

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 3: Facing the Future

EPISODE 2: A Changed Man

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List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: THE RETURN OF MSOTO

- LULU (F, 40s)
- MSOTO (M, 40s)

SCENE 2: MUKARABA ON THE RADIO

- MODERATOR (M/F, ADULT)
- MUKARABA (M, LATE 50s)
- JUMBE (M, 50s)
- NIKI (M, 19)

SCENE 3: MERCY AND HER FRIENDS DO HOMEWORK

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

SCENE 4: MSOTO SURPRISES MERCY AT UNI

- SHOPKEEPER (M/F, ADULT)
- MSOTO (M, 40s)
- MERCY (F, 18)

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hello again! Glad to have you back for Crossroads Generation, our radio drama about a group of young Africans! We've just started our third season. Last time, Mercy and Trudy seemed to be enjoying their first day at university. And they made a new friend – Tina, who's studying journalism with them. Mercy earned herself a brand new nickname when her mother called her in the middle of their first lecture:

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 1, LINES 41-45

PROF. NYAMBUNE: *(strict)* All mobile phones should be switched off during my class!

SFX: *BEEP AS CALL IS DENIED*

MERCY: *(to herself)* Okay, I'll just have to call her after class... **(to professor)** Sorry, Professor.

PROF. NYAMBUNE: *(continues)* Where was I? ... Right. I'm Professor Nyambune. So: what is journalism? You, sitting next to 'Miss Ringtone'?

STUDENTS: *(laugh)*

3. NARRATOR:

Niki Jumbe, who used to go to high school with Mercy and Trudy, is studying health and nutrition at the same university. We also met Mercy's family again. Her mother, Lulu, is looking after Mercy's little daughter, Linda, while Mercy goes to university. Lulu threw Mercy's father Msoto out a long time ago:

KW BEGIN

4. FLASHBACK: SEASON 2, EPISODE 25, LINES 17, 23-25

MSOTO: My wife, please – I am so sorry I sold our baby girl to Mukaraba.

But they've said we have a real chance of getting her back.(...)

LULU: Just go, Msoto, before I call the police.

MSOTO: (sighs) All right.

LULU: And don't come back here again!

KW END

5. NARRATOR:

But Msoto *has* come back... What does he want? We're about to find out in today's episode: "A Changed Man".

SCENE 1: THE RETURN OF MSOTO

6. ATMO: TANDIKA, INDOORS

7. LULU: So, Msoto, the boys have gone out and Linda's asleep. Tell me: what brings you here from whatever hole you've been hiding in for the past three years?

8. MSOTO: **(ignores her)** Lulu, I see you have a TV these days! Your vegetable business must be doing well.

9. LULU: MY business is none of YOUR business, Msoto! Why are you here? You went to stay with the Jumbe family after the police released you three years ago, and then you disappeared to look for work upcountry. So why on earth have you come back now?

10. MSOTO: **(ignores her)** Is she Mercy's? The little one on the bed?

11. LULU: Msoto - what do you want?

KW BEGIN

12. **MSOTO:** Can't a man visit his wife without wanting something?
13. **LULU:** I told you years ago: I am not your wife any more!
14. **MSOTO:** Well, I haven't seen the divorce papers, so as far I am concerned, you're still my wife.
15. **LULU:** Is that what brought you all the way from God knows where?

KW END

16. **MSOTO:** Lulu, I have to tell you: since I became enlightened by the almighty King Karubu, I am a changed man.
17. **LULU:** A changed man indeed! A man who doesn't even know his own grandchild. Spare me this nonsense! And who's this king you're talking about?
18. **MSOTO:** King Karubu is --
19. **LULU:** **(laughs sarcastically)** Oh, why did I even ask? Look, I don't have time for this. Leave us alone!
20. **MSOTO:** **(deep breath)** I came to testify against Mukaraba.
21. **LULU:** What?

22. MSOTO: I'm not allowed to talk about it, as the investigations are still ongoing, but... Inspector Mary contacted me and offered me a deal. She said she can't promise anything for sure, but that it looks good, and that --

23. LULU: **(interrupts)** What deal, Msoto?

24. MSOTO: I testify against Mukaraba, in return for immunity **(pause)** ... and a chance to get our baby back.

25. LULU: You dare to talk to me about our baby who YOU sold to that man Mukaraba all those years ago?!

26. MSOTO: We needed the money --

27. LULU: YOU needed the money - for drink! Out! Go on, get out!

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: MUKARABA ON THE RADIO

28. ATMO: AT THE JUMBES', DAYTIME

29. SFX: CUTLERY (NIKI AND HIS FATHER EATING)

30. JUMBE: Niki, it's nice that you came to visit me here at home. How's university?

31. NIKI: Fine.

32. JUMBE: Let me turn on the radio. I'd like to listen to that new programme on the elections...

33. NIKI: Okay, Dad.

**34. SFX: RADIO SWITCHED ON, MUSIC IN BACKGROUND UNTIL
MODERATOR STARTS TALKING**

35. JUMBE: Please, give me some water, Niki. I'm so thirsty today...

36. SFX: WATER POURED INTO GLASS

37. JUMBE: Thank you.

38. NIKI: Have you finished eating already?

39. JUMBE: Yes... You know I'm on my diet...

40. NIKI: But Dad, I told you --

41. JUMBE: **(interrupts)** Shh! Let me listen to this!

- 42. MODERATOR: (on radio):** Welcome again, dear listeners, to another edition of *Know Your Leader*, a debate in which the election candidates explain their agenda to you, the voters. Today we're privileged to have with us an aspiring Member of Parliament for the community of Tandika in the upcoming elections: the Honourable Moses Mukaraba.
- 43. JUMBE: (disrespectful)** This man just can't get enough...
- 44. MUKARABA: (on radio)** Good afternoon.
- 45. MODERATOR:** Mr. Mukaraba has declared his interest in standing for the Tandika parliamentary seat in the elections in three months' time. The question we're asking him today is why he thinks he's qualified to lead us. Mr. Mukaraba?
- 46. MUKARABA: (chuckles)** Well, I have been a councillor before, of course. The people of Tandika have already seen what I've done for them, and --
- 47. MODERATOR:** But why should we trust you with our vote?

KW BEGIN

48. MUKARABA: Two things. Firstly, as I said, my record as a councillor speaks for itself. And secondly: I haven't been part of our national parliament before. I think I've earned that chance.

49. MODERATOR: But Mr. Mukaraba, surely you can't expect people to vote for you just because you haven't been an MP before. What do you intend to do for them?

KW END

50. MUKARABA: I will fast-track the construction of roads, improve the education system, and fight against corruption and illegal businesses. And those are just some of my plans. I also intend to improve security for the people of this country. I will fight against --

51. JUMBE: Argh! Always the same promises.

52. SFX: RADIO SWITCHED OFF

53. JUMBE: I can't listen to it any more!

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: THE GIRLS DO HOMEWORK

54. ATMO: INSIDE MERCY’S ROOM, UNIVERSITY HOSTEL

55. SFX: BOOK PAGES TURNING

56. TRUDY: Hey Mercy - or should I say “Miss Ringtone”?
(laughs) What did our professor say again? About the definition of journalism?

57. TINA: **(laughs)**

58. MERCY: Trudy, if you insist on calling me that, I won’t tell you a thing!

59. TINA: Come on, Ringtone. Help out a friend!

KW BEGIN

60. MERCY: For your information, Tina, my friends call me Mercy.

61. TRUDY: Okay, okay... Oh, hang on, I remember it now.
(recites) Journalism is the art of gathering and disseminating information.

62. MERCY: **(makes a buzzer noise)** Wrong!

63. TRUDY: What? No way!

- 64. MERCY:** You forgot to add something: gathering and disseminating information *to a mass audience*.
- 65. TRUDY:** Argh! I was so close!
- 66. MERCY:** Serves you right for not taking notes!
- 67. TRUDY:** Hey, you were the one who got a phone call during the lecture, Mercy!

KW END

- 68. MERCY:** Listen, you two are the ones interrupting my private time in MY room! I have to catch the bus to my mum's place. I need to see Linda, and at this time of day the journey could take hours. I really need to get going!

FLASHBACK: Ep. 4, line 6

- 69. TINA:** Yeah, I'm going to go home, too. I live an hour away from the university - my brother and sisters will be waiting for me already...

70. **TRUDY:** No, no, no, no, no! Come on, you two! Mercy, your daughter is just fine with her grandmother. I have a better idea. Let's dance! Don't you have some music here, Mercy?
71. **MERCY:** Dance? You girls clearly have too much time on your hands! You need something to keep you busy - a job, or something.
72. **TRUDY:** **(suddenly thoughtful)** You're right, Mercy! I hate it that all we do is sit and take notes. We need to put what we're learning into practice!
73. **TINA:** No, thanks. I already have a job.
74. **MERCY/TRUDY:** What job, Tina?
75. **TINA:** None of your business.
76. **SFX: PHONE RINGS**
77. **TRUDY:** Hey, Ringtone! Your boyfriend's calling.
78. **TINA:** Who's your boyfriend? Is he the father of your child?
79. **MERCY:** Nooo! That guy took off a long time ago! My boyfriend's called Niki. **(irritated)** But that's not him... I don't know this number.

80. SFX: BEEP AS PHONE IS ANSWERED

81. MERCY: Hello? ... **(surprised)** Dad??? ... What? ... *Where* are you? ... Here at the university? ... Erm... Well, I don't have much time... Okay.

82. SFX: BEEP AS PHONE IS PHONE DISCONNECTED

83. MERCY: I don't believe this.

84. TRUDY: Your dad? I thought he left a long time ago?

85. MERCY: Well, it seems he's back - and he wants to see me...

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: MSOTO MEETS MERCY AT THE UNIVERSITY

KW BEGIN

86. ATMO: UNIVERSITY GROUNDS, OUTDOORS, PEOPLE

TALKING, BIRDS SINGING, A FEW CARS

PASSING BY

87. MSOTO: Hi there. A bottle of soda, please.

88. SFX: COINS JINGLE.

89. SHOPKEEPER: There you go. Shall I open it for you?

90. MSOTO: Yes, please.

91. SFX: BOTTLE IS OPENED.

92. MSOTO: Thank you.

93. SHOPKEEPER: Anything else?

94. MSOTO: No, I just need something to drink while I wait for my daughter. **(proudly)** She's at university here.

KW END

95. SFX: MERCY'S FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING

96. MERCY: **(reluctant)** Hi, Dad.

97. MSOTO: Mercy, my daughter! Come here! Give me a hug!

98. MERCY: **(unsure)** Erm... I don't know...

99. SILENCE

100. MSOTO: Um... You look good.

KW BEGIN

101. MERCY: You too. I've never seen you in a suit before!

102. MSOTO: King Karubu has changed me, my daughter.

103. MERCY: Sorry, who?

104. MSOTO: Mercy - the King has enlightened me.

105. MERCY: **(confused)** Okay...

106. MSOTO: Never mind. I'll tell you about him later. How has my daughter been?

107. MERCY: I'm fine, Dad. I like it here.

108. MSOTO: I am very proud of you.

KW END

109. MERCY: **(confused)** Wow... You never told me that before...
Where have you been all this time, Dad?

110. MSOTO: Upcountry... But now I'm back in town!

111. MERCY: **(still not very happy)** Just like that?

112. MSOTO: Well... I came back because of... of... your sister.

113. MERCY: **(confused)** My sister?

FLASHBACK: Ep. 3, line 4

114. MSOTO: (uncomfortable) Mercy, I... You're an adult now and I don't think we should keep this from you any more. Your baby sister didn't die after your mother gave birth to her. She's alive, and I ... !

115. MERCY: (interrupts) 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!

116. SFX: FOOTSTEPS MERCY (CONTINUOUS)

117. MSOTO: (calls from afar) Mercy, wait...Did your mother also tell you that she was part of the plan?

118. SFX: FOOTSTEPS STOP

119. MERCY: What?

OUTRO – NARRATOR:

Mercy can't believe her ears. Is her father telling the truth? Be sure to tune in next time to find out how the story continues! Link up with us on dw.de/lbe if you want to know more about Crossroads Generation. You can also follow us on Facebook. Until then - bye for now!