

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 3: Facing the Future

EPISODE 21: Justice For Trudy!

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List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: MERCY AND TINA TALK ABOUT TRUDY'S DEATH

- **MERCY (F, 18)**
- **TINA (F, 19)**
- **STUDENTS: 5-8 (M/F, 20s)**
- **STUDENT LEADER: (M/F, 20s)**

SCENE 2: BILLY LAUGHS AT DAN FOR KNITTING

- **DAN (M, 19)**
- **GEORGE (M, 20s)**
- **BILLY (M, 20s)**

SCENE 3: TINA TELLS MERCY ABOUT THEIR SECRET WHILE STUDENTS

GATHER

- **TINA (F, 19)**
- **MERCY (F, 18)**
- **STUDENTS: 5-8 (M/F, 20s)**
- **STUDENT LEADER: (M/F, 20s)**

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hello and welcome back to “Crossroads Generation”. We’re getting near the end of this third season... This is the 21st of 26 episodes and we’re going to start right away. Just a quick recap of what’s happened so far: Previously, an accidental encounter with a kind lady in his neighbourhood opened up a whole new world of possibilities for Dan:

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 18, LINES 57-59

DAN: Could you teach me how to make those ornaments?

OLD WOMAN: (chuckles, surprised) You want to learn knitting?

DAN: Yes, please!

3. NARRATOR:

But things aren’t looking as good for everybody right now. The local politician, Mukaraba, has just been fined by the judge because he was involved in a case of illegal adoption. University student Tina has been struggling to find the money to feed her brother and sisters, so she took a job in a club, as a call girl. And 18-year-old Mercy was just talking to her mother about the marriage proposal she received from her boyfriend Niki, when her phone rang. It was Tina, with some very bad news:

4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 20, LINES 118, 124, 127

TINA: *(almost in tears)* Something... something's happened to Trudy.

(...) She's... She's... She's dead.

MERCY: *(cries)* No! You're lying! Trudy's not dead!

5. NARRATOR:

Mercy is devastated. She and Trudy had been friends for a long time, and they'd just started studying journalism at university together. Mercy's still in shock as we start this 21st episode, entitled "Justice for Trudy".

SCENE 1: MERCY AND TINA TALK ABOUT TRUDY'S DEATH

6. ATMO: UNIVERSITY ATMO, INSIDE HOSTEL

KW BEGIN

7. MERCY: *(cries)* Oh no! No! No!

8. TINA: Calm down, Mercy, please! Come on, let's sit down over here, on your bed. It's good that you could get back to the university so fast.

9. SFX: BED CREAKING / CLOTHES RUSTLING

10. MERCY: I don't believe it, Tina. It can't be true! Trudy can't be gone!

11. TINA: She is, Mercy. I'm so sorry. The police took her away yesterday. There's nothing we can do...

KW END

12. **MERCY:** **(deep breath)** Okay, Tina. Tell me: what happened? How...? I mean...
13. **TINA:** The police didn't want to say anything, but the students who live in that building say they heard a shot.
14. **MERCY:** What??? Trudy was shot? I thought she must have had an accident or something?!
15. **TINA:** **(bitter)** No. This wasn't an accident.
16. **MERCY:** What do you mean?
17. **TINA:** Everybody's saying it was a robbery gone wrong. That she was shot by thieves who'd broken into the students' hostel. But --
18. **MERCY:** **(interrupts)** What? Thieves? Oh no... Maybe I could have helped her if I'd been here! **(remorseful)** Oh, why did I have to go see my mother and Linda that day! I could have waited until the weekend – maybe --

19. **TINA:** Mercy, please, listen to me! I don't think either you or I could have done anything! (**urgently, low voice**) And I don't think it was thieves who did that to her.
20. **MERCY:** (**startled**) What? What do you mean?
21. **TINA:** (**serious tone**) Mercy, there's something I need to tell you.
22. **MERCY:** (**sniffles**) What?
23. **STUDENT LEADER: (heard from outside, far away)** We want justice!
24. **CROWD:** (**heard from outside**) We want justice!
25. **STUDENT LEADER:** We want security!
26. **CROWD:** We want security!
27. **TINA:** (**talking above them**) What's that? Sounds like all the other students are gathering outside...

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: BILLY LAUGHS AT DAN FOR KNITTING

28. ATMO: SLUM ATMO, INDOORS

29. SFX: RUSTLING OF PLASTIC BAGS, KNITTING NEEDLES

30. DAN: (to himself) Okay, this one's done, now, too. I'm getting faster and better every day! I think my teacher will be very proud! **(laughs)** Man, if anyone had told me a month ago that I, Dan Kanyama, would be spending my days knitting...

31. SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR

32. DAN: Come in, it's open.

33. SFX: DOOR OPENS

34. GEORGE: Hi, Dan!

35. DAN: Hi, George! You're late today.

36. GEORGE: Sorry, Dan. The garbage trucks were late, too. But we managed to get more plastic bags than usual. Here they are...

37. SFX: RUSTLING OF PLASTIC BAGS

38. DAN: Ah! Great – thank you. Here's your money.

39. SFX: BILLS AND COINS EXCHANGE HANDS

40. SFX: DAN'S CELLPHONE RINGS

41. **GEORGE:** Cool! See you tomorrow.
42. **DAN:** Bye! **(to himself)** Who's calling now...?
43. **SFX: DOOR CLOSING**
44. **SFX: BEEP AS PHONE IS ANSWERED**
45. **DAN:** Hello?
46. **BILLY:** **(on phone)** Hey, Dan!
47. **DAN:** Billy! Nice of you to call. Where've you been hiding, man?
48. **BILLY:** **(on phone)** Just around and about. Listen, are you still looking for a job?
49. **DAN:** Well... no, not really. Why? Did you find one?
50. **BILLY:** Yes, I did. Guess what? I'm now an assistant contractor in a big construction company.
51. **DAN:** Wow! Really? Good for you, man. How did you...?
52. **BILLY:** My cousin is the boss there. He hooked me up.
53. **DAN:** Oh, I see.
54. **BILLY:** Listen, the reason I'm calling is that there's a supervisory role on one of our sites, and I suggested you.

55. **DAN:** Oh... Thanks! That's really nice of you. But... I don't know, Billy.
56. **BILLY:** What do you mean, you don't know?
57. **DAN:** You see, I really did start my own business. And it looks as if it's going quite well.
58. **BILLY:** What business? Burrowing in garbage like a rat?
59. **DAN:** Well... That one didn't quite work out. But I've actually found a way to make women's handbags out of garbage.

KW BEGIN

60. **BILLY:** **(laughs)** What? So now you stay at home and sew like an old lady?
61. **DAN:** **(uncomfortable)** Actually, it's knitting, not sewing.
62. **BILLY:** **(bursts out laughing)** That's even better!
63. **DAN:** Well, it pays my bills. And I really like it!
64. **BILLY:** Listen, man! This is the opportunity of a lifetime! You'll make so much money!

65. DAN: Billy, thank you for the thought, but I think I'll just stick to my bags. I mean, I'm my own boss here... And I've even had an offer of a business cooperation...

KW END

66. BILLY: I can't believe this. You're letting a good job go so you can sit at home making handbags?

67. DAN: Billy, I like doing what I'm doing. And besides, it's good for the environment.

68. BILLY: Okay, '*Mr. Environment*' - but don't come crying to me when it all goes wrong, okay? **(sarcastic laugh)**

69. SFX: PHONE IS DISCONNECTED

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: TINA TELLS TRUDY HER SECRET WHILE STUDENTS

GATHER OUTSIDE

**70. ATMO: INSIDE UNIVERSITY HOSTEL, STUDENTS HEARD
THROUGH WINDOW**

71. STUDENT LEADER: (from afar) We want justice!

72. CROWD: (from afar) We want justice!

73. STUDENT LEADER: We want security!

74. CROWD: We want security!

75. STUDENT LEADER: Comrade power!

76. CROWD: Comrade power!

**77. MERCY: (close to mic) Look, Tina, all the other
students are protesting for Trudy!**

**78. TINA: (close to mic) You're right, Mercy. Let's open
the window to see what's going on!**

79. SFX: WINDOW BEING OPENED

**80. ATMO: OUTDOOR ATMO AND STUDENTS' SHOUTING HEARD
THROUGH OPEN WINDOW**

FLASHBACK: Ep. 22, line 2

81. **STUDENT LEADER:** It seems that robbers can easily get into the hostels - and they've killed our friend! This cannot happen again! Justice for Trudy, security for the students!
82. **CROWD:** Justice for Trudy, security for the students!
83. **STUDENT LEADER:** As a first step, we're going to protect our hostels ourselves!
84. **CROWD:** Yes! Comrade power!
85. **STUDENT LEADER:** But we're also addressing all the politicians. They lie to us, and make all kinds of promises whenever they want to be elected. But once they get into power, they do nothing at all about the insecurity in our country!
86. **CROWD:** We want security!
87. **MERCY:** Do you know them, Tina?
88. **TINA:** Not all of them.
89. **MERCY:** I think it's great that they are doing this for Trudy!
90. **TINA:** Yes, but -- Mercy, I --

91. MERCY: Shh, let me hear what they're saying!

KW BEGIN

92. STUDENT LEADER: They are now busy travelling all around, making more false promises in order to get themselves re-elected! Down with the politicians!

93. CROWD: Down with the politicians!

94. STUDENT LEADER: Are we going to allow the politicians to lie to us again?

95. CROWD: No!

KW END

96. STUDENT LEADER: We won't rest until they hear us!

97. CROWD: Yes!

98. STUDENT LEADER: Comrade power!

99. CROWD: Comrade power!

100. MERCY: Tina, shouldn't we be with them? Maybe that's the last thing we can do for Trudy!

101. TINA: Wait, Mercy. There is something else we can do. It has to do with why Trudy was killed.

102. **MERCY:** Right – you said you wanted to tell me something about that...?
103. **TINA:** Close the window.
104. **MERCY:** **(confused)** Okay.
105. **SFX: WINDOW CLOSED**
106. **ATMO: INSIDE UNIVERSITY HOSTEL**
107. **STUDENTS:** **(heard from outside, then fade down)** Justice for Trudy! We want security!
108. **TINA:** **(deep breath)** Mercy, this has to remain between me and you, okay?
109. **MERCY:** I promise.
110. **TINA:** I think Mukaraba was behind Trudy's death.
111. **MERCY:** Nooo. That can't be it. What does he have to do with anything? Trudy wrote that article about him and the baby ages ago. And he's been found guilty of illegal adoption now – it's all out in the open!

FLASHBACK: Ep. 22, line 4

112. **TINA:** That's not what I'm talking about. **(sighs)** Trudy came to see me about a story she wanted to do for the student radio. **It was about the brothel in town.**

- 113. MERCY:** I don't understand --
- 114. TINA:** **(interrupts)** It's run by Mukaraba.
- 115. MERCY:** What? How do you know?
- 116. TINA:** Well, I told you about my job... remember? We're not supposed to know, but I'm sure Mukaraba's the one behind that racket! I've heard him in the office several times, talking to Mister M. He's the one who speaks on his behalf...
- 117. MERCY:** Tina, are you sure?
- 118. TINA:** Yes. At first, I didn't want Trudy to do the investigation. But then I decided to help her. I was her source! We got some pretty explosive material. She was just about to write her report...
- KW BEGIN**
- 119. MERCY:** Tina! What did you get yourselves involved in?
- 120. TINA:** I wanted to tell people the truth about Mukaraba! And I wanted to help all the other girls who are being treated so badly!
- 121. MERCY:** But... This puts you in danger, too!

- 122. TINA:** If they knew that I was Trudy's source, they would have done something about it by now. They don't know. And they won't find out. I've quit my job there. I'm not going to work as a call girl any more.
- 123. MERCY:** What? Wow! That's great! But still, I mean... what if they found something at Trudy's place that gave you away? You just said it was really explosive material!
- 124. TINA:** It is. **(deep breath)**
- KW END** But Trudy didn't have it with her. I've got it right here. And I'm going to make sure it gets broadcast!
- 125. MERCY:** What??? This is too dangerous, Tina! You have to get rid of it! You've seen what's happened to our friend!
- 126. TINA:** **(interrupts)** I owe it to Trudy. And to be honest... I could use your help.
- 127. MERCY:** **(gasps)**

OUTRO – NARRATOR:

And with that we come to the end of this emotional episode! What will Mercy do? If you missed part of this or any previous episode, don't worry! Just visit our website dw.de/lbe. Until then, take care!