

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 4: Facing New Challenges

EPISODE FIVE: Green Is All the Rage!

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INTRO:

1. **NARRATOR:** Good day to you and welcome to Crossroads Generation. This is the fourth season entitled “Facing New Challenges” and there are indeed many challenges for our friends to tackle! Mercy made a difficult choice when she decided to marry Niki even though he’s HIV positive. And things have not been easy for them:

2. **FLASHBACK: EPISODE 2, LINE 86**

MERCY: (POLITE) Niki, my darling, I just want to understand what’s going on with you. You’ve become so distant and withdrawn and unreasonable. What can I do to help? You know I love you and...

3. **NARRATOR:** When will Niki be ready to accept his status? And how will Mercy cope? Dan, for his part, wants to move ahead with his environmental protection project. He has already tried to convince Tina to join forces with him:

4. **FLASHBACK: EPISODE 1, LINES 23-24, 27**

DAN: (...) I’m planning to organise a group of young activists for environmental protection, and I thought maybe you could join us.

TINA: I see. But what’s that got to do with me? (...)

DAN: Ideally, we’d be group of people who passionately believe that we could live in closer harmony with nature. We’d use all the platforms we

have to advocate for people to change their behaviour. You could use your radio programme to do this, for example.

5. NARRATOR: On a different note: Do you still remember Anita, the strong-willed, intelligent girl from the neighbouring country, Laboria? Anita followed Dan to Kisimba - she also went to Bongo Academy high school, where she got to know Mercy and her friends. After school, Anita went back to Laboria - but what has she been up to since then? Let's find out in today's episode: "Green Is All the Rage!"

SCENE 1: DAN BUMPS INTO ANITA

6. ATMO: SCHOOL ATMO, CHILDREN IN THE BACKGROUND

7. SFX: TELEPHONE RINGS

8. ANITA: Hello, Kisimba Special School, how can I help you?
Yes... Yes. Okay, I'll let her know. Bye.

9. SFX: PHONE REPLACED

10. DAN: Excuse me, madam. I need to speak to...
(SURPRISED) Anita?

11. ANITA: Dan?!

12. DAN: What are you doing here?

13. ANITA: I work here.

14. DAN: Really?

15. ANITA: Yeah... I'm doing an internship as an assistant teacher. And what are you doing here?

16. DAN: I came to see the director of the school. When did you come to Kisimba?

17. ANITA: Well, I only just started.

18. **DAN:** That explains why my dad suddenly stopped calling to hassle me about marrying you.
19. **ANITA:** **(LAUGHS)** I know, right! Both our parents are still hell-bent on getting us married. I'm glad I got this job; I'm hoping the distance is going to keep them off my back.
20. **DAN/ANITA:** **(LAUGH)**
21. **ANITA:** Anyway, what did you want to see the director about?
22. **DAN:** I'm trying to rally the local community to make people more aware of the environment. I'd really like the schools in this area to start teaching children how to live in a more environmentally-friendly way. And I'm planning to put together a group of young environmental activists.
23. **ANITA:** **(IRONIC)** Are you sure you're really Dan Kanyama? The same Dan I dated, who betrayed me, and left Mercy when she was pregnant? You're telling me

this Dan now cares about other people, and the environment?

24. **DAN:** Yep.
25. **ANITA:** Hmm! Well, Dan - it does sound like an interesting plan. But I don't know how it would work. You know this is a school for pupils with special needs, right?
26. **DAN:** So what? The disabled are people, too. We all live in the same environment, and the sooner all of us learn to coexist with nature, the better.
27. **ANITA:** That's a really good attitude, Dan! A lot of people don't think like that, though, which I find pretty shocking. Let me see if the director's in - but just so you know, I'm interested in joining your group.
28. **DAN:** Really?
29. **ANITA:** Really! I hope you have room for one more!
30. **DAN:** **(LAUGHS)** Actually, you just became member number two, after me. It hasn't been easy convincing people around here.
31. **ANITA:** Oh!

Musical interlude

SCENE 2: MERCY CONFIDES IN TINA

32. ATMO: RESTAURANT ATMO, PEOPLE TALKING ETC.

33. SFX: TABLE BEING CLEARED

34. MERCY: Thanks for dragging me out of the office, Tina!

35. TINA: **(LAUGH)** You're welcome. **(DEEP BREATH, JOKINGLY)** So tell me, Mrs. Jumbe, how do you like married life?

36. MERCY: Don't call me that. It makes me feel so old!

37. TINA: **(LAUGHS)** I know, it makes you feel like crazy Mama Niki, right?

38. MERCY: Exactly! You know, it's nearly three months since Niki and I got married and moved to the new house, and that crazy woman has still barely said a word to me.

39. TINA: Really? So how do you two communicate when you meet?

40. **MERCY:** **(CHUCKLES)** Don't even go there! Niki's always insisting we go to his parents' for family dinners. I dread them!
41. **TINA:** But that's not what has been distracting you, is it? How's Linda?
42. **MERCY:** Linda's okay, but... **(TAKES A DEEP BREATH)** It's my husband I'm worried about.
43. **TINA:** Niki. Yeah. You mentioned last time we spoke. How is he?

Flashback Ep. 6, line 4

44. **MERCY:** Nothing much has changed. Sometimes I ask myself if I did the right thing marrying him.
45. **TINA:** Mmm. Did you go and see the counsellor, Margaret, again, like I told you?
46. **MERCY:** I want to, but...
47. **TINA:** But what, Mercy? This is no joking matter.

- 48. MERCY:** I know, Tina, I just... I don't know. Niki's not very approachable at the moment! I don't know how to deal with him.
- 49. TINA:** **(SERIOUSLY)** Listen to me, Mercy. Niki needs your support right now! It's even harder for him than it is for you. You have to be the strong one. **FOR HIM!** Look - if he won't go, you should talk to Counsellor Margaret on your own first. I can come with you, if you like.
- 50. MERCY:** **(SIGHS)**

Musical interlude

SCENE 3: DAN TALKS TO THE SCHOOL DIRECTOR

51. ATMO: OFFICE ATMO, PUPILS IN THE BACKGROUND

52. DIRECTOR: So, welcome to our school, Dan Ka...manya, you said?

53. DAN: **(LAUGHS)** Kanyama, sir. Dan Kanyama!

54. DIRECTOR: Quite a strange name you've got there. You're not from around here, are you?

55. DAN: No, I come from Laboria. But I went to school here in Kisimba.

56. DIRECTOR: Ah! Really? One of my new staffers here is from Laboria, too. Anita... Do you two know each other?

57. DAN: Yeah, in fact I was just talking to her in the other office.

58. DIRECTOR: I see... So, tell me. What is it you wanted to see me about?

Flashback Ep. 5, line 2

59. **DAN:** (TAKES A DEEP BREATH) I'm planning to organise a group of young environmental activists here in Kisimba, and I was wondering whether you could help.
60. **DIRECTOR:** Environmental...? What do you mean?
61. **DAN:** Well, you see, I live in the Tandika slums. The city's biggest garbage dump is in Tandika, and as you know, it borders this school to the west.
62. **DIRECTOR:** Yeah... And...?
63. **DAN:** I'm approaching local communities and institutions to rally support. I want to get the government to move the garbage dump away from where people live, because it's the biggest cause of communicable diseases in this area.
64. **DIRECTOR:** That seems like an admirable idea, Dan. But as you can see, I'm not all that young - I don't think I'd qualify to be in your group.

65. **DAN:** **(CHUCKLES)** Not you yourself, Mr. Director - your students.

66. **DIRECTOR:** **(TAKEN ABACK)** Oh! My students?

67. **DAN:** Yes.

68. **DIRECTOR:** You know this is a special school, don't you? All the pupils here have some kind of disability.

69. **DAN:** **(EMPHATIC)** Yes, I know that. But I think that's all the more reason get them involved. Because as well as saving the environment, the students would also be helping to change perceptions in society. After all, having a disability doesn't mean you can't do anything.

Flashback Ep. 14, line 4

70. **DIRECTOR:** Hm! Interesting! What would they be involved in?

71. **DAN:** Just clean-up activities. And those who can't get involved physically could help by educating people, talking to them about what we're doing.

72. DIRECTOR: **(PAUSE)** I tell you what! I'm very impressed by this idea, Dan Kama... Kanyama. Let me discuss with my staff, and then I'll let you know, okay?

73. DAN: All right! Thank you very much, sir.

KW BEGIN Maybe you could ask Anita, too. She sounded very interested. In fact, she's already a member of the group.

74. DIRECTOR: Oh, really? That sounds like a good place to start. I'll get back to you. What's your number?

75. DAN: It's 07.... **(FADE OUT)**

KW END

Musical interlude

SCENE 4: NIKI IN A GOOD MOOD

76. ATMO: INTERIOR ATMO, RADIO IN BACKGROUND

77. SFX: SWISH OF ROPE, SOMEONE JUMPING

78. NIKI: (PANTS) 105, 106,107....

79. SFX: DOOR OPENS, SOMEONE ENTERS

80. NIKI: (GOOD MOOD, SHOUTS AS HE PANTS) Who is it? Is that you, wifey?

81. MERCY: Yes, it's me. (NEARER) Exercising in the kitchen, are we?

82. NIKI: Yup, only place I could find with enough space. Hey - come over here, give me a kiss!

83. SFX: THEY KISS

84. NIKI: I love you, Mercy, okay? I'm sorry I've been behaving like such an idiot lately.

85. MERCY: Somebody's in a good mood! What happened?

86. NIKI: (LAUGHS) Nothing, just...

87. MERCY: Hey, and what's this? A fridge? A very old new fridge? Where did it come from? (LAUGHS)

- 88. NIKI:** I'm sorry - it's all I could afford. I bought it second-hand, for my lovely wife. You keep saying you want a fridge, so - here you go!
- 89. MERCY:** Well, thank you, Niki. As long as it works, who needs a new one?
- 90. SFX: FRIDGE DOOR OPENS, SOMETHING(S) FALL OUT**
- 91. MERCY:** What the...? What's this?
- 92. NIKI:** Mangoes.
- 93. MERCY:** **(CHUCKLES)** You filled the whole fridge with mangoes, Niki? Why?
- 94. NIKI:** Just trying to follow the counsellor's instructions.
- 95. MERCY:** Instructions about what?
- 96. NIKI:** Change of lifestyle, eating healthily, and exercising!
- 97. MERCY:** Niki! The counsellor didn't say you should only eat mangoes! I mean, you're studying nutrition, you should know better than that.
- 98. NIKI:** I do - it's just that mangoes are going out of season, and I like mangoes, so I wanted to stock up on th--

99. MERCY: LAUGHS

100. NIKI: Stop laughing and help me pick them up!

101. MERCY: Oh Niki, you're such a fool sometimes, but I love you. And I really like the way you're dealing with this now. It's so much better than sulking all the time.

102. NIKI: **(JOKINGLY)** Just shut up now, okay!

103. MERCY: LAUGHS

OUTRO:

That's better! At least there's some laughter in the young couple's household! Is Niki's good mood going to last? Find out next time on Crossroads Generation. We'll also see how Dan's environmental protection group takes shape. Don't forget to visit our web page dw.de/lbe for Niki's video diary, and much more! You can also send us an e-mail, to lbe@dw.de or follow us on Facebook. Until next time - bye!