

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 4: Facing New Challenges

EPISODE EIGHTEEN: Signs of Things to Come

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INTRO:

1. **NARRATOR:** Hello there! You're tuned in to the fourth season of Crossroads Generation, "Facing New Challenges". This is episode eighteen. Mercy and Niki have been married for some time now. They've decided to have a baby together, after learning that it is possible for them to have a healthy child, even though Niki is HIV positive. Niki and Mercy have been keeping his status secret. Even Niki's parents don't know about it. The relationship with them is a difficult one, because Niki's mother doesn't like Mercy. And as if all this weren't enough of a burden, Mercy recently got some unwelcome news from her good friend Tina:

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 17, LINES 118-121

MERCY: (...) Tell me, Tina, why are you glowing like this?

TINA: (SIGHS) Well... I hope you won't take this badly, but... Dan and I are... you know...

MERCY: (GASPS) Dan?

TINA: Yes.

3. **NARRATOR:** Mercy *did* take the news badly. She was in love with Dan once, while they were still at school, but their relationship ended painfully. He walked out on Mercy when she got pregnant.

In today's episode, we'll also meet a couple of villains from the old days who've been keeping a low profile... One of them is Mukaraba, a former politician. He used to be corrupt and involved in illegal activities like child trafficking and prostitution. Now he's in the timber business – but he's still up to no good. The other bad guy who reappears is Kanyama, Dan's father. Kanyama used to own a gold mine in the neighbouring country, Laboria. But he's not allowed to work any more since he was convicted of using child labourers. Kanyama was trying to convince his son Dan, who now lives in Kisimba, to come home and take over the family business:

4. **FLASHBACK: SEASON 3, EPISODE 26, LINES 51-52**

KANYAMA: (...) *Listen, son, I want you to come back home to your country and revive my business! OUR business!*

DAN: *What? Dad, not this again! Come on, just leave me alone, all right? I'm running my own business over here. And I'm doing well!*

5. **NARRATOR:** Now Kanyama, that shrewd businessman, has just turned up at Kisimba Airport! Who's he meeting there? Let's find out in today's episode: "Signs of Things to Come".

SCENE 1: BIRDS OF A FEATHER DRIVE TOGETHER

6. **ATMO: AIRPORT ATMO, PLANES LANDING, ANNOUNCEMENTS IN BACKGROUND ETC.**

Flashback Ep. 19, line 4

7. **KANYAMA: (LAUGHS)** Moses Mukaraba! So glad to see you,
my old friend!

8. **MUKARABA: (HAPPY)** Sospeter Kanyama! You made it, my
friend! I didn't think you would - so many flights have
been cancelled because of the bad weather. Hey,
come here! Give me a hug, you old devil!

9. **SFX: HANDS CLAP AS THEY GREET EACH OTHER**

10. **MUKARABA:** Come on - get in the car. We have to get going
before it starts pouring with rain again.

11. **SFX: CAR DOOR OPENS**

12. **SFX: CLOTH RUSTLING AS PEOPLE GET IN**

13. **SFX: CAR DOOR CLOSES**

14. **SFX: CAR STARTS, LEAVES**

KW BEGIN

15. KANYAMA: (MOCKS HIM) I see the years have been unkind to you, Mukaraba. Your head looks like it's been put through a flour mill.

16. MUKARABA: You don't look so well yourself, Kanyama. That landing strip on your head is bigger than the one here at the airport!

17. THEY LAUGH

KW END

18. MUKARABA: So, Kanyama, what brings you to Kisimba? I thought we agreed years ago that we should never be seen to be working together.

19. KANYAMA: That was when you still had political ambitions, and I still controlled a business empire. Times have changed. I think it's time for our plan B.

20. MUKARABA: Right! Sometimes I can't help but laugh at our governments. They think they can stop us. Yet over the years no one has ever suspected the real masterminds behind all the poaching and logging!

21. MUKARABA/KANYAMA (IN UNISON): - Kanyama and Mukaraba!

22. THEY LAUGH

23. KANYAMA: That was a great idea we came up with all those years ago, just after we left university... Register another business, one nobody knew about. Keep it on the side, for a rainy day. Well, that rainy day is certainly here. You're out of politics, and my other business has been shut down. Time to check our profits!

24. MUKARABA: And what profits they are! Oh my! The timber business is *very* profitable, my friend. Our secret company is not doing badly at all!

25. KANYAMA: That's what I like to hear. But, you know, it's not the only reason I'm here.

26. MUKARABA: Whatever else are you up to, you old fox?
(REMEMBERS) Oh! It must be your prodigal son, Dan. Is it? He's still here in Kisimba, isn't he?

27. KANYAMA: Why are you asking me that? I asked you to keep an eye on him.

28. MUKARABA: And I am. I have a man watching him. It's just that since you stopped asking about him I haven't been

checking up so often. One phone call from me, though, and we'll know exactly what the boy is up to and where he is.

29. **KANYAMA:** Good!

30. **MUKARABA:** But tell me, my friend - why do you insist on imposing your will on him?

31. **KANYAMA:** Because he's my son, and he's the only one I can trust. I mean, I have millions tied up in my frozen bank accounts, and since my wife and I are not allowed to run a business, I can't access that money or my assets. Dan's the only one who can! I need him to get me my money!

32. **MUKARABA:** Ah - I see!

Musical interlude

SCENE 2: MERCY IS PREGNANT AGAIN

33. ATMO: HOSPITAL ATMO

Flashback Ep. 20, line 2

34. DR. FLORENCE: Congratulations, Mercy! You're pregnant.

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

36. DR. FLORENCE: Yes, it did! Even better: your blood tests show no sign of any infection! The sickness and nausea you've been feeling are just ordinary symptoms of pregnancy. You're a perfectly healthy pregnant woman! And your baby is fine as well!

37. MERCY: **(HAPPY)** Oh my God! Thank you, doctor! This is just wonderful! I can't wait to tell my husband! He'll be so happy. I have to go and tell him straight away. Thank you, doctor - goodbye - thank you!

38. SFX: HURRIED FOOTSTEPS LEAVING

39. DR. FLORENCE: Hey, wait...

40. SFX: DOOR OPENS, CLOSES

41. DR. FLORENCE: (LAUGHS TO HERSELF) I don't know - these young people! So impatient!

Musical interlude

SCENE 3: NIKI CONFESSES

42. **ATMO: QUIET NEIGHBOURHOOD**

43. **SFX: HEAVY RAINFALL, THUNDERSTORMS**

44. **SFX: CUTLERY AS PEOPLE EAT**

45. **JUMBE:** Niki, pass the salt, please.

46. **SFX: SALT IS PASSED**

47. **NIKI:** Here you are, Dad.

48. **JUMBE:** It's so long since we last ate together. Feels good, doesn't it? Eh, Niki, my son?

49. **NIKI:** Mhh!

50. **JUMBE:** You should visit us more often. Your mum and I miss you since you got married. Isn't that so, Janet?

51. **MRS JUMBE: SILENT**

52. **JUMBE:** **(SIGHS)** Well, since nobody wants to talk I guess I'll enjoy my meal in silence.

53. **SFX: CHAIR SCRAPES**

54. **MRS. JUMBE: (BAD MOOD)** I'm going upstairs.

55. **JUMBE:** **(SIGHS)** Janet, please don't start...

56. **MRS. JUMBE: (INTERRUPTS ANGRILY)** Start what, Jumbe?
Can't a woman go to her own bedroom in her own house?
57. **JUMBE:** Your son finally visits, and you can't even spare a moment to sit and eat with him?
58. **NIKI:** It's okay, Dad. I'll leave.
59. **JUMBE: (RESOLUTE)** No! You're not going anywhere. This is your home too, and I will not --
60. **NIKI:** Dad...
61. **MRS. JUMBE:** *He doesn't have to leave, Jumbe. I will!*
62. **JUMBE: (ANNOYED)** Why are you behaving like a child, Jan--
63. **NIKI: (SHOUTS)** Dad!
64. **JUMBE: (FIRM)** What, Niki? I'm talking to your mother.
65. **NIKI: (INTERRUPTS)** I am HIV positive!
66. **DEAD SILENCE**
67. **JUMBE:** I'm sorry - what?
68. **MRS JUMBE: (UTTERLY SHOCKED)** What did you say, Niki?

Flashback Ep. 19, line 2

69. **NIKI:** You heard me. **I'm HIV positive.**

70. **MRS. JUMBE: (SCREAMS)** Wuui! I knew it! I knew there was something wrong with that tramp, Mercy! I told you! I told you! Niki, why didn't you listen to me?
71. **JUMBE:** Calm down, Janet... We --
72. **MRS. JUMBE:** Don't tell me what to do, Jumbe. I am done listening to you. Do you see now what that tramp Mercy has done to our son? She's infected him with HIV! HIV, Jumbe. Do you know what that means?
73. **NIKI:** Mum, Mercy's not the one to blame! I --
74. **MRS. JUMBE: (STILL SHOUTING)** Oh yes, she is! And don't try to convince me otherwise!
75. **JUMBE:** Janet, please - let's --
76. **MRS JUMBE:** Just shut up, will you, Jumbe? Just shut up!
77. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS LEAVING ANGRILY**
78. **JUMBE:** Janet, wait! Where are you going? It's raining out there! Janet!
79. **SFX: DOOR BANGS**

Musical interlude

SCENE 4: TINA WANTS TO KNOW

80. **ATMO: RESTAURANT ATMO, CUTLERY, PEOPLE TALKING, TV
IN BACKGROUND**

81. **SFX: HEAVY RAINFALL**

82. **TINA:** **(TO HERSELF)** I hate sitting in restaurants alone.
Where's Dan? He should be here by now. Then
again, the weather is terrible...

KW BEGIN

83. **WAITER:** Hello, Madam, can I bring you something?

84. **TINA:** Later, thanks. I'm waiting for someone.

KW END

85. **SFX: WET FOOTSTEPS WALKING IN**

86. **DAN:** **(PANTS)** Tina!

87. **TINA:** **(RELIEVED)** Dan! Oh my God, you're soaked!

88. **DAN:** **(SHIVERS FROM THE COLD)** It's terrible out there.
The streets are all flooded, and the traffic is a
nightmare!

89. **TINA:** Poor you! You're cold. You need a drink. Coffee,
maybe?

90. **DAN:** That would be great!

91. **TINA:** Waiter! Two cups of hot coffee, please!
92. **DAN:** **(SIGHS)** Well, on the phone you said '*you had to know something*'. What is this thing that couldn't wait until the rain stopped?
93. **SFX: TWO CUPS PLACED ON TABLE**
94. **WAITER:** Here you go.
95. **TINA:** Thank you.
96. **DAN:** So...?
97. **TINA:** **(SIGHS)** I told Mercy about us.
98. **DAN:** Oh! And?
99. **TINA:** She took it badly.
100. **DAN:** Badly? How do you mean?
101. **TINA:** Well, she just took off, and now she's not answering my calls. So what I want to know is... is there still something going on between the two of you?
102. **DAN:** **(SURPRISED)** How can you even ask me that? Mercy is a married woman!
103. **TINA:** I know. I'm just... I mean, the way she reacted and everything... I have to know. She's my only real friend. I don't want to hurt her.

- 104. DAN:** **(SIGHS)** Tina, Mercy and I have a history. That won't change. We have a daughter together, as you know. But that's all it is: history.
- 105. TINA:** I just don't want to lose a friend. God knows I don't have many, especially since Trudy died.
- 106. DAN:** Tina - listen! I really like you. I want to be with you. And Mercy will come round. You'll see.
- 107. TINA:** Hey - isn't that Tandika on the TV? **(LOUDER)**
Excuse me, could you please turn up the volume?
- 108. SFX: TV VOLUME TURNED UP**
- 109. PRESENTER:** And news just in... We're hearing that the Tandika bridge has collapsed. The Tandika river broke its banks today after weeks of heavy rain. At least four people are reported to have been injured. Police are urging everyone to stay away until the floodwaters subside... **(FADE OUT)**
- 110. DAN:** Oh, great! Looks like we're stuck here.
- 111. TINA:** Damn! I'm supposed to be at work at the radio station by eight...

OUTRO:

And there we leave Dan and Tina, trapped in the restaurant with the floodwaters rising! Mrs. Jumbe has stormed out of the house in a fury - but she's got something completely wrong, hasn't she? After all, it was NOT Mercy who infected Niki with HIV... Listen in next time to see whether the misunderstanding can be cleared up. We'll also find out where Mrs. Jumbe went off to in such a hurry! In the meantime, don't miss what Niki has to tell you in his video blog! Just click dw.de/lbe to watch it. You can also follow us on Facebook. Until next time - bye bye!