

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 3: Facing the Future

EPISODE 9: Bad News

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List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: MERCY IS STRESSED

- MERCY (F, 18)
- LULU (F, 40'S)
- MNENE (M, 40'S)

SCENE 2: DAN IS FIRED

- DAN (M, 19)
- BOSS (M, 40s)
- 3 MEN (M, ADULT; BILLY SHOULD BE ONE OF THEM)

SCENE 3: LULU VISITS MERCY

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

SCENE 4: TINA IS GIVEN A LECTURE AT THE BROTHEL

- TINA (F, 19)
- MNENE (M, 40s)

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Good to have you back on “Crossroads Generation” for today’s episode in this, the third season of our series! Before we start, let’s recap on what’s happened so far. 19-year-old Dan has a child with his former classmate Mercy – but he left the country after their baby was born three years ago. Now he’s back in town.

KW BEGIN

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 8, LINES 54-58

***DAN:** (...) The work at the building site is really hard! And then there’s my ex-girlfriend...*

***BILLIE:** Mercy, right? What about her?*

***DAN:** (**sighs**) I saw her yesterday... But she wasn’t at all happy to see me! (...) Maybe I should to go back there once I’ve saved up some money so I can show her that I’m ready to help out...*

KW END

3. NARRATOR:

Mercy is studying journalism now, along with her friends Trudy and Tina. Tina’s told them she has a job on the side, but the other girls don’t know what kind of job she meant:

4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 7, LINES 68-70

TINA: *(sweetly)* Who do you want me to be? Cindy? Susanna?

MAN: *I want your real name, not the names you prostitutes use on the streets!*

TINA: *No need to get so cross, baby. I'm Tina. Okay?*

5. NARRATOR:

And she's not the only one with a secret... Almost four years ago, Mercy's father sold his newborn daughter to a local politician called Mukaraba. Mercy's friend Trudy knew about it, and she used the information in an interview with Mukaraba. The old family story has also caused a big fight between Mercy and her mother:

6. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 3, LINES 112-114

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?!*

LULU: *Mercy, I told you the truth! (...)*

MERCY: *Give me my child!*

7. NARRATOR:

Mercy doesn't want her mother to take care of her daughter Linda any more. That's why she took her child back with her to the university hostel. Let's join them there as we start this ninth episode, called "Bad News"...

SCENE 1: MERCY IS STRESSED

8. SFX: TODDLER CRYING CONTINUOUSLY

9. MERCY: (angry) Five minutes! Would you just shut up for five minutes, Linda?! I have so much studying to do!

10. SFX: LINDA CRIES

KW BEGIN

11. MERCY: Linda, you're not a baby any more. You can talk. Why don't you just tell me what the problem is?

12. SFX: LINDA CRIES

13. MERCY: (irritated) What do you want? Just tell me, okay? What is it? Are you in pain? Are you hungry? But you wouldn't eat when I tried to feed you... So what is it?

14. SFX: LINDA CRIES LOUDER

15. MERCY: (shouts) Aaargh! Shut up! Just shut up, please!

16. SFX: LINDA CRIES

KW END

17. MERCY: (deep breath) Okay... I don't know what else to do...

18. SFX: DIALLING ON A MOBILE PHONE; DIAL TONE

19. SFX: PHONE PICKED UP AT OTHER END

20. LULU: (on phone) Hello?

21. MERCY: (shouting) Hello? Mum!

22. LULU: Hello, Mercy! Why are you shouting? Is something wrong?

23. MERCY: It's Linda. She won't stop crying! I don't know what to do... I have so much work to do, and all my friends and neighbours are busy. (crying) I... I didn't know who else to call. I don't know what to do!

KW BEGIN

24. LULU: Does she have a fever?

25. MERCY: (sobs) I don't think so... She's not hot. But I really don't know what to do... I haven't even slept. She cried all night, and...

26. LULU: (cuts in) Hey, hey! Don't you cry! How's that going to help, if both the child and the mother are crying?

27. SFX: BABY CRIES

28. MERCY: (shouts at Linda) Will you shut up, Linda! I'm on the phone!

KW END

29. **LULU:** Mercy, calm down! Don't take it out on your daughter, okay? Listen – if you want me to, I can come over and help you with her.
30. **MERCY:** Oh Mum, would you? I'm so sorry I shouted at you and took Linda away last time I saw you!
31. **LULU:** It's okay, Mercy. We can talk about all that later.
32. **MERCY:** **(sobs)** Thank you, Mum.
33. **LULU:** I'll try and get on the next bus, okay? I just hope there won't be too much traffic.
34. **MERCY:** Okay. I'll see you later. Thanks, Mum!
35. **SFX: BEEP AS PHONE CALL IS ENDED**
36. **SFX: LINDA HAS STOPPED CRYING, SAYS 'MAMA'**
37. **MERCY:** **(deep breath)** I'm sorry, Linda. Mummy's just so tired... It's okay now.
38. **SFX: MERCY'S PHONE RINGS**
39. **MERCY:** **(still sniffing)** Who's that? It's a restricted number...
40. **SFX: BEEP AS CALL IS ANSWERED**

41. **MERCY:** Hello?
42. **MNENE:** **(on phone, threatening voice)** Is this Mercy?
43. **MERCY:** Yes.
44. **MNENE:** Mercy Msoto?
45. **MERCY:** Yes, who is this?
46. **MNENE:** Listen, Mercy Msoto: stop spreading rumours about the Honourable Mukaraba. Keep your big mouth shut, or you will lose your tongue!
47. **MERCY:** Excuse me?! Who is this?
48. **MNENE:** You have been warned! Leave Mukaraba alone!
49. **SFX: PHONE DISCONNECTED**
50. **MERCY:** Hello...? Hello...?
51. **SFX: LINDA STARTS CRYING AGAIN**

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

63. **DAN:** **(approaching)** Sorry I'm late, boss!
64. **BOSS:** Is this the time you come to work, Dan? What did I
tell you about being late?
65. **DAN:** Sir, it was raining and --
66. **BOSS:** Forget it, Dan. You're fired!
67. **DAN:** Please sir, I'm sorry! It won't happen ag --
68. **BOSS:** Get out of here!
69. **DAN:** **(sighs, to himself)** I can't believe this! How am I
going to find another job? And how will I ever be
able to provide for Mercy and our daughter?

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: LULU VISITS MERCY

70. ATMO: INSIDE UNIVERSITY HOSTEL

71. SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR

72. SFX: DOOR OPENING

73. MERCY: (relieved) Mum! I'm so glad you could come! Come in, please!

74. SFX: FOOTSTEPS ENTERING

75. SFX: DOOR CLOSING

76. LULU: (panting) Mercy, they should do something about these stairs. They're not good for old people!

77. MERCY: Well, old people don't live here.

78. LULU: Watch your tongue!

79. MERCY: Sorry, Mum. Please, have a seat. I only have one chair.

80. SFX: CHAIR SCRAPING AS LULU SITS DOWN

81. LULU: Aah... That's better! So, where's my granddaughter?

82. MERCY: She's asleep now, over there on the bed. Finally!

83. LULU: I thought she wasn't sleeping?

84. MERCY: She didn't sleep all night! It's as if she's mocking me!

85. LULU: I know. It's not easy, being a parent! I went through this with all of you.

86. MERCY: **(deep breath)** Mum, tell me the truth, please. Is it true, what Dad told me?

87. LULU: Mercy: do you honestly think I would have agreed to sell my own child? It was your father's decision, and his alone!

KW BEGIN

88. MERCY: Why couldn't you do anything about it?

89. LULU: I was so weak after giving birth to your sister... I never approved your father's plan! Don't you remember that I left your dad and went upcountry to live with my parents for a while? It was because of what he'd done. I only came back because of you, my children!

90. **MERCY:** (sighs) I know.

KW END

91. **LULU:** Mercy, what your father did was terrible. But I think he's trying to make it right. He's going to testify against Mukaraba.

92. **MERCY:** Oh – there's something else I need to talk to you about! Mukaraba or one of his men just threatened me over the phone!

93. **LULU:** What?

FLASHBACK: Ep. 10, line 4

94. **MERCY:** Mum, a man called me and told me not to spread rumours about Mukaraba any more.

95. **LULU:** What? Mercy! You know that it's a sensitive case. We can't talk about it before it goes to court! Why would you go discussing it with people?

96. **MERCY:** I didn't! The only person I told was Trudy. (to herself) And she wouldn't ... would she...?

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: TINA IS GIVEN A LECTURE AT THE BROTHEL

97. ATMO: AT THE NIGHTCLUB, MUSIC HEARD THROUGH DOOR

98. MNENE: Come in, Tina.

99. SFX: DOOR CLOSING

KW BEGIN

100. TINA: Can you put the lights on, please? It's so dark in here.

101. MNENE: It's not your place to tell me how dark it is in my office. Sit down!

KW END

102. SFX: CHAIR SCRAPING

103. MNENE: I heard you arguing with a client the other day. What happened?

104. TINA: Nothing.

105. MNENE: It didn't sound like nothing.

106. TINA: He refused to pay me after ... you know what.

KW BEGIN

107. MNENE: But we've talked about this before. They should pay you first, before you go anywhere with them.

108. TINA: He sounded genuine, and --

109. MNENE: Don't be naive. The people who come to these streets looking for a good time are anything but genuine!

110. TINA: I'm sorry, Mr. M.

KW END

111. MNENE: You know the rules. We agreed when you first came here that it's best if we don't attract attention to ourselves, didn't we?

112. TINA: Yes, but I didn't attract --

113. MNENE: You were shouting! What do you call that? Doesn't that attract attention?

114. TINA: **(silent)**

115. MNENE: Doesn't it?

116. TINA: I'm sorry. It won't happen again.

- 117. MNENE:** (coldly) It'd better not. This is a very private business, and the boss doesn't tolerate such behaviour.
- 118. TINA:** Yes, sir.
- 119. MNENE:** You will pay for the room you used, and --
- 120. TINA:** But sir, that is not fair! It's my body, and my life. I --
- 121. MNENE:** AND the thirty percent commission we agreed for every client.
- 122. TINA:** But, please, I have to pay the rent and buy food for my brother and sisters! I have to pay for university, and --
- 123. MNENE:** (interrupts) That will be all. Get out!
- 124. TINA:** (sighs)

OUTRO - NARRATOR:

And with that sigh from Tina, we end today's episode of "Crossroads Generation". Check out Tina's personal video diary to find out how she deals with what just happened. You'll find it on our webpage dw.de/lbe. There you can also listen to this or to any of the previous episodes again. Until next time, it's goodbye from us!