

## **Crossroads Generation – Season 4: Facing New Challenges**

### **EPISODE TWENTY-SIX: As Strong as a Crocodile**

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

##### **INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR**

##### **SCENE 1: DAN IS ARRESTED**

- DAN – M 19
- UMMI - F 40s
- OFFICER - M, ADULT
- DC – M, ADULT

##### **SCENE 2: KANYAMA IS NOT DEAD**

- OLD WOMAN – F, ADULT
- KANYAMA - M 50s

##### **SCENE3: KADU MEETS SAMA AT THE SPECIAL SCHOOL**

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

##### **SCENE 4: LIVING POSITIVE MEETING**

- LUCY – F, ADULT
- NIKI – M 19
- CROWD – M/F, ADULTS

## **INTRO**

1. **NARRATOR:** Hello there and welcome to Crossroads Generation - a story about the challenges confronting young Africans today! This is the final episode of season four, “Facing New Challenges”. In recent episodes, Niki and his wife Mercy have had a lot to deal with, partly as a result of Niki’s HIV infection. It was the members of the ‘Living Positive’ support group who gave them new hope. Mercy’s brothers Kadu and Banda are about to take on a different challenge. They’re starting at a new school: Kisimba Special School, where disabled and non-disabled pupils learn together. Among them are Sama and her disabled sister, Noni. The last encounter between Kadu and Noni some time ago did not go very well:

## **2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 10, LINES 40-47**

**SAMA: (URGENT)** Oh my God - Noni!

**KADU: (SCARED)** What... what is that? What’s happening to her?

**SAMA:** Quick! Help me pull the bed away before she hits her head.

**SAMA:** ...Kadu, what are you doing? (...)

**KADU:** I... I... have to go, sorry. Banda and I have to catch the bus to town to see our sister Mercy... Bye.

**SAMA: (STRAINED)** Wait, Kadu - where are you going? You promised me you wouldn’t freak out!

**3. NARRATOR:** So let's see what happens today when the three kids meet again at school... We'll also finally learn what happened to Dan's father, Kanyama. He was swept away by the Tandika river during the floods, and so far nobody knows anything of his whereabouts. Dan himself, always passionate and impulsive, has been rather outspoken in criticizing the government:

**4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 25, LINES 15-16, 19**

***DAN:** We all know that one of the reasons Tandika flooded is because the dump is right where the drainage should be.*

***CROWD: SUPPORTS HIM (...)***

***DAN:** Our government is very good at one thing: WAITING! It waits until something actually happens, and then the politicians come bumping out here in their four-by-fours and tell us they're sorry!*

**5. NARRATOR:** Later that day, Dan even took action against the garbage trucks to stop them dumping waste at the Tandika site. Will the corrupt and inefficient government of Kisimba take this lying down? Dan's girlfriend Tina is worried. She knows that Dan is living and working in Kisimba without papers. Let's find out what happens in the concluding episode of this series: "As Strong as a Crocodile"...

**SCENE 1: DAN IS ARRESTED**

6. **ATMO: SLUM ATMO**

7. **DAN:** **(IRRITATED)** Mum, what do you want me to do?

8. **UMMI:** **(ON PHONE)** Keep looking for your father, Dan!  
That's what I want you to do!

9. **DAN:** But I've looked everywhere! He's nowhere to be found.

***KW BEGIN***

10. **UMMI:** Please, Dan. I don't know what else to do. Your uncle --

11. **DAN:** Mum! I've done my best, and I'll keep trying. I've been to hospitals, police stations, even mortuaries, but --

***KW END***

12. **SFX: HAMMERING ON THE DOOR**

13. **OFFICER:** **(FROM OUTSIDE)** Police! Open up!

14. **SFX: LOUD KNOCKING**

15. **OFFICER:** I said open this door right now!

16. **DAN:** **(CALLS)** I'm coming! **(ON PHONE)** Mum, let me call you back, there's someone at the door.

17. **SFX: PHONE DISCONNECTED**
18. **SFX: EVEN ROUGHER KNOCK**
19. **OFFICER:** Open this door at once, or we'll break it down!
20. **DAN:** **(CALLS)** I'm coming!
21. **SFX: CRUTCHES HOBBLING ACROSS THE FLOOR**
22. **SFX: DOOR OPENING**
23. **DAN:** **(SURPRISED)** Mr. District Commissioner! What are you doing here?
24. **DC:** Dan Kanyama, you are under arrest for being in Kisimba illegally and running an illegal business!
25. **DAN:** What?! Is this because I asked questions in the meeting?
26. **DC:** Do you think you can just sneak into this country and do whatever you please? Incite the people with your 'move the dumpsite' campaign? And you think the government won't find out?
27. **DAN:** I haven't done anything wrong, Mr. DC!

28. **DC:** You had a good chance of making it here in Kisimba, boy. But instead you decided you wanted to play the politician... Now it's time for you to reap what you sowed. **(CALLS)** Officer!
29. **OFFICER:** Yes, sir!
30. **DC:** Arrest him!
31. **OFFICER:** Right away, sir! **(TO DAN)** Put out your hands!
32. **DAN:** **(PROTESTS)** No! No! Wait! You can't do this!
33. **OFFICER:** Shut up and move it!
34. **SFX: HANDCUFFS**
35. **DAN:** Please, Mr. DC, please... **(FADE OFF)**

***Musical interlude***

**SCENE 2: KANYAMA IS NOT DEAD**

36. **ATMO: DENSE FOREST, BIRDS CHIRPING, WIND IN TREES**

37. **KANYAMA: (MUMBLES WEAKLY, BARELY AUDIBLE) Thirsty!**  
Thirsty!

38. **OLD WOMAN:** Oh, the stranger awakes! What did you say?

39. **KANYAMA:** Thirsty... please... water.

40. **OLD WOMAN:** Oh, water. Here you go.

41. **SFX: WATER Poured IN CALABASH**

42. **OLD WOMAN:** Drink up, river traveller. And then you'll tell me  
where you come from.

43. **KANYAMA: (DRINKS SLOWLY, WEAKLY) Where am I? Who**  
are you?

44. **OLD WOMAN:** My name is Ikwi. I found you washed up on the  
banks of the river, and I dragged you here all by  
myself. Your head was banged up badly and the fish  
had started to nibble at your flesh. You're lucky I  
found you when I did.

45. **KANYAMA:** What is this place? Why are there so many trees?

46. **OLD WOMAN:** You're in Luvanga. We are a small tribe that lives far away from what people call civilization. We are the protectors of the forest.
47. **KANYAMA:** But why have you bound my hands and feet?
48. **OLD WOMAN:** Because we don't know who you are, or what you want.
49. **KANYAMA:** Please let me go. I mean you no harm.
50. **OLD WOMAN:** They all say that. And then before you know it they're shooting our wildlife and cutting down our forest.
51. **KANYAMA:** But please, I --
52. **OLD WOMAN:** Shhh! Your turn now. Who are you, and where do you come from?
53. **KANYAMA:** Please, my name is...
54. **OLD WOMAN:** Go on... Your name is...?
55. **KANYAMA:** My name is... Damn it!
56. **OLD WOMAN:** Okay - Dammit. Where do you come from, Dammit?
57. **KANYAMA:** No - I mean, I can't remember my name or where I come from. I don't know who I am.



58. **OLD WOMAN:** Oh, I see. You've lost your memory. Do you know what happened to you?
59. **KANYAMA:** No, I can't remember anything! Please let me go!
60. **OLD WOMAN:** All right! No need to worry. They don't call me Ikwi the Wise for nothing. We will give you some herbal medicine that will make you remember everything.
61. **KANYAMA:** Damn it! How long do you think this will take?
62. **OLD WOMAN:** Maybe weeks... or months... even years. Are you in a hurry?
63. **KANYAMA:** I don't know. I just feel there's something I have to do - something urgent.
64. **OLD WOMAN:** That's a good sign. Well then, Dammit! We'll call you 'Mr. Dammit' for now. You rest, and then tomorrow we'll start your treatment.
65. **KANYAMA:** My name's not Damn... I mean --
66. **OLD WOMAN: (COMMANDS)** Shh! No speaking now! Go to sleep, Dammit!
67. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS FADE AWAY**
68. **KANYAMA: (SIGHS IN DEFEAT, THEN REMEMBERS)** Wait! Kanyama! I've remembered! My name is Kanyama!

***Musical interlude***

**SCENE3: KADU MEETS SAMA AT THE SPECIAL SCHOOL**

**69. ATMO: SCHOOL PLAYGROUND, CHILDREN PLAYING**

**70. KADU:** Hi, Sama!

**71. SAMA:** **(SURPRISED)** Kadu! What are you doing here?

**72. KADU:** Teacher Anita said I would find you here.

**73. SAMA:** That's not what I mean... I mean, what are you doing here? At this school?

**74. KADU:** My mum enrolled us here. Her shop was washed away by the floods and she couldn't pay our school fees any more. So she decided to send us here. It's free for children from poor backgrounds.

**75. SAMA:** **SILENT**

**76. KADU:** It's really good to see you again, Sama. And Noni too!

**77. NONI:** Hi! I Noni!

**78. KADU:** **(LAUGHS)** Hi, I'm Kadu!

**79. NONI:** I Noni, I class one!

**80. KADU:** **LAUGHS**

**SILENCE**

81. **KADU:** Sama?
82. **SAMA:** Yes, Kadu?
83. **KADU:** I'm very sorry for how I behaved when I first met Noni.
84. **SAMA:** It's okay, Kadu. People sometimes get scared when they see something they don't understand.
85. **KADU:** I didn't really know then, but I know now that people with disabilities are... well, they're different, but I don't have to be afraid or something. I'm sure we can be friends!
86. **SAMA:** Yes, Kadu, that would be nice!
87. **KADU:** So will you play with me again?
88. **SAMA:** Of course, Kadu!
89. **NONI:** I Noni! I play too!
90. **KADU/SAMA: LAUGH**
91. **KADU:** Yeah!

***Musical interlude***

**SCENE 4: LIVING POSITIVE MEETING**

**92. ATMO: QUIET NEIGHBOURHOOD, BIRDS CHIRPING ETC**

**93. LUCY:** Welcome to today's meeting! My name is Lucy and I am HIV positive.

**94. CROWD: APPLAUDS**

***KW BEGIN***

**95. LUCY:** All together now....

**96. CROWD: (IN UNISON)** I am HIV positive. I am a child of the Earth like everybody else. I will do all that can be done, because I am able and capable. I will live positively. I will hold my head high and walk tall. For I am a child of the Earth! Like you, and you, and you.

**97. CROWD: APPLAUDS**

***KW END***

**98. LUCY:** As usual, we're here to encourage and draw strength from each other through our experiences as people living with HIV.

**99. CROWD: APPLAUDS**

- 100. LUCY:** Well, we have a member here today who has something he'd like to share with us. Like many of us, he's had a hard time dealing with his HIV-positive status. He's encountered stigma, animosity and neglect, even from the people he thought were closest to him.
- 101. CROWD:** Oooh! - Hmmm! - Mmhmm! - Shame! (etc.)
- 102. LUCY:** Join me in welcoming a man as strong as a crocodile - a survivor - my friend and brother in strife, Niki Jumbe!
- 103. CROWD: APPLAUDS IN WELCOME (LONGER)**
- 104. NIKI:** **(CLEARS THROAT)** Thank you! Thank you, you brave soldiers of change, you sons and daughters of Earth, you spreaders of hope...
- 105. CROWD:** **(APPLAUSE; SOME HAPPY LAUGHTER; SOME SPEAK)** What a greeting! - Good speaker! - **(GIRLS SAY)** He's so handsome (etc.)
- 106. NIKI:** I call you that because I am very aware of what these meetings have done for me in terms of changing my attitude towards HIV and AIDS.

**107. CROWD: APPLAUDS**

**108. NIKI:** When I first learned that I was HIV positive, I thought my life had come to an end. I hardly slept; I lost my appetite for all the things I love doing... like exercise... and EATING....

**109. CROWD: LAUGHS**

**110. NIKI:** **(LAUGHS)** Oh yes, I really love eating...

**111. CROWD: LAUGHS**

**112. NIKI:** But seriously... I haven't told anyone this, but... when I found out, I even contemplated suicide.

**113. CROWD:** Oh! - No way! - Poor boy! - You're strong, Niki! (etc.)

**114. NIKI:** Even though, in the beginning, hardly anyone knew about my status, I still felt as if the whole world had deserted me. I felt so alone! **(PAUSE)** But there was one person who did know I was HIV positive - and that was the person who made me think again. Because she stood by me, and decided to marry me anyway.

**115. CROWD: APPLAUSES**

- 116. NIKI:** She looked after me; she bore the brunt of my moodiness and childish behaviour. She, and she alone, is responsible for my being here now. She dragged me kicking and screaming to a counsellor, and together they bullied me into coming to these meetings...
- 117. CROWD: LAUGHS**
- 118. NIKI:** When my mother died, I realized even more just how important this support group is to me. You guys stood beside us as if you were part of our family. You visited us, you counselled us... I don't know how we would have got through it without you all.
- 119. CROWD:** Ooh's! & Aah's - Yeah! – (etc.)
- 120. NIKI:** For that I want to say: thank you! And with me here today is the woman who made it all possible...  
Darling, please stand up wherever you are, so I can show you off! - There she is - my wife and my best friend, Mercy Msoto-Jumbe!
- 121. CROWD: LENGTHY APPLAUSE**

**122. NIKI:** As you can see, she's heavily pregnant - and yes, that is OUR baby growing in her belly! And in case you're wondering - yes, my wife is HIV negative.

**123. CROWD: APPLAUDS**

**124. NIKI:** Darling Mercy, thank you for making me realize that being HIV positive is not the beginning of the end.  
Thank you, Mercy. I love you!

**CROWD: LENGTHY APPLAUSE**



**OUTRO:**

And with that we wrap up the fourth season of “Crossroads Generation - Facing New Challenges”! Such a lot has happened this season... We’ve heard Mercy and Niki struggling with their mixed-status marriage, Dan leading his determined environmental campaign, and the twins Kadu and Banda... well, just being twins! There’s been tragedy - the devastating flood in Tandika, the deaths of Mukaraba and Mrs. Jumbe - and now we have mystery, as Kanyama awakens in a strange land! If you want to know what Niki thinks about everything that’s happened, just have look at his video diary on our website, [dw.de/lbe](http://dw.de/lbe). Here you can also listen to all the previous episodes. Thank you for being with us all through this fourth series of Crossroads Generation, a Learning by Ear project brought to you by Deutsche Welle. The story was written by James Muhando. Until next time, so long!