

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 3: Facing the Future

EPISODE 12: Unidentified Objects

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List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: COURT ROOM

- COURT CLERK (M/F, ADULT)
- JUDGE RAY (M, 50s)
- PROSECUTOR (F/M, 40s)
- LAWYER (M/F, LATE 30s)
- SEDA (F, 65)
- CROWD: 5-8 (M/F, ADULTS)

SCENE 2: AT THE JUMBE'S

- JUMBE (M, 50s)
- NIKI (M, 19)

SCENE 3: BILLY AND DAN IN THE SLUMS

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

SCENE 4: IN TANDIKA SLUMS

- KADU (M, 11)
- BANDA (M, 11)
- LULU (F, 40s)
- MSOTO (M, LATE 40s)

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Good day to you, and welcome back to “Crossroads Generation”! We’re in the middle of our third season, called “Facing the Future”, and things have been tough for our young heroes lately! 18-year-old Mercy and her boyfriend Niki haven’t been doing so well as a couple. The reasons are Mercy’s three-year-old daughter Linda – and Niki’s mother:

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 5, LINES 87-88

MRS. JUMBE: (...) *I’m worried about you, Niki. I don’t think she’s good for you! She has a child with another man, and --*

NIKI: *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!*

3. NARRATOR:

The father of Mercy's child is Dan, who recently tried to make contact with Mercy and her daughter for the first time since Linda was born. But Mercy sent him away, and things don't look too good for Dan right now.

Meanwhile, Mercy's parents have other things on their minds. Her father Msoto was involved in a dirty deal some years ago when he sold his own newborn baby to the politician Mukaraba. Msoto's wife Lulu has been fighting to get her daughter back, and last time, she got a call from Inspector Mary:

4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 11, LINES 68-70

MARY: Lulu, I'm also calling to tell you that the case against Mukaraba will be going to court next week.

LULU: Oh thank God. Finally!

MARY: (...) But he still doesn't know that your husband is going to testify. He mustn't find out about it until it's time. You understand?

5. NARRATOR:

Let's quickly sneak into the courtroom to start this twelfth episode, entitled "Unidentified Objects"...

SCENE 1: COURTROOM

6. ATMO: INSIDE COURTROOM

7. COURT CLERK: Court is in session, Judge Ray presiding.

8. SFX: PEOPLE SETTLE DOWN

9. JUDGE RAY: We're here in the matter of the alleged illegal adoption of the child named Joy, now four years old. The accused is Moses Mukaraba.

KW BEGIN He is here with his lawyer. The prosecutor will be assisted by Inspector Mary, who has been following the case from the beginning. Prosecutor, please start with the opening submissions.

- 10. PROSECUTOR:** Thank you, Your Honour. The case was brought to Inspector Mary's attention when Lulu Msoto started coming regularly to the police station, asking for help with finding her baby. On further inquiry we found that the girl's father had sold the baby to the accused without the mother's permission, and in breach of our country's adoption law. This is clearly a case of illegal adoption. I ask this court to dispense justice, and I'm ready to present the results of our inquiry into the case. Thank you, Your Honour.
- 11. JUDGE RAY:** Thank you, Prosecutor. May I ask the accused's lawyer to present his opening declaration?

12. LAWYER: Thank you, Your Honour. Mr. Mukaraba is a person of high standing in society, and as such many seek to discredit him for political reasons. The defence will prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that this is nothing other than a made-up case intended to slander my client, and damage his chances in the forthcoming election. Thank you, Your Honour.

KW END

13. CROWD: MURMURS

14. JUDGE RAY: Silence in court.

15. CROWD: QUIETS DOWN

16. JUDGE RAY: Prosecutor? Please call your first witness.

17. PROSECUTOR: Mrs. Seda, please step forward.

18. SFX: STEPS APPROACH

KW BEGIN

19. JUDGE RAY: Please state your name for the record.

20. SEDA: My name is Wilmina Seda, my son.

21. CROWD: LAUGHS

22. JUDGE RAY: Silence! You will be silent in my courtroom, or I will have you all thrown out. Mrs Seda, you will address the court properly.

23. SEDA: Yes... the court.

24. CROWD: LAUGHS

25. JUDGE RAY: **(smiling, friendly)** It's "Yes, Your Honour".

26. SEDA: Yes, Your Honour.

KW END

27. JUDGE RAY: All right. What do you do for a living, Mrs. Seda?

28. SEDA: I'm a midwife. And I was there when the little baby girl was born...

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: AT THE JUMBES'

29. ATMO: INDOORS, LIGHT TRAFFIC OUTSIDE

30. SFX: NEWSPAPER PAGES TURNING

31. JUMBE: (to himself) Skeletons? Why would someone import skeletons? Sometimes I just don't believe these newspaper articles. (yawns) Oh my, I'm so hungry! But I can't eat now. I need to lose weight... And I'm so tired again...

32. SFX: PHONE RINGS

33. JUMBE: (groans as he gets up)

34. SFX: CHAIR SQUEAKS

35. SFX: FOOTSTEPS – JUMBE WALKING ACROSS ROOM

36. SFX: PHONE IS PICKED UP

37. JUMBE: Hello, Jumbe speaking.

38. NIKI: (on phone) Hello, Dad?

39. **JUMBE:** Hey there, Niki, my son! How are you?

KW BEGIN It's been a while since you called or came to visit! I know you're not on such good terms with your mother, but you can't stay away forever, you know!

40. **NIKI:** Well, I'm calling you right now, aren't I?

41. **JUMBE:** That's true. So, how are you?

KW END

42. **NIKI:** I'm fine, Dad.

43. **JUMBE:** Are you sure, son? You don't need anything?
Money...?

FLASHBACK: Ep. 13, line 4

44. **NIKI:** No, thanks, I'm fine. You know I'm working part-time in the gym. **(pause)** So, how are you, Dad? You sound a bit... strange.

45. **JUMBE:** **(with difficulty)** No, I'm fine! Don't worry. Just a slight headache... Listen, I

46. **NIKI:** **(concerned)** Dad? ... Are you okay?

47. **SFX: THUD / CLOTHES RUSTLING AS SOMEONE FALLS DOWN**

48. **NIKI:** Hello?... Hello, Dad...? What's happening? Are you
okay? Hello... hello...?

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: BILLY AND DAN IN THE SLUMS

49. **ATMO: SLUM ATMO OUTSIDE, LIGHT TRAFFIC**

50. **DAN:** No job, no money... Stupid supervisor. Who fires
someone for being five minutes late?

51. **SFX: STEPS APPROACHING**

52. **BILLY:** **(approaching)** Hey, Dan!

53. **DAN:** Billy? What are you doing here...?

54. **BILLY:** Uh-oh... Duck, Danny boy! Duck!

55. **DAN:** What --

56. **SFX: SOMETHING WET AND WRAPPED IN PLASTIC SPLATS ON
HIM**

57. **DAN:** What the hell is that? And what's that smell?

58. **BILLY:** **(closer, disgusted)** Eew! Man, you've just been 'missiled'
59. **DAN:** Oh shit! What is that?
60. **BILLY:** **(laughs)** What you just said: Shit.
61. **DAN:** **(incredulous)** What?
62. **BILLY:** Ever heard of flying toilets? Someone just threw shit on you. You were lucky it was in a plastic bag... Although... it looks like the bag wasn't closed properly. **(laughs)**
63. **DAN:** Oh no! Get it off! Get it off!
64. **BILLY:** Don't come too close, you stink! Here, use this stick to scrape it off.
65. **DAN:** I'll kill that miserable son-of-a -- Where did it come from?
66. **BILLY:** Don't bother! You'll never find them in this crowded slum. That's why I call them U.F.O.s.
67. **DAN:** What the hell is that?
68. **BILLY:** **(laughs)** Unidentified flying objects!
69. **DAN:** Eew! Disgusting! I have to get rid of this shirt...

**70. SFX: RUSTLING OF CLOTHES AS HE TAKES SHIRT OFF AND
THROWS IT OUT**

KW BEGIN

71. BILLY: **(laughs)** Don't tell me you just threw that nice shirt
away, Dan.

72. DAN: Come on, Billy. How do you expect me to put it on
again after that?

73. BILLY: You just wash it!

74. DAN: No way! **(short pause)**

KW END What are you doing here anyway, Billy? Why aren't
you at the building site?

75. BILLY: **(sighs)** They fired me, too!

76. DAN: What? Why?

77. BILLY: It was me who left those bags of cement on the
balcony.

78. DAN: What? Why did you do that?

79. **BILLY:** Thought it'd be easier to carry them the next day.
Didn't think it was going to rain...
80. **DAN:** Oh Billy... That's so stupid!
81. **BILLY:** But it was just one mistake! I've never made any others. I even offered to pay for it out of my salary, but the boss refused to listen.

FLASHBACK: Ep. 13, line 2

82. **DAN:** So now what?
83. **BILLY:** I don't know, Dan! I guess we both have to find a new job. Preferably without a boss to boss us around!
84. **DAN/BILLY:** (laugh)
85. **DAN:** Hey, seriously: you know what? We should be our own bosses!

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: IN TANDIKA SLUMS

86. ATMO: MORNING IN TANDIKA, INDOORS, TV IN BACKGROUND

87. SFX: UTENSILS BEING GATHERED

88. LULU: (complains) Kadu, Banda! Can't you even clean up after yourselves? You leave your dirty cups and plates lying around everywhere!

89. BANDA: That's a girl's job. Our sister Mercy used to do it!

90. LULU: Your sister is now away at university. And I think it's high time you learned that boys and men can also help at home!

91. SFX:TV GOES OFF

92. BANDA/KADU: Come on, Mum, don't switch the TV off!

93. LULU: (strict) Instead of helping me with the housework, you wake up and the first you think of is the TV. If you don't behave better, I'm going to sell this TV!

94. BANDA: No, Mum, please don't!

95. **KADU:** We'll clean up after ourselves every day from now on!

96. **SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR**

97. **LULU:** Good. Now wash those plates, while I see who's at the door.

98. **BANDA:** See what you've done, Kadu?

99. **KADU:** Shut up!

100. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS LULU**

101. **DOOR OPENS**

102. **MSOTO:** Hi, Lulu.

103. **LULU:** Msoto? What do you want now?

FLASHBACK: Ep. 17, line 4

104. **MSOTO:** I thought I'd stop by on my way into town. I'm going to pray, and I'd like to take my boys with me!

105. **KADU:** (shyly) I don't want to...

106. **BANDA:** Yeeah!!! I'm coming, I'm coming! Can I go, Mum, please?

107. LULU: **(strict)** Neither of you will go! You just promised to help me here.

108. BANDA: But I want to! I'm part of the community! That's what Dad said, right, Dad?

109. LULU: You two, wash those plates like I told you! And Msoto – I'd like to have a word with you.

OUTRO - NARRATOR:

And that's it for today. I hope you'll join us next time to know what's in store for our young heroes in "Crossroads Generation"! If you missed one of the previous episodes, you'll find them on our webpage: dw.de/lbe. And you can also follow us on Facebook and leave your comments there! Bye!