

Crossroads Generation – Season 4: Facing New Challenges

EPISODE TWENTY-TWO: An Outbreak at the School

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List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: TINA VISITS DAN IN HOSPITAL

- TINA - F 20
- DAN - M 20
- NEWS PRESENTER – M/F ADULT

SCENE 2: AN OUTBREAK AT THE SCHOOL

- ANITA - F 19
- DIRECTOR - M 50s

SCENE 3: LULU REBUILDS

- LULU - F 40s
- KADU - M 12
- BANDA - M 12

SCENE 4: DR. ROBERTS' DIAGNOSIS

- ANITA - F 19
- DR. ROBERTS - M 40s

INTRO

1. **NARRATOR:** Hello and welcome to Crossroads Generation, Season Four, “Facing New Challenges”. The biggest challenge the African youngsters in this ongoing radio novella had to face lately was a major flood. Mercy’s 12-year-old twin brothers Kadu and Banda were trapped inside their house:

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 20, LINES 27, 29-32

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

***BANDA/KADU: (SHOUT)** In here! Please help us! We’re floating on the bed!*

***VOICE:** Can you swim?*

***BANDA/ KADU:** No!*

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

3. **NARRATOR:** Mercy’s friend Anita works at Kisimba Special School as an assistant teacher. We don’t know yet whether the school has been affected by the floods, but we’ll soon find out. Meanwhile, Dan was seriously injured trying to rescue someone from the floodwater. He’s now in hospital, where his girlfriend Tina spoke to Dr. Roberts:

4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 21, LINES 66-68

***TINA:** I was so scared. I thought Dan was going to die.*

***DR. ROBERTS:** No, no - he just fainted from the pain. His foot is fractured, and he has a minor concussion. The man who came in with him was not so lucky, though. I'm afraid he's just succumbed to his injuries.*

***TINA:** Oh no! Dan had just saved him from being swept away by the flood when the telephone pole fell on them!*

5. NARRATOR: What Dan doesn't know is that his father Kanyama recently came to Kisimba to look for him. Kanyama was meeting his old friend Mukaraba, the former local politician, when the floods hit. Both of them fell into the raging river, and they're not good swimmers... Today's episode is called "An Outbreak at the School". We begin at the hospital, where Tina is visiting Dan after his accident...

SCENE 1: TINA VISITS DAN IN HOSPITAL

6. **ATMO: HOSPITAL ATMO, TV IN BACKGROUND**

7. **PRESENTER:** Major traffic jams are being reported in Kisimba, two days after the devastating floods along the Tandika river. The road networks have been severely disrupted, and 25 people are confirmed dead. Many more are believed...

8. **SFX: STEPS APPROACHING**

9. **SFX: DOOR OPENS**

10. **TINA:** Hi, Dan!

11. **DAN:** Hi Tina, babe!

12. **SFX: TV VOLUME TURNED DOWN**

13. **TINA:** **(JOKES)** You're kidding! Here I am worried sick about you, and all you're doing is lazing in bed watching TV?

14. **DAN:** **(GOOD MOOD)** I was just about to rip off this plaster and come looking for you myself.

15. **TINA:** **(RELIEVED)** Thank God you're okay! You gave me such a fright.

16. **DAN:** What happened?

KW BEGIN

17. **TINA:** You don't remember?
18. **DAN:** The last thing I remember is pulling a man out of the floodwater.
19. **TINA:** A telephone pole fell on you!
20. **DAN:** Yes, I think I remember that. What I don't remember is how I ended up here!

KW END

21. **TINA:** We were rescued by the police, and they brought you here.
22. **DAN:** What about the man I....
23. **TINA:** The poor guy didn't make it.
24. **DAN:** Oh!
25. **TINA:** **(URGENTLY)** Turn up the volume! Turn up the volume.
26. **DAN:** Woah! Okay, Commander! No need for all the hullabaloo - all you need to do is ask like a lady!
27. **TINA:** **(LAUGHS)**
28. **SFX: TV TURNED UP**

29. **PRESENTER:** ...Among the dead are the prominent businessman and former politician Moses Mukaraba. A woman who was also washed away by the River Tandika has been identified as Mrs. Janet Jumbe. An unidentified man has been found dead further downriver, near the village of... **(FADE OFF)**
30. **DAN:** Oh my God!
31. **TINA:** What?
32. **DAN:** Mrs. Jumbe... My business partner!
33. **TINA:** **(REALIZES)**... That's Niki's mother! ... And Mukaraba - they're saying Mukaraba also died!
34. **DAN:** Did you know him?
35. **TINA:** Erm... well... he was quite a famous politician here in Kisimba...

Musical interlude

SCENE 2: AN OUTBREAK AT THE SCHOOL

36. ATMO: OFFICE ATMO, PUPILS PLAYING OUTSIDE

37. ANITA: I've never seen anything like it, Mr. Director. It must be some kind of infectious disease!

38. DIRECTOR: What do you think it is?

39. ANITA: No idea, but almost all our pupils have come down with something. Some have diarrhoea, some can't keep any food down, and many of them have a fever. It's terrible!

40. DIRECTOR: Okay, let's hear what the doctor has to say.

41. ANITA: Yes, Mr. Director. I'll talk to him right away.

42. DIRECTOR: And - Anita?

43. ANITA: Yes, sir?

44. DIRECTOR: Thanks for bringing this to my attention. We don't want the children's officer to have any reason to criticize us, especially with the school's new integrative programme under scrutiny.

45. ANITA: I understand, Mr. Director.

46. DIRECTOR: Okay - off you go!

Musical interlude

SCENE 3: LULU REBUILDS

47. **ATMO: SLUM ATMO**

48. **SFX: HAMMER POUNDING NAIL AND IRON SHEET**

49. **LULU:** Kadu! Hold that piece of wood steady! Don't be so feeble!

50. **KADU:** **(INDIGNATED)** Mum, I'm holding it as steady as I can!

51. **SFX: TIMBER CREAKS**

52. **LULU:** Not like that! Press it hard. It needs to be pressed into place before I can hammer in the nail. Yes - like that...

53. **SFX: NAIL HITTING WOOD**

54. **SFX: TIMBER FALLS**

55. **LULU:** **(ANGRY)** What are you doing, Kadu? What's so difficult about holding up a piece of wood? Can't you make yourself useful for once? **(CALLS)** Banda, come here and help. We need to finish repairing this house before it rains again.

56. BANDA: But Mum, why don't we get a man to do it? Maybe we could ask Dad... I mean, you're a woman.

Women don't build!

57. LULU: Shut your naughty mouth and get yourself over here! Who told you women don't build?

58. SFX: FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING

59. LULU: Help your brother. Hold that in place, and don't talk to me about your dad.

60. SFX: NAIL BEING HAMMERED INTO WOOD

Musical interlude

SCENE 4: DR. ROBERTS' DIAGNOSIS

61. ATMO: SCHOOL COMPOUND, CHILDREN PLAYING ETC.

62. DR. ROBERTS: Well, Madam Anita, the test results show that the sick children in your school all have typhoid. And as you know, typhoid is highly contagious.

63. ANITA: How exactly does it spread, Doctor?

64. **DR. ROBERTS:** Typhoid spreads through contact between infected people, for example if they shake hands, and also via water or food.
65. **ANITA:** You mean our water and food might be contaminated?
66. **DR. ROBERTS:** It's possible.
67. **ANITA:** But how can that be? We get our water directly from the government.
68. **DR. ROBERTS: (SIGHS)** There are often outbreaks of water-borne diseases like typhoid after the kind of floods we've had here. Contaminated water may have got into the water pipes.
69. **ANITA:** So what do you recommend?
70. **DR. ROBERTS:** All pupils and staff who are infected have to stay away from school until they recover.
71. **ANITA:** How long will that be, Doctor?
72. **DR. ROBERTS:** About one or two weeks. We'll have to monitor each patient individually. I'm going to put all of them on antibiotics.

73. **ANITA:** Okay. And what about the ones who haven't been infected?
74. **DR. ROBERTS:** Well, hygiene is the highest priority! Everyone in this school must be sure to wash their hands regularly - with soap.
75. **ANITA:** And this will help prevent the typhoid spreading from one person to another?
76. **DR. ROBERTS:** Yes - as long as everyone sticks to the regime. Please insist on strict hygiene regulations, especially for those involved in preparing food. And make sure that flies are kept away from food, too! I suggest the school also find an alternative source of water, preferably bottled...
77. **ANITA:** **(SIGHS IN FRUSTRATION)** Oh, great! Not only do we have to buy medicine, now we have to spend more money buying water!
78. **DR. ROBERTS:** Well, if bottled water's too expensive, you should at least boil the water you use and then make sure you keep it cool. That should kill the bacteria that cause typhoid. You have to do this if

you want to keep on running the school. If we don't get this outbreak under control, the school may have to close completely!

79. ANITA: Oh no, I hope not! Sorry, Doctor. It's just that the school is really struggling right now. There are already so many changes we have to make... Thank you very much for coming. I'll go and report to the director.

80. DR. ROBERTS: (CHUCKLES) Not so fast, Madam Anita. We still have to test you. And all your staff...

OUTRO:

And that's where we end for today! Join us next time for more from Crossroads Generation. Tina and Mercy are planning to help the community rebuild after the flood. - Hang on... Tina and Mercy? Aren't they at odds, because Tina's dating Mercy's ex-boyfriend, Dan? Hmm... We'll have to wait till next time to find out how that goes. We haven't heard a lot from Niki today, but do take a look at his video blog. Just visit dw.de/lbe! You can also join us on Facebook. Until next time - so long!