

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 3: Facing the Future

EPISODE 23: The Answer

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INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hello everybody and welcome back to “Crossroads Generation”. We’re coming to the end of this third season of our radio series - you’re about to hear the 23rd of 26 episodes. Previously, we heard how the journalism students Mercy and Tina were devastated when their friend Trudy was killed! But they immediately took action, and talked to their university professor:

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 22, LINES 55-56, 62

PROF: So: how’s the university radio going? Have you prepared the programme you were telling me about?

MERCY: Tina and I’ve just finalised the script, sir.(...)

PROF: I see... Tina, I would advise you to use a different name when you’re on air. (...) For your own safety.

3. NARRATOR:

What are they planning? We’ll soon find out! In an earlier episode, we heard that 19-year-old Dan had developed a business idea that was going pretty well: his handmade bags for ladies are proving very popular...

4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 20, LINES 46, 47, 55

MRS. JUMBE: Are you serious? You mean these cute little handbags are made from plastic bags? From waste?

DAN: Yes. But of course they're all clean now. (...)

MRS. JUMBE: Well Dan, I am Mrs. Jumbe. I would very much like to discuss business with you. Here's my card.

5. NARRATOR:

What a coincidence! Mrs. Jumbe is Niki's mother, and Niki and Dan were at high school together. They were both in love with Mercy back then. Mercy chose Dan, slept with him, and got pregnant. But Dan left when baby Linda was born three years ago. When he came back recently, Mercy refused to speak to him. She's in a relationship with Niki now, and he recently asked her a very important question... Let's get started on today's episode, which is called "The Answer"...

SCENE 1: MERCY SAYS YES

6. **NARRATOR**

7. **ATMO: QUIET ATMO OUTSIDE, BIRDS CHIRPING**

8. **MERCY:** (sniffs) Thanks for taking me away, Niki. I just couldn't stay at Trudy's funeral any longer!

9. **NIKI:** It's okay, Mercy.

10. **MERCY:** (sobs) Niki?

11. **NIKI:** Yes.

12. **MERCY:** Do you love me?

13. **NIKI:** You know I do. More than anything!

14. **MERCY:** Then... yes.

15. **NIKI:** Pardon?

16. **MERCY:** You asked me to marry you. My answer's yes.

17. **NIKI:** (surprised) Wow! That's... Mercy, that's great!
But... you're very vulnerable right now ... I hope --

18. **MERCY:** I know what I'm doing, Niki. Unless you don't want to any more...?

19. NIKI: Of course I want to! I've even asked at the registry office what we need to do.

KW BEGIN

20. MERCY: What? Without asking me?

21. NIKI: Well, I just wanted to know, in case you said yes!

22. MERCY: Okay... So... What do we have to do?

KW END

23. NIKI: There's some administrative stuff, like proving that we're actually old enough to get married. And they advised us to attend pre-marital counselling!

24. MERCY: What's that?

25. NIKI: There are counsellors who prepare couples for marriage – tell them what it's all about, what the challenges can be, and how to deal with them. I know it sounds a bit silly, but --

26. MERCY: I don't think it's silly! I want to do this right, Niki!

27. **NIKI:** (relieved) Me too, Mercy! So... should we go there tomorrow?

28. **MERCY:** Actually... there's something I need to do for Trudy first.

29. **NIKI:** What?

30. **MERCY:** I can't talk about it now. But you'll find out tomorrow.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: DAN AND MRS. JUMBE START A BUSINESS TOGETHER

31. **ATMO: QUIET NEIGHBOURHOOD, INDOORS**

32. **SFX: DOORBELL RINGS (JUMBE'S)**

33. **SFX: DOOR OPENS**

34. **MRS. JUMBE:** Oh, Dan, it's you. Come in. I was just about to leave when you called.

35. **DAN:** (shy) Thank you, Mrs. Jumbe.

36. **MRS. JUMBE:** Don't be shy, come on in! Niki's not home. He and his father have gone to a funeral.

37. SFX: FOOTSTEPS COME IN

38. SFX: DOOR CLOSES

39. MRS. JUMBE: Have a seat.

40. SFX: DAN SITTING DOWN ON SOFA

41. MRS. JUMBE: So, tell me: why did you want to see me so urgently?

42. DAN: Well, it's about what you mentioned the other day, when you gave me your card. I want to start a waste disposal business.

43. MRS. JUMBE: Waste disposal? What's that got to do with me?

44. DAN: You see, the bags I sold you are made from recycled plastic bags. So in a way they're already part of my waste management plan!

45. MRS. JUMBE: I still don't understand...

KW BEGIN

46. DAN: Well: I live in the slums, right next to a garbage dump, and I think we could do better in the way we dispose of our rubbish. My plan is to recycle as much domestic waste as possible, and show people what can be made out of it!

47. MRS. JUMBE: Interesting...

48. DAN: **(eagerly)** I could hire staff, supervise them, get involved in the actual hands-on work – and yu could provide the equipment we'd use...

49. MRS. JUMBE: **(interrupts)** Wait, Dan. Aren't we getting ahead of ourselves here? Why would I provide anything? Where did you get this idea?

KW END

50. DAN: **(shyly)** I thought we could... we could be partners, Mrs. Jumbe! I thought that's what you meant when you gave me your card...

51. **MRS. JUMBE:** **(laughs)** I gave you my card because I liked your bags, and I have a group of women who would be very interested in them!
52. **DAN:** **(disappointed)** I see...
53. **MRS. JUMBE:** Wait! **(deep breath)** Listen, Dan: I'll make you a deal. I'm a businesswoman myself – and my company has this silly new policy where the people in management are supposed to **(mocks her company)** 'pass on their wisdom to the younger generation'. So I think we actually both have something to gain here. I know that those bags of yours could sell very well, and so could the idea behind them. Now, if I invest a small sum, it would be in the business that already exists – the handbags.
54. **DAN:** But --

55. MRS. JUMBE: Let me finish! If you fail, a small sum wouldn't be too hard to pay back. If you succeed, and show me that you can make profit out of it, then we can discuss the bigger business.

KW BEGIN

56. DAN: **(happy)** Of course, Mrs Jumbe! That's wonderful. I promise I won't let you down.

57. MRS. JUMBE: Of course, you would have to pay me back my money, either way.

58. DAN: Naturally!

59. MRS. JUMBE: With interest!

60. DAN: Shouldn't we fix this somehow? Put it in writing, I mean.

61. MRS. JUMBE: I see you're a natural! Never trust what you don't have written down. Come to my office tomorrow and we'll draw up a contract. Okay?

KW END

62. DAN: Okay. Thank you, Mrs. Jumbe!

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: NIKI AND HIS MOTHER FIGHT

63. ATMO: EVENING, INSIDE, QUIET NEIGHBOURHOOD

64. SFX: CUTLERY AS PEOPLE FINISH EATING

65. MRS. JUMBE: Are you all right, Jumbe, darling?

66. JUMBE: I'm just tired after the funeral. I think I'll go and lie down upstairs.

67. NIKI: You do that, Dad.

68. JUMBE: Please help your mother clear the table, Niki!

69. NIKI: No problem.

70. SFX: CHAIRS SCRAPING AND RUSTLE OF CLOTHES AS JUMBE AND NIKI STAND UP

71. SFX: FOOTSTEPS LEAVING

72. SFX: CUTLERY GATHERED

73. MRS. JUMBE: Your father told me he saw you with that girl again, Niki. Where did you two go off to in the middle of the funeral?

74. NIKI: Nowhere.

KW BEGIN

75. MRS. JUMBE: Have you no shame, Niki?! People saw you holding hands with that...that...

76. NIKI: **(angry)** That what? Slum girl? Say it, mother! Go on, say it!

77. MRS. JUMBE: Niki, you have to start thinking straight.

78. NIKI: Oh, I am thinking straight!

KW END

79. MRS. JUMBE: **(sighs)** I'm not stopping you from having your fun with her. You can have all the fun you want. But to be seen in public, holding hands and --

80. NIKI: Is *that* what you think this is all about, Mama? Fun?

- 81. MRS. JUMBE:** If you think I'm just going to stand by and watch you ruin your future, Niki, you are very much mistaken!
- 82. NIKI:** **(firm)** Mercy and I are going to get married, Mama, and there is nothing you can do to stop it. I think it's time you got that into your head!
- 83. SFX: FOOTSTEPS GOING AWAY**
- 84. SFX: DOOR OPENED AND CLOSED**
- 85. MRS. JUMBE: (shouts after him)** Oh, I don't think so!

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: TINA AND MERCY ON AIR

86. SFX: SIGNATURE TUNE / BEEP

87. MERCY: Hello there and welcome to “101 University FM”, our brand new university radio! I’m Mercy Msoto, and I have the honour to present this, our first edition, which looks at a very sensitive topic. Today we’re going to be talking about prostitution. I’ll be speaking to a young woman who has seen it all, and who’s going to share her story with us. And we’ll also reveal who’s pulling the strings behind the business.

88. SFX: BRIDGE MUSIC, FADE UNDER

89. MERCY: With me in the studio is Tasha. That’s not her real name, but she prefers to use this one in public. Tasha has to take care of her siblings, because they lost their parents some years ago. Welcome to the show, Tasha.

90. TINA: Thank you.

91. **MERCY:** To earn a living and pay for your tuition, you got a job. Tell us about it.

92. **TINA:** I used to be a call girl – a prostitute.

KW BEGIN

93. **MERCY:** A lot of people would not talk about this profession in public. What made you want to talk about it on radio?

94. **TINA:** I want very much to turn over a new leaf, and I'm sick of being humiliated and exploited. But there's another reason, a very particular one...

95. **MERCY:** Please, go on.

KW END

96. **TINA:** **(emotional)** I lost a friend because she found out how this business is run here, in this city. Her name was Trudy.

FLASHBACK: Ep. 24, line 4

97. **MERCY:** I think a lot of our listeners will know that Trudy died here at the university. People believe that she was killed as part of a robbery that went wrong – but I think you have evidence that this wasn't the case?
98. **TINA:** Yes. Before she died, Trudy was compiling a report about the brothel where I used to work. At first I refused to help her. **(breaks down)** Because... because I feared for my job! And I feared the man who runs it, because he's very powerful. He's a senior politician in this area. His name is Mukaraba. And I am here today to talk about this because I realised that sometimes bad things happen because we're afraid to speak out.
99. **MERCY:** That's certainly true. And this is why we're dedicating this show to our friend and fellow student Trudy, who did want to speak out, and was tragically prevented from doing so.

100. **SFX: BEEP AS SMS IS RECEIVED**

101. MERCY: Ah... wait... breaking news coming in... I've just been informed that Mr. Mukaraba has been arrested for running an illegal brothel, thanks to evidence that was handed over to the police anonymously. We're going to take a short break here, and then we'll be back with more background on the story. Thanks for staying with us at "101 University FM".

102. SFX: MUSIC UP (can be OUTRO-MUSIC)

OUTRO – NARRATOR:

And we thank YOU too – for staying with us for this episode of "Crossroads Generation"! The next episode is coming up soon. And if you want to listen to this one, or to previous ones again, visit dw.de/lbe. You can also follow us on Facebook. Bye for now!