

LOST  
"All the Best Cowboys Have Daddy Issues"  
Episode 109  
Javier Grillo-Marxuach  
Revised Outline  
9/27/04

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TEASER

A mad ZOOM through the "0" CRASHES into JACK's eye at-

1 EXT. JUNGLE - PATH TO THE BEACH - DAY 1

- where he runs, flanked by LOCKE, both frantically shouting for CHARLIE and CLAIRE - last seen (in episode 107) walking this path and menaced by ETHAN, a castaway who was not on the plane.

Locke calls to Jack: he has found a trail.

Claire and Charlie's things have been discarded - but the trail is hard to read. No signs of a struggle. Could Charlie and Claire have merely lost their way? Could Ethan have dragged both Charlie and Claire away by himself - and if not, how many people did it take? Who were they? Were other passengers involved - or could there really be someone else on the island?

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The trail yields few answers...but one thing is certain - the tracks are fresh. It would be possible to follow the trail and find them -

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- but if they don't find Charlie and Claire by nightfall, it's all over: the clues are sparse... and the darkness will make the trail impossible to follow.

Jack is rearing to go. Locke cautions: someone has taken Charlie and Claire. This was a hostile act. They should collect a team and weapons and strategize. Jack is adamant. Every second counts. Lives are on the line. If Locke wants to waste time, fine. Jack is going to the rescue.

As Jack rushes into the jungle, caution be damned...

2 INT. HOSPITAL - OPERATING ROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK 2

A crisis. Jack struggles to keep a FEMALE PATIENT alive. The monitor flatlines. As Jack cracks open her chest and goes for the paddles -

- REVEAL JACK'S FATHER - SHEPHARD, standing against a corner.

Shephard tells the nurse to call the time of death. Without turning from the task of saving this life, Jack SHOUTS for the nurse to do no such thing.

It's a test of wills - Jack trying to desperately bring this woman back while his father tries everything he can to get out of the situation.

Jack reaches into the woman's chest cavity and massages her heart - but she is gone.

As Shephard calls it - and Jack keeps trying in vain...

3

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY - RESUMING

3

Jack powers through the jungle, determined - and when he hears something - a SOUND in the woods, dead ahead -

- and it is the kind of sound that could be anything. The wind, the rustle of trees, the howl of a jungle animal - but to Jack, bent as he is on making progress, it is a sign to push ahead -

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- so he CRIES OUT for Claire and doubles his speed. He is not going to lose these two, no matter the cost.

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CUT TO BLACK:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

4 EXT. JUNGLE - CLEARING - DAY 4

Jack rushes through the brush, pushing himself as far as he can... but his search has been fruitless so far - and the sounds that drove him into the jungle have vanished into the tapestry of native ambience surrounding him

Jack stops to take in his situation and leans against a tree to catch his breath - but his fight is far from over...

5 INT. THE VALLEY - DAY 5

A series of POPS shows the escalating tension as news of Charlie and Claire's abduction arrives with Locke.

- KATE - who has been tending to SAYID (who has only just returned from the two-day ordeal of torture seen in 108) - steps up to confront Locke. "What do you mean you let Jack go?" Locke shrugs - "He wouldn't listen to reason, now we have to gear up and find him same as Claire and Charlie."

- Sayid finds himself under interrogation from other castaways - could the people who took Charlie and Claire have been the people he thought he heard in the jungle? Some kind of descendants of the French Woman? But Sayid, still recovering from a painful wound and his race across the island, is unable to give much useful information. \*

- Kate decides that she is going on the search. Locke recruits two young men, SULLIVAN (introduced in 108) and ARTHUR. They are old friends with some outdoor experience. Arthur - a tall, muscular jock, has been learning to hunt with Locke.

- MICHAEL suggests that they form more search parties and comb other parts of the jungle. Michael asks Locke what they should be looking for - Locke shoots him a dismissive "anything." It is clear that Locke sees himself as the "A Team" in this effort.

- BOONE steps up and volunteers to form a search party - wanting to do something to help the team. SHANNON protests - she wants to know how exactly her brother is going to find a missing person without helicopters, Lojacks and Amber alerts. Once again, Boone has been made to feel worthless by his sister - but Boone's pride is soon bolstered by Locke, who shuts Shannon down by explaining that he has tracking skills and with the help of someone as eager as Boone, they may just find Charlie and Claire. Boone looks at Locke, grateful for the validation. \*

- WALT watches Locke's new disciples, feeling left out - and asks MICHAEL if he can join the search. Michael quickly shoots the idea down - no way, absolutely no way.

- Kate grabs Locke - ready? Sullivan, who is a bit of a hypochondriac, seems tentative - but Kate is already on her way out. As they follow, Locke looks back and sees Walt, watching the departing party enviously...

...and as Locke shoots Walt a good-bye wink.

6 EXT. JUNGLE - CLEARING - DAY 6

Jack studies the surroundings, trying to find a path to follow - but he appears to have run out of trail. Jack casts his eyes down. He is alone. Lost...

MATCH CUT TO:

7 INT. HOSPITAL - OPERATING ROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK 7

The quiet after the storm. Jack places a sheet over the dead woman on the operating table as the nurses and surgical assistants file away -

- then turns to glare at his father.

But it's Shephard who TEARS IN: asking who Jack thinks he is to come into his hospital, his OR and try to save his patient. Jack retorts that she became his patient when dear old dad tried to perform a routine operation under the influence and severed the patient's hepatic artery, causing her to go into cardiac arrest on the operating table.

It is understood from this discussion that Jack was scrubbing up for another procedure but was called into this surgery when it became clear that his father was way in over his head. But Shephard refuses to accept this explanation - he tells Jack he doesn't have what it takes to tell him how to conduct his practice. \*

Shephard is not only Jack's father, he is Chief of Surgery in this hospital - and for Jack's insubordination, his surgical privileges are suspended immediately. \*

As Jack turns away -

MATCH CUT TO:

8 EXT. JUNGLE - CLEARING - RESUME 8

- Jack turning as he hears Locke's voice:

"It's a good thing you didn't veer too far off the trail," says Locke, entering the clearing along with Kate and the rest of the search party.

Locke takes Jack to task for dashing off, admonishes him that he is out of his league: arguing that Jack is needed at the caves, Jack is the doctor here, he should let Locke, with his tracking and wilderness skills lead the search party. \*

"Go back and be a doctor, Jack," Locke says. "Let the hunter do the hunting." \*

But Jack will not go back - and the discussion soon becomes a full-on ARGUMENT.

Locke tells Jack he isn't prepared to handle this expedition and will slow them down. In addition to having no outdoor skills, Jack clearly has an emotional involvement which might compromise their ability to objectively follow the trail and enact a rescue - whatever responsibility Jack may feel toward Charlie and Claire, his being here is not practical. \*

Jack levels a glare as Locke acts like a domineering father figure - and tells him that the longer they argue, the greater the danger to Charlie and Claire. Locke ought to busy himself picking up the scent of their prey instead of arguing who should and shouldn't be in the party.

As Locke stands down and gets to work...

9

INT. THE VALLEY - DAY

9

Michael has recruited several castaways to join the search. As they prepare to set off, the talk focuses on who might have taken Charlie and Claire - and why Locke and Kate took their search party out without offering the rest of them any more information other than to look for "anything." Locke clearly sees himself as a man of skill and everyone else as a lesser. \*

In the tension and frustration of the moment, Michael speaks out against Locke, commenting that he should have been more conscientious of the common good...

...and the one voice of dissent comes from Walt - who challenges his father, telling the group that Locke is a warrior and a hunter - the one who provides them with boar to eat and has proven his mettle out in the jungle.

And once again, Michael is left facing off against his own son - who respects Locke more than his own father. As Michael orders his team to move out...

10 EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

10

The expedition has moved, but the process is slow and frustrating. Locke tells the group that whoever it is they are following, he is trying very hard to cover his tracks and disguise the number of people in his group.

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Jack's frustration mounts - especially when Locke stops tracking to tear a strip of red cloth from a t-shirt and place it around a tree branch. When asked what he is doing, Locke explains that he is marking the trail - so that the rest of the team can find its way back should something happen to him.

Jack rolls his eyes - getting tired of Locke's self-aggrandizing. Kate approaches Jack and makes an observation about his agitated state of mind. Maybe Jack needs to chill, let Locke do his thing -

- and Jack snaps back: Claire was his patient - she came to him for help, she had a legitimate complaint - genuine fears that someone wanted to take her and her child - and he chose to ignore them. Jack is convinced that this is his fault -

- and before Kate can react, Jack turns and walks away, noticing something on the ground a few meters away.

Kate rushes after Jack, quickly followed by Locke, Boone, Arthur and Sullivan, as Jack reveals what he has found...

...a piece of gauze bandage with the letter "L" written on it with magic marker. Sullivan looks at the thing quizzically - and as he asks what it is -

FLASH CUT TO:

11 EXT. BEACH - DAY (C. S. I. - STYLE FLASHBACK)

11

A moment taken from episode 101 shows Charlie, sitting at the beach, writing the word "LATE" on the gauze bandages on his knuckles...

12 EXT. JUNGLE - RESUME

12

...as Jack holds up the "L" and declares that this is Charlie's way of leaving them a trail of bread crumbs. Locke hopes Jack is right - and that this isn't a clever opponent's way of sending them off in the wrong direction.

Tired of Locke's nay-saying, Jack merely says "I'll lead the way," and starts moving.

Off Kate, Boone, Arthur and Sullivan, impressed with Jack's resourcefulness and resolve -

- and Locke, feeling usurped...

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

13 EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

13

OPEN ON an EXTREME CLOSE UP of the "A" scribbled on a piece of gauze from Charlie's knuckle. WIDER as Jack comes into focus, the rest of the search party trailing him, and picks up the clue.

Locke steps up, examines Charlie's bandage, and tells Jack that the path leads in one direction. But Jack and Locke seem destined to disagree on every point of this expedition - as Jack points out what appears to be a footprint going the opposite way.

Locke dismisses Jack's finding - but a third voice enters the discussion. It's Kate, who has been examining the path. Kate argues that there are some signs that a small band of abductors may have split up from the main group. Locke asks Kate how she could know that. Kate reveals that she knows a thing or two about tracking herself.

Jack asserts that they have to split up. Locke argues that they are going after hostiles able to overpower Claire and Charlie and carry them this far. Splitting up could be suicide: they have to pick the best possible path to follow and stand together.

Jack tells Locke that splitting up represents the best chance they have of finding Charlie and Claire - as long as it's light out and they can follow a trail, they might as well follow every possible trail. Kate stands by Jack.

As Locke grudgingly agrees to split up, taking Boone, Arthur and Sullivan his way -

14 INT. THE VALLEY - DAY

14

"Wait a minute - who got taken by what?"

It's SAWYER - here to get meds for the cut on his arm - and just learning that a new enemy has emerged and kidnapped Charlie and Claire...

...only by now, the caves are rife with rumor. Some think there's a hostile native tribe on the island - Hurley emerges as the unlikely voice of reason - natives smart enough to plant a ringer? Come on - just because Ethan wasn't in the manifest doesn't mean he couldn't have stowed away on the plane or been travelling under an assumed name.



Hurley tells an urban legend about a guy who hid in the wheel well of a plane during an entire trans-continental trip - and then tells the group that maybe, if they ask enough questions to enough people, they will probably find someone who might have seen Ethan at the airport.

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The argument continues until an exasperated Sawyer tells everyone to shut up - asks if anyone has actually seen or heard these people. The answer comes back - the only guy who has real information is the one person Sawyer doesn't want to talk to: Sayid.

As Sawyer wonders if getting some accurate information is worth a close encounter with the man who tortured and caused him to almost bleed to death...

15 EXT. JUNGLE - LATER

15

Locke stops to post yet another strip of red cloth around a tree branch -

- and Sullivan steps up, he has been meaning to ask Locke a question. If they are really on the trail of a psycho like Ethan - or maybe even a band of psychos - or whatever - is it really wise to alert them to our presence by tying strips to the trees?

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Locke glares at Sullivan and turns away, thinking. Sullivan asks Locke which way to go now - but Locke just rubs his head, trying to tune Sullivan out - until he is finally forced to admit that the trail has gone cold.

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Locke suggests that they fan out to comb a larger part of the jungle for signs of Charlie and Claire. Boone - eager for Locke's approval - agrees, suggesting that Arthur and Sullivan pair off... but Sullivan wonders aloud if Locke's plan is a good idea.

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Arthur grabs Sullivan, and asks why he is "Questioning Mr. Locke's judgment." Sullivan replies that he has no idea who this Locke guy is, "How do we know he is anything he says he is." Arthur shuts his friend down - Locke is the most capable man in this camp, "Trust me."

Sullivan replies that "I trusted you when you offered me a free vacation in Australia."

16 EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

16

Jack keeps pushing, prompting Kate to ask him to slow down - he is getting ahead of the trail and may destroy evidence that could lead them to Charlie and Claire.

Kate finally gets in front of Jack and tells him that "You're not the only one who feels guilty." Kate also had responsibility to take care of Claire and feels like she dropped the ball.

But Jack is in no mood to share blame. He just wants to press ahead. With a sarcastic edge indicating his impatience with her method, Jack demands to know where Kate learned how to track anyway.

And it is off Jack's barb that Kate - for the first time - opens up about something in her past. She tells Jack that her father was an Army Colonel. Kate was a tomboy and spent a lot of time outdoors with her father, who shared a lot of his expertise with her. Kate's tone of voice makes it clear that she misses her father terribly...

...and it also has the effect of calming Jack down. Bringing him back to earth. Kate stops talking, sees the look on Jack's face and immediately pulls back. She tells Jack that she is sorry. She knows that Jack lost his father recently, and didn't mean to go on and on about her own dad.

Jack tells Kate it's OK. He is touched that she has finally shared something with him..

...and as Jack turns away, lost in his own thoughts...

17 INT. HOSPITAL - SHEPHARD'S OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK 17

Dressed in civvies, Jack reports to his father's office. Shephard tosses over a stack of papers - a report on the failed operation. Jack asks what is in the report.

Shephard answers "The truth." The woman had a heart valve defect that was never disclosed to the surgeons and led to her death during surgery.

Jack cannot believe his father is asking him to commit criminal fraud. Surely the truth will come out in the autopsy - Shephard cuts him off. He's already talked to the Chief Pathologist. An autopsy has been performed, the results have been logged, and no one in the hospital is going to risk their jobs by contradicting Shephard. This thing is fixed.

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All it is going to take to close the deal for good is Jack's signature.

Jack shakes his head - he is not going to sign this thing. His father was drunk and killed that woman.

And Shephard does something he has never done before: he addresses his son with tenderness and admiration.

Jack had the most native talent and greatest hands he has ever seen in a young surgeon - he is an artist who cares about his patients... and dad's responsibility is to make sure that a talent like that stays out there to fight the good fight. If Jack knew that his father was impaired at the surgery, he too is culpable. If dad goes down, Jack goes down with him.

Jack stares - dumfounded. His first true compliment from his cold and distant father arrived wrapped in blackmail.

Dad shakes his head. This isn't blackmail. He has always been tough on Jack - for a reason. He needs to know if Jack has what it takes - not to save one life but to make tough choices that save many lives.

On one hand is a tragic, avoidable mistake... on the other the lives of every patient Jack will attend to for the rest of his career. Hundreds, thousands of people, who may not survive in the hands of a less gifted practitioner than Jack.

Shephard holds out a pen - show me Jack, show me you have what it takes.

Jack processes the choice before him - his career - his family name - his ability to do his job in the future, and makes the toughest choice of his life...

...he signs the false surgery report. And off the moment, as Jack truly wonders if he has sold his soul to Satan...

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

18 INT. THE VALLEY - INFIRMARY CAVE - DAY

18

Sawyer finds Sayid, convalescing. Sayid tenses - wants to know what Sawyer is doing here. Sawyer explains that the doctor doesn't trust him enough to give him all his antibiotics at once - so he has to come get them daily.

Sawyer looks Sayid up and down - he is in terrible shape - and remarks that he doesn't know if "You Muslims" have a concept of karma, but it sure looks like Sayid got himself some cosmic payback. Sawyer even goes as far as to make a snide remark that in Sayid's condition he could easily kick the ever-lovin' snot out of him right here and now and not feel all that bad about it.

Sayid takes the threat in stride and tries to make an apology - the Sayid who tortured Sawyer was a throwback to something Sayid thought had been left behind in Iraq but -

"Save it," Sawyer snaps, reminding Sayid that he beat, tortured and threatened to gouge out his eye. There isn't much Sayid is going to be able to say that's going to bring about sweet forgiveness... but it sure would be nice if Sayid would let loose some of what he learned about these alleged mysterious people on the island.

Sayid tells Sawyer what he knows. He was abducted by a crazy French woman who insisted that there were dangerous people on the island. She seemed to be there alone, but as he escaped, he heard sounds in the woods. Now Claire has been abducted by someone, maybe -

"Sounds in the woods?" Sawyer retorts sarcastically, "You got everyone here thinking there's hostile natives coming to get them cause you heard 'sounds in the woods?'"

Sayid is done talking - Sawyer offers that this is the exact same reason he doesn't want to move to the caves with the rest of the lemmings. He's going back to his beach.

Sawyer turns to go, but not before offering one last thing to Sayid - "I'm keeping that signal fire burning on the beach... for whatever that's still worth to you."

And while these two have made a very tentative connection, others are about to disconnect in a big way...

19 EXT. JUNGLE - CLEARING - DAY

19

The trail is nowhere to be found. The day is dark. Rain falls. Locke, Boone, Arthur and Sullivan continue to search for the trail...

... but Sullivan is getting anxious. For the last hour all they have done is trudge around the jungle with nothing to show for it. Maybe the time has come to call it a day and return to the valley.

Locke turns on Sullivan - this is not time to start questioning the mission. The trail could be waiting out there for them: turning back now means giving up on Charlie and Claire.

Everything that happens on this island happens for a reason, Locke argues - and he is not about to give up on the search that has brought them here. If they wound up in this place, it is because something is waiting for them. That is the way of this island. \*  
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Sullivan is done with Locke's pronouncements and starts questioning his motives. Just how good a tracker is he? Where did Locke learn what he knows? Has he ever tracked people through a jungle before?

Boone steps up in Locke's defense - "Hey, remember that boar meat you had for dinner - this is the guy who caught it!"

But Sullivan will have none of it. He is ready to go. All eyes turn to Arthur, who, after a moment, has to side with his friend. Arthur makes an apologetic good-bye - but he got Sullivan into this mess, he can't leave him to return to camp alone.

But Boone turns to Locke - tells him he wants to stay - he wants to save Charlie and Claire and isn't about to give up.

Off Locke, nodding - watching the birth of a new disciple...

20

EXT. JUNGLE - THE FOOT OF A MUDDY HILL - DAY

20

Jack and Kate rush to the foot of the hill covered in long grass to find the "T." They must be close - very close -

- a belief affirmed when they hear that SOUND again - the one that Jack heard as he first ventured into the jungle...

... only now the sound is followed by something very close to a SCREAM from the top of the hill!

Or was it a scream? The trees? The wind?

Jack doesn't care. He springs into action, climbing up the hill. Kate takes off after him - and as they climb, the rain and merciless whipping wind are only made worse by the long grass obscuring their view of the way ahead...

...and then it gets scary -

- because the rain picks up, and with it come streams of mud and water, rolling down the hill, SMASHING against Jack and Kate, and dragging away the ground under their feet -

- and because in the rain and buffeting wind, another sound seems to come and go everywhere around them - strange WHISPERS (like those heard by Sayid as he trekked through the jungle in episode 108)...

...but it is impossible to tell if this truly is the sound of our enemy or an illusion brought upon by the extreme weather -

- and in the end, whoever may have taken Charlie and Claire are not the most immediate threat facing Jack and Kate, because a stream of water soon hits Jack face on, and he careens down toward Kate -

- who tries to offer her hand, and he almost gets it - before slipping away -

- and tumbling down the incline.

Jack rolls down, picking up speed, banging his head, his descent as painful as it is swift - until he CRASHES DOWN into a mud puddle at -

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21 EXT. JUNGLE - FOOT OF A LARGE TREE - DAY 21

Where Jack's pained expression leads to a -

MATCH CUT TO:

22 INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - DAY - FLASHBACK 22

Where Jack's expression is pained because he has been button-holed by THE HUSBAND of the woman who died on the operating table.

The husband tells Jack that he is being approached by lawyers who want him to sue the hospital, and he feels that the hospital is stonewalling him. But frankly, the husband says, he doesn't care about any of that, he just wants to know if what happened to his wife could have been avoided.

"So I'm asking you," the husband tells Jack, "Off the record, on your honor - man to man - what happened in there?"

Jack stares at the grief-stricken man. This is a chance to redeem himself for losing this man's wife - and for taking part in a deception to avoid the consequences. What is Jack going to do?

He lies.

With a straight face and an intense expression of heartfelt empathy, Jack tells the man that the hospital's account of the surgery is on the up-and-up. His wife had an unreported heart defect that led to her death. It was no one's fault - a terrible tragedy that no one could have foreseen.

Touched by Jack's honesty, the husband shakes Jack's hand, even as he breaks into tears, then turns and goes.

And off Jack, loathing himself -

23

EXT. JUNGLE - FOOT OF A LARGE TREE - RESUMING

23

- Jack snaps out of his flashback, then looks up to see the last thing he imagined, or would want to see.

HIS FATHER!

Standing at the foot of the tree (in the same suit and white shoes he wore in 103,) looking down at him contemptuously. Jack refuses to believe what he sees... "You aren't here," he says aloud -

- and is shocked when dad answers him!

Jack wants to believe that this is all a hallucination brought on by stress, exertion, and maybe a head injury incurred during his descent down the hill - but dad doesn't see it that way. Jack asks Shephard what he wants...

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"I want to know," Shephard answers, "Why the only trained doctor on this island is sitting in a mud hole at the bottom of a hill when 46 other people need his care and attention."

Jack cries out that he is responsible for Claire. Dad wonders if Jack ever learned his lesson: the good of the many is not worth sacrificing for a single life. If Jack had any sense - if he had ever learned to see that big picture - he would turn back now.

Jack shouts back in anger - calling Shephard a drunk who never cared about anyone but himself. Dad shoots back that Jack is no better: he went off half-cocked and compromised his own life for that of a patient he cannot save.

"Face it Jacko," Shephard says commonsensically, "That pregnant girl is already dead, and there is nothing you can do about it."

But Jack refuses to accept his father's words.

"And that's why you let everyone down on this island today," Shephard says, adding that "Just like you always let me down - you just never learned."

Off Jack, suffering from the fall and the withering judgment rendered upon him by his own father...

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF ACT THREE



ACT FOUR

24 EXT. JUNGLE - FOOT OF A LARGE TREE - DUSK 24

Darkness crawls across Jack's face as Jack wakes up to see Kate - kneeling over him, checking him for injuries, asking if he is OK, because they need to get back on the trail. \*

Defeated and demoralized - having just stared into the abyss of his own spiritual and moral failure - Jack tells Kate that they had better turn back to the caves. \*

Kate looks at him in disbelief - they have come too far and driven hard to get here, now is no time to -

"Night's falling," Jack tells Kate, "We are unarmed - and there must be more of them than there are of us, what were we even thinking?"

Kate can see the despair overtaking his face. She knows that he could give up - and, more importantly, that everything he has said makes perfect sense... and yet it is all completely irrelevant to this situation. This is do or die.

Kate looks at Jack, and pays him the most heartfelt and honest compliment of which she is capable. She tells him that if he had been taken, it wouldn't matter who they were or whether they outnumbered her twenty-to-one, she would do everything she could to get him back.

That's the kind of man Jack is. He is a leader and a hero - and he'd better not forget that - ever.

And Off Jack's face, as Kate holds out her hand to help him get up -

25 INT. HOSPITAL - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK 25

Shephard addresses a hospital Board of Inquiry on the failed surgery. His testimony is clear, lucid, and utterly false.

Jack watches from the sidelines as the HEAD of the Board of Inquiry commends them for their heroic efforts to save the woman's life.

It looks like this entire affair is at an end - until one last member of the Board speaks up -

- the pathology report indicates that the patient was six weeks pregnant. Was Shephard aware of this when he went in to operate?

Shephard fields the question without missing a beat. But the revelation lands especially hard on Jack.

It wasn't just a woman's life that was destroyed here - it was the life of her unborn child and the possibility of a family.

The truth is inescapable: an entire future died that day in the operating room

No amount of prevarication on the part of Shephard can take away the sinking feeling in Jack's gut - and at the same time it becomes clear why Jack was so hell bent on saving Claire: another pregnant woman put under his charge.

Shephard finishes his explanation. The Head of the Board thanks him and is about to declare the case closed...

...and that's when Jack stands and declares that he has to revise his testimony. Shephard tries to nip it in the bud, but Jack is going to make his case no matter what.

Off the collective shock in the room as Jack describes how Shephard showed up drunk to a routine surgery, and in doing so starts the chain of events that will lead him to load his father's corpse onto Oceanic Flight 815...

26 EXT. JUNGLE - FOOT OF A LARGE TREE - RESUME 26

... as Jack takes Kate's hand and rises - time to get Charlie and Claire - and as they run back up the hill -

27 EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT 27

Locke and Boone continue their trek in silence and darkness. Boone turns to Locke, and asks him if he truly believes that everything on this island happens for a reason.

Locke asks Boone why he wants to know. Boone replies that finding a reason for being here is the one thing he wishes he could have on this island, back in the mainland he had everything, here he knows nothing - but strangely all he yearns for is a clue about why all this has happened.

Locke tells Boone that he has always believed in fate - in destiny - and that in spite of the tragedy that stranded them on the island, miracles can happen here.

This is a place where a man could find his own path - Locke says - but the island doesn't give up its secrets to the weak.

And then Locke sees something in the distance. A flash of something strange. A reflection of the moonlight on something far from where they stand.

Locke asks Boone if he saw that. "Saw what?" Boone asks.

“Destiny” replies Locke and breaks into a run. As Boone follows...

28

EXT. JUNGLE - HILLTOP - NIGHT

28

Jack and Kate clear the long grass and find the "E" - the last of Charlie's clues - but which way to go now?

The answer comes swiftly, with a terrible sound from above - cracking, twisting, gagging... Jack and Kate look up to see Charlie, up on a tree branch...

- hanging from a noose!

The race to save Charlie begins. The two climb. Kate maneuvers herself onto a branch close to Charlie to try to rein him in - stop his choking while Jack cuts the rope.

Kate balances precariously - reaching out for Charlie... and finally grabbing him, desperately trying to lift his weight -

- as Jack gets up to the higher branch and cuts the rope.

But it's not over - not by a longshot. Kate looks up at Jack and cries out -

“He's not breathing!”

Jack bounds down the length of the tree and catches Charlie as Kate lowers him as best she can. Now Charlie is on the ground, and as Jack checks the vitals, one thing becomes completely clear -

- Charlie is dead.

But Jack is not about to let that go down on his watch. Not after everything he has been through to get here.

And in a harrowing sequence, Jack administers CPR, throwing his body and soul into a desperate attempt to save this life - breathing into Charlie's mouth, pounding his chest - almost willing him to return -

- all the while mumbling that “this is why” - answering his father's question of why the only trained physician on the island has chosen to so endanger his own life -

- and finally vindicating himself when Charlie gasps his first breath in minutes.

And off the scene, as Jack and Kate scoop Charlie off the ground - oblivious to the rain splashing on them as they experience the first true victory of this terrible day...

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

29 INT. THE VALLEY - NIGHT

29

Jack and Kate bring Charlie in. Michael appears from the crowd - his search turned up empty - and when Sullivan steps up and tells Jack and Kate that they left Boone and Locke out to their own devices, all they get is a filthy look from Kate.

Still, there is muted celebration as Charlie's safe return is greeted by the castaways. But Jack's tone is somber: they only saved one of the abductees, and some of us are still out there looking for Claire, let's hope they are safe.

Some of the castaways try to ask Charlie if he remembers anything - but Charlie has no recollection of his ordeal, and Jack insists on taking him back to the infirmary for some much-needed recovery.

As Jack and Kate take Charlie away, someone asks the question, why would anyone want to hang the poor guy?

And something occurs to Kate, a speculation that chills her to the bone...

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...maybe whoever did this didn't want to kill Charlie. All of Claire's fears centered on someone wanting to take her child.

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Maybe they wanted us to find Charlie and stop to cut him down so they could get away with Claire.

Jack looks at Kate - not wanting to process what she has just said. All he can do is wonder - just what the hell are we up against here?

And as the words cross Jack's lips, an answer - though not the one we expect - is taking form elsewhere on the island -

30 EXT. JUNGLE - CLEARING - NIGHT

30

- because Locke is frantically looking for the object he saw flashing in the moonlight... and, as Boone struggles to keep up with him, finally does.

It is a large piece of metal - machine formed and smoothly rounded - protruding from the muddy earth. Boone wonders what it is. Locke grabs a stick, probing the soft earth around it...

... and realizing that there is metal under the ground for at least a ten foot radius around the thing.

As he moves around the strange object, poking and prodding for any signs of what it may be, Locke asserts that this is clearly not a piece of the fuselage - this is something that was intentionally buried here. Something man-made.

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Something they were meant to find.

“Okay,” Boone replies “but what is it?”

Locke looks down at the find - clearly he believes that some higher power is at work, that something has brought them here. Locke then reiterates what he said before: this island doesn't give up its secrets to the weak... Boone had better be ready to commit and to struggle if he wants to find out what they are facing here.

And then, Locke answers Boone's quizzical look with the cryptic, ominous assertion about finding a huge, man-made structure deliberately buried here -

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“It could change everything we know about the island.”

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- and as Boone tries to wrap his mind around that -

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF EPISODE