

= White Rabbit (Lost) =

" White Rabbit " is the fifth episode of the first season of Lost . The episode was directed by Kevin Hooks and written by Christian Taylor . It first aired on October 20 , 2004 , on ABC .

The episode is centered on the character of Jack Shephard (Matthew Fox) , with flashbacks revealing his past , including his childhood and his trip to Australia looking for his missing father Christian Shephard . In present @-@ day events , the plane crash survivors begin to struggle as they realize they are running out of fresh water . While Jack tries to solve the conflicts , he starts seeing Christian in the jungle , and chases the hallucination of his dead father .

The episode attracted an estimated 16 @.@ 82 million live viewers . It received mostly positive reviews , and was listed as # 49 on IGN 's ranking of every episode of Lost . After the broadcast of " White Rabbit " , ABC picked up Lost for a full season , adding an additional nine episodes to the thirteen that were already scheduled .

= = Plot = =

= = = Flashbacks = = =

A young Jack Shephard (John O 'Hara) and a friend are being beaten up . One bully gives Jack the chance to leave , but he decides to help his friend , causing Jack to be further assaulted . When Jack 's father , Christian Shephard (John Terry) sees his son 's beaten face , he tells Jack he should not be a hero because he " doesn 't have what it takes . "

Many years later , Jack (Matthew Fox) visits his mother , (Veronica Hamel) who tells him that Christian has left for Australia , and asks Jack to bring his father back . Jack reluctantly agrees , and after arriving in Sydney searches the hotel at which his father was staying . The manager informs Jack that his father has not slept at the hotel for several days following an incident at a bar , and Jack finds bottles of alcohol , pills , and his father 's wallet in Christian 's room .

Jack is shown identifying his father 's corpse in a morgue , where the coroner (Geoff Heise) tells Jack that the death was possibly caused by an alcohol @-@ induced heart attack . Jack later argues with Oceanic Airlines ticket agent Chrissy (Meilinda Soerjoko) , who says the documentation to board Christian 's coffin aboard Flight 815 is incomplete . Jack , frustrated , explains that all the arrangements are set for the funeral once he arrives at LAX , and he needs to bury his father , because he needs it " to be over " .

= = = On the Island = = =

Jack Shephard (Matthew Fox) rescues Boone Carlyle (Ian Somerhalder) in the ocean as Boone fails to swim out to save a drowning woman , Joanna . Later , as Jack is approached by Hugo " Hurley " Reyes (Jorge Garcia) and Charlie Pace (Dominic Monaghan) as they question how to deal with the diminishing water supplies of the survivors , Boone confronts Jack regarding how he saved him and not Joanna , asking who made Jack their leader . Jack again sees the man who he saw in the previous episode , " Walkabout " , and runs off after him . Once Jack catches up , he recognizes the man as his father , and the man runs away again . While chasing him , Jack trips and rolls down a mountain , just barely grabbing on to the edge of a cliff .

Back at the beach , Claire Littleton (Emilie de Ravin) faints due to dehydration , and Charlie is unable to find the remaining water . John Locke (Terry O 'Quinn) volunteers to search for water in the jungle , and , while searching , discovers Jack hanging on the precipice . After rescuing him , the two talk , with Jack saying he does not want to be a leader because he " doesn 't have what it takes " , while Locke advises him to pursue his " hallucination " of his father , comparing it to the White Rabbit from Alice in Wonderland and explaining his belief that everything on the Island happens for a reason . At nightfall , Jack follows a sound he heard in the jungle , leading him to stumble upon a cave containing a spring of fresh water , where he finds some debris from the plane , including his

father's coffin . Jack opens it and finds the coffin empty , leading him to tear it apart in frustration .

Back on the beach , Boone gives water to an unconscious Claire . After being caught by Charlie , Boone admits that it is he who stole the water , in an attempt to take responsibility for its rationing . A fight between him and some of the other survivors begins , but Jack returns and interrupts with a speech , saying that he has found fresh water and that they must all band together if they are to survive , because " if we can 't live together , we 're going to die alone . "

= = Production = =

" White Rabbit " aired on October 20 , 2004 . The episode was directed by Kevin Hooks and written by Christian Taylor . Taylor declared the underlying message was of " a man 's journey to find out who he really is " , in how solving Jack 's conflicted relationship with his father gave him an excuse to reinvent himself and was " integrated into what Jack becomes in the context of the series " . Showrunner Damon Lindelof was enthused in working with the episode , even if " it did not end with a big shocking twist or surprise " like predecessor " Walkabout " . Lindelof was particularly positive about " this great scene between Jack and Locke in the woods , " which still influenced the characters ' later discussions about faith , such as in the fourth season finale " There 's No Place Like Home " .

In the scene when Jack is dangling from the cliff , Matthew Fox performs the stunt himself , as he considered that relying on stunt doubles " always sort of inhibits the director 's ability to shoot it in cool ways . " Fox dangled from a thirty foot high cliff in front of a blue screen , that through digital extensions appeared to be hundreds of feet high . However , Fox 's long time stunt actor , Steve Blalock , performed Jack 's rolling down the mountain before grabbing the edge of the cliff , given Fox considered that " there are some things that I 'm not gonna be able to do " .

The episode is named after the White Rabbit from the tale Alice 's Adventures in Wonderland , who leads the story 's title character , Alice , deeper and deeper down a hole to a whimsical world called Wonderland , while meeting different characters . Just as Alice followed the White Rabbit deeper and deeper down the hole to Wonderland , Jack follows his father deeper and deeper into the jungle . Geoff Heise , who shows Jack his dead father at the morgue , is also in the Pilot episode as a survivor . It is unclear why this is so , and whether or not his portrayal of two seemingly unrelated characters has any symbolism . The episode marks the first appearance of actor John Terry , who plays Jack 's father , Christian Shephard (the mysterious man who Jack chases in the jungle) . In the previous episode , " Walkabout " , Christian was played by a stand @-@ in actor , as the character hadn 't been cast yet ; thus , only the back of his head was shown .

= = Reception = =

" White Rabbit " first aired in the United States on October 20 , 2004 . An estimated 16 @. @ 82 million viewers in America watched the episode on its first broadcast , and it finished second in its timeslot behind the 2004 Major League Baseball season playoffs . Among adults aged 18 to 49 , the episode earned a ratings share of 6 @. @ 3 / 16 , finishing in fourteenth place for the week . Based upon the series ' success , ABC picked up Lost for the full season soon after the broadcast of " White Rabbit " , ordering another nine episodes beyond the thirteen it had already agreed upon .

The episode received mostly positive reviews . Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club gave the episode an A- , writing that " The structure of ' White Rabbit ' is kind of half @-@ formed , in a way that strikes me as very similar to the structure of ' Tabula Rasa ' , but I think that feeling of everything having been tossed together at the last minute suits the episode in a way it didn 't the earlier one . " VanDerWerff also writes , " the more I think about this episode , the more I admire it for taking away Jack 's agency . " IGN reviewer Chris Carabott gave the episode a 7 @. @ 9 / 10 , writing that it " features one of the best flashbacks dedicated to Jack . " Robin Pierson of The TV Critic gave " White Rabbit " a 72 / 100 , praising on how the writers did another " character heavy " episode without " trying to cram unnecessary action . " However , Pierson added that the cliff scene was clichéd , particularly as " we don 't really believe that he will die , so it is an action movie scene

which we probably didn't leave . "

Ryan McGee of Zap2it described " White Rabbit " as " a worthy successor to ' Walkabout , ' and one of the stronger Jack @-@ centric eps the show ever produced . " Lost Episode Guide for Others : An Unofficial Anthology by Robert Dougherty says the episode is a must @-@ see ; it is " our first in depth glimpse at Jack 's character " . Dan Snierson of Entertainment Weekly gave the episode a B + , complimenting the " tantalizing peek " into Jack 's dysfunctional relationship with Christian , " producing both juicy questions and eerie revelations " . IGN listed " White Rabbit " 49th on their ranking of every episode of Lost , describing the " live together , die alone " speech as iconic . A similar ranking of episodes by Todd VanDerWerff for the Los Angeles Times placed the episode at 82nd , feeling it was " more notable for the things it introduces -- like the Monster impersonating dead people " than the plot .