

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 4: Facing New Challenges

EPISODE ONE: Changing Times

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List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: DAN VISITS TINA AT THE OFFICE

- ALICE - F 30s
- TINA - F 19
- DAN - M 20

SCENE 2: NIKI AT THE GYM

- VOICE 1 - M 20s
- VOICE 2 - M/F 20s
- JUNE - F 20s
- NIKI - M 19

SCENE 3: MERCY'S FIRST DAY BACK

- TINA - F 19
- MERCY - F 19

SCENE 4: NIKI IS ANGRY

- MERCY - F 19
- NIKI - M 19

INTRO:

1. NARRATOR: Hello and welcome to a brand new season of Crossroads Generation, our ongoing radio drama about the daily life of African teenagers, the problems they have to deal with, and the solutions they find. Today is the start of our fourth season: “Facing New Challenges”. In the last season, 19-year-old Niki asked his girlfriend Mercy to marry him. Soon afterwards he learned that he was HIV positive – which came as a huge shock. Nonetheless, Mercy decided to become Niki’s wife:

2. FLASHBACK: SEASON 3, EPISODE 26, LINES 97-98

PASTOR: (...) Niki and Mercy: I now pronounce you man and wife. Niki, you may now kiss the bride.

NIKI / MERCY: (Kiss)

3. NARRATOR: Mercy already has a daughter, Linda, who’s now three years old, and Niki has adopted Linda as his own. The newly-weds decided to wait a bit before going on honeymoon, and saved up for a lovely holiday by the sea. They just got home a few days ago. Now they’re about to start back at their part-time jobs, where they work alongside their university studies: Niki at the gym, and Mercy at the university radio. By the way: Linda’s biological father is Dan. He and Mercy had a brief affair when they were at high school. But Dan walked out on her when she got pregnant,

and they've hardly seen each other since – although Dan actually did try to crash Mercy and Niki's wedding. Dan has started up a green business: he produces and sells handbags that he makes out of recycled plastic bags. And let's not forget Tina. She's Mercy's friend from university. Tina had a hard time after her parents died: she had to work as a callgirl to earn enough money to take care of her siblings. But then she got an offer of a different job:

4. FLASHBACK: SEASON 3, EPISODE 24, LINES 24-25

PROF: Well, Tina... The department has decided to offer you a position as a research assistant at the university radio, for a small salary – that is, if you want the job?

TINA: (excited) What?! Of course I want it, sir! Thank you so much!

5. NARRATOR: So what's happened since then? Let's find out in this first episode: 'Changing Times'. We start off in Tina's office at the radio station...

SCENE 1: DAN VISITS TINA AT THE OFFICE

6. ATMO: OFFICE ATMO

7. SFX: SOFT KNOCK ON DOOR

8. SFX: DOOR OPENS

9. ALICE: Hi, Tina, there's someone here to see you. His name is --

10. TINA: **(INTERRUPTS, ASTONISHED)**...Dan Kanyama!
What are you doing here?!

11. DAN: Hi, Tina. May I come in?

12. TINA: Okay. Here, have a seat.

13. SFX: STEPS ENTERING

14. SFX: CHAIR SCRAPING AS DAN SITS DOWN

15. TINA: Thanks, Alice. Actually, can I ask a huge favour?
Could you print something out for me? My printer's dead.

16. ALICE: Sure.

17. TINA: You're an angel. The file's on the flash drive. It's called "Tell It for the Diva".

18. ALICE: Okay.

19. SFX: FOOTSTEPS GOING AWAY

20. **TINA:** So, Dan... How long has it been since we saw each other at Mercy's wedding?

21. **DAN:** **(UNCOMFORTABLE)** Er - a couple of months...

22. **TINA:** Hm! All right: so how can I help you?

Flashback Ep. 5, line 4

23. **DAN:** Well, because I know you're very busy, with your job and your studies and everything, I'll get straight to the point. I'm planning to organize a group of young activists for environmental protection, and I thought you might want to join us.

24. **TINA:** I see. But what's it got to do with me?

25. **DAN:** Well, the environment concerns everyone. I've started to talk to people about environmental issues, but I'd like to have a bigger impact. That's why I'd like you to be a partner in my group - because a lot of people respect your opinion. Your radio show on women's rights is a huge success, and I thought you could add the environment to the issues that you campaign for.

26. **TINA:** And what would you be doing?

27. DAN: Ideally, we'd be a 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.

28. TINA: Mmm! Interesting. Please let me think about it for a while.

29. DAN: Sure. It would really be great if you joined me, Tina. Together we could really make a difference.

30. SFX: LIGHT KNOCK ON DOOR

31. ALICE: Hey, sorry to interrupt, Tina. Here you go - all printed.

32. TINA: Thanks, Alice. It's a whole heap, right?

33. TINA/ALICE LAUGH

34. SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS ALICE LEAVES

35. DAN: I see you've printed on just one side of the page... Have you ever thought of printing on both sides, to save paper?

36. TINA: Erm... no, why?

37. **DAN:** You help save the environment that way. Paper's made from trees, after all.
38. **TINA:** Hmm. Good point. Look, Dan, right now I have to go to the studio, but let me give you a call later, okay? Just leave me your number.
39. **SFX: SCRIBBLING ON PAPER**
40. **DAN:** Okay. Thanks for seeing me.
41. **TINA:** No problem. Talk to you later.

Musical Interlude

SCENE 2: NIKI AT THE GYM

42. **ATMO: GYM ATMO, PEOPLE EXERCISING**
43. **VOICE 1:** **(PANTS)** Hey, guys - Niki gets back from his holiday today, doesn't he?
44. **VOICE 2:** Yeah.
45. **VOICE 1:** That's great! Sorry, June, no offence - it's not that you've been a bad trainer or anything, but you have to admit that Niki's really good.
46. **JUNE:** **(CHUCKLES UNCOMFORTABLY)**

47. SFX: FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING

- 48. VOICE 2:** Talk of the devil, here he comes! Hey, Niki!
- 49. VOICE 1:** Welcome back, Niki!
- 50. JUNE:** Hi, Niki!
- 51. NIKI:** Hi guys! June, how's it going? Everything okay around here?
- 52. VOICES:** Excellent! - Great to have you back! - How was your honeymoon? etc.
- 53. NIKI:** Good. Yeah, it was... good. **(SIGHS)** All right! Shall we get going? We'll start with some skipping exercises. June, where are the ropes?
- 54. JUNE:** I don't know.
- 55. NIKI:** What do you mean, you don't know?! Haven't you been in charge of training while I was away?
- 56. JUNE:** I haven't seen them since you went away.
- 57. NIKI:** Excuse me?! What are you trying to say, June? Are you suggesting I took them with me? On my honeymoon? Is that what you're saying?
- 58. JUNE:** I didn't say that!
- 59. NIKI:** But it's what you're insinuating!

60. **JUNE:** **(POLITE)** Hey - what's wrong with you, Niki?
61. **NIKI:** **(ANGRY)** You do your job, okay, June! Just DO
YOUR JOB!
62. **JUNE:** **(ANGRY NOW)** Hey, hey! Stop talking to me as if I
were your slave! Just because you have big
muscles doesn't give you the right to talk to me like
that! **VOICE:** Hey, come on, guys - calm
down!
64. **JUNE:** You tell that to Niki! I'm out of here!
65. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS GO AWAY**
66. **NIKI:** Hey June, where are you going? We have work to
do!
67. **JUNE:** **(FROM AFAR)** Do it yourself! Useless man!
68. **SFX: DOOR BANGS**

Musical Interlude

SCENE 3: MERCY'S FIRST DAY BACK

69. ATMO: STUDIO ATMO

KW BEGIN

70. TINA: ...but while we appreciate the role men play in society, the role of women has been severely underestimated over the years. And it's through the efforts of young women like my studio guest today that this is slowly changing.

71. SFX: BRIDGE MUSIC FADES IN, OUT

KW END

72. TINA: And that's it for today from "Women Have Their Say", our programme highlighting the plights, the fights and the rights of women. Big thanks to my stand-by producer - she's been filling in for Mercy Msoto-Jumbe, who's been away on her honeymoon. Oh - and talk of the devil, Mercy just walked in! My name is Tina Wigo, and it's bye from all of us here at 101 University FM.

73. SFX: MUSIC FADES IN AND OUT

74. SFX: STUDIO DOOR OPENS

75. **TINA:** **(SCREAMS EXCITEDLY)** Oh my God, Mercy!
Welcome back!
76. **MERCY:** **(EXCITED)** Thanks, Tina! I missed you!
77. **TINA:** I almost stopped the show when I saw you walk in.
You were away too long on your holiday, Mrs.
Msoto-Jumbe!
78. **MERCY:** Come on, three weeks isn't too long is it? So tell me
- did I miss anything exciting?
79. **TINA:** Fat chance! Come on, let's go outside. You have to
tell me everything! All the details!
80. **SFX: DOOR OPENS**
81. **ATMO: CHANGES TO CORRIDOR ATMO**
82. **SFX: TWO PEOPLE WALKING**
83. **TINA:** So, how was the honeymoon?
84. **MERCY:** Great! Niki took me to the most amazing place. It
was good to have a break from everyday life,
especially after all the trouble with the wedding...
(SAD) But...
85. **TINA:** But what? Out with it, girlfriend!

86. **MERCY:** Well... he couldn't stop crying, because of... you know... his infection.
87. **TINA:** But I thought you guys had spoken to a counsellor about that?
88. **MERCY:** **(EMOTIONAL)** Tina, I don't know what to do any more. He cries all the time - he barely smiles. He just hasn't come to terms with the whole thing.
89. **TINA:** Have you talked to anyone about it?
90. **MERCY:** Well, we talked to Margaret, the counsellor, of course, and she said the best way to deal with the mood swings was to exercise.
91. **TINA:** But Niki works at the gym, so exercise shouldn't be a problem.
92. **MERCY:** I know. But he doesn't exercise any more, not even at the gym. He just gives instructions.
93. **TINA:** **(SIGHS)** I think you need to see the counsellor again.
94. **MERCY:** **(SIGHS)**
95. **TINA:** Hey, come on - enough about that. **(GOSSIPING)**
Guess what! Your ex came to see me today.

96. **MERCY:** Dan? Why?

97. **TINA:** Come on - let me buy you coffee in the canteen and
I'll tell you all about it!

Musical Interlude

SCENE 4: NIKI IS ANGRY

98. **ATMO: INTERIOR**

99. **SFX: RADIO PLAYING LOUDLY**

100. **SFX: PAGES TURNING AS SOMEONE SCRIBBLES.**

101. **MERCY:** **(TO HERSELF)** Damn! Here we go again - trying to
juggle my classwork with work and family life... I
have to hurry up and finish before Niki gets back.

KW BEGIN **(TO LINDA)** Hey Linda, please turn it down! I can't
concentrate with that racket going on in the
background!

102. **SFX: VOLUME INCREASED**

103. **MERCY:** Linda, you naughty girl! I said turn it down. Right
now!

104. **SFX: LINDA LAUGHS**

105. MERCY: Ooh, you little monster! Just you wait till I catch you...

106. SFX: RUNNING FEET AS THEY CHASE EACH OTHER AROUND

**107. SFX: LINDA LAUGHS AS SHE RUNS AND DISAPPEARS INTO
HER ROOM**

108. DOOR OPENS, SHUTS

109. MERCY: **(LAUGHS, SHOUTS)** Now be quiet, or I'll pull your great big ears, you brat!

KW END

110. SFX: DOOR OPENS, FOOTSTEPS STOMP IN, DOOR BANGS.

111. MERCY: Hey Niki, my husband, welcome home. How was your first day back at work?

112. NIKI: **(FLATLY)** Fine!

Flashback Ep. 2, line 4

113. MERCY: Are you hungry? Can I get you something to eat?

114. NIKI: No, I'm not hungry.

115. MERCY: Hey - honey...? Are you sure you're okay?

116. NIKI: **(ANGRILY)** I said I'm fine! Stop pestering me with your damn questions, woman!

117. MERCY: Okay! No need to shout at me. I'm just... concerned, that's all!

118. NIKI: **(STILL ANGRY)** Don't try to patronize me. I'm not your child, Mercy, okay?

119. MERCY: I'm not patronizing you, I'm just... **(SIGHS)** What's wrong with you, Niki? Why are you behaving like this?

120. NIKI: Will you just leave me alone for a minute, Mercy? Will you?

121. MERCY: **(SHOUTS)** All right! Fine!

122. SFX: FAST FOOTSTEPS WALK AWAY

123. NIKI: **(POLITE)** Hey Mercy, wait. I'm sorry... Mercy, please come back... **(SIGHS)**

OUTRO:

And with Mercy walking off in a huff we reach the end of today's episode. Will they manage to make this marriage last? Maybe we'll get a hint from Niki's new video diary. You'll find it at dw.de/lbe. And don't forget that you can get in touch with us via Facebook. Until next time - bye bye!