

Crossroads Generation – Season 4: Facing New Challenges

EPISODE TWENTY: Where Are You?

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List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: KADU AND BANDA RESCUED

- KADU - M 12
- BANDA - M 12
- VOICE 1 - M/F ADULT
- VOICES IN THE BACKGROUND - M/F ADULTS

SCENE 2: NIKI COMES HOME

- NIKI - M 19
- MERCY - F 19

SCENE 3: LULU REUNITED WITH HER CHILDREN

- VOICE 1 - M/F ADULT
- VOICE 2 - M/F ADULT
- CROWD – M/F ADULTS (including VOICE 1 & 2)
- GOVERNMENT OFFICER - M/F ADULT
- LULU - F 40s
- KADU - M 12
- BANDA - M 12

SCENE 4: WHERE IS MRS. JUMBE?

- NIKI - M 19
- JUMBE - M 50s
- MRS. JUMBE – F, 40s

INTRO:

1. **NARRATOR:** Hi there! You're tuned in to Crossroads Generation, season four. This is the twentieth episode entitled: "Where Are You?" Last time, 19-year-old Mercy got some very good news from her doctor:

2. **FLASHBACK: EPISODE 18, LINES 34-36**

DR. FLORENCE: *Congratulations, Mercy. You're pregnant.*

MERCY: (SURPRISED) *Are you serious, Dr. Florence? It worked?*

DR. FLORENCE: *Yes, it did! Even better: your blood tests show no sign of any infection! (...) You're a perfectly healthy pregnant woman! And your baby is fine as well!*

3. **NARRATOR:** Mercy hasn't yet been able to tell her husband Niki the good news. Niki was visiting his parents, where he told them that he was HIV positive. His mother, Mrs. Jumbe, left the house in a fury, and paid Mercy a surprise visit:

4. **FLASHBACK: EPISODE 19, LINES 37; 42-45**

MRS. JUMBE: *You infected my son with HIV. HIV! Do you have any idea what you've done? (...)*

MERCY: *Mama Niki, you don't know what you're talking about!*

MRS. JUMBE: *I do know what I'm talking about! Niki just told us himself!*

MERCY: *Niki told you? Did he tell you that I infected him?*

MRS. JUMBE: *Of course he did! (...)*

5. **NARRATOR:** This is not true at all, but Mercy hasn't yet had a chance to talk to Niki about it. As you may remember, while Mrs. Jumbe was ranting and raving at Mercy it started to rain heavily. Niki hasn't been able to get home because of the storm. And Mrs. Jumbe hasn't come back yet, either. Where is she? On the other side of town, Mercy's 12-year-old brothers, Kadu and Banda, are trapped inside their own house, where we join them at the start of today's episode, "Where Are You?"

SCENE 1: KADU AND BANDA RESCUED

6. **ATMO: WATER FLOWING OUTSIDE**

7. **SFX: STEADY STREAM OF WATER DRIPPING INSIDE THE HOUSE**

8. **BANDA:** Kadu, what can we do? We can't stay here forever on the bed, just floating on the water.

9. **KADU:** Too bad neither of us can swim.

10. **BANDA:** Yeah, but even if we could, where would we swim to? Everything's flooded!

11. **SFX: WATER DRIPPING**

12. **KADU:** Do you think Mum and our little sister Joy are okay?
Why didn't they come home at the usual time?
13. **BANDA:** I don't know, Kadu. Maybe they couldn't make it
because of the rain.
14. **KADU:** **(SHIVERS)** I'm cold!
15. **BANDA:** Me too. And all our clothes are wet because the
house is flooded. At least the rain has stopped...
16. **KADU:** Banda?
17. **BANDA:** Yes, Kadu?
18. **KADU:** Do you think someone will come and rescue us?
19. **BANDA:** They must be looking for us now the rain has
stopped! Don't worry, we –
20. **VOICES IN THE BACKGROUND**
21. **KADU:** Wait...
22. **BANDA:** What?
23. **KADU:** Did you hear that?
24. **BANDA:** What? I can't hear anythi--
25. **VOICES:** **(FROM OUTSIDE)** We'll dig a trench here to direct
the water away. - These houses here are flooded -
There may be people inside (etc.)

26. **BANDA:** Yes, there are people! Come on, Kadu, shout...
(SHOUTS) Help! Help!

Flashback Ep. 22, line 2

27. **KADU:** **(SHOUTS)** Help! We're stuck in here! The house is
flooded!

28. **VOICE 1:** **(FROM OUTSIDE)** You're right, there are people in
there! **(SHOUTS)** Hey - where are you?

29. **BANDA/KADU:** **(SHOUTING)** In here! Please help us! We're
floating on the bed!

30. **VOICE 1:** Can you swim?

31. **BANDA/ KADU:** No!

32. **VOICE 1:** Okay, don't try, just stay where you are. We'll get
you out, don't worry!

Musical interlude

SCENE 2: NIKI COMES HOME

33. QUIET NEIGHBOURHOOD, INSIDE

34. SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR

35. NIKI: Mercy - Linda - are you okay? I forgot my keys!
Please open up! I came as soon as I could. I was
cut off by the floods.

SILENCE

36. SFX: PERSISTENT KNOCK

37. NIKI: Mercy, please open up! I've been so worried! Are
you both okay in there?

38. MERCY: **(FROM INSIDE)** Go away, Niki!

39. NIKI: **(RELIEVED)** Oh, thank God, you're okay! Please,
open the door! It's so cold out here.

40. MERCY: Just leave us alone, Niki. Go! Just go, okay?

41. NIKI: What... what do you mean? Are you mad at me
because I didn't come home? What did you want me
to do? All roads were closed, and the mobile
networks were down!

SILENCE

42. NIKI: Mercy! Come on!

SILENCE

43. **NIKI:** **(ANGRY, KNOCKS)** Mercy! Open this damn door right now!
44. **SFX: DOOR OPENS**
45. **MERCY:** What do you want, Niki?
46. **NIKI:** Excuse me?! What do I want? You don't see me for such a long time, people are dying in the floods, and the first thing you ask me is what do I want?
47. **MERCY:** That's right! What do you want?
48. **NIKI:** Mercy, are you out of your mind? I live here!
49. **MERCY:** Not any more! **(SARCASTIC)** Why would you want to live with the person who infected you with HIV?
50. **NIKI:** What... what are you talking about?
51. **MERCY:** Do NOT play "Mr. I-have-no-idea-what-goes-on-around-me", Niki! Did you or did you not tell your mother that I infected you with HIV?
52. **NIKI:** I told my mother *wha...?* **(REALISES)** Oh... I see. So this is where she went? That woman is crazy! Is she still here?
53. **MERCY:** Just go away, Niki!

54. **NIKI:** Listen to me, Mercy. You *know* my mum. I told her I was HIV positive, and before I could say anything else she jumped to conclusions and stormed out. We haven't seen her since. My dad is worried sick!
55. **MERCY:** That hurt me, Niki! It really hurt!
56. **NIKI:** Hey! Listen to me! You've stood by me all this time. You're the one person who has truly supported me. Do you really think I would do anything to mess that up? Honestly?
57. **MERCY:** **(SIGHS)** I don't know what to think, Niki... I mean, I was sitting here all excited, waiting for you to come home so I could tell you that I'm pregnant, and instead your mum comes storming along, screaming accusations...
58. **NIKI:** Mercy, you know my mother's... **(REALISES)**
Excuse me, what did you just say?
59. **MERCY:** I'm pregnant, Niki.
60. **NIKI:** **(HAPPY)** Oh God! Oh my God! I can't believe it!
Mercy - my love - come here...
61. **SFX: CLOTH RUSTLING AS THEY EMBRACE**

Musical interlude

SCENE 3: LULU REUNITED WITH HER CHILDREN

62. **ATMO: SLUM ATMO**

63. **VOICES (PEOPLE FIGHTING FOR FOOD - RUNS THROUGHOUT THE SCENE)**

64. **VOICE:** Stop pushing me. I was at the front of the queue!

65. **VOICE 2:** Liar! There are hundreds of people here. You think you're the most important?

66. **VOICES:** Tell him! - He's not the only one affected by the floods! - We're all hungry! (etc)

67. **GOVERNMENT OFFICER (ON MEGAPHONE):** Please wait and collect your food in an orderly fashion. No need to fight, there's plenty here! Those of you looking for lost friends and relatives, please come and register over here.

68. **BANDA:** Kadu, look! There are Mum and our little sister!
(CALLS HAPPILY) Mum!

69. **KADU:** **(CALLS)** Mum! Over here!

70. **LULU:** **(FROM AFAR)** Kadu! Banda!

71. SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING

72. LULU: (CRIES) Oh, my children! I thought I'd never see you again!

73. KADU: (CRYING) We didn't know what had happened to you!

74. BANDA: (CRYING) We were so scared!

75. LULU: I know! I know. But it's all over now!

76. KADU: Where were you?

77. LULU: In my shop. First it flooded, and then it was swept away by the floodwater. We had to take shelter, and we couldn't get back. I wanted to come home, but we couldn't move.

78. BANDA: Oh Mum! What will you do for money now?

79. LULU: I don't know, my children. I don't know! Let's get some food now. We'll worry about that later.

Musical interlude

SCENE 4: WHERE IS MRS. JUMBE?

80. **ATMO: QUIET NEIGHBOURHOOD**

81. **SFX: DISTANT THUNDER RUMBLES**

82. **JUMBE:** **(TO HIMSELF)** Where on earth can Janet be? I'd better try her phone again.

83. **SFX: PHONE BEING DIALLED**

84. **AUTOMATIC VOICE (MRS. JUMBE):** This is the mailbox of Janet Jumbe. Please leave your message after the beep!

85. **SFX: PHONE DISCONNECTED**

86. **JUMBE:** Damn it! Voicemail again! What is wrong with my wife? That woman will be the death of me! Maybe she's been in touch with Niki... I'll call and ask.

87. **SFX: PHONE DIALLED, PICKED**

88. **JUMBE:** Hello, Niki...

89. **NIKI:** **(ON PHONE)** Hi Dad. Any news?

90. **JUMBE:** Your mother still hasn't contacted me. Has she contacted you?

91. **NIKI:** **(SIGHS)** No, she hasn't. But after she stormed out she came over to my place and threatened to kill Mercy.

92. **JUMBE:** What?
93. **NIKI:** Yup! Mum also accused Mercy of having infected me with HIV! Didn't I tell you that Mercy is not even HIV positive?! For heaven's sake!
94. **JUMBE:** Yes, son, you did tell me this. I'm sorry. But where did your mother go afterwards?
95. **NIKI:** I don't know, and - Dad, to be frank, I really don't care right now!
96. **JUMBE:** How can you say that, Niki? They're reporting that hundreds of people have been swept away by the floods. And you don't care what's happened to your mother?
97. **NIKI:** No, Dad, I really don't. Mum is probably just creating her usual melodrama!
98. **JUMBE:** Listen to me, Niki. Your mother can be difficult sometimes, but she is still your mother. We need to find her!
99. **NIKI:** Yeah, you're right! We need to find her - so I can give her a piece of my mind once and for all!

OUTRO:

Things are getting more and more complicated for the families. Lulu's shop, her only source of income, has been swept away, and now Niki's mother has gone missing! Amidst all this chaos, Niki did manage to find a moment to record his video blog. He shares his thoughts with you at dw.de/lbe. And if you want to share *your* thoughts with *us*, please join us on Facebook. Until next time - goodbye!