

= The Glass Ballerina =

" The Glass Ballerina " is the second episode of the third season of the TV series Lost , and the 51st episode overall . The episode was written by Jeff Pinkner and Drew Goddard and directed by Paul Edwards , and premiered on October 11 , 2006 , on ABC . The characters of Sun and Jin are featured in the episode 's flashbacks ; on the Island , they and Sayid attempt to discover the whereabouts of Jack , Kate , and Sawyer .

The episode was watched by an estimated 16 @. @ 890 million viewers in the United States . It received mixed reviews , as multiple reviewers believed it was inferior to the previous week 's season premiere ; one stated the storyline caused the series to " take a step back [because it] delivers nothing new or substantial " .

= = Plot summary = =

= = = Flashbacks = = =

A young Sun @-@ Hwa Kwon (Sophie Kim) breaks a glass ballerina and blames it on the maid , despite her father , Mr. Paik (Byron Chung) , warning her the maid would be fired .

Later , Sun as an adult (Yunjin Kim) is shown having an affair with Jae Lee (Tony Lee) , who attempts to give her a pearl necklace . She refuses , afraid that her husband would see it . Then , to her shame , Mr. Paik barges in and finds them in bed together . Mr. Paik later summons Sun 's husband , Jin (Daniel Dae Kim) , saying that Jae has been stealing from him , and telling Jin to put an end to it (implying that he is to be killed) . But when Jin ambushes and beats up Jae , he still cannot bring himself to commit murder , and instead orders Jae to leave the country . However , as Jin gets into his car , Jae 's body suddenly lands on his windshield . Jae 's corpse hand is clutching the pearl necklace , implying that he jumped from the window . At Jae 's funeral , Sun runs into her father . She asks if he would ever tell Jin about the affair , but he says that it was not his place to tell Jin .

= = = On the island = = =

On the sailboat , Sun , Jin @-@ Soo Kwon (Daniel Dae Kim) , and Sayid Jarrah (Naveen Andrews) argue about what to do because Jack Shephard 's (Matthew Fox) party has not shown up ; Sun goes against her husband 's wishes and agrees with Sayid to sail to a new location . They find the Others ' dock and come ashore to build a signal fire to try and lure the Others into an ambush . Meanwhile among the Others , Ben Linus (Michael Emerson) orders Colleen (Paula Malcomson) to put together a team and capture Sayid 's boat . Her team avoids Sayid and Jin , and instead sneaks aboard the boat , where they encounter Sun below deck . Sun accidentally shoots Colleen in the abdomen and narrowly manages to escape overboard .

Kate Austen (Evangeline Lilly) and James " Sawyer " Ford (Josh Holloway) are forced to work in a quarry , digging and carrying rocks . Alex (Tania Raymonde) secretly asks Kate about Karl (Blake Bashoff) . Sawyer creates a distraction by kissing Kate passionately , and steals a rifle , but is forced to relinquish it when Juliet Burke (Elizabeth Mitchell) threatens to shoot Kate . Back in their cages , Sawyer tells Kate what he learned about the fighting abilities of the various Others . He says that Juliet would have shot her without a problem and criticizes the other Others . They start discussing plans to escape , not knowing Ben is monitoring their conversation via security cameras .

Ben then visits Jack , telling him his real name , and that he has lived on the island all his life . He offers that if Jack cooperates , he can be sent home . Jack believes the Others are also stranded just as he is , but Ben informs him of the exact time and date of his plane crash and that 69 days have since passed (making the date November 29 , 2004) and insists that they are in contact with the outside world . He shows this by citing various current events , such as the re @-@ election of

George W. Bush to the American presidency , the sudden death of Christopher Reeve and that the Boston Red Sox have won the 2004 World Series . Once Ben tells him about the Red Sox , Jack starts laughing and says that proves he is lying . Ben then proves it by playing a recording of the final play in the game as Jack watches in shock .

= = Production = =

Executive producer Jeff Pinkner and supervising producer Drew Goddard co -wrote " The Glass Ballerina " , while cinematographer Paul Edwards served as the director . It featured recurring stars Byron Chung , Tony Lee , Michael Bowen , and Tomiko Okhee Lee , as well as the first of two appearances by guest actress Paula Malcomson . Though her character Colleen Pickett is shot in the episode , she does not die until the season 's fourth episode , " Every Man for Himself " .

Leading up to the premiere of the new season , showrunners Carlton Cuse and Damon Lindelof foreshadowed the episode 's adultery storyline in an interview ; Cuse mentioned , " How truthful has [Sun] been with Jin about her past ? " , to which Lindelof added , " And related to that , is the baby his ? " . Previously , a season two episode had seemed to confirm that Jin was infertile , leading to ramped up speculation online that Sun was pregnant by her lover Jae Lee . A later episode in the third season would resolve this storyline , showing that Jin was cured of his infertility and is the father of their baby . Sun 's deception over the affair would later be resolved in the season four episode " Ji Yeon " , when Juliet tells Jin about Sun and Jae Lee .

Actor Daniel Dae Kim enjoyed the fight scene between him and guest actor Tony Lee , commenting that " I really appreciate the fact that [Jin] 's just a down -and-out dirty street fighter . I think his style of fighting fits his character " . He continued " it was great to see a different layer to Sun 's character . Because previously she had always been the good wife , and Jin was the bad husband " . Actress Yunjin Kim added that " now we know that [Sun] 's not what she 's been advertised to be for the last two seasons , but actually she has a lot of secrets . "

= = Reception = =

It was originally scheduled to air on October 18 , 2006 , but was swapped with the episode " Further Instructions " and broadcast one week earlier . When " The Glass Ballerina " first aired , it was the seventh most watched episode of the week in the United States , with 16 .8 million viewers and a 6 .9 rating in the key demographic of adults ages 18 -49 .

Lost critic Andrew Dignan of Slant Magazine noted that like the season premiere , the episode " mostly serves to add uncomfortable wrinkles to one of the show 's saints , going so far as to make the consistently sympathetic Sun quite unlikable . " He added " While I ... question the need for the flashbacks , I must confess to finding this particular episode more wonderfully twisted than usual . " Jeff Jensen of Entertainment Weekly wrote " Last week 's Jin / Sun episode was something of a disappointment , not because it was a bad episode of Lost , per se (I would give it a solid B) , but because it wasn't as good as the exhilarating season premiere (which I would give an A +) . "

IGN 's Chris Carabott rated the episode 6 .8 / 10 , explaining that after the premiere 's " exciting , new direction " of an episode , " The Glass Ballerina " helped Lost " take a step back [as it] delivers nothing new or substantial " . He felt the flashbacks were repetitive and " a lot more like filler than the basis for compelling television " , but praised the final scene between Jack and Ben as " the only compelling scene in the whole episode " . On a list ranking all the Lost episodes , the Los Angeles Times ranked " The Glass Ballerina " 80 out of 110 episodes , explaining " A good flashback (to Sun and her pre -island lover) and a terrific last scene -- wherein Jack learns the Sox won the Series -- can't make up for a listless on -island plot . " On a similar list , IGN rated the episode 106 out of 113 episodes , writing " it felt appropriate for Lost 's third season to begin with an episode only featuring Jack , Sawyer and Kate , since their abduction by the Others was a big part of Season 2 's conclusion . But having episode two of the season also focus so much on these three , with almost no plot momentum , was frustrating and rather uninteresting . Meanwhile , we do pick up with Sayid , Sun and Jin , but it 's really only for yet another ' Sun and Jin have had a lot of

big issues in their marriage ' flashback ? a topic we were well familiar with at this point . "

Daniel Dae Kim and Yunjin Kim each submitted this episode for consideration on their own behalf for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series and Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series respectively for the 59th Primetime Emmy Awards .