

Learning by Ear 2014

Crossroads Generation – Season 3: Facing the Future

EPISODE 26: Wedding Bells

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- **MINIMAL CROWD: JUMBE, TINA, KADU, BANDA, LULU, MSOTO**

INTRO

1. NARRATOR:

Hi everybody! It's time for the final episode of this season of "Crossroads Generation"! Before we get started, let's recap on what's happened so far in the lives of our young heroes! 18-year-old Mercy has a three year old daughter, Linda. Her mother has been taking care of Linda so that Mercy can go to university. But Mercy's mother has had a lot to deal with, protecting her children from the bad influence of their father Msoto.

Recently, Mercy and her boyfriend Niki decided to get married – but Niki's mother isn't happy about this at all. So she talked to her new business partner, 19-year-old Dan:

2. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 25, LINES 96-98

MRS. JUMBE: *She's the mother of your child, Dan, isn't she?*

DAN: *She is... (to himself) I can;t believe this! I wanted to ask her if we could get back together, once I'd built up my business and saved up a bit!*

MRS. JUMBE: *Hard, isn't it? Luckily, you and I both want the same thing... We have to stop the wedding!*

3. NARRATOR:

Right now, though, we aren't really sure if there's going to be a wedding to stop! Niki and Mercy got some very bad news – they found out that Niki is HIV positive! They had a huge fight afterwards, and later on Mercy went back to seek advice at the counselling centre:

4. FLASHBACK: EPISODE 25, LINES 74, 77

MARGARET: Mercy, I can't tell you how Niki got infected. He may not even know himself. But is that really what matters now? You were ready to get married: you told me you trusted each other. Niki needs your support now more than ever before. (...)

MERCY: I don't know... I just don't know! I have to go!

5. NARRATOR:

Our 26th episode is entitled "Wedding Bells". We join Mercy in her dorm room at the university...

SCENE 1: MERCY DECIDES

6. **ATMO:** **INSIDE THE STUDENT HOSTEL**

7. **MERCY:** **CRIES**

8. **TINA:** Mercy, you look so beautiful in my mother's wedding dress! I knew it would fit you!

9. **MERCY:** Thanks for the dress, Tina. But I... I don't know if I can do this! **(sniffs)**

KW BEGIN

10. **TINA:** Hey, come on! What is it?

11. **MERCY:** This was supposed to be my big day. I was supposed to become Niki's wife! We were supposed to become a family! Why did this have to happen to me?

12. **TINA:** Mercy, there's nothing you can do. What's happened has happened! Crying isn't going to help!

KW END

13. **MERCY:** I just don't know if I can go through with this, Tina!

14. **TINA:** Have you asked him about other women?
15. **MERCY:** Niki insists he's never slept with anyone. He says he's a virgin.
16. **TINA:** So how...?
17. **MERCY:** I don't know. And he doesn't know either...
Although back in high school, he had some trouble with drugs. I thought it was just alcohol and marijuana... But yesterday night I called him, and he told me that he did try other stuff, just one time, with a needle... **(cries)** One single time! And he doesn't remember whether the other person used the same needle or not...
18. **TINA:** Oh! Come here! Shh!
19. **MERCY:** **(sobs)**
20. **TINA:** So what are you going to do?
21. **MERCY:** **(pause – collects herself)** I'm going to marry him.
22. **TINA:** Are you sure you know what you're doing?

23. **MERCY:** **(deep breath)** Yes, I am. I mean ... we'll have to figure out how to live with it. And I'm so scared of everything that will come! But I also know that I still love Niki. When I talked to the counsellor again, she reminded me that everybody makes mistakes. Me too! And whenever I've made one, Niki's always been there for me – he's always supported me. I can't just abandon him now!
24. **TINA:** Mercy! That's... That's... I don't know what to say. I guess... Congratulations!
25. **MERCY:** Thanks! Oh, I wish Trudy was here!
26. **TINA:** Me too! **(sighs)** Hey, did you hear that Mukaraba's party did really badly in the election? They only won a few seats in parliament – nothing for Mukaraba!
27. **MERCY:** Yeah: hopefully he'll have his very own seat in prison soon! That's what he deserves after what he and Mnene did to Trudy! **(sobs again)**

- 28. TINA:** Oh no! Not the tears again! Come on, let's go – I guess your family will already be waiting...

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 2: LULU SENDS MSOTO AWAY

- 29. ATMO:** **OUTDOORS, LIGHT TRAFFIC**
- 30. LULU:** **(calls)** Banda, Kadu! Don't go too far with Linda and Joy! Your sister Mercy will arrive any minute and then the wedding will start – with or without you!
- 31. SFX: STEPS MSOTO APPROACHING**
- 32. MSOTO:** **(approaching)** Hello, Lulu.
- 33. LULU:** **(furious)** Msoto! How dare you! I told you not to come near the children again! Have you forgotten the restraining order the judge put on you? You're not allowed within 300 metres of Joy!
- 34. MSOTO:** Lulu, please! King Karubu says forgiveness --

35. LULU: **(interrupts)** Stop it! Don't you even start talking about your King Karubu again! You told our son Banda he would be a part of your so-called community if he helped you, and you sent him out begging on the street in the name of King Karubu! You just use this king to make money!

36. MSOTO: Lulu, I'm sorry. And I assure you, it won't happen again. **(uncomfortable, low voice)** Anyway, I'm not allowed to preach any more ...

KW BEGIN

37. LULU: What?

38. MSOTO: **(still uncomfortable)** The leader of our group called me. He said I'd been misusing the name of King Karubu, and --

39. LULU: You know what, Msoto? I don't care. Just... get out of my sight!

KW END

- 40. MSOTO:** Please, Lulu. Please – just let me see Mercy get married! Look – she’s coming... She looks so beautiful!
- 41. LULU:** **(firm)** Listen to me very carefully, Msoto. This wedding is the last time you will ever see your children. The last time, you hear me? From now on, I will call the police every time you appear if you don’t respect my wishes. Is that clear?
- 42. MSOTO:** **(sighs, resignedly)**

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: DAN AND HIS FATHER TALK

43. ATMO: OUTSIDE, LIGHT TRAFFIC

44. DAN: (to himself) Okay. This building at the end of the road should be the place where Mama Niki told me to go. And I think that's Mercy arriving over there...

45. SFX: DAN'S PHONE RINGING

46. DAN: (to himself now) Who's calling me? I don't have time now!

47. SFX: BEEP AS CALL IS ANSWERED

48. DAN: Hello? Dan Kanyama speaking.

49. KANYAMA: (on phone) Hello, Dan!

50. DAN: Dad? How did you get my number?

51. KANYAMA: Never mind. Listen, son, I want you to come back home to your country and revive my business! OUR business!

52. **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!
53. **KANYAMA:** Oh? And what do you think will happen when I tell the authorities in Kisimba that you're not only there illegally, you're also running an illegal business?
54. **DAN:** Dad – you wouldn't do that!
55. **KANYAMA:** I can, and I will!
56. **SFX: LINE DISCONNECTS**
57. **DAN:** Dad, wait... **(to himself)** Damn! I just don't know how he does it! The same thing over and over again, like a broken record! **(deep breath)** I can't deal with this now... I have other things to do.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCENE 3: MERCY AND NIKI GET MARRIED

58. ATMO: SILENT INTERIOR ATMO

59. PASTOR: Mercy? Niki? Are you ready?

60. MERCY / NIKI: Yes.

61. PASTOR: Okay. Then let's begin! **(clears his throat, raised voice)** We are gathered here today to celebrate the coming together in marriage of Niki Jumbe and Mercy Msoto. Although these two could only invite a few people to be their witnesses, they love each other very much, and have decided to get married no matter what.

KW END

62. MERCY: **(sniffles)**

63. SFX: DOOR OPENS

64. CROWD: **(murmurs)** "Is somebody else coming?" - "Who's that?" etc.

65. **PASTOR:** A wedding is one of life’s happy events! A day when you’re allowed to shed tears of joy, like the bride, and be happy and make merry!
66. **MERCY:** **(cries)**
67. **NIKI:** **(whispers)** Mercy, please don’t cry!
68. **PASTOR:** So if there is anyone here who knows of any lawful reason why these two should not be joined together in matrimony, speak now or forever hold your peace.
69. **SILENCE**
70. **PASTOR:** Well, seeing as nobody has spoken --
71. **SFX: FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING**
72. **DAN:** **(clears his throat, as he approaches)** Wait!
73. **NIKI:** *Dan?!*
74. **MERCY:** Oh no! What’s he doing here?
75. **CROWD:** “Who’s that?” – “Oh no!” – “What’s going on?” etc.

76. **DAN:** Hello ...I am.... I am Dan Kanyama, father to Linda, the bride's daughter.
77. **CROWD:** "He's stopping the wedding!" – "He can't be!" – "What's he doing?" etc.
78. **DAN:** I came here to stop this wedding, because I realised how incredibly foolish I was to lose such pearls as Mercy and my daughter Linda. There's nothing I want more than for us to be together again. But --
79. **CROWD: MURMURS**
80. **MERCY:** What???
81. **NIKI:** How dare you, Dan! I'm going to teach you a lesson!
82. **MERCY:** No, Niki, don't!
83. **DAN:** **(continues)** BUT – now I see how healthy and happy my daughter and her mother seem to be, I have to ask myself: could I make them even half as happy?
84. **CROWD: MURMURS**

KW BEGIN

85. DAN: I realise now that no one will be a better father to Linda and husband to Mercy than Niki. For those of you who don't know: Niki and I are sworn enemies.

86. CROWD: LAUGHS UNCERTAINLY

87. DAN: We've fought over Mercy for years now...

88. CROWD: LAUGHS

89. DAN: But I have to admit: the better man has won.

90. CROWD: LAUGHS

KW END

91. DAN: Mercy and Niki – I wish you all the best.

92. CROWD: APPLAUDS

93. MERCY: *What...???*

94. NIKI: I don't believe this!

95. PASTOR: **(sighs, relieved)** Well, I actually asked if anyone was AGAINST the wedding, not in favour! But I think I just heard everybody here breathe a huge sigh of relief, am I right?

96. CROWD: LAUGHS

97. PASTOR: So, as it seems that nobody has any objections...
Niki and Mercy: I now pronounce you man and wife.
Niki, you may now kiss the bride.

98. NIKI / MERCY: (Kiss)

OUTRO – NARRATOR:

And this is where we have to say goodbye to our newly-weds, Mercy and Niki; to Dan, who changed his mind at the very last minute; to Mercy's parents, her brothers, her sister Joy, and her daughter Linda – at least for now... We've reached the end of this third season of "Crossroads Generation – Facing the Future". The story was written by James Muhando. Thanks for staying with us to the end! But... wait! There's one other person who's still waiting to say goodbye to you! It's Mercy's friend Tina. You can find the final instalment of her video diary on our webpage at dw.de/lbe. There you can also listen to all 26 episodes of the series, as well as to previous seasons. Take care, and see you next time!