

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 4: Facing New Challenges

EPISODE THREE: A Little Help, Everyone!

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List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: MERCY IS LATE FOR WORK

- TINA - F, 20
- BOSS - M, ADULT
- MERCY - F, 19

SCENE 2: KADU WALKS SAMA HOME

- SAMA - F, 12
- KADU - M, 12
- NONI - F, 15

SCENE 3: DAN CAMPAIGNS AGAINST DUMPING

- LULU - F, 40s
- WOMAN - F, 40s
- DAN - M, 19

SCENE 4: NONI HAS MESSED HERSELF AGAIN

- NONI - F, 15
- SAMA - F, 12

INTRO:

1. **NARRATOR:** Welcome back to Crossroads Generation, a radio drama about the challenges faced by a group of young Africans. Let's pick up where we ended last time. Kadu enjoys spending time with his classmate, Sama. He didn't tell his mother Lulu about it at first, but she soon figured it out:

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 2, LINES 57-59

LULU: Kadu, where are you coming from at this time of night, soaking wet like a rained-on chicken?

KADU: I was studying with my friend Juma, and then the rain --

LULU: Don't you dare lie to me! I know you were out with a girl.

3. **NARRATOR:** 19-year-old Dan is concerned about the destruction of the environment. He runs a green business making handbags out of recycled plastic, and is on a mission to protect the environment. Meanwhile, Mercy is doing her best to reconcile her life as a wife and mother with her university studies, *and* her work at the radio station. Last time, she had to enlist her mother's help with her daughter Linda:

4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 2, LINE 108

*MERCY: I'm at the hospital and I'm late for work. Linda's not feeling well.
Please could you come here and fetch her? I'll come back for her after
work.*

5. NARRATOR: What's happened since then? Let's find out in today's episode: "A Little Help, Everyone!" We start at the studios of University FM, where Mercy's friend Tina hosts a show about women's rights...

SCENE 1: MERCY IS LATE FOR WORK

6. ATMO: OFFICE ATMO

7. SFX: SOMEONE TYPING RAPIDLY

8. SFX: PHONE RINGS UNANSWERED.

9. TINA: Oh no! Not the phone, not now! I'm running late for my show - I'm still not prepared... Where on earth is Mercy?

10. SFX: DOOR OPENS, FOOTSTEPS WALK IN

11. BOSS: **(SHOUTS)** Hey, will someone get that phone?

12. TINA: Right away, sir!

13. **BOSS:** Not you, Tina. You have to prepare for your show. I thought there were several people working in this office. Where is everyone? Where's Mercy?
14. **TINA:** **(CAUGHT OFF GUARD)** I... I don't know, sir.
15. **BOSS:** She's your producer, and she still hasn't shown up?
16. **TINA:** I... I... She...
17. **BOSS:** **(PAUSE, SARCASTIC)** Well, you get the phone, and when she finally decides to grace us with her presence tell her I want to see her, pronto! I'll be in my office.
18. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS HE GOES**
19. **SFX: PHONE ANSWERED**
20. **TINA:** Hello?
21. **MERCY:** **(URGENTLY)** Hello, hello Tina! Thank God it's you...
22. **TINA:** Mercy? Where the hell are you?
23. **MERCY:** Look, is our boss 'Mr. Squeaky' in yet? I need you to cover for me for a while. I had to rush Linda to hospital... Please don't let him know that I'm late...

24. **TINA:** Too late! He's already been in here squeaking at me. He saw you weren't here.
25. **MERCY:** Damn! What did he say?
26. **TINA:** **(IMITATES HIM)** "She's your producer and she's still not in? Well, tell her to see me when she finally decides to grace us with her presence. Pronto!"
27. **MERCY:** Damn it! Look, Tina, I'm trying my best, okay? I'll be there shortly!
28. **TINA:** Please hurry, Mercy! I have to go now, we're on air in fifteen minutes! I hope it's nothing serious. With Linda, I mean.
29. **MERCY:** No, she'll be fine! Okay, go, go. Go before he comes back and finds you on the phone! I'll be there as soon as I can.

Musical interlude

SCENE 2: KADU WALKS SAMA HOME

30. **SFX: TWO PAIRS OF FOOTSTEPS RUNNING**

31. **KADU / SAMA: PANT AS THEY LAUGH**

32. **SAMA:** Sama runs! And... she beats Kadu! I won! I won! I
beat you, Kadu Msoto! **(LAUGHS)**

33. **KADU:** No you didn't, Sama! I let you win!

34. **SAMA:** You're just jealous because I ran faster than you.

35. **KADU / SAMA: LAUGH**

36. **KADU:** **(SIGHS)** It was nice being away from school and all
those mean girls, wasn't it, Sama?

37. **SAMA:** Yes, Kadu. I had a good time playing with you. But
you can go now. I'll be okay from here.

Flashback Ep. 9, line 2

38. **KADU:** Come on. I want to see you home today. Every day I
walk you back, but you don't want me to come in.
We always stop behind your house. Why?

39. **SAMA:** Kadu... I don't want my parents to see us together.
There's no telling how they might react. And
besides, you said your mum was angry at you for
coming in late yesterday.

40. **KADU:** Yes, she was angry. But she always says that as long we're not doing anything wrong we should always tell the truth.
41. **SAMA:** We're not lying about anything, are we?
42. **KADU:** My mum says hiding things is lying.
43. **SAMA:** Kadu, please understand.
44. **SFX: THUNDER**
45. **SAMA:** You should go home now. It's going to start raining again soon.
46. **NONI: (FROM AFAR, WAILING AS SHE HITS DOOR DESPERATELY) Go out! Go out!!**
- SILENCE**
47. **KADU:** What was that?
48. **SAMA:** What?
49. **NONI: (FROM AFAR) Go out! Go out now! Now! Now!**
50. **SAMA: (URGENTLY, IN SPIKE OF HERSELF) Oh my God**
- Noni!**
51. **SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS**
52. **KADU:** Sama, wait! Who's Noni?

53. **SAMA:** **(AS SHE GOES)** No one! Bye, Kadu, see you tomorrow at school!
54. **KADU:** Wait, you forgot your... ball.
55. **SFX: FADING FOOTSTEPS**
56. **KADU: (SIGHS)**

Musical interlude

SCENE 3: DAN CAMPAIGNS AGAINST DUMPING

57. **ATMO: MARKET, PEOPLE RUNNING AROUND, CARS HOOTING ETC**
58. **SFX: RAIN DRIZZLING**
59. **SFX: LINDA SHOUTS A SONG/BABBLES**
60. **LULU:** **(SHOUTS)** Linda, you'd better close your eyes back there and go to sleep! Don't let me come in there and make you. Grandma has to work.
61. **SFX: LINDA GOES SILENT**
62. **SFX: IT STARTS TO RAIN HEAVILY**
63. **WOMAN:** Argh! Come on! Not the rain again! Why won't it rain at night? We can't sell anything this way.

64. **LULU:** That's true. Business is very slow when it rains.

KW BEGIN

65. **WOMAN:** You shouldn't complain, Lulu. You're lucky you have a roof over your head - not like the rest of us who have to sell our stuff on the street.

66. **LULU:** But a roof over my head doesn't help if there's no one buying.

67. **WOMAN:** That's true! People are holed up in their houses for fear of the rain!

KW END

68. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS SOMEONE RUSHES IN**

69. **DAN:** **(PANTS)** Hello, Mama Mercy. Can I shelter here for a while?

70. **LULU:** **(SURPRISED)** Dan! What, shelter here? After all you did to my daughter Mercy? You abandoned her after getting her pregnant, and now you want to shelter in my shop? Hmm, I don't know...

71. **DAN:** Please, Mama Mercy.

72. **LULU:** You won't melt in the rain, you know... But okay, come in.

73. **WOMAN:** Mama Mercy, can I bring my fruit into your shop for a while, until it stops raining?
74. **LULU:** Sure!
75. **WOMAN:** **(SNIFFS DISGUSTED)** Damn! Most of this fruit is rotten already. I'll have to throw it away. What a waste!
76. **SFX: SLOSHING SOUND AS FRUITS ARE THROWN INTO A PUDDLE OF WATER**
77. **DAN:** Hey, madam. Please don't throw it away like that.
78. **WOMAN:** Huh? Why?
79. **DAN:** Can't you see that the drain is already blocked?
80. **WOMAN:** **(LAUGHS SCORNFULLY)** What are you telling me? Am I the one who blocked it? Everybody throws their rubbish in there!
81. **DAN:** But that's exactly the point, madam! Nobody should do it. This is what causes the bad smell here in Tandika. And --
82. **WOMAN:** **(DISMISSIVE)** Argh! Why don't you take your funny foreign ideas somewhere else! **(TO LULU)** Mama Mercy, I'm going to go.

83. **LULU:** Aren't you going to wait for the rain to stop?
84. **WOMAN:** No. I suddenly feel the need to get out of here...
Can't stay and be lectured like a child in
kindergarten.

85. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS RUNNING THROUGH THE RAIN**

Flashback, Ep. 4, line 4

86. **LULU:** Dan, you never stop with your funny ideas about a
clean Tandika, do you?
87. **DAN:** Mama Mercy, I don't know what to say. I mean, look
at the mess, with all those fruits and things blocking
the drain! **(SIGHS)** Anyway - how's Linda?
88. **LULU:** **(LIES)** Well... I don't see her much since they
moved to that new house of theirs. But Mercy calls
sometimes. She says they're fine.
89. **SFX: RAIN SUBSIDES**
90. **DAN:** Okay. I'd better go now. Please send them my
greetings next time they call.
91. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS WADING THROUGH WATER**

92. **LULU:** **(CALLS AFTER HIM)** You do that yourself! Am I your messenger? You don't even know how your own child is doing? What kind of father are you?!

93. **SFX FOOTSTEPS DISAPPEAR**

94. **LULU: (TO HERSELF)** Young people nowadays - they have no respect whatsoever! **(LAUGHS)** I hope he didn't hear Linda shouting.

Musical interlude

SCENE 4: NONI HAS MESSED HERSELF AGAIN

95. **SFX: BANGING ON DOOR**

96. **NONI:** Go out! Now!

97. **SAMA:** Wait Noni, I'm coming!

98. **SFX: SOMEONE TRIES DOOR WHICH REFUSES TO OPEN**

99. **SAMA:** **(TO HERSELF)** Damn this door! Open up, you stupid thing!

100. **SFX: DOOR OPENS**

101. **NONI:** **(CRIES)** Sama!

102. **SAMA:** Shh! I'm here now! Noni, my sister, stop crying. Where's Mum? Are you alone?

103. **NONI:** Sama, I pee! Pee! Sama, I pee pee!
104. **SAMA:** Oh no - you've messed yourself again! We have to get you out of these clothes! But first we have to take off these chains.

105. **SFX: CHAIN LOOSENED**

106. **NONI:** Chain bad...

Flashback Ep. 4, line 2

107. **SAMA:** I know, my sister. I don't know why Dad insists on chaining you to the bed. Just because you're different doesn't mean you have to be a prisoner in your own home.

108. **NONI:** Chain bad!

109. **SAMA:** Let me change you, and then we'll go out for a quick walk before Dad and Mum come back, okay? If they catch us, Dad will kill me...!

110. **NONI:** **(Claps as she celebrates)** Yee! Out! Go out! Walk out!

111. **SAMA:** **LAUGHS**

OUTRO:

Wait a minute! Sama has a disabled sister? But why does her dad chain her to the bed? What about Dan? Will his one-man mission to save the environment succeed? If you want to find out how the story continues, don't forget to tune in next time. You can also check out Niki's new video diary at dw.de/lbe. And if you'd like to tell us what you think about all this, just contact us on Facebook. Until next time, good bye!