

= A Tale of Two Cities (Lost) =

" A Tale of Two Cities " is the third season premiere , and 50th episode overall , of the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) ' s serial drama television series Lost . The episode was written by co @-@ creators / executive producers J. J. Abrams and Damon Lindelof , based on a story by Lindelof and directed by executive producer Jack Bender . The episode begins with the introduction of Juliet Burke (Elizabeth Mitchell) and The Barracks . The character of Jack Shephard (Matthew Fox) is featured in the episode 's flashbacks . This is the only episode of the series other than the pilot to have been co @-@ written by J.J. Abrams .

When the episode first aired on October 4 , 2006 , in the United States , it was watched by an average of 19 million American viewers , making it the fourth most watched episode of the week . It premiered to generally positive reviews , with many praising Mitchell 's new character .

= = Plot = =

= = = Flashbacks = = =

In Jack 's flashbacks , Jack is going through a divorce from his wife Sarah (Julie Bowen) . He demands to know who she has been dating , but she refuses to tell him , so he spies on her and steals her cell phone . He proceeds to call every number in her phone , and his father Christian Shephard 's (John Terry) cell phone rings . After following Christian to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting , Jack accuses him of sleeping with his wife and physically attacks him . After Jack is arrested , Sarah pays his bail , and tells him Christian is no longer sober . She then leaves with an unidentified man , after telling Jack that " now [he has] something to fix . "

= = = On the Island = = =

New character Juliet Burke (Elizabeth Mitchell) prepares for a book club meeting in a modern suburban home . The club is in a heated discussion of Stephen King 's Carrie , when they are interrupted by what sounds like an earthquake . The group leaves Juliet 's house and Ben Linus (Michael Emerson) , previously known as " Henry Gale " to the survivors , appears along with Ethan Rom (William Mapother) , looking up to watch Oceanic Flight 815 break apart in mid @-@ air . Ben quickly orders Goodwin (Brett Cullen) and Ethan to join the survivors , stay undercover , and provide " lists in three days . " The camera zooms out to reveal that the suburb is actually on the Island and is inhabited by The Others , while in the background the smoke trail of the midsection and tail section of Flight 815 can be seen .

Kate Austen (Evangeline Lilly) wakes up on the floor of a locker room . Tom (M.C. Gainey) allows her to have a shower and afterwards , forces her to change into a dress , after which she is led to an elegant breakfast on the beach with Ben , who tells her to put on handcuffs before she can eat . She asks him why he is doing this , and he tells her that he wanted to give her something pleasant to remember , as the next two weeks will be " very unpleasant " . James " Sawyer " Ford (Josh Holloway) wakes up in a cage in the jungle . A teenager , Karl (Blake Bashoff) , in a nearby cage initially ignores Sawyer but then later expresses interest in Sawyer 's camp and unlocks his cage then Sawyer 's . However , they are both caught and Tom makes Karl , who is now beaten and bloody , apologize to Sawyer before taking the teen away . Sawyer figures out the mechanical puzzle in his cage , though Tom says it " only took the bears two hours . " Kate is then put in Karl 's (now empty) cage .

Jack wakes up in a cell in the Hydra Station , where Juliet gently interrogates him . At one point Jack attacks her and attempts to escape , holding an improvised weapon at her throat . He orders her to open a door , but she refuses to comply , claiming that doing so would kill them both . Ben appears and agrees that opening the door will kill them all . Jack throws Juliet away , and then opens the door . As Ben dashes back through the door he came in , water starts rushing into the

hallway . Juliet helps Jack struggle into an adjoining room , tells him to push a button which she had previously mentioned was for emergencies . He does so and she knocks him unconscious . When he awakes , she shows Jack a file which she says contains documents about his entire life . Juliet asks Jack if he has any questions about Sarah . After a pause , he asks , " Is she happy ? " Juliet replies yes , and walks outside , and Ben congratulates her on a job well done .

= = Production = =

= = = Casting = = =

" A Tale of Two Cities " was the first episode to introduce the character of Juliet . The actress who plays her , Elizabeth Mitchell , was cast in late July 2006 as a new series regular , who was meant to be a possible love interest for Jack . Mitchell has commented her first or second day of shooting was the opening sequence , when the Others watched Oceanic 815 fall out of the sky . When she first met actor Matthew Fox they briefly introduced themselves , but most of their initial conversation was in regard to the script and their characters . Mitchell found this helpful while shooting the premiere 's scenes , since then they knew the other as their characters , and not as Matthew and Elizabeth . The scene in which Jack yells at Juliet , and she responds " No Jack , I think you 're stubborn " , was used as her audition scene . One of the Others , Amelia , was played by the elderly Julie Adams , who was the protagonist in Creature from the Black Lagoon .

Previous guest actors William Mapother , Julie Bowen , M.C. Gainey , Brett Cullen , and John Terry made brief appearances in the episode . The premiere marked the first appearances of recurring guest actors Blake Bashoff and Stephen Semel . In addition to Mitchell 's new billing , only four other characters of star billing appeared in the episode : Michael Emerson , depicting Ben Linus , was promoted to a main character for the third season ; the other three were Matthew Fox playing Jack Shephard , Evangeline Lilly as Kate Austen and Josh Holloway as Sawyer . Henry Ian Cusick was also promoted to a main character as Desmond Hume , along with new characters Nikki and Paulo , played by Kiele Sanchez and Rodrigo Santoro respectively . Malcolm David Kelley (Walt Lloyd) , Harold Perrineau (Michael Dawson) , Michelle Rodriguez (Ana Lucia Cortez) , and Cynthia Watros (Libby) were no longer credited as main characters after each of their characters were written out at the end of the previous season .

= = = Writing = = =

Co @-@ creators and executive producers Damon Lindelof and J.J. Abrams wrote the premiere 's teleplay based upon a story by Lindelof . The episode was Abrams ' first Lost writing credit since the pilot . They laid out the third season with the idea of " us versus them " ; Carlton Cuse , a showrunner , explained , " And who is us ? And who is them ? I mean I think we all tend to objectify people who we don 't know much about and I think that 's the audience 's view of The Others right now -- they are bad , they are the malevolent force on the island . But over the course of the stories we 're going to be telling this season on the show we expect the audience 's view of The Others to change a lot . "

The opening sequence of the episode was meant to replicate the same idea of season 2 's premiere " Man of Science , Man of Faith " , where what seems to be a flashback is instead set on a new part of the island . Director Jack Bender questioned what Jack 's goal was when he pulled on the chain , but Lindelof told him not to worry , because " Fox will sell it , and he did " . Lindelof described when Jack attacks his father at the AA meeting as " pot @-@ committed ... it basically means you put so much money on the bluff , you can 't fold your cards " . The scene with Kate in a dress was inspired by Raiders of the Lost Ark , where Belloq gives a dress for Marion Ravenwood to wear , and was intended to make " tom @-@ boyish " Kate feel vulnerable . The title , inspired by Charles Dickens ' eponymous novel , refers to the reveal of another " city " on the island with the place where the Others live , in addition to the castaways ' beach camp . The episode has only three

characters of the second season 's main cast , Jack , Kate and Sawyer . Lindelof later described this limited scope as " a mistake , when the audience is away from the show for that long , they want to see everybody " , causing the following season openers to have scenes with most of the main characters .

In the episode , Tom tells Kate that she is not his type . This comment resulted in online discussion in regard to Tom 's sexual orientation , and Lindelof and Cuse hinted that a Lost character would later be outed . Gainey joked , " if [Kate 's] not your type , you 're gay " , and began playing the character as such . After the broadcast of " Meet Kevin Johnson " , Lindelof and Cuse confirmed that the line from the third season premiere is an allusion to Tom 's sexuality , but felt that it needed to be explicitly confirmed in the show , although Lindelof noted that the confirmation scene in " Meet Kevin Johnson " " was not subtle , to say the least " . The beginning of the episode featured a scene where Juliet and Amelia discuss Ben 's feelings for Juliet , which was shot but deleted . This scene was later made into the twelfth " Lost : Missing Pieces " mobisode , " The Envelope " .

= = = Filming = = =

The exterior of the Hydra was shot in an abandoned theme park , which art director Andrew Murdock thought it fit as a location for the " kind of blocky , 80 's @-@ style architecture " , where everything was " aged , industrial , and a little bit larger , and a little bit unusual " . The opening sequence features Petula Clark 's " Downtown " , a song that would later be used in another third season episode featuring Juliet . Another song heard in the premiere , " Moonlight Serenade by Glenn Miller , was first used in the season two episode " The Long Con " . Lindelof has stated the songs they choose for Lost were often inspired from his childhood , when his mother would vacuum to music on Sundays .

= = Reception = =

On its original broadcast in the United States on ABC , the premiere was watched by an estimated 18 @.@ 82 million viewers , making it the most watched episode of the night and the fourth most watched of the week . " A Tale of Two Cities " had four million less viewers than the previous season premiere . In Canada , the episode was watched by 1 @.@ 972 million viewers on CTV , easily winning its timeslot . In the United Kingdom , " A Tale of Two Cities " was broadcast on November 22 along with follow @-@ up " The Glass Ballerina " in Lost 's first broadcast after changing to Sky1 . With 1 @.@ 549 million viewers , it was most watched program of the week on the non @-@ terrestrial channels .

IGN 's Chris Carabott rated the premiere 9 / 10 , calling the " peek into the life of The Others ... exceptionally done " and the non @-@ appearance of the other survivors " a smart move " . Carabott also praised Jack 's flashbacks , writing " Previously , Jack has been written as the white knight and reluctant hero who everyone looked to in their time of need . The more chinks they show in Jack 's armor , the better - the more human he becomes . " He called " Juliet ... a promising new character who will hopefully add a new dimension to The Others this season " and concluded his review by calling the episode " a solid season opener " . Robert Bianco from USA Today praised the opening scene and called the episode " a fine start for a great series " but with reservations . Bianco wished Jack would " win one again for the team " , and was fearful that Lost could eventually become like Alias , " a series that became so entranced by its puzzle and its villains that it let the main characters vanish behind them " .

On a list of Lost episodes , the Los Angeles Times ranked " A Tale of Two Cities " number 66 out of 113 episodes , explaining it was " Not bad . The introduction of Juliet is a killer , and Jack raging against the Others is fun . But many of the big revelations -- Ben 's name , for example -- aren 't very well handled . " On a similar list , IGN ranked the episode at number 38 ; they called the opening " one of the show 's characteristic fake @-@ outs " , and Jack 's flashbacks " not nearly as interesting as his first encounters with Juliet " .

Matthew Fox submitted this episode for consideration for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series

for the 59th Primetime Emmy Awards .