

Crossroads Generation – Season 4: Facing New Challenges

EPISODE TWENTY-FOUR: Don't Look Back in Anger

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List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: DAN CALLED BY MOTHER

- DR. ROBERTS - M 40s
- DAN - M 19
- UMMI - F 40s

SCENE 2: MERCY, TINA, LULU IN STUDIO

- LULU - F 40s
- MERCY - F 19
- TINA - F 20

SCENE 3: NIKI AND HIS FATHER TALK ABOUT THE BURIAL

- JUMBE - M 50s
- TINA - F 20
- LULU - F 40s
- NIKI - M 19

SCENE 4: IT'S NOT HIM!

- TINA - F 20
- DAN - M 19
- OFFICER - M/F ADULT

INTRO:

1. **NARRATOR:** Hello there and welcome back to the fourth season of Crossroads Generation, our ongoing radio drama about the challenges young Africans are facing. This is episode twenty-four, “Don’t Look Back in Anger”. Last time, Mercy and Tina were asked by their boss at the radio station to prepare a show with a special focus:

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 23, LINES 11, 16

***BOSS:** For the next few shows I want the two of you to focus on the effects the floods have had on the local population. (...)*

***MERCY:** Well, my mother had a shop that was washed away, and it wasn’t insured. I was wondering if perhaps I could interview her, as an example of why it’s important for people to insure their businesses.*

3. **NARRATOR:** It wasn’t easy for Mercy to convince her mother, Lulu, to do the interview, but eventually she agreed. However, while Mercy’s mother lost her shop, Niki’s mother lost her life in the raging waters.

KW BEGIN

4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 21, LINES 92-95

***JUMBE:** Your mother is dead, Niki... **(CRIES)** Your mother is dead.*

***NIKI:** What?*

***JUMBE:** Yes, son. She’s just been pulled out of the river Tandika!*

***NIKI: (DENIAL)** No! No! That can’t be true!*

KW END

5. **NARRATOR:** Now Niki and his father have to prepare for the funeral. When the floods hit, Dan's father Kanyama was in Kisimba looking for him. Dan didn't know he was coming, and before Kanyama could contact his son, he was in a car accident, caused by the rainstorm:

6. **FLASHBACK: EPISODE 19, LINES 53, 58-63**

***MUKARABA:** Help! Kanyama! Help! I can't swim! (...)*

***KANYAMA:** Hold on to that root! I'm coming!*

***MUKARABA:** Watch out for the log! Watch out! Watch out, Kanyama!*

***KANYAMA:** (SHOUTS) Where is it? Where's --*

***KANYAMA:** Help! (VOICE DISAPPEARS AS HE SWALLOWS) Help!*

7. **NARRATOR:** Mukaraba was later found dead on the banks of the Tandika river. But so far we don't know what happened to Kanyama. Today's episode starts at the hospital, where Dan has had to stay for a few days...

SCENE 1: DAN CALLED BY MOTHER

8. **ATMO: HOSPITAL ATMO**

9. **DR. ROBERTS:** Dan, the nurses tell me you have been giving them grief, demanding to be discharged!

10. **DAN:** Yeah... Come on, Doctor Roberts. I feel fine!

11. **DR. ROBERTS:** All right. Your prayers have been answered. We'll let you go tomorrow.

12. **SFX: PHONE RINGS**

13. **DAN:** Sorry, can I answer this? It's my mum.

14. **DR. ROBERTS:** Sure, go ahead. I'll come back later.

15. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS MOVING AWAY**

16. **SFX: PHONE ANSWERED**

17. **DAN:** Hello... Mum?

18. **UMMI:** **(ON PHONE)** Oh Dan! It's so good to hear your voice. Are you okay? Where are you?

19. **DAN:** Yes, I'm fine.... well, I'm in hospital.

20. **UMMI:** In hospital? Are you okay? Wha... what happened?

21. **DAN:** Nothing serious, just a minor accident... Mum, is everything okay? You sound strange.

22. **UMMI:** It's your dad. Dan, I... I think something terrible has happened to him.
23. **DAN:** What do you mean?
24. **UMMI:** I lost contact with him when the floods hit.
25. **DAN:** **(SURPRISED)** There were floods in Laboria too?
26. **UMMI:** No, not in Laboria, in Kisimba ...
27. **DAN:** Mum, you're not making any sense. Why would Dad be affected by the floods in Kisimba?
28. **UMMI:** Your dad was in Kisimba looking for you. Last time I spoke to him he'd just arrived at Kisimba Airport. He was waiting for his friend Mukaraba. They were going to look for you. Now I can't reach him any more, his phone is switched off... **(CRIES)** and I have a bad feeling...
29. **DAN:** **(ANGRY)** What? Dad is in Kisimba? What is wrong with that old man? And you're telling me he knows Mukaraba?!
30. **UMMI:** Listen to me. This is no time for grudges. I saw on the news that Mukaraba was found dead in one of the rivers. I... I'm scared, Dan.

31. **DAN:** Mum - you know, I'm still in hospital...
32. **UMMI:** Dan - for me? Please? You know I'm far away and I can't travel over. Please!
33. **DAN:** **(SIGHS)** All right! I'll do it. But you're not going to make me come home, if that's what you two are up to. I have a life here, you know.
34. **UMMI:** Just find my husband for me, Dan. Will you do that?

Musical interlude

SCENE 2: MERCY, TINA, LULU IN STUDIO

35. **ATMO: STUDIO ATMO**
36. **LULU:** So Mercy, what is this thing?
37. **MERCY/TINA: LAUGH**
38. **MERCY:** Mum! That's a microphone. When you speak, it picks up your voice so that it can be heard on the radio.
39. **LULU:** **(VERY NERVOUS)** So what do I do? Tina, you're carrying papers... Do I have to read? You know I can't read very well.

40. **TINA:** **(REASSURING)** No, Mama Mercy, don't worry!
These are just my notes to remind me what questions I want to ask you. We'll just talk about the difficulties you're facing now that your shop's been destroyed by the floods. That's all.
41. **LULU:** Okay! Fine! Come on - let's do it! If only to show that naughty daughter of mine that I can! I mean, what kind of daughter is she? Instead of helping her mother, she's laughing at me?!
42. **MERCY/TINA:** **LAUGH**
43. **LULU:** **JOINS IN IN SPITE OF HERSELF**

Musical interlude

SCENE 3: NIKI AND HIS FATHER TALK ABOUT THE BURIAL

44. **ATMO:** **QUIET NEIGHBOURHOOD, BIRDS CHIRPING**
45. **JUMBE:** Niki, my son, please pass me my insulin and turn on the radio.
46. **NIKI:** Here you are, Dad.
47. **SFX:** **RUSTLE OF CLOTHES AS MEDICINE IS PASSED**

48. SFX: RADIO TURNED ON

49. TINA: **(ON RADIO)** ... And so we're honoured to have Lulu Msoto with us today to talk about how she's been affected... Welcome to the show, Lulu.

50. LULU: Thank you.

51. TINA: Lulu is a resident of Tandika, and until recently she owned a business here, selling vegetables. It was doing very well, until disaster struck! Tell me, Lulu: what happened?

52. JUMBE: Isn't that your mother-in-law?

53. NIKI: Yes, that's Mercy's mother.

54. LULU: **(ON RADIO)** Well, all I could do was watch, as my business was swept away! A business that had taken me years to build disappeared in seconds, before my very eyes, and there was nothing I could do about it.

55. TINA: A lot of people lost their livelihoods in the floods. Tell me, Lulu, was your business insured?

56. **LULU:** Until this happened, I could never see the point of getting insurance. I would say: 'Mine is a small business, and that kind of insurance is for big businesses... And I can't afford it, anyway.' Now I really wish I'd had it. If I had insured my business, I would have been given some money to start again.
57. **TINA:** Do many people have insurance in Tandika?
58. **LULU:** To tell you the truth, most people don't even know what it is. I learned about it from my own daughter. She was always telling me I ought to...
59. **SFX: VOLUME TURNED DOWN**
60. **JUMBE:** **(SIGHS)** That poor lady. Niki, you're going to have another burden to carry now that your mother-in-law has lost everything...
61. **NIKI:** **(SIGHS)**
62. **JUMBE:** We'd better get down to why we're here. I need you to help me decide where to bury your mother. Our relatives want us to take her upcountry. I'd like to know what you have to say about that.

63. NIKI: **(SIGHS)** I'm not so sure Mother would have wanted to be buried upcountry. She liked the city.

64. JUMBE: I know what your mother wanted. The question is, where would YOU rather we buried her?

65. NIKI: Definitely here! In the city. This is where we live, and we'd be able to visit her grave easily.

66. JUMBE: Okay! So that's settled, then. As you know, in our African society burials can be a cause of animosity...

67. NIKI: Does that mean you want to bury her here, as well?

68. JUMBE: Of course! I know this might create bad blood between us and our relatives, but the most important thing is that you and I are in agreement. Besides, it would be very difficult to transport her body upcountry in time. The rain has made all the streets impassable.

69. NIKI: **(SIGHS, SADLY)** You know that Mum and I weren't the best of friends... But I really miss her, Dad!

70. JUMBE: Me too, son! Me too.

Musical interlude

SCENE 4: IT'S NOT HIM!

71. **ATMO: INSIDE MORTUARY WAITING AREA**

72. **TINA:** Dan?

73. **DAN:** Yes, Tina?

74. **TINA:** What if the unidentified person the police found in the river is your dad? What will you do?

75. **DAN:** **(SIGHS)** I don't know, Tina. I don't even want to think about it. I mean, we weren't on good terms, but he's still my dad.

KW BEGIN

PAUSE

76. **TINA:** Dan?

77. **DAN:** Yes.

78. **TINA:** I'm scared. I've never been to a morgue before.

79. **DAN:** You don't have to come in. I mean, you've already helped me look for my dad in all the police stations and hospitals. I can do this on my own.

80. **TINA:** But you still can't walk very well, and...

81. **DAN:** **(CUTS IN)** Don't worry. I'll be okay. You just wait for me here. I'll be out before you know it.

82. **TINA:** **(DECISIVELY)** No. I'm coming with you...

KW END

83. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS APPROACH**

84. **OFFICER:** You guys are waiting for me, aren't you? My name's
Officer Muruli.

85. **DAN:** Yes, sir. We were told to wait here.

86. **OFFICER:** You must be Dan Kanyama... And you, young lady,
are...?

87. **DAN:** She's Tina Wigo. She's with me.

88. **OFFICER:** Okay. Follow me. I have to warn you: it's nasty in
there. No place for weak stomachs.

89. **DAN:** Okay.

90. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS AND CRUTCHES WALKING AWAY**

91. **ATMO CHANGES: SILENT ATMO, FRIDGES AND FREEZERS
WHIRRING**

92. **OFFICER:** Cover your noses with this. It'll help with the smell.
Okay, so we'll pull the body out of the freezer, and your job is just to tell us whether you recognize him as your dad. Nothing more! Clear?
93. **DAN:** Yes, sir!
94. **OFFICER:** Okay. Here we are.
95. **TINA:** **(SNIFFS AS SHE IS HIT BY THE SMELL, WHISPERS)** Oh my God, Dan! It smells so horrible!
96. **OFFICER:** Are you ready?
97. **DAN:** Yes, sir. Please go ahead.
98. **OFFICER:** I'll pull him out, then.
99. **SFX: HEAVY METAL DRAWER PULLED OUT**
100. **OFFICER:** I'll now pull back the covers.
101. **SFX: RUSTLE AS COVERS PULLED AWAY**
102. **DAN:** **(SNIFFS)** Pff!
103. **TINA:** **(CHOKES AND COUGHS ON VOMIT)**
104. **OFFICER:** Sorry, young lady. You can use the bathroom at the back. Even those of us who work here never get used to the smell.
105. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS RUNNING AWAY**

- 106. OFFICER:** Well, Dan. Is it him?
- 107. DAN:** **(AS HE CHOKES)** No, it's not him!
- 108. OFFICER:** Are you absolutely sure?
- 109. DAN:** Yes. My dad has a long scar down the side of his face.
- 110. OFFICER:** **(SIGHS)** Okay. Then I guess we're done here.

OUTRO:

And we're also done for today... Are you as curious as we are to find out what's happened to Dan's father? Join us next time on Crossroads Generation! Niki's also back with a new instalment of his video blog, which you can watch on our website, dw.de/lbe. That's also where you'll find all the previous episodes. Please follow us on Facebook and tell us what you think. Until next time, goodbye and take care!