

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 3: Facing the Future

EPISODE 22: Rest in Peace

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List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: MUKARABA'S ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

- ASSISTANT (M/F, ADULT)
- MUKARABA (M, 50s)
- WOMAN (F, ADULT)
- CROWD: 5-8 (M/F, ADULT)
- STUDENTS: 5-8 (M/F, 20s)
- STUDENT LEADER (M/F, 20s)
- MALE STUDENT (M, 20s)

SCENE 2: MERCY AND TINA TALK TO THEIR PROFESSOR

- PROF. NYAMBUNE (M, 50s)
- TINA (F, 19)
- MERCY (F, 18)

SCENE 3: LULU AND MSOTO WALK TO THE FUNERAL

- LULU (F, 40s)
- MSOTO (M, 40s)

SCENE 4: TRUDY IS BURIED

- PASTOR (M, 50s)

- **CROWD: 5-8 (M/F, ADULTS; CAN INCLUDE LULU, MSOTO, TINA)**
- **MERCY (F, 18)**

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hi there! Nice to have you back for today's episode of "Crossroads Generation", our ongoing radio drama about the challenges faced by young Africans looking for the right path in life. Lately, 18-year-old Mercy's had a lot to take: she's already struggling to be a good student at university AND a good mother to her three-year-old daughter Linda. Then she found out that her best friend, Trudy, had been shot dead on the university campus. The other students immediately protested:

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 21, LINES 81-82

STUDENT LEADER: *It seems that robbers can easily get into the hostels - they killed our friend! This cannot happen again! Justice for Trudy, security for the students!*

CROWD: *Justice for Trudy, security for the students!*

3. NARRATOR:

But Tina has just told Mercy that their friend wasn't killed by robbers. It was because of a report Trudy was working on for university radio:

4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 21, LINES 112, 118, 124-126

***TINA:** (...)It was about the brothel in town. (...). I was her source! We'd got some pretty explosive material. (...) And I'm going to make sure it gets broadcast!*

***MERCY:** What??? This is too dangerous, Tina!*

***TINA: (interrupts)** I owe it to Trudy. And to be honest... I could use your help.*

5. NARRATOR:

Will Mercy help her friend Tina? We're about to find out in this 22nd episode, called "Rest in Peace". The man behind the prostitution racket is the politician Mukaraba – the same man who was just convicted of buying a child from Mercy's father, Msoto, in an illegal adoption. Nonetheless, he's still running for parliament in the upcoming elections...

SCENE 1: MUKARABA'S ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

(Mukaraba and assistant could be recorded separately)

6. ATMO: OUTSIDE, LIGHT TRAFFIC

7. ASSISTANT: Okay, Mr. Mukaraba, here we go!

8. MUKARABA: All right. **(clears his throat)**

(speaks through megaphone) MPP! Hoiyee! Vote for Mukaraba's Progressive Party! Vote for me, Moses Mukaraba, to move our great country forward!

9. CROWD: **(only a few voices)** MPP! MPP!

10. MUKARABA: Vote for me if you want --

11. WOMAN: **(shouts)** Why should we vote for a criminal? The court found you guilty!

12. CROWD: "That's right!" - "Illegal adoption!" - "Corruption!" etc.

13. MUKARABA: **(speaks through megaphone)** Vote for Mukaraba's Progressive Party! Vote for me, for development and growth!

14. ASSISTANT: **(urgently)** I think we need to get out of here, Mr. Mukaraba. That crowd doesn't seem so friendly!

15. **MUKARABA:** Just ignore them. It's just a few goons hired by the opposition to disrupt my rallies...
16. **STUDENTS:** **(approach, singing)** We want justice! We want security!
17. **ASSISTANT:** What's that group of students doing here?
18. **STUDENTS:** **(coming nearer)** Comrade power! Down with politicians! Down with the government!
19. **ASSISTANT:** **(urgently)** Mr. Mukaraba, please, let's go!
20. **MUKARABA:** Wait, let me talk to them! **(speaks through megaphone)** Hello, my good people --
21. **STUDENTS:** "We're not your people!" - "You're a liar!" etc.
22. **MUKARABA:** **(speaks through megaphone)** It's all right! It's all right! I can see that you're disappointed about the security situation, but I promise that this will be one of the first things I'll improve once I'm a Member of Parliament!
23. **STUDENT LEADER:** Down with politicians!
24. **STUDENTS:** Down with politicians!

KW BEGIN

25. **STUDENT LEADER:** Comrade power!
26. **STUDENTS:** Comrade power!
27. **MUKARABA:** Please choose one of you to speak on your behalf.
28. **STUDENT LEADER:** We're here to tell you and all the other
politicians that we're tired of your lies and games!
29. **STUDENTS:** Right!
30. **STUDENT LEADER:** Every five years, you come to us with your
promises and your lies, but five years down the line,
things are exactly the same, if not worse! You
promised us roads – do you see any proper roads
here, comrades?
31. **STUDENTS:** No!

KW END

32. **STUDENT LEADER:** You promised us security, and instead one of
us gets shot inside our university hostel!
33. **STUDENTS:** Justice for Trudy! We want security!
34. **MUKARABA:** **(tries to convince them)** Please, we can discuss
this in a civil --
35. **SFX: SOMETHING WET SPLATS ON HIM**

36. **MALE STUDENT:** Liar! Eat shit, Mukaraba!
37. **ASSISTANT:** Quick, Mr. Mukaraba, get in the car!
38. **MUKARABA:** **(panicked)** What are they throwing at me? What's that smell?
39. **ASSISTANT:** Flying toilets! Quick, get in the car!
40. **SFX: CAR DOORS CLOSE**
41. **SFX: CAR DRIVES OFF**
42. **STUDENTS:** **(cheering)**

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: MERCY AND TINA TALK TO THEIR PROFESSOR

43. **ATMO: OFFICE ATMO**
44. **SFX: COMPUTER KEYS - SOMEONE TYPING**
45. **SFX: SOFT KNOCK ON DOOR**
46. **SFX: TYPING STOPS**
47. **PROF:** Yes, come in!
48. **SFX: DOOR OPENS**
49. **MERCY / TINA:** Hello, Professor Nyambune.
50. **PROF:** Hello Mercy, hello Tina. Come in.

51. SFX: DOOR CLOSED

52. PROF: Have a seat!

53. MERCY / TINA: Thank you.

54. SFX: TWO CHAIRS SCRAPING

FLASHBACK: Ep. 23, line 2

55. PROF: So: how's the university radio going? Have you prepared the programme we discussed before?

56. MERCY: Tina and I've just finalised the script, sir.

57. PROF: May I see it?

58. TINA: Here it is.

59. SFX: PAPER RUSTLE AS THEY PASS SCRIPT

60. PROF: (as he reads) Hmm! Hmm! ... I see you've found more girls who are prepared to tell their stories.

61. TINA: Yes. But they want to stay anonymous, especially because some of them have accused Mukaraba of running the brothel business.

62. PROF: I see... Tina, I would advise you to use a different name when you're on air. Especially since you're the main source. For your own safety.

63. TINA: Okay, Professor.

64. SFX: PAPERS RUSTLING

KW BEGIN

65. PROF: Good... Here's your script back. I think you two've already done an excellent job. You've double-checked the facts, you have witnesses, and it's a strong, emotional story... If you have any more questions, you know where to find me.

66. TINA / MERCY: Thank you, sir.

67. PROF: No – thank YOU. You've put in a lot of work, and all in your free time! We couldn't have a better start for our university radio.

68. MERCY / TINA: Thank you, sir.

KW END

69. MERCY: There's one last thing... We'd like to dedicate this show to Trudy.

70. PROF: That's an excellent idea. I have to say, I'm really very impressed by the work she did – and by the way you two took it up and finished it.

71. **MERCY / TINA:** Thank you.

72. **PROF:** And remember: don't discuss it with anyone before it goes to air.

73. **MERCY / TINA:** Yes, sir.

74. **PROF:** Okay then. Off you go! The big day approaches!

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: LULU AND MSOTO WALK TO THE FUNERAL

75. **ATMO: QUIET NEIGHBOURHOOD**

76. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS OF LULU AND CHILD WALKING**

77. **LULU:** Linda, come here, let me carry you. At the rate you're walking we'll be late for aunty Trudy's funeral. We're meeting your mummy Mercy there, too. **(heaves as she lifts her)**

78. **SFX: LINDA LAUGHS / SAYS "HELLO"**

79. **SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS**

80. **MSOTO:** **(from a distance)** Hey, Lulu! Wait for me!

81. **LULU:** **(to herself)** Argh! What do you want now, Msoto?

82. MSOTO: I'm just going to the funeral. I hope you don't mind if we walk together.

KW BEGIN

83. LULU: **(uninterested)** Well, it's a free country. But from next week on, when my daughter Joy comes to live with me, you'll have to respect the judge's restraining order!

84. MSOTO: **(grumpy)** Thanks for reminding me.

85. SFX: FOOTSTEPS – LULU AND MSOTO WALKING

86. MSOTO: Mercy must be devastated. She and Trudy were friends for a long time!

87. LULU: Mm.

88. MSOTO: Lulu, what's wrong? Why won't you talk to me?

KW END

89. LULU: **(bursts out)** What do you want me to say? Of course I mind walking with you! All right – I am grateful that you came and testified against Mukaraba, and that I'm going to get my daughter back. But that doesn't make what you did right! We're finished, Msoto.

90. MSOTO: Lulu I'm sorry for --

91. LULU: Save it, Msoto! Just do me a favour, okay? Crawl back to whatever hole it is you came out of. Leave me and my kids alone!

92. FOOTSTEPS STOP

93. LULU: We're here. You can sit over there, Msoto. Linda and I will sit at the front!

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 4: TRUDY IS BURIED

94. ATMO: OUTSIDE, QUIET RURAL ATMO

95. PASTOR: And so we are gathered here today to celebrate the life of our dear friend Trudy. Maybe some of you will ask yourselves why I call it a celebration? You might think: our dearest Trudy is dead, and this man is talking about celebrating?

96. CROWD: MURMURS, CRYING AND SOBBING HEARD

97. PASTOR: We are celebrating Trudy, because she loved life, and made the very most of the short life that she had. And now we should not be sad, for she has gone to a better place.

KW BEGIN

98. CROWD: MURMURING

99. PASTOR: When all is said and done, we're all on the same path. A human being is born, and a human being will die! All that's left for us to do is honour their memory with a final celebration.

100. CROWD: MURMURING

KW END

101. PASTOR: I will ask Trudy's friend to say a few words about her before we proceed to lay our dear one in her final resting place. Mercy Msoto, please step forward...

102. SFX: MERCY'S FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING

103. MERCY: **(sniffles)** Trudy and I knew each other back in high school, when I was still as green as they come. She was the first to take me under her wing, and she protected me from the bullies at our school. Trudy and I had our differences – in fact, we had a huge fight not so long ago...

(sniffles) But I know she had a good heart. And even when we were fighting, we still loved each other! I'm just so sorry that I wasn't there to protect her in the end, when her young life was so brutally cut short. But I promise you, Trudy, you will be remembered! I'll make sure of that! **(breaks down)**
Rest in peace, my friend. Until we meet again!

OUTRO - NARRATOR:

And it's on that sad note that we end today's episode of "Crossroads Generation". Don't miss the next one to find out what Tina and Mercy have been planning with their professor, to honour Trudy's memory! In the meantime, check out our webpage at dw.de/lbe and see what Tina has been confiding to her personal video diary! Bye for now!