

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 4: Facing New Challenges

EPISODE TWO: A Storm Brewing

AUTHOR: JAMES MUHANDO

EDITORS: JULIA MAAS, ANDREA SCHMIDT

COPY EDITOR: CHARLOTTE COLLINS

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INTRO:

1. **NARRATOR:** Hello and welcome back to Crossroads Generation, our radio series about a group of African teenagers and the challenges they face in their daily lives. This is the second episode, called “A Storm Brewing”. Do you remember our twins, Kadu and Banda? They’re Mercy’s younger brothers, and they still live in the Tandika slum with their mother Lulu and their young sister Joy. Last time we heard from them, Kadu seemed to have a little romance going on:

2. FLASHBACK: SEASON 3, EPISODE 5, LINES 9-10; 13; 18; 28-29

KADU: *Hey! Sama, why are you crying?*

SAMA: *(pretends) I’m not crying, Kadu!*

KADU: *Come on, tell me. (...)*

SAMA: *They say I can’t play with them any more. And they laughed at my yellow dress! (...)*

KADU: *Well, I like your dress!*

SAMA: *(shyly) Thank you, Kadu.*

3. **NARRATOR:** In our last episode, a storm seemed to be brewing between Mercy and her husband Niki, when Niki came home from work in a sulk:

4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 1, LINES 113-116

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

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

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

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

5. NARRATOR: So what's up with everyone? Is Mercy's marriage already on the rocks? There's only one way to find out! Let's join Mercy and Niki at their dinner table...

SCENE 1: MERCY AND NIKI TALK

6. ATMO: INTERIOR, EVENING

7. SFX: RAINFALL OUTSIDE, THUNDERSTORM

8. SFX: CUTLERY

9. NIKI: **(SMACKS HIS LIPS AS HE EATS)** Mmm! Mercy, my wife, this food is delicious. I like it!

10. MERCY: SILENT

11. NIKI: Is Linda still asleep? Shouldn't we wake her so that she can eat?

12. MERCY: SILENT

13. NIKI: Oh, come on, Mercy, how long are you going to give me the silent treatment?

14. SFX: CUTLERY AS THEY EAT IN SILENCE.

15. NIKI: Mercy, I've said I'm sorry.

SILENCE

16. NIKI: Come on, sugar. I didn't mean to shout at you. I just... I had a bad day at work.

17. MERCY: **(ANGRY)** And you decided to take it out on me, Niki?

18. NIKI: I'm sorry. It's just that I feel people don't respect me any more.

19. MERCY: What on earth makes you think that?

20. NIKI: Nothing... Well, June, my assistant, spoke to me very badly at work today.

21. MERCY: What did she say?

22. NIKI: That I'm ... Look, just forget it, okay?

23. MERCY: Hey - tell me. What did she say?

24. **NIKI:** **(SIGHS)** That I'm a big useless man with muscles and... and... **(SIGHS)**
25. **MERCY:** Really? Why would June say something like that?
26. **NIKI:** I don't know.... I think she knows.
27. **MERCY:** Knows? Knows what?
28. **NIKI:** That I'm... you know... HIV positive!
29. **MERCY:** Niki! How could she possibly know? Only four people know about it: you, me, Tina, and our counsellor.
30. **NIKI:** I don't know, Mercy. I just... I don't know.
31. **MERCY:** I think you're overreacting! There's no way she knows. Maybe she didn't mean it that way.
32. **NIKI:** Oh, great! Now even my own wife won't support me!
33. **SFX: CHAIR SCRAPES THE FLOOR AS SOMEONE STANDS**
34. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS GOING AWAY**
35. **MERCY:** Hey, where are you going?
36. **NIKI:** To bed.
37. **MERCY:** But you haven't finished eating.

38. **NIKI:** I seem to have lost my appetite!
39. **MERCY:** Niki, come on!
40. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS FADE AWAY**
41. **SFX: DOOR BANGS**
42. **MERCY:** **(ANGRY TO HERSELF)** Damn! I'm getting really sick of these mood swings and tantrums!

Musical interlude

SCENE 2: KADU FACES THE MUSIC

43. **ATMO: EVENING IN THE SLUMS**
44. **SFX: RAIN FALLING**
45. **SFX: CUTLERY, PEOPLE EATING**
46. **LULU:** Banda, where's your brother?
47. **BANDA:** I don't know, Mum.
48. **LULU:** Don't lie to me. It's almost eight and it's raining out there and he hasn't shown up yet. Where is he?
49. **BANDA:** He... he...

50. **LULU:** **(MIMICS)** “He... he... he...” Have you lost your tongue? You’d better tell me the truth right now, Banda, or you’ll both face the music!
51. **BANDA:** I... I... think he went out with Sama.
52. **LULU:** Sama? Have you two started messing around with girls already?
53. **BANDA:** Not me, I --
54. **SFX: DOOR OPENS**
55. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS AS SOMEONE COMES IN**
56. **KADU:** **(PANTING, SHIVERING)** Oh my God! It’s raining cats and rats out there. **(LAUGHS AT HIS OWN JOKE)**

Flashback Ep. 3, line 2

57. **LULU:** Kadu, where are you coming from at this time of night, soaking wet like a rained-on chicken?
58. **KADU:** I was studying with my friend Juma, and then the rain --

59. **LULU:** Don't you dare lie to me! I know you were out with a girl. I'm going to pull those ugly ears of yours until you start listening to me. How many times have I told you to come straight home from school?

KW BEGIN

60. **KADU:** **(CRIES)** Ow - Mum, please let go of my ear!
61. **LULU:** You think you're a grown-up now and you can just show up in my house any time you want? Huh? What were you two doing out until now?
62. **KADU:** We were just playing!
63. **LULU:** I told you, don't lie to me! I will not stand by and watch you mess up your youth like your sister Mercy did. Remember: she had a child when she was only fifteen! Her experience should have taught you a lesson!

KW END

64. **KADU:** **(AS HE CRIES)** Mum, I'm sorry! But we didn't do anything wrong!

65. **LULU:** **(MIMICS HIM)** *Nye nye nye!* Get out of those wet clothes and eat! Useless boy! And you, Banda, stop sitting there staring like an owl - clear that table!
66. **BANDA:** **(SCARED)** Yes, Mum. **(WHISPERS TO KADU)** I'm sorry, Kadu.
67. **KADU:** **(ANGRILY)** Don't talk to me, Banda!

Musical interlude

SCENE 3: NIKI WON'T GET UP

68. **ATMO: MORNING ATMO**
69. **NIKI: SNORES**
70. **MERCY:** Niki, Niki, wake up!
71. **NIKI:** **(GROANS LAZILY)**
72. **MERCY:** Come on, darling. You'll be late for work at the gym.
73. **NIKI:** I'm not going.
74. **MERCY:** Not going? Why?

75. **NIKI:** I don't feel like it! Nobody there respects me any more.
76. **MERCY:** Not again, Niki. You have to stop all this self pity and move on with your life.
77. **NIKI:** Easy for you to say! You're not a victim. You're not the one who's disrespected!
78. **MERCY:** Who disrespects you?
79. **NIKI:** People!
80. **MERCY:** What people? If you're talking about your assistant at work, I told you I don't think she meant it that way.
81. **NIKI:** **(DEFENSIVE)** It's not just her. Other people as well.
82. **MERCY:** What other people? What did they do?
83. **NIKI:** Just... people. They don't do what I tell them any more.
84. **MERCY:** **(CHUCKLES)** Niki, nobody at the gym knows that you're HIV positive, unless you've told them yourself. Why would they suddenly disrespect you?

85. **NIKI:** **(SHOUTS EMOTIONALLY)** Mercy, stop it, okay?
Stop it!

Flashback Ep. 5, line 2

86. **MERCY:** **(POLITE)** Niki, my darling, I just want to understand what's going on with you. You've become so distant and withdrawn and unreasonable. What can I do to help? You know I love you and...

87. **NIKI:** **(RUDELY)** I said I'm not going, Mercy! Can't you understand that simple sentence?

88. **MERCY:** **(SIGHS)** Okay, fine! If you're not going to work, then please would you take Linda to hospital? She's not feeling very well, and I'm late for work.

89. **NIKI:** **(POLITE BUT FIRM)** Mercy, please, just leave me alone!

90. **MERCY:** Niki, you adopted her! Linda is your child too! And you're not like Dan, who never cared for Linda after he got me pregnant!

91. **NIKI: SILENT**

92. MERCY: (TIRED) Niki, what do you want me to do? What is it you want from me?

93. NIKI: SILENT

94. MERCY: SIGHS

95. MERCY: (TO LINDA) Come on, Linda, Mummy will take you to the doctor.

96. SFX: FOOTSTEPS

97. SFX: DOOR CLOSING

Musical interlude

SCENE 4: MERCY ASKS LULU TO TAKE LINDA

98. ATMO: SLUM ATMO

99. SFX: UTENSILS BEING WASHED

100. LULU: HUMS AS SHE WASHES UTENSILS

101. SFX: PHONE RINGS PERSISTENTLY

102. LULU: Banda, will you see who's calling? Can't you see my hands are wet? I can't hold the phone.

- 103. BANDA:** It's Mercy, Mum.
- 104. LULU:** Pass me that towel. And wake up your brother Kadu and your sister Joy.
- 105. BANDA:** Yes, Mum. Here!
- 106. SFX: HANDS WIPED ON CLOTH**
- 107. SFX: PHONE ANSWERED**
- 108. LULU:** Hello, Mercy?
- 109. MERCY:** Hello Mum... What took you so long to answer?
- 110. LULU:** I was busy! Are you okay? You sound stressed!

Flashback Ep. 2, line 4

- 111. MERCY:** I am... Listen, 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.
- 112. LULU:** Where's Niki? Why can't Linda stay with him? Isn't there anyone else you can ask? It's a long way to the hospital and I'm an old woman!
- 113. MERCY:** Mum, please! It's a long story. Please, just come.

KW BEGIN

Who else do you want me to ask? Dan?

114. LULU: Don't talk to me about Dan! That boy has gone crazy. You know, I've actually seen him scavenging in dustbins here in Tandika!

115. MERCY: Forget about Dan. Will you just come? Please, Mum? Please.

KW END

116. LULU: Of course I'll come. Just let me finish the washing up.

117. MERCY: No, please come now.

118. LULU: Okay! Okay! I'm coming. Go easy on me, will you? I'm old, for God's sake!

119. MERCY: I'm sorry, Mum! Thank you.

120. SFX: PHONE DISCONNECTS

121. LULU: **(COMPLAINS TO HERSELF)** That girl will be the death of me one of these days...

OUTRO:

And that's where we end for today. It seems Niki and Mercy are finding it difficult to deal with this new situation. Will they find a way through it together? And what about Kadu? His mother is really worried that he could get himself into trouble with Sama. But Sama has a very different secret. Join us next time to find out what it is... In the meantime, we'd be happy to hear from you on Facebook. You can also send us an e-mail to lbe@dw.de.
Take care - bye!