

**Learning by Ear 2014**

**Crossroads Generation – Season 3: Facing the Future**

**EPISODE 4: Don't Tell Anyone**

**AUTHOR: James Muhando**

**EDITORS: Friederike Müller, Thomas Mösch**

**COPY EDITOR: Charlotte Collins**

***List of characters by scene:***

**SCENE 1: TINA'S BROTHER IS SICK**

- TINA (F, 19)
- DR. ROBERTS (M/F, 40s)

**SCENE 2: NIKI GETS A CALL FROM MERCY**

- 3-5 GYM CLASS MEMBERS (M/F, YOUNG ADULTS)
- NIKI (M, 19)
- MERCY (F, 18)

**SCENE 3: DAN AND BILLY TALK ABOUT DAN'S OLD LIFESTYLE**

- BILLY (M, 20s)
- DAN (M, 19)
- SELLER (F/M, 40s)

**SCENE 4: MERCY TELLS TRUDY ABOUT HER SISTER**

- MERCY (F, 18)
- SHOPKEEPER (M/F, ADULT)
- TRUDY (F, 18)

## **INTRO**

### **1. NARRATOR:**

Welcome back! This is the fourth episode of our brand new season of “Crossroads Generation”, an ongoing radio drama brought to you by DW. Let’s recap on what’s happened so far... Mercy Msoto is 18 years old, and she has a three-year-old daughter, Linda. Linda’s father Dan took off to his home country when she was born, but what Mercy doesn’t know is that he recently came back to Kisimba. Mercy seems to be doing well without him: she has a new boyfriend, Niki. And she’s just started studying journalism – like her friend Trudy, who’s just got her first job at a newspaper:

### **2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 3, LINES 79-80, 83**

*EDITOR: Okay then. Your first assignment is Mukaraba. You know him?*

*TRUDY: The councillor? Yes ... but what about him...? (...)*

*EDITOR: Find out what he’s hiding. There has to be something! I don’t care how you do it, just make sure I have the story on my desk soon. (...)*

### **3. NARRATOR:**

The politician Mukaraba is indeed hiding something. He’s part of an ugly story involving Mercy’s family. Almost four years ago, Mercy’s father Msoto sold his newborn baby girl to Mukaraba. The story came up again recently, and it’s made Mercy lose her trust in her mother:

#### 4. 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!*

#### 5. NARRATOR:

Until then, Mercy's mother was taking care of little Linda while Mercy went to university. Now Mercy's taken her daughter with her. And she's not the only university student struggling with family issues... Do you remember Tina, who's studying journalism with Mercy and Trudy? She had to go home early when she and her new friends were studying together, because she has to take care of her siblings.

#### KW BEGIN

#### 6. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 2, LINES 69-70

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

**TRUDY:** *No, no, no, no, no! Come on, you two!*

#### KW END

As we start today's episode, entitled "Don't Tell Anyone", we join Tina late in the evening at her home on the outskirts of the city...

**SCENE 1: TINA'S BROTHER IS SICK**

**7. ATMO: INSIDE, LIGHT TRAFFIC AND NIGHT ATMO**

**8. TINA:** (to herself) Okay, now that my sisters are asleep, I can finally take a look at my notes for tomorrow's classes... There's still so much to do! I just hope Brian comes home soon. I really need to talk to him about staying out late! He's only 15...

**9. SFX: PAPERS RUSTLING WHILE SHE READS**

**10. SFX: TINA'S PHONE RINGS**

**11. SFX: BEEP AS PHONE IS PICKED UP**

**12. TINA:** Hello?

**KW BEGIN**

**13. DR. ROBERTS:** Hello, am I speaking to Tina Wigo?

**14. TINA:** Yes, that's me. Who is this?

**15. DR. ROBERTS:** My name is Dr. Roberts. Are you Brian's older sister?

**16. TINA:** Yes. What's the matter?

**KW END**

**17. DR. ROBERTS:** I'm calling from the hospital. Your brother Brian has had an accident and he --

**18. TINA:** Oh no! What's happened? Is he hurt?

**19. DR. ROBERTS:** Don't worry, he'll be fine. He just has some bruises and a broken wrist.

**20. TINA:** Oh, thank god!

**21. DR. ROBERTS:** But he needs medical treatment. He says your parents are both dead, so will you be the one to come here? We need someone to settle the bill.

**22. TINA:** **(sighs)** Yes – I'm on my way. Thank you very much!

**23. SFX: PHONE DISCONNECTED**

**24. TINA:** **(to herself)** Where am I going to get the money? I've only just paid the rent... I really don't know how to deal with all this!

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**SCENE 2: NIKI GETS A CALL FROM MERCY**

**25. SFX: LOUD MUSIC PLAYING IN THE GYM**

**26. CLASS: PANTING AS THEY EXERCISE**

**27. NIKI:** (claps as he leads them) Okay, the session is almost over! Come on, everybody! Left leg up! One, two, three, four! Now the other side! Gimme five, six, seven, eight! Good. That's it, we're done.

**28. SFX: MUSIC TURNED DOWN**

**29. NIKI:** Now slow down, everybody, walk around a little, catch your breath, and I'll see you all again next week!

**30. CLASS:** Bye, Niki!

**31. SFX: STEPS AND RUSTLING OF CLOTHES AS CLASS LEAVES THE ROOM**

**32. SFX: NIKI'S PHONE RINGS**

**33. NIKI:** Hello, Mercy, my dear?

**34. MERCY:** (on the phone) Hello, Niki. Where are you?

**35. NIKI:** At the gym. Are you okay? I haven't seen you these last few days. Trudy said something about you seeing your dad, and that you'd gone to your mum's place...

**36. MERCY:** I'm on my way back to the university now. And I... well, I don't know how to tell you this...

**37. NIKI:** What is it?

**38. MERCY:** I'm not on my own. Linda's come to live with me.

**KW BEGIN**

**39. NIKI:** **SILENT**

**40. MERCY:** Niki? Are you still there? Is something wrong?

**41. NIKI:** Nothing. Just wondering when you were going to tell me about your plans.

**42. MERCY:** I just took her, Niki - I went there, and --

**43. NIKI:** Why? She was fine with your mother, wasn't she?

**44. MERCY:** Please, Niki... I had to do it!

**KW END**

**FLASHBACK: Ep. 5, line 4**

45. **NIKI:** So now you just make decisions without telling me?

46. **MERCY:** Come on! We don't live together! I thought you'd understand... Linda's my daughter!

47. **NIKI:** And I'm your boyfriend! You have to tell me these things!

48. **MERCY:** Look, Niki. I didn't call just to argue with you over phone. Let's talk later, okay?

49. **NIKI:** Okay.

50. **MERCY:** There is one more thing. **(pause)** I need some money. ... Please!

51. **NIKI:** **SILENT**

52. **MERCY:** Niki? Are you still there... Niki?

53. **SFX: PHONE DISCONNECTS**

54. **NIKI:** **(to himself)** Great! She doesn't want to talk to me about her decisions, but I'm supposed to pay for her. Linda's not even my own daughter!

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**



**SCENE 3: DAN AND BILLY TALK ABOUT DAN'S OLD LIFESTYLE**

**55. ATMO: LIGHT TRAFFIC**

**56. SFX: FOOTSTEPS OF PEOPLE OUTSIDE**

**57. BILLY:** Come on, Dan, you'll see – nothing's better than a cup of hot tea after a hard day's work on the building site.

**KW BEGIN**

**58. DAN:** Yeah, Billy, I guess you're right.

**59. BILLY:** Here we are.

**60. SFX: FOOTSTEPS STOP**

**61. SELLER:** Hey there, boys. What can I get you?

**62. BILLY:** Two cups of tea and two meat pies, please.

**63. SFX: TEA POURED INTO PLASTIC CUPS.**

**64. SELLER:** Here you go.

**65. BILLY:** Thanks. Here's your money.

**66. SFX: COINS JINGLE**

**67. BILLY:** Come on, Dan, let's sit on this stone.

**68. DAN:** Okay. Thanks for paying for me, Billy.

**69. BILLY:** No problem.

**KW END**

**70. SFX: SIPPING FROM PLASTIC CUPS**

**71. DAN:** Hmm, the tea is good!

**72. BILLY:** Told you.

**73. SFX: SIPPING FROM PLASTIC CUPS**

**74. BILLY:** I still can't believe your story, Dan. You ran away from a life of comfort to come and wallow in poverty here in Kisimba? Unbelievable!

**75. DAN:** Not true! It wasn't a life of comfort! I told you, my dad lost his company and all his money several years ago. He's been trying to get back on his feet, but that doesn't mean the money's miraculously reappeared.

**76. BILLY:** Still... You had everything, man! A house, a job offer...

**77. DAN:** Sometimes it's better to be poor but free.

**78. BILLY:** Dan, you have no idea what being poor means!

**79. (PAUSE)**

**80. DAN:** I'm sorry. I didn't mean to offend you. **(sighs)**  
Actually, there is another reason why I'm here and not in Laboria.

**81. BILLY:** What is it? **(laughs)** A girl? I bet it's a girl!

**82. DAN:** I'll tell you some other time. Let's go. We have an early start tomorrow.

## **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

### **SCENE 4: MERCY TELLS TRUDY ABOUT HER SISTER**

**83. ATMO: UNIVERSITY GROUNDS, OUTSIDE**

**84. MERCY:** Hi there. Do you sell diapers?

**85. SHOPKEEPER:** Diapers? This is a university kiosk! Of course we don't sell diapers.

**86. MERCY:** Sorry! **(to herself)** Where can I get them, then? I can't go all the way into town...

**87. SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING**

**88. TRUDY:** **(from a distance)** Hey, Ringtone!

**89. SFX: FOOTSTEPS, STOP**

**90. TRUDY:** (panting) Hey Ringtone, where've you been?

**91. MERCY:** (snaps) Stop calling me that, Trudy! Just because I left my phone on ONCE during a lecture doesn't mean that Ringtone is my new name, okay?

**92. TRUDY:** Okay, okay, Mercy. Sorry. I didn't mean to offend you.

**93. MERCY:** Just stop it, will you!

**94. TRUDY:** Okay! No need to yell at me! What's wrong with you?

**95. MERCY:** Nothing's wrong.

**96. TRUDY:** You miss class for two days, snap at me for no reason, and then you tell me nothing's wrong?

**97. MERCY:** **SILENT**

**98. TRUDY:** Hello! (snaps her fingers) Mercy! Anyone there?

**99. MERCY:** (sighs, low voice) Okay. But you have to promise me you won't tell anyone.

**100. TRUDY:** (normal voice) Tell anyone what?

**101. MERCY:** Shh! Keep your voice down!

**102. TRUDY:** (low voice) Okay. Tell me.

**FLASHBACK: Ep. 5, line 2**

103. **MERCY:** Linda's living here with me.

104. **TRUDY:** **(loud voice)** What?

105. **MERCY:** Shh!

106. **TRUDY:** **(low)** Mercy, you know that's against the rules.

What if the warden finds out?

107. **MERCY:** I don't know, Trudy.

108. **TRUDY:** But why? I thought she was living with your mother!

109. **MERCY:** It's a long story.

**KW BEGIN** **(sighs heavily)** But to cut it short, she's staying with me now.

110. **TRUDY:** Where is she?

111. **MERCY:** In my room, asleep. **(stressed)** I have to go back there, I can't leave her alone for long! Listen, Trudy, could you do me a big favour? Can you go into town and buy me some diapers?

112. **TRUDY:** What? Mercy... Yes, I can do that - but why don't you just tell me what happened first? I don't understand why --

**113. MERCY:** (cuts in) All right. But you can't tell *anyone* what I'm about to tell you. Not a soul, okay?

**114. TRUDY:** Hey, I just promised you that. What's going on?

**KW END**

**115. MERCY:** You remember my baby sister who died when we were in high school?

**116. TRUDY:** Er – yes...

**117. MERCY:** Well... she's come back to life.

**118. TRUDY:** (confused) What ...? Mercy, what are you talking about?

**119. MERCY:** It's true. She never died. Look, I never told you this, but my parents lied about it. This is what really happened...

**OUTRO - NARRATOR:**

And that's where we leave the two girls. Mercy's feeling the pressure of juggling university and parenting, and she's about to reveal her family's big secret to her friend. Don't miss the next episode of "Crossroads Generation" to find out what happens next for Mercy, Trudy, Niki and the others! To listen to this or any other episode again, just visit our website at [dw.de/lbe](http://dw.de/lbe). Until next time, bye-bye!