

= Hearts and Minds ( Lost ) =

" Hearts and Minds " is the thirteenth episode of the first season of the American television series Lost . The episode sees Boone Carlyle ( Ian Somerhalder ) experience a vision quest , believing his stepsister Shannon ( Maggie Grace ) to be dead . Through a series of flashbacks , it is revealed that Boone is in love with Shannon , and that they slept together prior to crashing on the island . The episode was directed by Rod Holcomb and written by Carlton Cuse and Javier Grillo @-@ Marxuach .

The writers sought to reveal the backstory of Boone and Shannon by surprising viewers with the nature of their relationship . At the same time , they wanted to use the relationship to bring Boone and Locke closer together , and decided on a vision quest to make this happen . " Hearts and Minds " first aired on January 12 , 2005 , on ABC . The episode was watched by an estimated 20 @. @ 81 million viewers and received mixed to negative critical reception . Critics tended to view Shannon and Boone 's story as uninteresting , but expressed appreciation for John Locke 's ( Terry O 'Quinn ) " darkly mysterious " actions .

= = Plot = =

= = = Flashbacks = = =

Shannon calls Boone and , after he overhears sounds of violence , asks him to come to Sydney . When he gets there , he sees that her boyfriend , Bryan ( Charles Mesure ) , has been beating her . Boone reports this to the police , and reveals that Shannon is his stepsister . While Boone is speaking to the officer , James " Sawyer " Ford ( Josh Holloway ) is brought to the station handcuffed shouting in anger . The detective ignores Boone .

Boone offers Bryan \$ 25 @, @ 000 to break up with Shannon but Bryan asks for \$ 50 @, @ 000 and Boone agrees . Boone also reveals that Bryan is not the first man he has paid off to leave Shannon alone . Shannon refuses to leave with Boone . He realizes that Shannon lied to him to get the money , and she has done this all the other times he had to pay off her boyfriends . Bryan says that Boone 's mother stole money away from her , and she is getting what is rightfully hers . After a brief fight with Bryan in which he is beaten , Boone leaves . That night , a drunk Shannon comes to Boone 's hotel room and tells him that Bryan stole the money . She tells Boone that she knows he loves her and , although he first tries to refuse her advances , they sleep together . Later , Shannon persuades Boone not to tell their parents .

= = = On the Island = = =

On Day 24 , October 15 , 2004 , Boone sees that Shannon Rutherford 's ( Maggie Grace ) relationship with Sayid Jarrah ( Naveen Andrews ) is getting more personal . Boone tries to tell Sayid that he would be better off staying away from Shannon , but he is ignored .

Boone and Locke have been trying to open the mysterious hatch , but tell the other survivors they are hunting for boar . Hugo " Hurley " Reyes ( Jorge Garcia ) scolds Boone for not bringing back any boar , but John Locke ( Terry O 'Quinn ) tells Boone that what he and Boone are doing with the hatch is far more important than hunting . At the hatch , Locke makes a paste and tells Boone it is for later . Locke suggests that staring at the hatch will tell them how to open it .

Boone informs Locke he is tired of lying , and wants to tell Shannon about the hatch . Locke knocks him unconscious with the handle of his knife , and Boone awakes to find himself tied up . Locke applies a strange paste on Boone 's head wound and leaves a knife embedded in the ground in front of Boone so he 'll be able to free himself . Locke explains that he will be able to reach it once he is properly motivated . After several unsuccessful attempts to do so , Boone hears Shannon 's screams and the sounds of the ' monster ' approaching . This is the impetus he needs , and after a short struggle , and in excruciating pain , he is finally able to reach the weapon . He then frees

himself and searches for his sister .

Boone runs through the jungle , and locates Shannon tied to a tree . Boone frees her and they run away from the pursuing monster . The monster takes Shannon , and a distraught Boone later finds her mutilated body by a creek , watching her die . That night Boone returns to the camp and tries to kill Locke , screaming that he had killed his sister , but Locke reveals that Shannon is alive . The past caused Boone to have a vision that , according to Locke , is crucial to his experience on the island . Boone says seeing Shannon dead made him feel relieved . Locke says to come with him , and the two disappear into the jungle .

Meanwhile , Kate Austen ( Evangeline Lilly ) shows Jack Shephard ( Matthew Fox ) to a garden that Sun @-@ Hwa Kwon ( Yunjin Kim ) has started . Kate discovers that Sun speaks English when the two are working in the garden , and Sun asks her not to tell anyone . Locke finds Sayid trying to make sense of Danielle Rousseau 's maps , and gives him a compass . Sayid tells Jack that according to Locke 's compass , north is not where it should be , causing him to believe that the instrument is defective . Hurley and Jin @-@ Soo Kwon ( Daniel Dae Kim ) spend the day fishing . After Hurley fails to catch anything and accidentally steps on a sea urchin after giving up , Jin treats the wound and later gives Hurley a fish .

= = Production = =

Boone was the focus of " Hearts and Minds " , a character who had not yet had his backstory told . Ian Somerhalder was the first actor cast in the series ; while the role required him to find life living in the wild foreign and difficult , the actor was raised on a Louisianan ranch and was thus used to " learn [ ing ] how to survive . " He said , " [ Boone ] was very fragile in [ the Island 's ] environment , where I wouldn 't have been . " The episode 's guest stars included Charles Mesure as Bryan , Adam Leadbeater as Malcolm , and Kelly Rice as Nicole .

Executive producer Carlton Cuse and supervising producer Javier Grillo @-@ Marxuach , who wrote the episode , decided that its plot would be centered on cementing Boone and Locke 's relationship , by making the former go through a test of character . The episode 's plot evolved gradually , with the vision quest being one of the first ideas to include . This led to the depiction of the Shannon @-@ Boone relationship ? which had not yet been explored ? and making it the " axis " on which to tie Locke and Boone together . Cuse said that the series had hit a point narratively where Boone had become Locke 's " acolyte , " and he needed to " sort of shed his obsession with Shannon in order to move forward in terms of his relationship with Locke . "

The producers also thought it would be interesting for there to be more to Shannon and Boone 's relationship than just Boone 's possessive brotherly interest . According to Cuse , the plot twist had become a Lost characteristic so they wanted to surprise the audience by having the Shannon @-@ Boone relationship be sexual in nature . The idea for the two came from an observation that their bickering resembled an older married couple ; to support this , they made the characters step @-@ siblings as it had not yet been established what their sibling bond exactly was .

This was Cuse 's first writing credit for Lost , having joined the series during the seventh episode . He desired to cement Boone 's relationship with Locke , but was unsure how to connect the two characters in a meaningful way . The writers chose a vision quest but decided to make this " closed to the audience " and not let them know it was even occurring . Initially , it was conceived that Boone would be convinced into eating Locke 's drug , but director Rod Holcomb and the writers thought it would have made the hallucination easier to guess , and changed it into spreading the concoction into a head injury .

Locke knocking Boone out " marked a huge turning point " in the development of his character . According to the writers , there was huge debate over whether Locke was good or bad ; his decision was meant to be a shocking moment for viewers , since they thought people would view it as a sign that Locke was turning bad . This was characteristic of the series ? the writers liked to depict a character in a certain way so that one 's opinion would be made up , then they would reveal something else that would change one 's mind . Locke 's scene with Sayid was introduced late into production , because the episode was running short and Locke did not have scenes without Boone ;

Sayid 's scene with Jack was also added later . Many future plot points are introduced into the episode , such as Sayid observing a magnetical anomaly , main characters crossing paths ( Sawyer is being arrested in the police station where Boone is filing a complaint ) and Michael 's box of drawings , which sets up the following episode , " Special " .

= = Reception = =

" Hearts and Minds " first aired on January 12 , 2005 in the United States . The episode 's broadcast gained an estimated 20 @. @ 81 million viewers , making it ABC 's sixth most watched episode for the week . It earned a ratings share of 7 @. @ 9 / 21 among adults aged 18 to 49 and a 4 @. @ 1 / 13 share among teenagers , both measures attaining series highs . With this , Lost and Alias helped ABC win the night . It was down 780 @, @ 000 viewers on the previous episode , " Whatever the Case May Be " , but was up 5 @. @ 12 million on the season average of 15 @. @ 69 million viewers .

Critical reception of the episode was mixed to negative . Chris Carabott of IGN criticized the decision to focus the episode around Shannon and Boone , characters he felt " [ brought ] very little to the table " , at the expense of other " more intriguing " storylines and characters . He called the episode " awkward and uninspired " , though commented that it was saved by the character development of Locke . Carabott rated the episode 6 @. @ 6 out of 10 , signifying a " passable " episode . Entertainment Weekly writer Adam B. Vary graded the episode with a B + and praised Somerhalder for bringing " some real pathos to his conflicted feelings for Shannon ; he also found Locke to be " at his best when his motivations are darkly mysterious . "

Writing for Zap2it , Ryan McGee characterized the episode as having a " weak backstory with a creepstastic ending , " although he enjoyed Locke for being " incredibly sage and incredibly terrifying all at once . " In her 2006 work Finding Lost : The Unofficial Guide , Nikki Stafford critiqued the writers for having some of the characters act inconsistently with the events of previous episodes , citing Jack and Kate 's " jokey and sweet " interactions as an example . Robert Dougherty , author of the 2008 book Lost Episode Guide for Others : An Unofficial Anthology , compared Shannon and Boone 's relationship to that of a soap opera . Other than the revelations surrounding their relationship and Locke 's actions however , Dougherty did not think the episode would have much of an impact on the series ' overall story .

Therese Odell of the Houston Chronicle reviewed the episode twice , once in September 2007 , then again following a repeat viewing in July 2009 . She called it " profoundly weird " , and described it as a " transition episode " , noting that on her original viewing she found it irritating , eager for the story to advance , but upon re @- @ watching it enjoyed it more , praising the " lovely exploration of Boone 's character " . Following the series ' conclusion , IGN ranked " Hearts and Minds " 109th out of all episodes , commenting that as few viewers were interested in Shannon and Boone , it was difficult to be interested in an episode centered on them , particularly as it had little long @- @ term impact . A similar ranking of episodes by Todd VanDerWerff for the Los Angeles Times placed " Hearts and Minds " 104th .