

**Learning by Ear 2014**

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

**EPISODE 3: New Job, New Life**

**AUTHOR: James Muhando**

**EDITORS: Friederike Müller, Thomas Mösch**

**COPY EDITOR: Charlotte Collins**

**List of characters by scene:**

**INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR**

**SCENE 1: MSOTO CONFESSES TO MERCY**

- **MERCY (F, 18)**
- **MSOTO (M, LATE 40s)**

**SCENE 2: DAN MEETS BILLY**

- **BOSS (M, ADULT)**
- **DAN (M, 19)**
- **BILLY (M, 20s)**

**SCENE 3: TRUDY GETS A JOB AT A TABLOID**

- **EDITOR (M, LATE 40s)**
- **SECRETARY (F, 30s)**
- **TRUDY (F, 18)**

**SCENE 4: MERCY CONFRONTS LULU**

- **LULU (F, 40s)**
- **MERCY (F, 18)**

## **INTRO**

### **1. NARRATOR:**

Hello there! You've tuned in just in time for another episode of "Crossroads Generation", our radio series about a group of African teenagers and the problems they face in their daily lives. So what have they been up to lately? Dan comes from the neighbouring country, Laboria, where his father wanted him to study mining and build up the family company again. But that's not what Dan wants. They recently had a huge fight, and Dan walked out:

### **2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 1, LINES 118-120**

***KANYAMA:** Fine! You can walk away, but you'll always come home in the end. And I'll be waiting!*

***SFX:** STEPS ON WET GROUND, CONTINUOUS*

***DAN:** 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!*

### 3. NARRATOR:

The daughter Dan mentioned is the result of his short relationship with Mercy. They slept together three years ago, when they were in high school. But Dan didn't care much about Mercy and their daughter, Linda, back then. And Mercy seems to be doing well without him. Her mother takes care of little Linda while Mercy is at university, studying journalism along with her good friend Trudy. In our last episode, Mercy got a surprise visitor at the university: her father. Her mother threw him out years ago. And he brought up an ugly story from their family's past:

### 4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 2, LINES 114-117

*MSOTO: Mercy, (...) Your baby sister didn't die after your mother gave birth to her. She's alive, and I --*

*MERCY: I know. You sold her! Mum told me everything back then! So unless there's anything else you have to say, just leave me alone!*

*MSOTO: Mercy, wait! Did your mother also tell you that she was part of the plan?*

### 5. NARRATOR:

Today's episode is called "New Job, New Life", and we start right where we left off: at the university campus, with Mercy and her dad.

## **SCENE 1: MSOTO CONFESSES TO MERCY**

### **6. ATMO: UNIVERSITY GROUNDS, OUTSIDE**

**7. MERCY:** Dad, what are you talking about? Mum would never do such a thing! She told me you took the baby away from her after she gave birth, and that she was too weak to do anything to stop you!

**8. MSOTO:** Mercy, your mother and I had been having serious money problems. So when she was pregnant we agreed that we would sell the child.

**9. MERCY:** You agreed? You mean, Mum was okay with it?

### **KW BEGIN**

**10. MSOTO:** Mercy, we needed the money!

**11. MERCY:** I can't believe this!

**12. MSOTO:** Mercy, we also did it for you. You needed all those things to go to that new school...

**13. MERCY:** You should be ashamed of yourselves!

### **KW END**

14. **MSOTO:** Calm down, Mercy. Listen. There is a chance that we may be able to get your sister back. **(lowers his voice)** The case is going to come to court. That's why I'm here! To testify.
15. **MERCY:** That doesn't make what you did right!
16. **MSOTO:** I was a lost man! I'm changed now. King Karubu has --
17. **MERCY:** Enough of you and this... king of yours. I can't even talk to you right now. I don't know you!
18. **MSOTO:** Mercy --
19. **MERCY:** **(interrupts)** Just... just leave me alone, Dad!
20. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS LEAVING HURRIEDLY**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 2: DAN MEETS BILLY**

**21. ATMO: OUTDOORS, CONSTRUCTION SITE**

**22. BOSS:** (from afar) Hey, you there – the foreign boy!  
What's your name again? Dan?

**23. DAN:** (panting) Yes...

**24. BOSS:** (from far) Dan, hurry up with that last bag of  
cement, or we'll replace you with someone who  
can work faster!

**25. DAN:** I'm coming. But it's too heavy!

**26. BOSS:** (from far) No, it's not. You're just too soft!

**27. SFX: STEPS – BILLY APPROACHING**

**28. BILLY:** (low voice, to Dan) Hey - you've never done this  
before, have you?

**29. DAN:** No. It's the first time I've worked on a building site.

**30. BILLY:** Don't worry. I'll show you. The trick is to balance  
the bag of cement on your shoulders. Let me help  
you get it into the right position... **(they act out  
lifting a heavy bag onto his shoulders)**

**31. SFX: RUSTLING OF CLOTHES**

32. **DAN:** (panting again) I see! Thanks.
33. **BILLY:** My name's Billy, by the way.
34. **DAN:** (panting) Hi. I'm Dan.
35. **BOSS:** (shouts, from afar) Okay. That's it for today! Be here by exactly 8 a.m. tomorrow. If you're one minute late, don't bother coming!
36. **SFX: CLOTHES RUSTLING, BAGS PUT ON GROUND**
37. **DAN:** Finally! Bye, Billy, nice to meet you.
38. **BILLY:** Where are you going? Aren't you coming for evening tea?
39. **DAN:** I'm not hungry.
40. **BILLY:** That's a lie! No one works that hard all day and isn't hungry by the end. It's impossible. Come on, I'm buying! There's a shop round the corner.
41. **DAN:** Okay.
42. **SFX: TWO SETS OF FOOTSTEPS WALK OUTSIDE**
43. **BILLY:** So where do you come from?
44. **DAN:** Laboria.

45. **BILLY:** **(surprised)** Laboria? You came all that way just to do this kind of work?

46. **DAN:** Yeah. Strange, isn't it?

**KW BEGIN**

47. **BILLY:** Well, when you're poor like us, you'll do anything to get a job – any job. Right?

48. **DAN:** Right.

49. **BILLY:** You're not very good with your hands, though, are you? Have you tried to find an office job?

50. **DAN:** Look, I just got here. I really need the money. I don't have time to look around all over the place. And anyway, I already know what would happen. They'd all say: **(imitates a boss)** "Don't call us, we'll call you!"

51. **DAN/BILLY: (laugh)**

**KW END**

52. **BILLY:** Seriously: why did you come here?

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**



**SCENE 3: TRUDY GETS A JOB AT A TABLOID**

**53. ATMO: BUSY OFFICE, MANY COMPUTERS, TELEPHONES ETC.**

**54. EDITOR:** (shouts) Chop chop! Come on, people, look alive!  
We don't get to be the country's most-read newspaper just by sitting around!

**55. SECRETARY:** Mr. Editor?

**56. EDITOR:** (Rudely) What?

**KW BEGIN**

**57. SECRETARY:** Call for you on line 2.

**58. EDITOR:** Tell them I'm not here, whoever they are.

**59. SECRETARY:** They just heard you!

**60. EDITOR:** So they heard me – so what. (shouts) Everybody!  
I want the story about the president on my table –  
and I don't want it now, I want it yesterday!  
(claps) Chop chop!

**61. SILENCE, JUST OFFICE ATMO**

**62. SECRETARY:** Mr. Editor?

**63. EDITOR:** (angrily) Now what?

**KW END**

64. **SECRETARY:** Your four o'clock appointment is still waiting in the conference room.

65. **EDITOR:** **(sighs)** Right. Thanks.

66. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS**

67. **SFX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES**

68. **EDITOR:** Good afternoon.

69. **TRUDY:** Good afternoon, sir. My name's Trudy Kasingo. We spoke earlier about a writing job. Here are my certificates.

70. **SFX: PAPERS SHUFFLE**

71. **EDITOR:** It's okay, keep your papers. You're studying journalism at university, right?

72. **TRUDY:** Yes.

**KW BEGIN**

73. **EDITOR:** Can you write a letter?

74. **TRUDY:** **(confused)** Er - yes...

75. **EDITOR:** Can you read a text message?

76. **TRUDY:** **(confused)** Yes...

77. **EDITOR:** So... Basic skills: check.

78. TRUDY: (confused) Erm...

KW END

FLASHBACK: Ep. 4, line 2 / Ep. 7, line 2

79. EDITOR: Okay then. Your first assignment is Mukaraba. You know him?

80. TRUDY: The councillor? Yes ... but what about him...?

81. EDITOR: I heard him giving an interview on the radio, talking very nicely about all his political aims. But I've never trusted him.

82. TRUDY: Okay...

83. EDITOR: Find out what he's hiding. There has to be something! I don't care how you do it, just make sure I have the story on my desk soon. Then I'll tell you whether you can work with us permanently! That'll be all.

84. TRUDY: (confused) O... okay... Thank you, sir.

KW BEGIN

85. EDITOR: Oh, and one more thing...

86. TRUDY: Yes?

**87. EDITOR:** I'm sure they teach you to write about the how, the what, the where, and all that stuff?

**88. TRUDY:** Yes, sir.

**89. EDITOR:** Well, we're not interested in that here. We want the juice. The filth, the dirt, all the stinking juice. Got it?

**90. TRUDY:** Yes, sir.

**91. EDITOR:** Okay. Off you go, then!

**KW END**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 4: MERCY CONFRONTS LULU**

**92. ATMO: SLUM ATMO IN TANDIKA, INDOORS**

**93. LULU:** **(to herself)** Now, where are those naughty boys? I told them to come straight home after school. I can't leave my grandchild alone! Linda's asleep now, but as soon as she wakes up Lord knows what'll happen.

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

95. **LULU:** About time! Where have you boys been?

96. **SFX: MERCY'S FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING**

97. **LULU:** **(realises)** Mercy?! What are you doing here?

98. **MERCY:** **(angry)** Mum, were you part of it?

99. **LULU:** **(confused)** Part of what?

**KW BEGIN**

100. **MERCY:** Don't lie to me, Mum! Were you or were you not part of the deal?

101. **LULU:** **(angry)** Mercy, what's wrong with you? You burst in here without even saying hello and start yelling at me? Either speak calmly, or let me be. I have a shop to run. I just came home to put your daughter to bed.

**KW END**

102. **MERCY:** Dad came to see me at the university.

103. **LULU:** **(not surprised)** Ah – yes. He's back in the city and he wanted to see you. I told him he would find you there.

104. **MERCY:** Mum – he told me all about it.

**105. LULU:** All about what?

**106. MERCY:** All about my sister... That he sold her to that man Mukaraba after she was born, and --

**107. LULU:** **(cuts in)** But I already told you that.

**108. MERCY:** But you did NOT tell me that you were part of the plan! That you knew about it, and agreed to it!

**KW BEGIN**

**109. LULU:** Did your father say that?

**110. MERCY:** Yes, he did.

**111. LULU:** **(to herself)** What is wrong with that man? He turns up here out of nowhere after three years of silence and starts turning my children against me?!

**(to Mercy)** Mercy, believe me...

**KW END**

**FLASHBACK: Ep. 4, line 4 / Ep. 9, line 6**

**112. MERCY:** You told me you did whatever you could to stop him taking my sister away! And now I find out that you and Dad planned the whole thing together?!

113. **LULU:** Mercy, I told you the truth! Why won't you listen to me?
114. **MERCY:** **(cuts in)** Give me my child!
115. **LULU:** Linda's asleep! But she'll wake up any minute if you keep on yelling like a maniac!
116. **MERCY:** I don't care! Let me have my child!
117. **LULU:** Mercy, please, be reasonable! You can't live with Linda in a university hostel!
118. **MERCY:** I don't care! How can I trust you with her after what you two did?!
119. **LULU:** Mercy, listen to me. **(deep breath)** I told you the truth years ago! Your father is lying. Don't you see that? He comes back all of a sudden, and now he's trying everything he can to get you on his side, to make his children like him again! Be reasonable and listen to me!
120. **MERCY:** I don't know who to believe any more! I just want to take Linda with me and go!
121. **SFX: LINDA CALLS FOR HER MAMA IN THE NEXT ROOM**

**122. LULU:** All right! All right! Take her with you. But don't come crying to me when you run into trouble!

**OUTRO – NARRATOR:**

That's all from "Crossroads Generation" for today. And I bet you're curious to hear how the story goes on, aren't you? How will Mercy cope with bringing her daughter to live at the university? How's Trudy going to manage her first, rather delicate task in her new job? And remember Mercy's and Trudy's friend Tina? She told the girls she had a job too, but she didn't want to say what she does... Maybe she'll tell you more in her video blog... You can find it on our website – [dw.de/lbe](http://dw.de/lbe) Bye for now!