

Crossroads Generation – Season 4: Facing New Challenges

EPISODE TWENTY-ONE: The Aftermath

AUTHOR: JAMES MUHANDO

EDITORS: JULIA MAAS, MAJA BRAUN

COPY EDITOR: CHARLOTTE COLLINS

List of characters by scene:

INTRO/OUTRO: NARRATOR

SCENE 1: LULU RECONCILES WITH MERCY

- LULU - F 40s
- MERCY - F 19

SCENE 2: NIKI IS RELUCTANT TO LOOK FOR HIS MOTHER

- NIKI - M 19
- MERCY - F 19

SCENE 3: TINA TALKS TO DR. ROBERTS

- DR. ROBERTS - M 40s
- TINA - F 20

SCENE 4: NIKI LEARNS THAT HIS MOTHER IS DEAD

- DR. FLORENCE - F 40s
- NIKI - M 19
- JUMBE – M 50s

INTRO

1. **NARRATOR:** Hello there! This is Crossroads Generation, a Learning by Ear radio novella about some African teenagers who have tough decisions to make every day. This is the fourth season, entitled “Facing New Challenges”, and we’re on the twenty-first episode. A lot has happened lately - Kisimba was hit by floods, affecting everyone who lives there. Dan was out on a date with Tina, and he put himself in danger when he tried to save another man from drowning:

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 19, LINES 91-99

TINA: Dan! Watch out! The telephone pole is falling!

DAN: CRIES OUT

TINA: Oh my God! Dan, are you okay? ...

TINA: (WORRIED) Dan! Dan! Are you okay? - Somebody! Help!

3. **NARRATOR:** The fate of Niki’s mother Mrs. Jumbe is also uncertain. She disappeared after a family row, and she hasn’t contacted her husband or Niki since. Has Mrs. Jumbe been caught up in the flood, or did she get away safely? Mercy’s mother Lulu got into serious trouble. She was working at the market when the floodwaters hit. Her shop was washed away, and she didn’t know whether her 12-year-old twin sons Kadu and Banda were safe. Luckily, they were rescued, but Lulu has been worried about her first-born daughter Mercy. The two of them haven’t been on

speaking terms since Lulu discovered that Mercy married Niki even though she knew he was HIV positive. And that's not all...

4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 17, LINES 79, 82-85

LULU: What do you want, Mercy? (...)

MERCY: (SIGHS) I thought you should know that Niki and I have decided to have a baby.

LULU:(SHOCKED) What? Mercy, will you ever listen to anything I tell you?

MERCY: That's how it is!

LULU: Well, then I guess you and I have nothing more to talk about.

5. NARRATOR: Since then, Mercy's doctor has given her the happy news that she's pregnant. The treatment she underwent was successful, and both she and the baby are perfectly healthy, despite Niki's infection. Today's episode is called "The Aftermath", and we begin in the Tandika slum. The shock of the flood has brought Mercy and Lulu together again, and they've finally reconciled...

SCENE 1: LULU RECONCILES WITH MERCY

6. **ATMO: SLUM ATMO**

7. **LULU: CRIES**

8. **MERCY:** Mum, please don't cry!

9. **LULU: CRIES**

10. **MERCY:** Mum, please!

Flashback Ep. 23, line 2

11. **LULU:** I'm sorry, my daughter! I should have listened to you. You told me to insure my business, but I didn't listen. Now the floods have washed away my livelihood!

12. **MERCY:** Mum, please... Don't cry - there's nothing you can do about it now!

13. **LULU:** I'm not crying because I've lost my business... I'm crying because you came back to me, after all I said to you.

14. **MERCY:** Mum, please! Don't mention it.

15. **LULU:** No! No! No! I am your mother. I carried you in my womb for seven months... and then you insisted on

defying Nature to come into the world early. I should have known you'd always be this determined!

16. **MERCY:** Mum, come on!
17. **LULU:** No, listen to me! I love you, my daughter! You are the single most important person to me right now! What if you had died in the flood? I was so afraid I would never see my children again! Your decision to stay with Niki despite you-know-what ... It's hard for me to accept, but... it's your life. And I will support you.
18. **MERCY:** **(EMOTIONAL)** Oh, Mum!
19. **LULU:** But be careful, my daughter... Please promise me you will be careful.
20. **MERCY:** I will, Mum. I *am*, already. **(CRIES)** I'm sorry I made you angry.
21. **LULU:** I wasn't angry, only scared! And I'm sorry too, that I reacted the way I did. I didn't know you can't catch HIV from touching, or from sharing dishes and cutlery.
22. **MERCY:** It's okay, Mum. You know now.

23. **LULU:** **(SIGHS)** I still don't really understand your decisions. But I will be there for you, my girl.
24. **MERCY:** Oh Mum! I love you so much. Come here - give me a hug!
25. **SFX: CLOTHES RUSTLE AS THEY HUG**
26. **LULU:** Okay, okay! You'll break my ribs! I'm an old woman, for crying out loud!
27. **MERCY:** **(LAUGHS)** All right, oldie! I have to go now. Here - take this. I've been saving up. It's not a lot, but it'll help you restart your business. You know - just like before, selling vegetables.
28. **SFX: MONEY RUSTLES**
29. **LULU:** No, no - I can't accept it.
30. **MERCY:** Come on, Mum.
31. **LULU:** What about you and your family?
32. **MERCY:** Niki works at the gym, and I have my part-time job at the university radio. We'll be okay!
33. **LULU:** **(RELUCTANT)** Well... if you're quite sure... God knows I need the money after what's happened to my shop.

34. **MERCY:** You're very welcome, Mum. And please take the twins to the doctor. Just to check. A lot of people have fallen sick since the flood. And the boys were stuck in the flooded house for such a long time.
35. **LULU:** **(JOKES)** Listen to her - trying to teach her mother how to bring up children. I am your mother, girl! I did all right with you, didn't I?
36. **MERCY:** **(LAUGHS)** Yes, Mum. But seriously --
37. **LULU:** Will you shut up, now? Say hi to that handsome husband of yours. And to my granddaughter Linda!
38. **MERCY:** **LAUGHS**

Musical interlude

SCENE 2: NIKI IS RELUCTANT TO LOOK FOR HIS MOTHER

39. **ATMO: MIDDLE CLASS NEIGHBOURHOOD, TRAFFIC IN BACKGROUND**
40. **NIKI:** ... I know I said so, Dad. But to be honest I just don't want to see her right now... **(DISMISSIVE)** Argh! Dad! Wherever she is, Mum will be okay.

41. SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR

42. NIKI: Look, I have to go. Someone's at the door.

43. SFX: PHONE DISCONNECTED

44. SFX: STEPS

45. SFX: DOOR OPENS

46. NIKI: Hi Mercy! Welcome home, my dear. How is it out there?

47. MERCY: **(FRUSTRATED)** Oh Niki! It's still so muddy you wouldn't believe it stopped raining two days ago.

48. NIKI: And how are they? Your mother, and your siblings?

49. MERCY: Fortunately, the boys are fine. Mum's shop is gone, though. I don't know what she's going to do for money. I wish she'd listened to me... If only she'd insured her shop. **(SIGHS)** Oh dear... Has your mum been in touch?

50. NIKI: No. I just got off the phone with Dad. He's still on at me to help look for her.

51. MERCY: Your father's right! She's your mother, Niki! You can't just sit here and do nothing. It's been two days, and not a word from her.

52. **NIKI:** She may be my mother, but she really knows how to piss me off!
53. **MERCY:** That's neither here nor there. You have to help your father look for her.
54. **NIKI:** **(RESIGNED)** All right! All right! Will everybody just get off my back for a minute?
55. **MERCY:** **(SIGHS)** Niki!
56. **NIKI:** Okay! I'll check the hospitals and look for her. There! Happy?
57. **MERCY:** **SIGHS**

Musical interlude

SCENE 3: TINA TALKS TO DR. ROBERTS

58. **ATMO: HOSPITAL ATMO**
59. **DR. ROBERTS:** Tina Wigo, right?
60. **TINA:** Yes, Doctor.
61. **DR. ROBERTS:** You came with Dan Kanyama?
62. **TINA:** Yes, Doctor.
63. **DR. ROBERTS:** Are you a family member?

64. **TINA:** I'm his girlfriend. Is he going to be okay?

65. **DR. ROBERTS:** Yes. He was brought in just in time, otherwise he would have bled to death.

Flashback Ep. 22, line 4

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

67. **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.

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

69. **DR. ROBERTS:** It's very sad. We have so many patients to see today because of the floods - and I'm afraid we've lost many more.

70. **TINA:** Thank God it's over! Can I see him?

71. **DR. ROBERTS:** Okay, but only for a few minutes. I have to go and attend to the others.

Musical interlude

SCENE 4: NIKI LEARNS THAT HIS MOTHER IS DEAD

72. ATMO: HOSPITAL ATMO

73. SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR

74. DR. FLORENCE: (CALLS) Come in!

75. SFX: DOOR OPENS

76. DR. FLORENCE: Oh - hi Niki, good to see you. Please come in!

77. SFX: FOOTSTEPS WALKING IN

78. NIKI: Hello, Dr. Florence.

79. DR. FLORENCE: I didn't expect to see you here today. Do we have an appointment? About the baby?

80. NIKI: No, Doctor. Actually, I'm going round the hospitals looking for my mother. She disappeared two days ago, and we're going round to see whether she might have checked herself in. I found myself here, so I thought I'd just drop in and say hello...

81. DR. FLORENCE: Ah, I see...

82. SFX: NIKI'S CELL PHONE RINGS

83. NIKI: Sorry, Doctor, can I take this? It's my dad.

84. DR. FLORENCE: Sure. Go ahead.

85. SFX: PHONE ANSWERED

86. **JUMBE:** **(ON THE PHONE)** Hello - Niki?
87. **NIKI:** Dad, can I call you back? I'm in the middle of somethi--
88. **JUMBE:** Whatever it is, leave it and come straight home.
89. **NIKI:** I can't, Dad. Let me call you back.
90. **JUMBE:** Stop arguing with me, boy! Do as I say, right now!
91. **NIKI:** If it's about Mum, I still haven't heard from her, but I'm at the hospital now—

Flashback Ep. 24, line 4

92. **JUMBE:** **(INTERRUPTS)** Your mother is dead, Niki. **(CRIES)**
Your mother is dead.
93. **NIKI:** What?
94. **JUMBE:** Yes, son. She's just been pulled out of the Tandika
river!
95. **NIKI:** No! No! That can't be true!
96. **JUMBE:** It is. I've just identified her body. Please come home, Niki. **(VOICE BREAKING)** I need you...
97. **SFX: PHONE DISCONNECTED**
98. **NIKI:** **(CRIES)** Oh, my God! It can't be true...
99. **DR. FLORENCE:** What is it, Niki?

100. NIKI: My mother is dead!

OUTRO:

With this very sad news for Niki and his family, we come to the end of today's episode. How will they deal with their loss? Don't miss the next episode of Crossroads Generation, when we'll learn more about the consequences of the flood. You can also listen to this episode and all the previous ones on dw.de/lbe. And you can join us on Facebook. Bye for now!