

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 3: Facing the Future

EPISODE 5: No Picnic

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INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hi there, and welcome to the fifth episode of our radio drama “Crossroads Generation”. This is our third season, called “Facing the Future”, and a lot has been happening lately! Mercy, Tina and Trudy are studying journalism at university, but Mercy has other things on her mind right now. She has a three-year-old daughter called Linda. Mercy’s mother used to take care of her, but she and Mercy have had a huge fight. The next day Mercy confessed something to her best friend, Trudy:

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 4, LINES 103-107

***MERCY:** Linda’s living here with me.*

***TRUDY:** What?*

***MERCY:** Shh!*

***TRUDY:** Mercy, you know that’s against the rules. What if the warden finds out?*

***MERCY:** I don’t know, Trudy.*

3. NARRATOR:

Mercy’s boyfriend Niki wasn’t very supportive, either:

4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 4, LINES 45-47

NIKI: *So now you just make decisions without telling me?*

MERCY: *Come on! We don't live together! I thought you'd understand...*

Linda's my daughter!

NIKI: *And I'm your boyfriend! You have to tell me these things!*

5. NARRATOR:

Today's episode is called "No Picnic". But before we hear how Niki, Trudy and Mercy are doing, let's check on Mercy's younger brother Kadu. It's break time at his school...

SCENE 1: SAMA AND KADU TALK

**6. ATMO: SCHOOLYARD, CHILDREN PLAYING IN THE
BACKGROUND**

7. SAMA: (from a distance, crying)

8. SFX: KADU'S FOOTSTEPS WALKING

9. KADU: Hey! Sama, why are you crying?

10. SAMA: (**pretends**) I'm not crying, Kadu!

11. KADU: Yes, you are.

12. SAMA: I'm not.

13. KADU: Come on, tell me. Is it those girls you were playing with over there? You know I'm the class prefect! I can report them to the teacher!

14. SAMA: (**alarmed**) No, no! Don't do that!

15. KADU: So what's going on? Tell me.

16. SAMA: Okay, but you have to promise you won't report them.

17. KADU: All right.

18. **SAMA:** They say I can't play with them any more. And they laughed at my yellow dress!
19. **KADU:** Why?
20. **SAMA:** They say I wear the same dress every day, and that it stinks! But it's not true! I have lots of yellow dresses, not just this one!

FLASHBACK: Ep. 6, line 2

21. **KADU:** So yellow's your favourite colour, is it, Sama?
22. **SAMA:** **(shyly)** It kind of is... In my family we all dress like this. It's because of our religion. And my parents say that --
23. **KADU:** Do they tell you you have to dress like that? Because you could change here at school, you know. They'd never know!
24. **SAMA/KADU:** **(laugh)**
25. **SAMA:** No, it's not like that. My parents said if the other kids laugh at us we don't have to wear it.
26. **KADU:** Then why do you still wear a yellow dress?

27. **SAMA:** Because I like it! And I'm proud of my religion... But the other girls don't understand.

28. **KADU:** Well, I like your dress!

29. **SAMA:** (shyly) Thank you, Kadu.

KW BEGIN

30. **KADU:** And I say we should report those girls right now!

31. **SAMA:** But Kadu, you promised!

32. **KADU:** Our teacher said no one should laugh at anyone else because of their religion!

33. **SAMA:** Please, Kadu. If we report them, they'll never let me play with them again!

34. **KADU:** (sighs) Okay.

KW END

You know, my dad is very religious too. He just came back to the city, and all he can talk about is this King Karubu. He wants my brother and me to go and pray with him...

35. **SAMA:** Do you go?

- 36. KADU:** I don't like it! I don't understand what we're saying in those prayers...
- 37. SAMA:** My mum always says that belief comes from the heart; you have to feel it. And I feel really good when I pray with her.
- 38. KADU:** **(thinks)** Hmm... I don't feel anything when Dad talks about King Karubu. But my brother Banda seems to love it!
- 39. SAMA:** **(laughs shyly)**
- 40. KADU:** Hey, do you want to play with me and my friends tomorrow?
- 41. SAMA:** Maybe.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: MERCY'S DOUBTS ABOUT NIKI

42. ATMO: UNIVERSITY HOSTEL YARD, DAYTIME, OUTSIDE

43. SFX: CLOTHES BEING WASHED BY HAND

44. MERCY: (to herself) I didn't know I had so much dirty laundry!

45. SFX: FOOTSTEPS APPROACH

46. TRUDY: Hey Mercy! Are you doing the washing for your whole building?

47. MERCY: Oh, hi Trudy! I don't even know how I let them pile up like this. And my daughter. She can be so messy! She's playing over there peacefully now, but once she gets bored or hungry or tired...

48. TRUDY: Come on, I'll help you.

49. MERCY: Oh! Thanks!

50. SFX: TWO PEOPLE WASHING CLOTHES BY HAND

KW BEGIN

51. TRUDY: Look, Mercy, maybe you could ask your mother to take Linda again?

52. **MERCY:** Trudy --
53. **TRUDY:** I'm just saying... I mean, she helped you take care of her all this time, while you finished school ...
54. **MERCY:** I just can't, okay? Not after what my father told me, and after the fight I had with my mother... I don't know who to trust any more!

KW END

55. **TRUDY:** What about Niki? Maybe he could help out with Linda? He gets along well with her, doesn't he?
56. **MERCY:** That's what I thought too... But... **(pause)**
57. **TRUDY:** Hey, what is it?
58. **MERCY:** Nothing...
59. **TRUDY:** Come on, tell me!

FLASHBACK: Ep. 6, line 4

60. **MERCY:** It's just that Niki hasn't been taking my calls since I told him Linda's come to live with me. Everything was fine before, but now... I think it reminds him too much of the fact that I had someone else's child.

61. **TRUDY:** I thought he accepted that long ago, back when you two got together?
62. **MERCY:** I thought so too.
63. **TRUDY:** By the way, did you ever hear from Dan again?
64. **MERCY:** No, nothing! And I don't want to, either, after he went back to Laboria as soon as Linda was born!
65. **TRUDY:** Tell you what... Let's forget about men! They're all idiots, anyway! I've got some news for you.
66. **MERCY:** What news?
67. **TRUDY:** I got a job at a newspaper!
68. **MERCY:** Really? That's cool! What are you doing for them?
69. **TRUDY:** I... Well, they told me to...
70. **MERCY:** **(interrupts her, shouts)** Hey, Linda, don't go too far! ...*Linda!* **(to Trudy)** Sorry, I'll be right back...
71. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS – MERCY RUNNING AWAY**

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: NIKI ARGUES WITH HIS MOTHER

72. ATMO: INSIDE UNIVERSITY HOSTEL

73. SFX: KEYS JINGLE, DOOR OPENS

74. NIKI: (hums as he enters)

75. NIKI: (sniffs) Mff! These gym clothes smell terrible! I
have to take a quick shower before I go to afternoon
class!

76. SFX: NIKI'S MOBILE PHONE RINGS

77. SFX: BEEP AS CALL IS ANSWERED

78. NIKI: Hello?

79. MRS. JUMBE: (on phone) Hey Niki, my son. How are you?

80. NIKI: I'm fine, Mum.

81. MRS. JUMBE: Since you went to university it seems you've
forgotten all about us. You don't write, you don't call
...

82. NIKI: (laughs) You talk as if I'm living abroad. It's not that
far. And I came over to have lunch with Dad just the
other day...

83. MRS. JUMBE: (ignores him) Or is it that girlfriend of yours –
Mercy – who's keeping you away from us?

84. **NIKI:** Mum, stop it!

85. **MRS. JUMBE:** Seriously, Niki. When are you going to get over your obsession with her?

86. **NIKI:** **(angry)** Mum. Is that why you called?

FLASHBACK: Ep. 12, line 2

87. **MRS. JUMBE:** I'm your mother. I'm worried about you, Niki. And I don't think she's good for you! She has a child with another man, and --

88. **NIKI:** **(interrupts her)** I know that! And I'm trying to come to terms with it. But you reminding me about it all the time doesn't make it any easier!

KW BEGIN

89. **MRS. JUMBE:** So why do you insist on being her boyfriend?

90. **NIKI:** **(snaps)** Because I love her, Mum, okay?! I love her, and I don't know what else to do!

91. **MRS. JUMBE:** Niki, you're a handsome boy who can get any girl in the world. You don't need --

92. **NIKI:** Stop it, Mum!

KW END

93. **MRS. JUMBE:** That girl is from the slums...

94. NIKI: I can't listen to this nonsense any more.

95. SFX: LINE DISCONNECTS

KW BEGIN

96. NIKI: (to himself) I've had enough of her controlling me
and telling me what's best for me!

97. SFX: PHONE RINGS

98. SFX: BEEP AS CALL IS ANSWERED

99. NIKI: Hello?

100. MRS. JUMBE: (on phone, not amused) Niki, how dare you hang
up on me --

101. SFX: PHONE DISCONNECTED AGAIN

102. NIKI: (to himself) Ha! And I'll do it again!

KW END

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: TINA AND TRUDY OFFER TO ‘STUDY’ WITH MERCY

103. ATMO: LIBRARY ATMO

104. SFX: PAGES OF BOOK BEING TURNED

105. SFX: STEPS – MERCY ARRIVING

106. MERCY: (low voices throughout the scene) Hi Trudy, hi Tina!

107. TRUDY/TINA: Hi, Mercy!

108. TRUDY: We’ve been waiting for you! We were supposed to meet half an hour ago here in the library! We’ve almost finished ...

109. MERCY: Sorry, Trudy! I had to take Linda to my next-door neighbour in the hostel. She doesn’t have classes today, and she offered to take care of her.

110. SFX: CHAIR SCRAPING

111. SFX: CLOTHES RUSTLING AS MERCY SITS DOWN

112. TRUDY: You look stressed. Is everything okay?

113. MERCY: No! We’re about to sit our first exams next week, and I don’t have the slightest idea what to write.

114. TINA: But that’s because you’ve been missing classes!

115. MERCY: **(sighs)** Tina, you have no idea how hard it's been with Linda around.

116. TINA: I think I do. Taking care of my brother and sisters at home is no picnic, either... My brother's been helping out a little more, though, since he got into trouble and I was there for him.

117. MERCY: What happened?

118. TINA: **(sighs)** He had to be treated in hospital, and --
(changes her mind) Oh, let's not talk about it now. Anyway, he's taking care of our sisters tonight, so I'm free!

119. TRUDY: Cool! **(pause)** I have an idea. Tina, why don't we all meet this evening to help Mercy cheer up?
(corrects herself) Er - I mean... catch up?!
(laughs)

KW BEGIN

120. TINA: Sounds like a good idea! What do you say, Mercy?

121. MERCY: Really? You'd do that for me?

122. TRUDY: Of course, silly! What are friends for?

123. MERCY: **(happy)** Oh, you two are amazing! You can come over to my place, and --

124. TRUDY: No, no – we can't work in your room, with the little one distracting us all the time.

125. MERCY: But I can't leave Linda on her own!

KW END

126. TRUDY: Tell you what, Mercy: ask your housemate to babysit for you tonight, and we'll take you to a quiet place to study. **(laughs)**

127. MERCY: Great. I'll ask her right away. I can't concentrate, anyway.

128. SFX: CHAIR SCRAPING AND CLOTHES RUSTLING

129. SFX: MERCY'S STEPS LEAVING

130. TINA: **(whispering to Trudy)** Trudy – “a quiet place to study”? Where can we go?

131. TRUDY: I want us to take her out, Tina. She's so stressed. We could do with some fun, too, don't you think?

132. TINA: Good idea! I know a place where we can go...

133. TRUDY/ TINA: LAUGHTER

134. MERCY: **(from afar)** Hey, what are you two laughing about?

135. TRUDY/TINA: (at the same time) Nothing!

OUTRO - NARRATOR:

So... Will Tina's and Trudy's plan work out? You'll have to wait until next time to hear - but you can watch Tina's latest video diary right now, at dw.de/lbe. You can also discuss what you've just heard with other Learning by Ear fans on our Facebook page. Take care!