

= Solitary ( Lost ) =

" Solitary " is the ninth episode of the first season of Lost , an American television drama series following the survivors of a plane crash stranded on a tropical island . The episode was directed by Greg Yaitanes and written by David Fury . It first aired on November 17 , 2004 , on the American Broadcasting Company ( ABC ) . Sayid Jarrah ( Naveen Andrews ) is captured by a mysterious French person , who is later revealed to be Danielle Rousseau ( Mira Furlan ) , a woman who shipwrecked on the island sixteen years before the crash of Oceanic Flight 815 and was alone for almost the entire time . At the island 's camp , Hugo " Hurley " Reyes ( Jorge Garcia ) creates a golf course in an attempt to relieve the survivors ' stress and worry . In flashbacks , Sayid meets a childhood friend , but must interrogate her .

" Solitary " marked the introduction of mythology into Lost , and also solved the first mystery of the series : the origin of the transmission heard in part two of the pilot episode . It also introduced Danielle Rousseau , who would be in a total of 22 episodes through the show . The episode 's initial broadcast in the United States attracted 17 @.@ 64 million viewers . It has had a generally positive reception by critics .

= = Plot = =

= = = Flashbacks = = =

Sayid is torturing a Shiite prisoner suspected of bombing " the Party 's " headquarters . When he steps outside , he sees a new prisoner who he recognizes . He is then instructed to torture her until she answers his questions . Sayid discovers that the woman is Nadia ( Andrea Gabriel ) , a childhood friend . She reveals that she has been tortured before , and nothing Sayid does will persuade her to talk . Omar ( Navid Negahban ) , Sayid 's friend and superior officer , tells him to execute Nadia . Sayid cuffs Nadia and puts a hood over her head . When he and Nadia are alone he frees her and tells her how to escape . Omar finds them but Sayid fatally shoots him . Nadia thinks that Sayid will have to escape with her now , but he instead shoots himself in the leg and tells her to leave as reinforcements arrive , making it appear as if Nadia shot Sayid and the other officer to escape .

= = = On the island = = =

On Day 12 ? October 3 , 2004 ? Sayid finds a peculiar cable running out of the ocean and into the jungle . While following it , he is caught in a trap . Sayid is suspended upside down , held by a rope , and recites the Shahadah . A mysterious French woman ( Mira Furlan ) cuts him down and ties him to a bed in a bunker . She asks where Alex is , but when Sayid says he does not know , she uses batteries and a cable to shock him . Sayid tells his torturer about the plane crash and the French transmission the survivors heard when they first crashed on the island . The torturer then identifies herself as Danielle Rousseau , the woman who sent out the transmission . Danielle finds a picture of a woman among Sayid 's possessions , and Sayid identifies the subject as Nadia .

The next day , many survivors in the island 's camp are stressed , including Sullivan ( Scott Paulin ) , who is diagnosed with hives by Jack Shephard ( Matthew Fox ) . John Locke ( Terry O 'Quinn ) and his new hunting companion , Ethan Rom ( William Mapother ) , give some newly found luggage to Hurley ; he looks through it and finds golf clubs . The next morning , Hurley builds a golf course to improve morale amongst the survivors .

Rousseau asks Sayid about Nadia , and he says that she is dead because of him . Rousseau shows Sayid a broken music box given to her as a gift , and he tells her he can fix it . Rousseau reveals that she was part of a science team , and they were shipwrecked on the island about three days after leaving Tahiti . She identifies the " Others " as the carriers of a sickness that her companions caught , and says that the Others whisper in the jungle , although she has never seen

them . Sayid does not believe her , but continues to fix the music box . After finishing the repairs , much to Rousseau 's joy , he asks her to let him go . The duo hear a growl outside , and Rousseau pursues it , leaving Sayid alone .

Sayid escapes from Rousseau 's bunker while she is gone , grabbing a rifle , maps and notes she has made about the island . Rousseau finds him and they have a standoff ; he tries to fire the rifle , but no bullet discharges . Rousseau says she removed the firing pin , and Robert , her former lover , made the same mistake before she killed him . She reveals that it was she who killed her team , aiming to stop the disease from reaching the outside world . Sayid talks Rousseau into letting him go , but , before leaving , asks about Alex . Rousseau says that Alex was her child . While trying to find his way back to camp , Sayid hears the whispering of which Rousseau had spoken .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by David Fury and directed by Greg Yaitanes . According to series co @-@ creator Damon Lindelof , discussion of both " Solitary " and the following episode , " Raised by Another " , began in September 2004 , when *Lost* debuted on television . The production team had fallen behind schedule , so Fury worked on " Solitary " while others went to a separate room to discuss " Raised by Another " , with co @-@ creator Carlton Cuse " bouncing between the two universes " . Although production codes generally go in ascending order , " Solitary " had production code 107 , while " Raised by Another " had production code 106 . This was because , despite the broadcast dates , " Raised by Another " was written before " Solitary " . The episodes were edited so that Sayid would return at the end of " Raised by Another " . " Solitary " and " Raised by Another " were the first to orient the series in a " weird and mythological " direction , according to Lindelof . In " Solitary " , the series solved its first mystery by revealing the origin of the French voice heard earlier . This reveal occurred despite the network encouraging the producers to wait until the finale to show Rousseau .

The episode was the first to feature flashbacks with Sayid , an Arab character . The producers knew they had to tread carefully with the character due to possible prejudices against Arabs . The actor , Naveen Andrews , said , " we were all pretty nervous , in the sense that we all felt we owed a real obligation , not just to Iraqis but the entire Arab world about how this character would be played . " In an early draft of " Solitary " , Rousseau told Sayid that she and her research team were studying time . When ABC saw this draft , they asked the producers to remove this line , explaining that they did not want the show to venture into science fiction during the first season . The character of Sullivan , to whose medical woes Jack tended , was created to make the rest of the survivors think that Rousseau 's team was killed by an illness . The idea for Hurley 's golf course came from script coordinator Brent Fletcher ; it was based on a miniature golf course he created in the offices for the television show *Angel* .

= = Reception = =

" Solitary " first aired in the United States on November 17 , 2004 . An estimated 17 @.@ 64 million American viewers watched the episode on ABC , a decrease from 18 @.@ 44 million viewers in the previous episode , " Confidence Man " . In a review of the episode , Chris Carabott of IGN commented that Rousseau appeared to be more emotionally fragile than in later seasons , and was like a " loose cannon " . Carabott found that as the series progressed and the mystery around the character was lessened , Rousseau was unable to deliver the same impact she made in her first appearance . Myles McNutt of *The A.V. Club* commended Mira Furlan 's performance , writing , " [ Rousseau is ] an unreliable historian of the island in the best way . Rousseau has been on this island for over sixteen years , and it shows in her ramshackle bunker , her unkempt appearance , and the fact she tortures Sayid for information before even asking him a cursory question about his identity . "

In a ranking of every episode of *Lost* ( excluding the finale ) for the *Los Angeles Times* , Todd VanDerWerff ranked " Solitary " as the show 's 45th best episode , and called it underrated . In a

similar list , IGN staff ranked the episode as *Lost* 's 51st best , and observed that " despite [ Sayid 's ] dark past , it was hard not to love the character even more after this episode . " MTV ranked the episode the 32nd best of the series . Writing for Zap2it in 2008 , Ryan McGee said he particularly enjoyed the episode and deemed it one of his top ten favorite episodes that had aired up to that point . McGee explained that " Solitary " contains " a lot of enclosed encounters between two people , set against a gorgeously shot B story that warms the heart . "