

= Something Nice Back Home =

" Something Nice Back Home " is the tenth episode of the American Broadcasting Company 's fourth season of the serial drama television series Lost and 82nd episode overall . It was aired on May 1 , 2008 , on ABC in the United States and on CTV in Canada . The episode was written in February and March by co @-@ executive producers Edward Kitsis and Adam Horowitz and directed in March and April by supervising producer Stephen Williams . Critical reviews were mixed and the broadcast of " Something Nice Back Home " brought in 13 million American viewers , one of the smallest audiences for an original episode of Lost in the show 's history .

The narrative begins on December 28 , 2004 , 98 days after the crash of Oceanic Airlines Flight 815 . The leader of the survivors , Jack Shephard ( played by Matthew Fox ) develops appendicitis and Juliet Burke ( Elizabeth Mitchell ) operates on him . Meanwhile , James " Sawyer " Ford ( Josh Holloway ) , Miles Straume ( Ken Leung ) , Claire Littleton ( Emilie de Ravin ) , and her baby Aaron continue their trek to the beach from the Barracks . In a flashforward , Jack experiences visions of his deceased father Christian Shephard ( John Terry ) , while his relationship with Kate Austen ( Evangeline Lilly ) is strained soon after he proposes marriage . Kitsis said that the episode " was interesting because [ it shows ] a time , maybe brief , where Jack was happy . "

= = Plot = =

After feeling ill for a day , Jack faints . Juliet diagnoses him with appendicitis and deems an appendectomy necessary . She sends Sun Kwon ( Yunjin Kim ) to get medical supplies from the Staff Dharma Initiative medical station . Sun is accompanied by Jin @-@ Soo Kwon ( Daniel Dae Kim ) , Daniel Faraday ( Jeremy Davies ) and Charlotte Lewis ( Rebecca Mader ) ; the latter pair are increasingly distrusted by the survivors . Jin realizes that Charlotte is fluent in Korean and confronts her after their successful trip , threatening to hurt Daniel if she continues to lie about her agenda and does not get Sun off the island . Jack convinces Juliet to allow him to remain awake during the surgery , with Kate holding a mirror , so that he can see and direct the surgery . As Juliet operates , Jack 's consciousness proves to be a detriment and her nurse ? dentist Bernard Nadler ( Sam Anderson ) ? knocks him out with chloroform . The appendectomy is a success ; afterwards , Juliet tells Kate that Jack really does love Kate and not Juliet .

Sawyer gives Miles a " restraining order " to keep him away from Claire as they travel to the survivors ' beach camp with Claire 's infant son , Aaron . On their way , Miles discovers the partially buried bodies of Danielle Rousseau ( Mira Furlan ) and Karl ( Blake Bashoff ) . They encounter Frank Lapidus ( Jeff Fahey ) , who saves their lives by instructing them to hide from a nearby Martin Keamy ( Kevin Durand ) and the other mercenaries , who are on their way back to the helicopter to return to the freighter Kahana . At night , Miles watches Claire as she leaves with her deceased father , Christian . Sawyer awakes the next morning to find Aaron alone in a nearby tree and calls out for Claire with no response .

In flashforwards , Jack has returned to work as a doctor in Los Angeles . He is engaged to Kate and lives with her while helping to raise Aaron ( William Blanchette ) . Jack visits Hugo " Hurley " Reyes ( Jorge Garcia ) , who is in a mental institution . Hurley has not been taking his medication and suffering from hallucinations of his deceased friend , Charlie Pace ( Dominic Monaghan ) . He believes that the Oceanic Six have died and gone to heaven . Hurley gives Jack a message from Charlie : " You 're not supposed to raise him . " Charlie has also told Hurley that Jack will be receiving a visitor . On two separate occasions , Jack sees his father ; Jack asks his colleague Erika Stevenson ( April Parker Jones ) to prescribe him the anti @-@ anxiety drug clonazepam . After overhearing a phone call , Jack becomes suspicious of Kate . The next night , a heated argument ensues , in which she reveals that she is doing an errand for Sawyer , who Jack says is on the island by choice . Aaron walks into the room as Jack blurts out that Kate and Aaron are not related .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by March 10 , 2008 and was done alongside " The Shape of Things to Come " and " Cabin Fever " . Shooting began by March 24 , alongside filming of the previous episode and continued through April 4 . The flashforwards were written partially to explain what led Jack to become the drug addict that he is in third season finale 's flashforwards , who believes that his father is alive . Matthew Fox stated that the fourth season is " starting to close the loop on the end of [ the third ] season . Jack in the future is a man marked by weakness , but the Jack [ on the island in December 2004 ] is strong . [ ' Something Nice Back Home ' explains ] how he made that transition . " When asked why Hurley does not take drugs to see Charlie , but Jack starts his drug addiction to try not to see Christian , Edward Kitsis said that " Jack has ? always been a man of science , and there has to be something logical . The scene where Jack is staring at the bench where Hurley sits when Charlie visits him , I think in that moment he 's thinking , my life right now is pretty good , I don 't want to end up here . " In regard to the contrast in Kate 's character on the island and after the island , Kitsis said that " you could say [ that ] motherhood suits her . In the flashforwards ? there 's a sense of purpose to her , there 's some clarity to her . There 's so much devotion to that child , and she appears to be such a great mother ? taking care of Aaron may have helped her put away some other issues . "

= = Reception = =

" Something Nice Back Home " was viewed live or recorded and watched within four hours of broadcast by 10 @. @ 726 million American viewers , scoring a 4 @. @ 7 / 13 in the key adults 18 ? 49 demographic , ranking Lost as the twenty @- @ first most watched series of the week and setting a ratings low for the series . A total of 12 @. @ 946 million Americans watched the episode live or recorded it and watched it within seven days ; this number was factored into the season 's average . The episode was viewed by 1 @. @ 322 million Canadians , making Lost the nineteenth most watched show of the week . 647 @, @ 000 in the United Kingdom tuned in to the local broadcast . In Australia , " Something Nice Back Home " was watched by 505 000 people , having been moved to a later timeslot of 10 @. @ 30 pm , outside the prime time viewing block .

Verne Gay of Newsday described it as " another fine , fine Lost " . The San Diego Union @- @ Tribune 's Karla Peterson gave the episode an " A " , calling it " one of those dense , chewy episodes in which a lot of stuff happened to a lot of people , and the foundation was laid for one hell of a season finale . " She praised Fox , Evangeline Lilly , Jorge Garcia , Elizabeth Mitchell and Jeremy Davies 's work in " Something Nice Back Home " , while Tom Iacuzio of The Daytona Beach News @- @ Journal deemed Jeremy Davies 's performance deserving of an Emmy Award . The Palm Beach Post 's Kevin Thompson " thought [ that ] Matthew [ Fox ] did a nice job conveying a wide range of emotions ? scared , haunted , frustration , horny , jealousy , just to name a few . " Jeff Jensen of Entertainment Weekly said that " Something Nice Back Home " " was partly a transitional passage in the Lost saga , a busywork episode designed to put all the characters in position for the year 's big finale " and " [ Jack 's ] appendicitis [ was ] the kind of hardcore castaway survival plotline we haven 't really seen since season 1 . Combined with a strong character @- @ driven flash story , it was very old school Lost . " Jensen also " liked how the episode neatly neutralized one of [ his ] least favorite season 4 moments , the Jack @- @ Juliet smooch " . TV Guide 's Michael Ausiello wrote that " Fox quietly solidified his status as one of the tube 's most reliable and unshowy stalwarts " and deemed him deserving of a Primetime Emmy Award nomination . Oscar Dahl of BuddyTV gave the episode a positive review , saying that he was " shocked and baffled " and writing that " Lost ? can give me an exciting , well @- @ done episode while making me fear where the series is going ? [ because ] ghosts aren 't my thing . " The Huffington Post 's Jay Glatfelter decided that " what made this episode great was the fact that it just contained so much story [ with ] Jack 's flashforward [ making ] this one of his most interesting ' centric ' episodes . ? Not only was Jack 's story interesting for a change , but the inclusion of [ many ] other characters ? and giving them great story and character development [ was also intriguing ] . " Daniel of TMZ graded " Something Nice Back Home " as a " B " . In his recap , he wrote that " if that 's the last we ever see of Claire again , that would be BEYOND awesome . "

Robert Bianco of USA Today praised Fox 's performance , saying that it was almost worthy of an Emmy Award nomination . The Star @-@ Ledger 's Alan Sepinwall of gave the episode a mixed review , saying that " I find [ Jack ] and his love life simultaneously boring and obnoxious ? [ and ] insufferable " ; however , he enjoyed the subplots and commended the acting by Matthew Fox and Jorge Garcia . James Poniewozik of Time did not enjoy the flashforwards , commenting that they were " the first of the flashforwards that resembled one of the bad old flashbacks , in that it just reconfirmed character traits we already knew and showed Jack and Kate falling into patterns we knew from the past ? I didn 't get much from it " . IGN 's Chris Carabott gave the episode a 7 @. @ 5 / 10 , making it his least favorite episode of the season . Carabott wrote that " this season [ Lost 's main character Jack ] seems to have been relegated to playing second fiddle ? oddly enough , even in his own episode , Jack really isn 't given much to do " and stated that " the possible rekindling of Jack and Kate 's romantic relationship on the island is juxtaposed quite well with their relationship during the flashforward . " Dan Compora of SyFy Portal wrote that " the pace ? was a bit too slow " and " I usually like the Jack @-@ centered episodes , but a bout of appendicitis simply does not make for high drama or stimulating action " ; however , he noted that " all in all , this was a good episode , but it was nothing special . " Compora praised Fox 's increasingly good acting , but said that " this season has seen much stronger lead performances from Michael Emerson [ in ' The Shape of Things to Come ' as Ben Linus ] and Henry Ian Cusick [ as Desmond Hume in ' The Constant ' ] . " Erin Martell of AOL 's TV Squad called " Something Nice Back Home " " a break after last week 's action- and information @-@ packed episode " , argued that Rousseau was not given a proper death and enjoyed Rose and Bernard 's roles . UGO 's Sara shared Martell 's sentiments in regard to Rose and Bernard 's appearances and speculated that " Something Nice Back Home " would not be enjoyed by fans who like Rousseau or do not like Jack . Ben Rawson @-@ Jones of Digital Spy gave the episode three out of five stars , saying that " the Jack @-@ Kate romantic intrigue is rather dull , while the appendix plot feels like an unnecessary narrative obstacle for viewers to surmount . "