

= Downloaded (Battlestar Galactica) =

" Downloaded " is the eighteenth episode of the second season of the reimagined Battlestar Galactica television series . It aired originally on the Sci Fi Channel on February 24 , 2006 .

The episode takes place alongside the rest of the re @-@ imagined series , with 49 @,@ 579 human survivors left in the Fleet . The episode primarily details the lives of two specific Cylon models after their apparent destruction who were declared Cylon heroes . One model is " Caprica @-@ Six " , the copy of Number Six who was responsible for disabling the Colonial defense system prior to the events of the miniseries . The other model is Sharon " Boomer " Valerii , a sleeper agent who was a member of the crew of Galactica .

The concept of a Cylon @-@ centric episode was proposed long before the episode aired , in an episode which would have seen the Cylons discuss their equivalent of the " Final Solution " . " Downloaded " instead focuses on showing the personality of the Cylon race , in particular , Caprica @-@ Six and Boomer . The episode was universally well @-@ received despite its unconventional format .

= = Plot = =

The episode primarily takes place on Cylon @-@ occupied Caprica . After the Fall of the Twelve Colonies , the copy of Number Six (Tricia Helfer) that was responsible for disabling the Colonial defense system (affectionately known as " Caprica @-@ Six ") and Sharon " Boomer " Valerii (Grace Park) were both " downloaded " : a standard Cylon practice of rebirth which takes place if a model is to perish , and have both been hailed as Cylon heroes due to their efforts in infiltrating human society .

Both are having difficulties in adjusting to life on Caprica . In particular , Caprica @-@ Six is having visions of Gaius Baltar (James Callis) that only she can see , much like Baltar 's visions of Caprica @-@ Six , and Boomer is having problems accepting her Cylon nature to the point of the denial , even in danger of being " boxed " , which means storing a Cylon 's memories without consciousness out of its body . Number Three (Lucy Lawless) asks Caprica @-@ Six to help Boomer in this regard . However , when Caprica @-@ Six starts to associate more with Boomer , they both realize that the holocaust the Cylons effected was a sin .

Caprica @-@ Six and Boomer are next shown conversing with Number Three . While the three move up a stairwell , explosives set by the resistance led by Samuel T. Anders (Michael Trucco) detonate , trapping Anders , Three , Boomer , and Caprica @-@ Six in a parking garage . While Anders is originally shielded and hidden by the blast , Caprica @-@ Six is injured , so much so that Number Three tries to euthanize her before finding Anders , whom she tries to kill instead . Number Three goads the other survivors so much that Caprica @-@ Six kills her and forms a pact with Boomer to attempt to change Cylon opinion of humans .

The episode 's secondary plot takes place on Galactica . The copy of Number Eight that defected from the Cylons gives birth by cesarian section to a baby who she and Karl Agathon (Tahmoh Penikett) call " Hera " . However , President Laura Roslin , and her secretary , Tory Foster , and Dr. Cottle conspire to fake Hera 's death fearing what would happen if the Cylons knew the child lived . President Roslin also did not want Hera to be raised by her Cylon mother , Sharon , whom she still does not trust . At the end of the episode , the child is given to a woman who believes the child was born on Pegasus , while Helo and Chief Tyrol (Aaron Douglas) scatter the ashes they believe to be Hera 's into space .

= = Production = =

The concept of a Cylon @-@ perspective episode was originally proposed for an episode called " The Raid " , which would have consisted on a Cylon meeting not unlike the Wannsee Conference , but was dropped as the equivalent " final solution " had already happened during the miniseries . Nevertheless , Sci @-@ Fi liked the concept , and commissioned this episode .

A major theme of the episode is the humanization of "Caprica @-@ Six" ? while Caprica @-@ Six shows her manipulative streak in parts of the episode , in particular during her conversation in the beach @-@ side house with Boomer , the destruction of the Twelve Colonies and her love of Baltar have somewhat changed her psychology . Conversely , Boomer shows resistance to her Cylon nature . Series creator Ronald D. Moore found the scene that took place in Boomer 's apartment interesting as it showed a major amount of her backstory . It also serves the purpose of Boomer 's denial that her memories were manufactured , and that the Cylons are more passive than humans . Another major subplot is the " Virtual Baltar " only visible by Caprica @-@ Six , which Moore commented was a " delicious symmetry " to Baltar 's " Virtual Six " . Both were intended to show how the couple had been changed through experience , in particular , the events of the miniseries .

Several scenes were cut from the episode . Of these , the most notable is an entire subplot centering on Gina and D 'Anna kidnapping Hera Agathon , which was excised as Moore felt there would be " too many Cylons " .

The production team also had significant problems with the scenes in the parking garage , and how to avoid the anachronism of contemporary cars being found on Caprica . In order to avoid this , the production team used cars mostly found in Eastern Europe , for the purpose that the audience would not immediately recognise the types of cars , but still to keep a sense of realism .

= = Reception = =

Ronald D. Moore stated that " Downloaded " is his favorite episode of the series , and especially admired the acting of Park , Helfer , and Callis , the latter especially for his change in role . Jacob Clifton of Television Without Pity gave the episode an " A + " rating . Keith McDuffee of TV Squad commented that the episode was " perfect " , and made up for any issues he had about the show before the episode . He found the storyline concerning the birth of Hera Agathon , the hybrid baby , a " clever twist " , and appreciated the episode 's general Cylon perspective . The Chicago Tribune appreciated Park , Helfer , and Lawless ' acting and the appearance of Dr. Cottle , and concluded by saying that it was well @-@ crafted and added to the " deftly drawn moral confusion " over whether the Cylons were good or evil . The episode was nominated by the World Science Fiction Society for the 2007 Best Dramatic Presentation , Short Form , an award that was won by the Doctor Who episode " The Girl in the Fireplace " .