

= There 's No Place Like Home =

" There 's No Place Like Home , Parts 1 , 2 & 3 " is the season finale of the American Broadcasting Company 's fourth season of the serial drama television series *Lost* , consisting of the 12th through 14th episodes . They are also the 84th through 86th episodes of the show overall . The three constituent episodes were split into two broadcasts ; " Part 1 " first aired on May 15 , 2008 , and " Part 2 " , serving as the two @-@ hour season finale of the fourth season , first aired on May 29 , 2008 , on ABC in the United States and on CTV in Canada . The episodes were written by executive producers / show runners Carlton Cuse and Damon Lindelof ; " Part 1 " was directed by co @-@ executive producer Stephen Williams , while executive producer Jack Bender directed " Part 2 " . The episode 's title is a reference to *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* .

The narrative takes place in late December 2004 , 100 days after the crash of Oceanic Flight 815 . The survivors of the crash team up with the Others , natives of the island where the plane crashed , to confront the mercenaries from the freighter *Kahana* , who have come to the island . Following this , some of the survivors escape the island , which is afterwards moved by Ben Linus (Michael Emerson) . Flashforwards show the first actions of the Oceanic Six , those who are rescued , after returning home in January 2005 , and their lives in late 2007 . The cliffhanger from the previous season finale , " Through the Looking Glass , " is resolved by revealing John Locke (Terry O 'Quinn) to be dead and in the coffin that Jack Shephard (Matthew Fox) visits in that episode .

Production and broadcast of the fourth season were interrupted by the 2007 ? 2008 Writers Guild of America strike and following its resolution , the writers were unable to compress the remainder of season four into the five allotted episodes and the season finale was extended by one hour . Subsequently , the production schedule was compressed and post @-@ production work was completed in three weeks , instead of the usual two months .

The second part was watched by 12 million Americans , making *Lost* the most watched show of the week , for the first time in the show 's history . Both parts were met with critical acclaim . Matthew Fox 's acting in his flashforward scenes was praised , as was Michael Giacchino 's musical score . The episode 's editing was nominated for both a Primetime Emmy Award and Eddie Award .

= = Plot = =

= = = Part 1 = = =

In flashforwards to January 2005 , the Oceanic Six ? Jack Shephard , Kate Austen (Evangeline Lilly) , Sayid Jarrah (Naveen Andrews) , Sun @-@ Hwa Kwon (Yunjin Kim) , Hugo " Hurley " Reyes (Jorge Garcia) and Claire Littleton 's (Emilie de Ravin) infant , Aaron ? arrive in Honolulu , where Hurley and Sun are reunited with their parents ; Jack with his mother ; and Sayid with his girlfriend , Nadia Jaseem (Andrea Gabriel) . In the ensuing media circus , a press conference is held , where they lie about everything that has happened on the island , going as far as saying that they are the only living survivors of the plane crash . Sometime later , Hurley 's dad (Cheech Marin) gives Hurley his newly rebuilt 1970s Camaro , at a surprise birthday party . Hurley , however , becomes panicked and runs away when he notices that the car 's odometer displays the numbers . In Seoul , South Korea , Sun visits her father and informs him that she used the money from her settlement with Oceanic Airlines to buy a controlling interest in his company because she blames him for her husband 's , Jin @-@ Soo Kwon (Daniel Dae Kim) , death . In the final flashforward , Jack eulogizes his deceased father , Christian Shephard (John Terry) . After the ceremony , Carole Littleton (Susan Duerden) , Claire 's mother , reveals to him that Claire is his half @-@ sister .

On December 30 , 2004 , following the events of " Cabin Fever " , Jack and Kate follow the tracking signal on the phone given to them by Frank Lapidus (Jeff Fahey) , who dropped it onto the survivors ' beach from a helicopter . They encounter James " Sawyer " Ford (Josh Holloway) , Aaron and Miles Straume (Ken Leung) ; Kate returns to the beach with Miles and Aaron . Jack and Sawyer meet up with Lapidus at the helicopter , but decide to rescue Hurley , who is with Ben , the

mercenaries ' target , before leaving for the freighter . Meanwhile , Sayid arrives at the beach on the freighter 's Zodiac boat and informs the survivors that they must go to the freighter as soon as possible because the mercenaries ' secondary objective is to kill everyone on the island . He and Kate go after Jack and Sawyer , but are captured by Richard Alpert (Nestor Carbonell) and the rest of the Others . After unsuccessfully attempting to convince his crush , Charlotte Lewis (Rebecca Mader) , to leave the island , Daniel Faraday (Jeremy Davies) starts ferrying people to the freighter . Sun , Jin , and Aaron arrive at the boat , only to discover a bomb , consisting of a large amount of C4 explosives , on board .

Meanwhile , in their quest to move the island , Ben , Locke and Hurley arrive at the Dharma Initiative Orchid station , which is disguised as a greenhouse . Ben sends Locke to the real part of the station and surrenders himself to Martin Keamy (Kevin Durand) and the other mercenaries from the Kahana , who had previously arrived . A final montage shows the Oceanic Six and Ben in their respective predicaments .

= = = Part 2 = = =

On the island , Jack and Sawyer meet up with Hurley and Locke at the Orchid station . Jack and Locke once more argue about the nature of the island ; Locke implores him to lie about the island once he and the other survivors leave . At the helicopter , Kate , Sayid , and the Others free Ben by ambushing and killing the mercenaries , except Keamy , who feigns death . In return , the Others allow Kate , Sayid and the other survivors to leave the island on the helicopter . Ben returns to the Orchid , where he gets in a hidden elevator with Locke .

Inside the underground part of the Orchid station , Ben puts every metal item he can find into a small compartment at the back of the room , while Locke watches the orientation video for the Orchid . On the tape , Pierre Chang (François Chau) begins to discuss time travel involving " negatively charged exotic matter " when the VCR malfunctions and the tape rewinds itself . Shortly , Keamy arrives and tells Locke that if he (Keamy) dies , the C4 on the freighter will detonate , due to a remote trigger linked to a heart rate monitor he is wearing . Regardless , Ben kills Keamy with no remorse or sympathy for those on the boat , in order to avenge his adopted daughter Alex (Tania Raymonde) , whom Keamy executed . Ben seals and then activates power to the compartment he had loaded with metal items , blowing a hole in the back of it . Ben , now wearing a parka , tells Locke that whoever moves the island is forced to leave it and never come back ; Ben must do it so that Locke can stay and lead the Others . Locke then goes to the Others , who welcome him home . Ben climbs through the hole and down a rocky tunnel beyond it into a frozen chamber , cutting his arm in the process . He then turns a very large metal wheel . As he completes the rotation , an eerie sound and white @-@ yellow light soon envelop the entire island . Ben disappears , only to reappear several months later in the Sahara Desert (as seen in " The Shape of Things to Come ") .

Jack , Kate , Sayid , Sawyer , Hurley , and Frank Lapidus leave the island on the helicopter , but discover a fuel leak on board . In order to lighten the helicopter , Sawyer jumps out after whispering something in Kate 's ear and kissing her . The helicopter makes it to the Kahana in the nick of time ; they refuel it , fix the leak , pick up Desmond Hume (Henry Ian Cusick) , Sun and Aaron and leave seconds before the C4 detonates . The resulting explosion kills Michael Dawson (Harold Perrineau) , who is told that " he can go now " by a vision of Christian Shephard . The status of Jin , who is still on the boat , is left uncertain as a cliffhanger . Sawyer swims back to the island and laments the destruction of the boat with Juliet Burke (Elizabeth Mitchell) . The people on the helicopter decide to return to the island , but as they approach , they see the island vanish in the white @-@ yellow light . With nowhere to land , the helicopter runs out of fuel and the survivors are forced to ditch into the ocean . They drift in a rescue raft for several hours , where Hurley suggests that Locke succeeded in moving the island , but Jack disagrees . At night , the survivors are rescued by Penny Widmore (Sonya Walger) , Desmond 's girlfriend , with whom he is finally reunited . Jack then convinces the other survivors that they must lie about their experiences on the island , to protect those left behind . In keeping with the faked wreckage of Flight 815 found in the Java Trench , the

Oceanic Six are dropped off near the island of Sumba , where they are found by local villagers .

In flashforwards to late 2007 , following those in " Through the Looking Glass " , Jack , Kate and Walt Lloyd (Malcolm David Kelley) all recount stories of being approached by Jeremy Bentham , the dead man in the coffin . Kate has a dream in which Claire tells her not to bring Aaron back to the island . In London , England , Sun confronts Charles Widmore (Alan Dale) , Penny 's father , who sent the Kahana to the island , and tells him that they have common interests involving the island . After finding out that Bentham is dead , Sayid breaks into the mental hospital where Hurley is staying and convinces him to go " somewhere safe " . Jack returns to the funeral parlor , where he is confronted by Ben , who says that the island will not allow Jack to return without everyone else who left joining him . This includes Jeremy Bentham 's body , who is finally revealed to be John Locke .

= = Production = =

= = = Cast = = =

The episode features the last appearance of actor Harold Perrineau , whose character Michael dies in an explosion , as a main cast member . The character of Michael was absent for the entire third season of Lost and returned midway through the fourth season in " Ji Yeon . " Perrineau was disappointed that he was brought back to the show only to be killed and that Michael does not get a chance to reunite with his son , Walt , saying , " there are all these questions about how [the writers] respond to black people on the show ... Walt just winds up being another fatherless child . It plays into a really big , weird stereotype and , being a black person myself , that wasn 't so interesting . " The fate of Jin , who is also on the freighter when it explodes , is left uncertain . Actor Daniel Dae Kim was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol , which prompted speculation about his future on the series , due to co @-@ stars Michelle Rodriguez (Ana @-@ Lucia Cortez) and Cynthia Watros (Libby) leaving Lost after DUI arrests . This episode also marks Malcolm David Kelley 's first appearance on the show since the third season , excepting a computer effects shot of the actor in " Meet Kevin Johnson " . Kelley 's character , Walt , was " benched " for the majority of the second and third seasons because the actor 's growth was disproportionate to the amount of time that has passed on the island . The writers got the idea to show him in flashforwards in his older form while writing " Through the Looking Glass " .

= = = Writing = = =

Throughout season four , Jack and Locke have argued about the true nature of the island , whether it had supernatural powers and on how Oceanic Flight 815 crashing could be part of the survivors ' destiny . Upon witnessing the island vanish at the end of this episode , Jack finally realizes that Locke was right . Jack then takes Locke 's advice and convinces the other survivors that they must lie about the island once they are rescued . This is further emphasized by the fact that the same music is played during Jack and Locke 's conversation and when the survivors encounter Penny 's boat . Lindelof has also stated that Sawyer 's message to Kate in the helicopter is a " critical plot point " in that it ultimately leads to the end of Jack and Kate 's relationship once they return home (as seen in " Something Nice Back Home ") . In terms of plot structure , the main action scene of the episode , where the Others and the survivors confront the mercenaries , was deliberately placed at the beginning of " Part 2 " so that the remainder of the episode could focus on character development . Furthermore , all of the present time plotlines are interconnected by the C4 bomb on the freighter , even though the writers themselves have called the use of the bomb as a plot device " ridiculous " . It was necessary , however , in order to keep both Michael and Jin from leaving the freighter with the other survivors .

The final scenes of the episode , particularly Ben turning the wheel , Penny and Desmond 's reunion and the last shot of Locke in the coffin were kept secret , in order to prevent spoilers from leaking . The phrase " Frozen Donkey Wheel " was coined to describe not only the wheel that Ben

turns , but also the final scene in which Locke is shown to be in the coffin . Only six people knew that Locke was in the coffin ? actors Matthew Fox , Michael Emerson and Terry O 'Quinn ; writers Lindelof and Cuse and Jack Bender , the director .

= = = = Writers ' Strike = = = =

The Writers Guild of America went on strike on November 4 , 2007 after the writers had only finished the first eight episodes of the season . Show runners Lindelof and Cuse wanted to hold the eight episodes until they were able to produce more of the season , but ABC decided that the eight episodes would be aired from January to March , regardless of whether any more episodes were produced in the 2007 ? 2008 season . After the resolution of the strike , ABC decided to produce five more episodes for the fourth season . This conflicted with ABC 's earlier plan to broadcast seasons four , five and six in uninterrupted blocks of sixteen episodes each . Despite this , ABC prioritized scheduling Grey 's Anatomy , Ugly Betty and Lost 's returns all for April 24 . The decision left the three unproduced episodes of season four " in the bank " to be used later in seasons five and six .

After the resolution of the strike , Lindelof said that the effect of the strike on the fourth season would be minimal and the season 's story arc would be completed as originally intended . However , the first draft of the second part of " There 's No Place Like Home , " was 85 pages long , approximately 30 pages longer than a typical one hour Lost script . Lindelof and Cuse found that they could not compress the second half of the season finale into one episode and actually wanted to expand it . Subsequently , the show runners went into " advanced talks " with executives at ABC and convinced them to produce one of their episodes " in the bank " , thereby extending " There 's No Place Like Home : Part 2 " to two hours . However , this caused a scheduling problem with Grey 's Anatomy and Ugly Betty , which were both already scheduled to air their season finales on May 22 , 2008 . To allow Lost to have a two @-@ hour finale , ABC moved it one week later to May 29 , 2008 and aired both parts of " There 's No Place Like Home " back @-@ to @-@ back . Ultimately , this left thirty @-@ four episodes to be split over seasons five and six , which will each have seventeen episodes . Another effect of the strike was that the backstories of the so @-@ called " freighter folk " , i.e. Faraday , Miles and Charlotte , had to be pushed back to season five . As such , the writers dropped hints to Charlotte 's backstory in " There 's No Place Like Home " .

= = = Filming = = =

" There 's No Place Like Home : Part 2 " was filmed in approximately three and a half weeks ; filming concluded three weeks before the episode aired . Scenes set on the exterior of the freighter were shot on an actual freighter named Kahana . Several actors and crew members stayed aboard the freighter while filming " There 's No Place Like Home " , as well as other episodes of the fourth season . Director Jack Bender and several others became seasick after only spending a short time on board . The helicopter featured in several scenes never actually took off from or landed on the Kahana because the rotors were too large and would hit the boat if used . Instead , the rotors were added using digital effects and the helicopter was raised and lowered by a crane onto the deck of the freighter while it was docked . Filming took place during this and the footage was intercut with scenes of Michael dealing with the bomb ; thus the helicopter is never seen landing on the freighter . Other scenes set on the helicopter were shot on a soundstage in front of a green screen , where actress Yunjin Kim lost her voice from screaming . Furthermore , the first prop bomb was deemed to be too small and the amount of C4 was doubled , even though the original amount of C4 depicted was sufficient to blow up the freighter . The set for the exterior of the Orchid station was constructed in the Manoa valley on the island of Oahu , near Paradise Park , a defunct tourist attraction , which served as the Dharma Initiative Hydra station in the first few episodes of the third season . The exterior elevator for the Orchid station did not actually move and a camera trick was used to simulate movement . The scene in which Sun confronts Widmore was filmed on location , in London , because actor Alan Dale (Widmore) was appearing as King Arthur in Spamalot there at the time .

Dale was not made aware of the plot of the episode , saying that " the wording , the title and all the headings on the scripts were changed . Only [he] knew they were the Lost scripts , along with the director . " Sonya Walger declared that despite being a guest star on the show since the second season 's finale , the rescue scene was the first time she had met Matthew Fox and Evangeline Lilly , as most of her scenes were either only with Henry Ian Cusick or alone . Two alternate endings were shot for the episode in order to minimize the risk of the real ending being leaked . Both versions were shown on Good Morning America on May 30 , 2008 . In the first alternate ending , Sawyer is in the coffin and in the second , Desmond is in the coffin . Overall , it took four editors approximately three weeks to edit the second part of the finale , which under normal circumstances would take two months .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" There 's No Place Like Home : Part 1 " was watched by 10 @. @ 962 million American viewers , of which 6 @. @ 391 million were ages 18 to 49 , ranking nineteenth for the week in total viewers and eighth among viewers age 18 to 49 . The episode was watched by 1 @. @ 296 million Canadian viewers , ranking fifteenth for the week . It was also watched by 914 @, @ 000 viewers in the United Kingdom and by 464 @, @ 000 viewers in Australia , making it the thirtieth most watched program of the night , a feat that David Dale of The Sun @- @ Herald thought proved that " there 's hope for the world " . " There 's No Place Like Home : Part 2 " was watched by 12 @. @ 303 million American viewers , of which 6 @. @ 453 million were ages 18 to 49 , making it the most watched show of the week overall and in the 18 to 49 demographic . It was the first Lost episode to lead the weekly ratings . The episode was watched by 1 @. @ 448 million Canadian viewers , ranking second for the week . It was also watched by 1 @. @ 166 million viewers in the United Kingdom and by 603 @, @ 000 viewers in Australia .

= = = Critical response = = =

Patrick Kevin Day of the Los Angeles Times praised Michael Giacchino 's musical score , writing that " I 'm reminded of the heights of emotion this series can evoke . " Jarett Wieselman of the New York Post thought that the finale 's split and two @- @ week break was " not cool " , but asked " how brilliant was Sun 's smackdown on her bad daddy ? " . Alan Sepinwall of The Star @- @ Ledger wrote that " when Lost is at its best ? it manages to balance revelations ? with great character moments . I don 't know that I 'd put this one in the pantheon (again , a lot of it was set @- @ up for ? [Parts 2 & 3]) , but it was definitely in the spirit of what I love about the show . " Kristin dos Santos of E ! praised the chemistry between Naveen Andrews and Andrea Gabriel , who play Sayid and Nadia , respectively . Chris Carabott of IGN gave Part 1 of the three @- @ hour finale a 7 @. @ 9 . He commended the music and called it " a good opening to what should be an exciting season finale " ; however , the lack of suspense in favor of set @- @ up was cited as the reason for the modest rating . However , Carabott gave Parts 2 & 3 a perfect 10 review , tying with other perfect @- @ 10 episodes such as " The Constant " and " Through the Looking Glass " . He stated that " Not a moment is wasted in this brilliantly paced and well @- @ executed conclusion to what has been a fantastic season . " Dan Compora of SyFy Portal called " Part 1 " " an excellent setup episode [with] fast pace , important revelations , and nearly a full utilization of the cast " . Compora decided that " certain characters work much better in very small doses ? a little bit of [Hurley] goes a long way [and] it was nice to see Jack featured without completely dominating an episode . " Oscar Dahl of BuddyTV summed up Part 1 as " very good " , but said that the opening flashforward in which the Oceanic Six are reunited with their families was anticlimactic and " although each flashforward scene had minor and major revelations , it felt patched together and a little sloppy , like Lindelof and Cuse had all this ground to cover in their quest to link all the action up to the final scene of season 3

? That said , the flashforward scenes all played out exceedingly well . " Daniel of TMZ welcomed the return of Richard (on the island) and gave the episode an " A " , saying that it had " more than a few fantastic scenes . All the flashforward scenes tonight were right on the money as far as I was concerned . " Jay Glatfelter of The Huffington Post " really liked this episode " and concluded that it " definitely showcased the new breath of life the fourth season gave to the show . "

Matthew Fox received much praise for his performance in the scene in which his character Jack reacts to the revelation that Claire is his half @-@ sister . Jarett Wieselman of the New York Post called this " brilliant acting " , while Alan Sepinwall of The Star @-@ Ledger said that " Fox played Jack 's anguish beautifully " and called this scene a contender for " Fox 's single best moment in the history of the show " . Kristin dos Santos gave Fox " mad props " and Chris Carabott of IGN said that " Fox hasn 't been given much of an opportunity to stretch his acting muscles this season but he gives a great performance [in this scene] . "

Robert Bianco of USA Today said that " a great season of Lost ended with a suitably great finale , which ? ended with the ? whoa @-@ inducing discovery that Locke was the man in the casket . Didn 't see that coming ? and I can 't wait to see what this terrific TV series has coming next . " Matthew Gilbert of The Boston Globe wrote that " the episode was dynamic and busy enough as it relied heavily on action @-@ adventure ? but the finale wasn 't as mind @-@ bending as [the third] season 's farewell , during which we received the show 's first flash @-@ forward . " Alan Sepinwall of The Star @-@ Ledger enjoyed the triple @-@ length " There 's No Place Like Home " , but ranked it in the middle of his list of the season 's episodes from best to worst and decided that " ' There 's No Place Like Home " (both parts) played fair with the audience 100 percent , answered [many] questions ? and yet ? I feel ever so slightly disappointed by all of this . " He also found the special effects " looked much shoddier than usual " and praised the score . Frazier Moore of the Associated Press thought that " it might be the most rewarding , deliciously challenging episode in the history of this mystical ABC serial . " Dan Compora of SyFy Portal wrote that " Part 2 " " was perhaps the most action @-@ packed , meaningful episode of television I 've watched all year . The pace was excellent , and the revelations were plentiful . " Compora also wrote that " though the pace was considerably slower , the finale delivered in a big way ? it was [not a letdown , being] well written and well directed in its own right . "

= = = Awards = = =

The second part of " There 's No Place Like Home " was nominated for Outstanding Single @-@ Camera Picture Editing for a Drama Series for the 2008 Creative Arts Emmy Awards , however it lost to the pilot episode of Breaking Bad . The episode as a whole was nominated by the American Cinema Editors for Best Edited Miniseries or Film ? Commercial Television at the American Cinema Editors Awards 2008 , losing to 24 : Redemption .

= = Note = =

A. ^ Prior to being broadcast , " There 's No Place Like Home : Part 2 " was known as " There 's No Place Like Home : Parts 2 & 3 " in ABC 's press material . The home release of season four , as well as ABC 's official Lost website , refers to it as " There 's No Place Like Home : Part 2 " . Furthermore , the home release states that there are fourteen episodes in season four and " There 's No Place Like Home " is counted as three episodes .