

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 3: Facing the Future

EPISODE 16: Aftermath

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List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: MERCY ARRESTED

- TINA (F, 19)
- MERCY (F, 18)
- MAN (M, ADULT)
- COP (M, ADULT)

SCENE 2: MUKARABA BRIBES JUDGE

- JUDGE RAY (M, 50s)
- MUKARABA (M, 50s)

SCENE 3: TINA CALLS LULU

- KADU (M, 11)
- LULU (F, 40s)
- TINA (F, 19)

SCENE 4: MERCY AND LULU FIGHT

- OFFICER (M/F, ADULT)
- MERCY (F, 19)
- LULU (F, 40s)

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hi there, and welcome back to the third season of “Crossroads Generation”, our ongoing radio drama. This is the 16th episode, entitled “Aftermath”. Before we start, let’s look back at what happened last time... Mercy’s father Msoto was involved in a case of illegal adoption four years ago: he sold his newborn baby to the wealthy politician Mukaraba. Now the case is in court, and Msoto has testified against Mukaraba. But Mukaraba is determined to leave the courtroom a free man – with a little help:

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 15, LINES 90, 97, 100-102

***MNENE:** Your Honour, I have a message for you from the Honourable Mukaraba. (...) He asked me to tell you to go easy on the baby case.*

***JUDGE:** Well, then...*

SFX: RUSTLING OF PAPER / BILLS

***JUDGE:** Give this money back to the Honourable Mukaraba, and tell him that he will have to come and see me in person if he wants my help.*

3. NARRATOR:

In the meantime, 18-year-old Mercy was having a good time with her friend Tina from university. They went out to have a drink while Mercy's mother was taking care of Mercy's three-year-old daughter. On their way back, Tina wanted to teach Mercy how to drive a car...

4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 15, LINES 131-135

***MERCY:** I'm doing it! I'm driving! This is fun! You were right!*

***TINA:** Hey, watch the road. Stay on this side!*

***SFX:** CAR ARRIVES AND HOOTS*

***TINA:** (alarmed) The brake! The brake! Step on the brake!*

***TINA/MERCY:** (scream)*

5. NARRATOR:

Let's join them right there to find out what happened!

SCENE 1: MERCY ARRESTED

6. ATMO: CITY, NIGHT-TIME, LIGHT TRAFFIC (HEARD IN CAR)

KW BEGIN

7. MERCY: (scared) Oh no... What happened?

8. TINA: Mercy! I told you to step on the brake, not the accelerator!

9. MERCY: I'm sorry, I... It moved so fast! I hope I didn't hurt anybody!

10. TINA: Shit, the driver of the other car...

11. MERCY: What? Is he hurt? Is he --

12. TINA: No... he's coming over!

13. MERCY: (panic) Oh my God! What do we do? What do we do?

14. TINA: Don't panic. Let's just get out and talk to him. Let me do the talking!

15. SFX: CAR DOOR OPENED

KW END

16. MAN: (unfriendly, arriving) Are you girls okay? Are you hurt?

17. TINA: No, we're okay.

18. **MAN:** What were you doing driving on the wrong side of the road? You're lucky I swerved just in time.
19. **TINA:** You're right. We were all very lucky. I suggest --
20. **MAN:** **(interrupts her)** Hey, what's with your friend? Is she okay? Why isn't she speaking?
21. **TINA:** I think she's just shaken!
22. **MAN:** And what's that smell...? Hey, are you girls drunk?
23. **TINA:** Sir, I'm sure we can solve this little problem.
24. **MAN:** Little problem? You can talk! Your car only has a small scratch, but mine is ruined!
25. **TINA:** Ruined? Come on, it's hardly scratched! I --
26. **SFX: POLICE CAR ARRIVES WITH SIREN**
27. **TINA:** Shit!
28. **SFX: CAR STOPS, DOOR OPENS**
29. **COP:** What happened here? Is anyone hurt?
30. **MAN:** Fortunately not, Officer. But these two scraped my car! They seem to be drunk.
31. **COP:** Girls, show me your driving licenses, please.
32. **TINA:** Sir, my friend forgot hers at home. But here's mine.
33. **COP:** Were you the one driving?

34. **TINA:** No, but --
35. **COP:** So be quiet and let her speak. Where's your license?
36. **MERCY:** I... I...
37. **COP:** You were driving without a license?
38. **MERCY:** No, I mean ...
39. **COP:** Are you drunk?
40. **MERCY:** **SILENT**
41. **TINA:** Sir, she --
42. **COP:** I told you to shut your mouth! **(to Mercy)** Hey, you, I asked you a question. Have you been drinking?
43. **MERCY:** Just a tiny bit, sir.
44. **COP:** You are under arrest for drunk driving and driving without a license.
45. **MERCY:** Oh no!
46. **TINA:** Please, officer – I have some money. We can solve this another way, can't we?
47. **COP:** I told you to shut up! Now you are under arrest too, for attempting to bribe an officer!
48. **TINA:** Shit!

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: MUKARABA BRIBES JUDGE

49. ATMO: OUTSIDE, EVENING, QUIET NEIGHBOURHOOD

50. JUDGE RAY: Puh! Out of the office at last! It took me hours to finish those documents...

51. SFX: STEPS APPROACHING

52. MUKARABA: Hello, Judge Ray.

53. JUDGE RAY: (**deep startled breath**) Oh my God! Mr. Mukaraba, you almost gave me a heart attack!

54. MUKARABA: Sorry about that, Your Honour.

55. JUDGE RAY: What are you doing here at this time of the evening?

56. MUKARABA: You suggested that I should come myself if I wanted your help. Well, here I am.

KW BEGIN

57. JUDGE RAY: It took you long enough! Why didn't you come to my office during working hours?

58. MUKARABA: I know you're a busy man. And so am I. No need to waste each other's time.

59. JUDGE RAY: I see.

- 60. MUKARABA:** So, tell me: why did you want me to come in person?
- 61. JUDGE RAY:** Because it's a very delicate matter. And I need to be sure that this is not a trick.
- 62. MUKARABA:** No trick.
- KW END** I'm offering you a good fifty thousand. And there's the little matter of the promotion that's escaped you over the years, or so I've heard...
- 63. JUDGE RAY:** If that is what you heard...
- 64. MUKARABA:** Judge Ray, I know a lot of people in high places. If you help me, I might put in a good word for you about that promotion you've been looking for.
- 65. JUDGE RAY:** Done!
- 66. MUKARABA:** **(happily)** All right! So – here you are.
- 67. SFX MONEY HANDED OVER, BILLS FLIPPED THROUGH**
- 68. JUDGE RAY:** Thank you, Mr. Mukaraba. It was good doing business with you.
- 69. MUKARABA:** Likewise. Goodbye, then, Judge Ray.
- 70. SFX: FOOTSTEPS WALKING AWAY**
- 71. JUDGE RAY:** **(to himself)** Just what I was hoping for...

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: TINA CALLS LULU

72. ATMO: SLUM ATMO, INDOORS

73. SFX: SOMEONE WASHING DISHES (IN A BOWL, NO RUNNING WATER)

74. LULU: (shouts) Kadu! Help me wash these dishes, okay?

75. SFX: FOOTSTEPS ARRIVING

76. KADU: (sulking) Why is it always me who has to help?

77. LULU: Where's your brother Banda?

78. KADU: He's gone out to meet Dad.

79. LULU: What? I told your father that I didn't want him to take you to his prayer meetings!

80. KADU: Why can't he go there?

81. LULU: Because I say so.

82. KADU: I don't want him to go there, either. All he talks about now is King Karubu. He doesn't even want to play football any more. But I don't care! I can play with Sama after school.

KW BEGIN

83. LULU: Who's this Sama I keep hearing about? Is she in your class?

84. KADU: Yes! The other boys say she can't play football, but that's not true! She knows some good kicks because of her brothers!

85. LULU: You two had better stay out of mischief...

KW END

86. SFX: LULU'S MOBILE PHONE RINGS

87. SFX: BEEP AS CALL IS ANSWERED

88. LULU: Hello?

89. TINA: **(on phone)** Hello, am I speaking to Mama Mercy?

90. LULU: Yes. Who is this?

91. TINA: My name is Tina. I'm Mercy's friend, and --

92. LULU: What about Mercy?

93. TINA: **(uncomfortable)** She was... we were involved in a car accident.

94. LULU: **(shocked)** What? Is she okay? Where is she?

95. TINA: She's fine... but... she was arrested. She's at the police station.

96. LULU: At the police station? Why?

97. **TINA:** (uneasy) I... we, uh, hit somebody. She was driving.

98. **LULU:** Oh my god! When did she start driving? And in whose car? I don't understand...

99. **SFX: CELL DISCONNECTED**

100. **LULU:** Hello? Hello?

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: MERCY AND LULU FIGHT

101. **ATMO: AT THE POLICE STATION**

102. **OFFICER:** Visiting time is limited. You have ten minutes to speak to your daughter.

103. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS COP GOES AWAY**

104. **MERCY:** (happily) Mum! Thank you so much for coming!

105. **LULU:** (angrily) Mercy, what were you thinking? When did you start drinking?

KW BEGIN

106. **MERCY:** I don't drink.

107. **LULU:** DON'T you lie to me!

108. **MERCY:** **SILENT**

109. LULU: And what were you thinking, driving a car? Drunk!
You don't even have a licence!

110. MERCY: **SILENT**

111. LULU: You judge your father, but what do you do? The very same thing! You drink, and you end up in a police cell, exactly like him!

KW END

112. MERCY: I just had a drink with a friend, Mum! I'm so sorry about what happened afterwards. But nobody got hurt, and...

113. LULU: Yes, and I'm grateful for that. But I'm so disappointed in you! I thought you were smart! I thought you were responsible! You have a daughter, Mercy! Have you thought about her?

114. MERCY: I'm sorry, Mum. I just wanted to have some fun for once...

115. LULU: Life is not about fun, Mercy! I work hard to help you go to university while I take care of your daughter. Do you think this is fun?

116. MERCY: Mum, it won't happen again, I promise!

- 117. LULU:** I should hope not! Because if you carry on like this, I won't support you any more.
- 118. MERCY:** Mum, please!
- 119. LULU:** **(sighs)** They want a lot of money for your bail! And to repair the car you hit. I don't have that kind of money.
- 120. MERCY:** What about... what about Dad?
- 121. LULU:** I did tell him about it, but I haven't heard from him since.
- 122. SFX: STEPS APPROACH**
- 123. OFFICER:** Time's up! Back to the cells.
- 124. MERCY:** **(sobs)** Please, Mum, don't go!
- 125. LULU:** I'll be back tomorrow. Bye, Mercy.

OUTRO – NARRATOR:

And that's how we end it for today. But the story continues on our webpage, where Tina's latest video blog is waiting for you. If you want to know how she's feeling after the car accident, log on to dw.de/lbe. And tune in next time to find out how things develop for Mercy, and how her boyfriend Niki reacts when he finds out she's being held at the police station. Take care!