

= Live Together , Die Alone =

" Live Together , Die Alone " is the second season finale of the ABC television series Lost , consisting of the 23rd and 24th episodes of the second season . It is also the 48th and 49th episodes overall . The episode was written by Damon Lindelof and Carlton Cuse , and directed by Jack Bender . It first aired in the United States on May 24 , 2006 , on the American Broadcasting Company . The episode was watched by 17 @. @ 84 million people and received positive reviews .

In the episode , flashbacks reveal how Desmond came to the island . In realtime , Desmond unintentionally returns to the beach and is enlisted by Locke to help him stop the button in the hatch from being pushed . Meanwhile , several castaways head off to rescue Michael 's son , Walt , from the Others .

= = Plot = =

= = = Flashbacks = = =

Desmond Hume ( Henry Ian Cusick ) is being released from a military prison for unknown reasons . Upon leaving , he runs into Charles Widmore ( Alan Dale ) who reveals that he prevented communication between his daughter Penelope ( Sonya Walger ) and Desmond while he was in prison , and strongly warns Desmond against attempting to reform a relationship . Desmond , wanting to prove that he is not a coward , travels to the United States from the United Kingdom to train for a sailing race around the world , sponsored by Charles Widmore . He meets Libby ( Cynthia Watros ) in a cafe , and after a deep conversation , Libby gives Desmond a yacht owned by her late husband . While Desmond is training , Penny tracks him down and angrily questions him . ( There is a moment in the background where Jack is seen arriving at the stadium to run . ) Desmond tells her that he is determined to win Widmore 's race and promises that he will return . However , while sailing , Desmond gets caught in a bad storm , and washes up on the island . He is rescued by a man in a yellow HAZMAT suit , Kelvin Inman ( Clancy Brown ) ( who also is the American intelligence officer that releases Sayid in one of his flashbacks ) who takes him to the Dharma Initiative Swan Station . The two live together for three years before Desmond finds out that Inman is secretly planning on escaping the island using Desmond 's boat . Desmond violently confronts Inman about this , accidentally killing him in the process . After almost letting the countdown timer run down , Desmond starts drinking liquor and contemplates suicide . Before he shoots himself however , he hears John Locke ( Terry O 'Quinn ) banging on the hatch door , and turns on a light . Desmond then realizes that there is still hope and decides not to kill himself .

= = = On the island = = =

While at the funeral for Ana Lucia Cortez ( Michelle Rodriguez ) and Libby , a boat comes into view out at sea . Jack , Sayid , and Sawyer swim out to it and climb onto the boat . They hear music coming from inside it . Shots are fired from inside the boat through the boat hatch entrance . After breaking the hatch open , they find a drunken Desmond piloting the boat . The next day , after Mr. Eko ( Adewale Akinnuoye @-@ Agbaje ) prevents Locke from destroying the computer that controls the timer , Locke enlists Desmond 's help in letting the timer run down to zero . Desmond hotwires the blast doors shut , locking Eko outside the computer room and Desmond and Locke inside of it . Eko , distraught , seeks Charlie Pace 's ( Dominic Monaghan ) help . The two attempt to use dynamite to blow the blast door open , but the blast doors are unscathed , while they are both injured .

Meanwhile , Desmond and Locke discuss the purpose of the stations and discover that when Desmond accidentally allowed the timer to run out , the magnetic force pulled Oceanic Flight 815 toward the island , thus causing the crash . Locke continues to doubt that the timer has any meaning , but Desmond assures him that it is all real . As the timer passes zero , Desmond retrieves a

failsafe key and crawls underneath the hatch , saying he will blow the dam . After he turns the key in the system termination switch , a shrill humming noise and violet @-@ white light envelops the entire island , causing the Oceanic 815 survivors and the Others alike on opposite sides of the island to bend in apparent pain . That night , Charlie is the only person to return from the hatch ; the whereabouts of Desmond , Eko , and Locke are not revealed . Charlie reconnects with Claire Littleton ( Emilie de Ravin ) , and they kiss as they sit among their fellow plane survivors .

The survivors split up into two groups to head to the Others ' camp . Michael Dawson ( Harold Perrineau ) , Jack Shephard ( Matthew Fox ) , Kate Austen ( Evangeline Lilly ) , James " Sawyer " Ford ( Josh Holloway ) , and Hugo " Hurley " Reyes ( Jorge Garcia ) walk on land to the camp , bringing guns and ammunition with them . Meanwhile , Sayid Jarrah ( Naveen Andrews ) , Sun @-@ Hwa Kwon ( Yunjin Kim ) , and Jin @-@ Soo Kwon ( Daniel Dae Kim ) plan to use Desmond 's sailboat to go by sea . Sayid plans to use black smoke as a signal , saying that " this time , they will know that we are coming " , a reference to the attacks in the first season finale . When the boat reaches the Others ' camp , Sayid finds it to be deserted . Meanwhile , Michael , Jack , Sawyer , Hurley and Kate engage in a gun battle with some Others that were following them , and Sawyer kills one . Jack confronts Michael about leading the group into a trap , and Michael confesses to the murders of Ana Lucia and Libby . They realize that Michael has led them to a location other than the beach , ruining their former plan to meet up with Sayid . There , they see a large pile of pneumatic tubes , suggesting that the reports sent out from the monitoring hatch discovered in the episode " ? " had never been read . Shortly after the discovery of the tube pile , they hear whispers , and suddenly Sawyer , Kate , and Jack are incapacitated by electric darts . The hostages , bound and gagged , are brought to a dock , where it appears that the Others are led by Henry Gale ( Michael Emerson ) . Gale keeps his bargain with Michael , returning his son , Walt Lloyd ( Malcolm David Kelley ) , to him and giving them an old fishing boat with instructions to sail on a heading of 325 degrees until they are rescued . Michael threatens Henry that he could tell the outside world of the island 's location . Henry responds by telling him that it wouldn 't matter as they would not be able to find the island , should they return . He also gives Michael a counter @-@ threat : if he did tell people of the island 's location , people would know what he did to get his son back . Michael reluctantly accepts but asks who Henry and his people are , to which Henry responds " We 're the good guys , Michael " . Michael uses the boat to get him and Walt off the island . Hurley is then released and sent back to the other survivors with a message that they are to stay away from the Others ' part of the island . As Hurley is let go , the other three captives are taken away .

== Epilogue ==

The scene shifts to a cramped research station somewhere far from the island , in a polar climate ; two Portuguese @-@ speaking men who are playing chess are interrupted by an alert on a monitor displaying the message " > / 7418880 Electromagnetic Anomaly Detected " ( the number 7418880 being the product of the numbers , 4 , 8 , 15 , 16 , 23 and 42 ) . One of the men makes a frantic phone call that wakes up Penelope Widmore ( Sonya Walger ) in the middle of the night , telling her , " I think we 've found it . "

== Production ==

" Live Together , Die Alone " was the thirteenth episode of the series directed by Jack Bender . The episode was written by Damon Lindelof and Carlton Cuse , the ninth episode that the two had written together .

Due to being two hours long , more time went into shooting " Live Together , Die Alone " than most episodes . It was shot in 17 days by two separate crews . Several scenes had to be shortened or cut due to time constraints . One scene that was cut was : after it is revealed that Michael was a traitor , Sawyer wanted to go back to the camp , because he thought it would be stupid to keep following someone who lied to him . In the past , Lost has had an issue with spoilers being leaked from the set , so for the production of " Live Together , Die Alone " , the crew took extra steps to ensure

secrecy of pivotal scenes . Alex Petrovitch , who played Henrik , recalled that when auditioning for his part " names , places , and circumstances ( of his scene ) were shifted so that you couldn't link the scene to the show . " Even other cast members were not told about Petrovitch 's scene . Another measure used by the cast and crew to limit the release of spoilers was calling the final scene by the code name " Challah " instead of referencing anything in the scene . However , the attempts to cover up the flashback scenes were less successful and a call sheet was leaked by Lost fan Ryan Ozawa onto the internet , detailing the full plotlines of Desmond 's flashbacks , about a month before the episode aired . It is in this episode that it is revealed that Henry Gale is in fact the leader of the Others .

= = Reception = =

" Live Together , Die Alone " received a 7 @. @ 6 in the ages 18 ? 49 demographic in the Nielsen ratings . The episode was watched by 17 @. @ 84 million viewers .

" Live Together , Die Alone " has been generally well received . IGN 's Eric Goldman praised actor Henry Ian Cusick ( Desmond Hume ) for giving " a likable , sympathetic performance " . Goldman went on to say that the episode " was a much better finale than last season " , and that it contained one of the " more interesting flashbacks of the entire season " . Entertainment Weekly writer Scott Brown described his viewing experience as " I was up , I was down , I was frustrated , I was thrilled , and finally I was ... well , a bit numb . " Brown criticized the way Charlie reacted to the hatch explosion , stating that he felt the writers were trying to " get us to hate Charlie " .

Deathcore band , Veil of Maya have a song named " Namaste " , in which the song 's chorus has the lyric " Live together , die alone " referencing the episode . The song 's breakdowns are also actually written in @-@ key the series ' mythic numbers ( 4 8 15 16 23 42 ) .