBACK: Ep. 14, line 4

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

105. NIKI: If she goes, I go! Simple!

106. MRS. JUMBE: **(angry)** Niki, I'm your mother!

- 107. JUMBE:** Hey, hey! Calm down. Nobody's going anywhere. Janet, Mercy's been Niki's girlfriend for some time now. The sooner you accept that, the better!
- 108. MRS. JUMBE:** But she's not good for him! Can't you see that, Jumbe?
- 109. NIKI:** (sighs) Mum, come on! Don't start!
- 110. SFX: FAST FOOTSTEPS AS MERCY LEAVES**
- 111. NIKI:** Wait. Mercy! Where are you going -- Wait!
- 112. MRS. JUMBE:** Huh! Good riddance!

OUTRO – NARRATOR:

That brings us to the end of today's episode of "Crossroads Generation". Will Niki catch up with Mercy? And what about Tina, Mercy's friend? Why was she so strange on the phone? Check our webpage at dw.de/lbe for her latest video diary. Maybe that will give you a clue. And be sure to tune in next time for another episode of our radio series! In the meantime, you can discuss what you've just heard on our Facebook page. Goodbye!