

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 3: Facing the Future

EPISODE 15: Step on the Brake!

AUTHOR: James Muhando

EDITORS: Friederike Müller, Yann Durand

COPY EDITOR: Charlotte Collins

List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: DR. ROBERTS QUESTIONS JUMBE

- DR. ROBERTS (M, 50s)
- MRS. JUMBE (F, 40s)
- JUMBE (M, 50s)
- NIKI (M, 19)

SCENE 2: MERCY AND TINA GO OUT

- TINA (F, 19)
- MERCY (F, 18)
- BARMAN (M, 30s)
- MAN (M, ADULT)

SCENE 3: MNENE TRIES TO BRIBE THE JUDGE

- JUDGE RAY (M, 50s)
- MNENE (M, 40s)

SCENE 4: MERCY AND TINA CRASH

- MERCY (F, 18)
- TINA (F, 19)

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hello there! You've tuned in just in time for "Crossroads Generation"! We're on the third season of this ongoing radio series. Last time, we heard Msoto, the father of 18-year-old Mercy, in the courtroom. He was testifying against the wealthy politician Mukaraba in a case of illegal adoption they were both involved in years ago.

KW BEGIN

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 14, LINES 21-22

***PROSECUTOR:** Mr. Msoto, according to Inspector Mary, you're willing to tell us your side of the story, even if it means incriminating yourself?*

***MSOTO:** That's right.*

KW END

3. NARRATOR:

So things aren't looking good for Mukaraba... But he's not the type to give up easily. Meanwhile, Msoto's daughter Mercy is having trouble with her boyfriend, Niki Jumbe. Niki's father was admitted to hospital, and when Mercy wanted to see him, Niki's mother threw her out of the room.

4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 14, LINES 51-52, 62

NIKI: *Just ignore her, Mercy darling. I love you!*

MERCY: *You have a strange way of showing it (...) I always knew your mother didn't like us being together, and that she hates the fact I have a child who isn't yours... But I thought that was just her!*

5. NARRATOR:

When Mercy ran away after that fight, she met Tina, a friend from university.

6. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 14, LINE 75

TINA: *(...) Hey, Mercy, listen. I'm sorry I was abrupt on the phone last time you called. (...) How about I make it up to you and take you out for a drink tonight? We can drive around in this nice car...*

7. NARRATOR:

This is the 15th episode, called “Step on the Brake”, and we start off in hospital, where Niki's parents are talking to the doctor.

SCENE 1: DR. ROBERTS QUESTIONS JUMBE

8. ATMO: HOSPITAL ATMO

9. DR. ROBERTS: Hello, Mr. and Mrs. Jumbe.

10. JUMBE/MRS. JUMBE: Hello, Dr. Roberts.

11. DR. ROBERTS: Mr. Jumbe, I think you can go home soon. But first, I
need to ask you a few questions. Have you had any
health problems recently?

12. JUMBE: No ... I've just been feeling rather tired.

KW BEGIN

13. MRS. JUMBE: Doctor, my husband has been perfectly healthy! I
mean, he has gained some weight over the past few
years, but that's all. And I know he's been trying to
diet lately...

14. DR. ROBERTS: I see.

15. SFX: SCRIBBLING IN NOTE BOOK

16. JUMBE: Janet, please pass me the water again. I'm really
thirsty.

17. SFX: WATER POURED INTO GLASS

18. JUMBE: Thanks. **(drinks)**

19. DR. ROBERTS: Do you often feel thirsty, Mr. Jumbe?

20. JUMBE: Yes, all the time! I guess it's the hot weather.

KW END

21. DR. ROBERTS: What about intense hunger pangs?

22. JUMBE: Hmm... well, I certainly like to eat. But I've been trying to lose some weight, so I haven't been eating much lately.

23. DR. ROBERTS: Okay. That could be the reason why you fainted. But I'm afraid there might be something else... Our initial tests show that you may suffer from diabetes.

KW BEGIN

24. JUMBE: What?

25. MRS. JUMBE: I thought that was only in America, because they eat too many burgers?

- 26. DR. ROBERTS: (laughs)** It's not quite that simple. Many people suffer from diabetes in sub-Saharan Africa, too, without even knowing it. It's become more common here in recent years, because of the changes in people's lifestyles.

KW END

- 27. JUMBE:** What exactly is diabetes?

- 28. DR. ROBERTS:** It's a disease that disturbs the production of a substance called insulin, and the way our body processes it. It's a very important substance, because it helps to convert energy from the food we eat, and transport it to the cells in our body. If it doesn't do the job properly, the energy just stays stuck in our blood in the form of sugar.

- 29. JUMBE:** But I told you, I don't feel ill. Just a little tired...

- 30. DR. ROBERTS:** Well, that can be one of the signs. People with diabetes might feel tired, or thirsty, or have to pee more often than usual, for example... And they often don't take these signs seriously, but it's very important to see a doctor.

KW BEGIN

- 31. MRS. JUMBE:** So how did my husband catch it?
- 32. DR. ROBERTS:** Diabetes isn't infectious – you can't catch it from anyone. It can be hereditary. But very often it's linked to what and how much people eat: if they drink, if they do exercise...

KW END

- 33. JUMBE:** I can't believe this...
- 34. DR. ROBERTS:** Don't worry. People with diabetes can and do manage their lives perfectly well. In some cases, a healthy diet and regular exercise are enough to make a difference. Otherwise, there's medication.
- 35. JUMBE:** So I guess I'll have to go and buy some running shoes first thing tomorrow... **(laughs)**
- 36. MRS. JUMBE:** This is no laughing matter, Jumbe!

37. DR. ROBERTS: Well, it's good to see you cheerful again, Mr.

Jumbe. We'll talk about it in detail later. I'd also advise you to go and see the community health workers regularly. They've been specially trained to offer help and support to people with diabetes.

38. SFX: FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING

39. DR. ROBERTS: Oh, here comes your son. I'll come and see you again later.

40. SFX: FOOTSTEPS LEAVING

41. NIKI: Hi Dad! How are you?

42. MRS. JUMBE: Niki, do you not even greet your mother any more?!

43. NIKI: **(angry)** When will you stop interfering in my life, Mum?

44. MRS. JUMBE: Niki, you're my son. I only want what's best for you. And that's certainly not this girl Mercy, who has another man's child!

45. NIKI: For your information: Mercy's a very good mother to Linda, and she's a very responsible person! So just shut up, Mum! Shut up, okay?

46. **JUMBE:** Niki, don't you talk to your mother like that!

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: MERCY AND TINA GO OUT

47. **ATMO: BAR ATMO**

48. **MERCY:** Wow, Tina! This place is posh!

49. **TINA:** You haven't seen anything yet, Mercy. It's good that your mother's taking care of Linda so I could take you out!

KW BEGIN

50. **BARMAN:** Hi Tina, what will you have today?

51. **TINA:** Two of your specials for me and my friend here.

52. **BARMAN:** Here you go...

53. **MERCY:** What's this?

54. **TINA:** Try it. My favourite drink.

55. **SFX:** **GLASSES TINKLE**

56. **MERCY:** **(sips)** Hmm... Not bad!

KW END

57. **MAN:** **(sweetly)** Hi, Tina?

58. **TINA:** Hey, you!

59. **MAN:** Yesterday was fun, babe!

60. **TINA:** Well, there's more where that came from. All you have to do is give me a buzz!

61. **MAN:** Will do! See you!

62. **MERCY:** **(low voice)** Is that your boyfriend?

KW BEGIN

63. **TINA:** You could say so...

64. **MERCY:** What do you mean?

65. **TINA:** **(uncomfortable)** It doesn't matter. Come on, let's talk about something else, okay?

66. **MERCY:** **(confused)** I don't understand. How...? I mean... He seemed to know you very well.

67. **TINA:** Mercy, please, I don't want to discuss it with you!

68. **MERCY:** But maybe I can help! I told you all about the trouble I'm having with Niki; now you can talk to me about your boyfriend stuff!

KW END

69. **TINA:** **(harsh)** He's not my boyfriend, okay?

70. **MERCY:** Tina! What's wrong? I just wanted to talk to you... I'm your friend!

FLASHBACK: Ep. 18, line 4

71. **TINA:** (sighs) I'm sorry... I... I really could use a friend, actually... But you can't tell anybody about this, okay? Please. Especially not Trudy – she'd gossip about it to everyone!

72. **MERCY:** I promise, Tina.

73. **TINA:** (low voice) Well... Okay. That man is not my boyfriend. He's a client.

74. **MERCY:** So you're ... you work for him? I still don't see --

75. **TINA:** Oh, come on, Mercy. They pay me to have a good time.

76. **MERCY:** (shocked) What?! You're a ... a ... a call girl?

77. **TINA:** Shhh...

KW BEGIN

78. **MERCY:** But... but I mean, how do you... Is this why you haven't been to class much recently? And the car? And... Tina, I think I want to go home.

79. **TINA:** It's easy for you to judge, Mercy. But if you had to live my life for a day, you'd understand.

KW END

80. **MERCY:** I don't know what to say...
81. **TINA:** Just try and understand, okay? Let me tell you my story. Then you can go, if you want to.
82. **MERCY:** **(sighs)** All right!

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: MNENE TRIES TO BRIBE THE JUDGE

83. **ATMO: OFFICE ATMO**
84. **SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR**
85. **JUDGE RAY:** Come in.
86. **SFX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES**
87. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS ENTERING**
88. **MNENE:** **(clears throat)** Judge Ray?
89. **JUDGE RAY:** Yes. How can I help you?

FLASHBACK: Ep. 16, line 2

90. **MNENE:** Your Honour, I have a message for you from the Honourable Mukaraba.

KW BEGIN

91. **JUDGE RAY:** What does he want from me?

92. **MNENE:** He told me to give you this envelope.

93. **SFX: RUSTLE OF PAPER AS ENVELOPE IS HANDED OVER**

94. **JUDGE RAY:** Okay, let's see what's inside.

KW END

95. **SFX: ENVELOPE RIPPED OPEN**

96. **JUDGE RAY:** Mhh... Money? A LOT of money. And what exactly does he expect from me?

97. **MNENE:** He asked me to tell you to go easy on the baby case.

98. **JUDGE RAY:** (**chuckles**) What did you say your name was again?

99. **MNENE:** I didn't say my name.

100. **JUDGE RAY:** Well, then...

101. **SFX: RUSTLING OF PAPER / BILLS**

102. **JUDGE RAY:** 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.

103. MNENE: But Your Honour --

104. JUDGE RAY: He comes himself, or there's nothing I can do.

105. MNENE: (sighs)

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: MERCY AND TINA CRASH

106. ATMO: NIGHT ATMO IN THE CITY

107. SFX: FOOTSTEPS OF TWO GIRLS

108. TINA: (tipsy) Thanks for staying and listening, Mercy.

109. MERCY: (tipsy) That's okay, Tina. Hey, and thanks for the drinks! It turned out to be quite fun in the end!

KW BEGIN

110. TINA: I had fun, too!

111. MERCY: But I just can't get what you told me out of my head...

112. TINA: Please don't tell anyone about it! I really need the money. I told you, my parents died; and I have to take care of my siblings.

113. MERCY: But still...

KW END

114. SFX: FOOTSTEPS STOP

115. TINA: Hey, Mercy – I promised to teach you how to drive.
Well, here we are... and there's no one around...

116. SFX: CAR DOOR UNLOCKED AND OPENED

117. MERCY: Wait! I'm afraid. I've never driven before! And I feel
a bit tipsy...

118. TINA: It's all right if you don't want to. It was just a
suggestion...

119. MERCY: You know what? Let me try!

120. SFX: CLOTHES RUSTLE AS THEY SIT

121. SFX: CAR DOOR CLOSED FROM INSIDE

122. TINA: So... This pedal here is the brake. You step on it
gently when you want to stop.

123. MERCY: What's the other one?

124. TINA: This is the accelerator. You step on it when you
want the car to move faster.

125. MERCY: **(laughs tipsily)** Okay. I can do that!

126. TINA: Ready?

127. MERCY: Ready!

128. SFX: ENGINE BEING STARTED

129. TINA: Okay, now slowly... Yes, like that!

130. SFX: VEHICLE STARTS TO MOVE SLOWLY, UNSTEADY ETC.

FLASHBACK: Ep. 16, line 4 / Ep. 17, line 2

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

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

133. SFX: CAR ARRIVES AND HOOTS

134. TINA: (alarmed) The brake! The brake! Step on the brake!

135. TINA/MERCY: (scream)

136. SFX: OTHER CAR SCREECHES

137. SFX: CARS CRASH (NOT TOO HARD)

OUTRO – NARRATOR:

And with that we end our programme for today! Be sure to join us next time to find out what's happened to Mercy and Tina, and to hear how our other heroes' stories continue! If you want to listen to this or previous episodes again, you can do so on our webpage: dw.de/lbe. Take care!