

= The Cost of Living ( Lost ) =

" The Cost of Living " is the 5th episode of the third season of Lost , and the 54th episode overall . It aired on November 1 , 2006 , in the US , averaging 16 @. @ 07 million viewers , and on December 5 , 2006 , in the UK , being watched by 1 @. @ 15 million viewers . The episode was written by Monica Owusu @-@ Breen and Alison Schapker and directed by Jack Bender . The plot centers on the character of Mr. Eko ( Adewale Akinnuoye @-@ Agbaje ) , who in flashbacks shows how he became a priest replacing his dead brother Yemi ( Adetokumboh M 'Cormack ) , and in the present day events is haunted by visions of Yemi while other castaways decide to visit a Dharma Initiative station .

The episode was written to finish Eko 's character arc as Akinnuoye @-@ Agbaje had requested to leave the show while finishing the second season . Reviewers subsequently praised " The Cost of Living " while considering that the departure of Eko made Lost lose one of its best characters .

= = Plot = =

= = = Flashbacks = = =

Shortly after the death of his brother Yemi , Eko is driven back to Yemi 's village . Inside the church , Eko announces to the altar boy Daniel and his mother Amina that he will be taking his brother 's place at the church . When Amina also inquires about Yemi 's upcoming trip to London , a surprised Eko states that he would also replace him there .

Some time later , after Eko has become established in his new role as priest , he is confronted by militiamen , who Amina reveals that had a deal with Yemi to get most of the clinic 's vaccines . Eko soon develops a plan to sell the vaccine on the black market before he leaves the country that coming weekend .

As the militiamen learn of Eko 's deal , they attack him inside the church , but end up getting killed . The villagers respond by closing the church as they felt it was desecrated . Amina calls out Eko , saying she had been aware of the vaccine deal , and advises him to repent and make his peace with God , telling Eko that he " owes " Yemi one church .

= = = On the Island = = =

A delirious Eko has a vision of his brother Yemi ( Adetokumboh M 'Cormack ) holding a cigarette lighter , who says it was Eko 's time to confess his sins and , he knew where to find him . Afterwards , Eko 's shelter catches fire , and Eko is rescued by Charlie Pace ( Dominic Monaghan ) and Hugo " Hurley " Reyes ( Jorge Garcia ) . As John Locke ( Terry O 'Quinn ) arrives to ask what happened , Eko has vanished .

The next morning , Locke suggests to Desmond Hume ( Henry Ian Cusick ) that he visit the Pearl station . Joined by Charlie , Sayid Jarrah ( Naveen Andrews ) , Nikki and Paulo ( Kiele Sanchez and Rodrigo Santoro ) , the group finds Eko on their way to the Pearl . Upon arrival , Eko does not find Yemi 's body on the airplane atop the entrance , and decides to remain outside while Locke and the others enter the hatch . Inside the Pearl , Sayid tinkers first with the communication lines , and following a suggestion from Nikki , the monitors . Then one of the screens gets a live video feed of what appears to be another hatch , revealing a man with an eyepatch ( Andrew Divoff ) who then turns off the camera .

Meanwhile , outside the Pearl , Eko sees Yemi and follows him into an open field , where Yemi tells him it is time for Eko to confess his sins . Eko says he has not sinned , having not chosen the life he was given and that Eko had only done what he needed to do to survive . An angry @-@ looking Yemi replies , " You speak to me as if I were your brother " as he retreats into the jungle . Eko follows him asking " Who are you ? ! " , and then finds the smoke monster . An arm of smoke attacks Eko , beating him into trees before he is slammed into the ground . Locke and the others

rush out of the station to find a bloodied Eko . Locke approaches Eko , who whispers his dying words into Locke 's ears . Sayid asks what he said , and Locke replies , " We 're next . "

= = = On Hydra Island = = =

At The Hydra , Jack is invited by Ben Linus ( Michael Emerson ) to attend a memorial service being held for Colleen . On the way , Jack asks about the symptoms of Ben 's spinal tumor , particularly pointing out that it will kill him . Ben professes not to know what Jack is talking about . Privately , Ben asks Juliet Burke ( Elizabeth Mitchell ) why she showed his X @-@ rays to Jack . Juliet replies that she never told Jack whose X @-@ rays they were , and remarks that Ben must have inadvertently confirmed Jack 's guess .

The following day , Ben tells Jack that they had a perfect plan to convince Jack to operate on Ben 's spine , but it failed when Jack saw the X @-@ rays . Afterwards , Juliet brings to Jack 's cell a movie , which consists of Juliet speaking through cue cards . As Juliet discusses how the surgery will proceed , on the tape she tells Jack that Ben is a liar and very dangerous , and thus the surgery should be intentionally botched to kill Ben , and that she will protect Jack if he does so .

= = Production = =

Adewale Akinnuoye @-@ Agbaje signed to *Lost* on a one @-@ year contract , as he did not want to make a long @-@ term commitment to the series . As Michelle Rodriguez signed under similar conditions that lead to her character Ana @-@ Lucia Cortez only appearing in the show 's second season , show runners Damon Lindelof and Carlton Cuse negotiated with Akinnuoye @-@ Agbaje to make his character , Mr. Eko , to appear in the third season as well , adding some space between the two character deaths to develop Eko 's closure better . As filming of season 2 ended , conversations between the actor and the writers ended setting Eko 's departure during the first six episodes , prior to mid @-@ season break , with " a shocking and emotional death " . To make sure the sequence was " big and impressive " , effects supervisor Kevin Blank decided to set the death at the Jackass Ginger in Kalihi , a large space that allowed to make the Smoke Monster " flip him around in weird physical positions " . A stunt double was dragged through cables , and along with the digital monster and wire removal , fast editing made the scene akin to " a magician 's trick " , in Blank 's opinion . The episode was written by Monica Owusu @-@ Breen and Alison Schapker , who had previously worked in another series by *Lost* production company Bad Robot Productions , *Alias* .

Cuse and Lindelof stated that Nikki and Paulo served as a red herring as rumors were raised of an incoming character death , and the fanbase would expect this to happen to the newcomers " who were sort of just there all along " instead of a prominent and popular character as Eko . Juliet 's message to Jack is an homage to Bob Dylan 's video for " Subterranean Homesick Blues " , where the musician flips cue cards while looking at the camera .

= = Reception = =

This episode attracted 16 @.@ 07 million American viewers in its original broadcast on November 1 , 2006 , standing as the tenth most watched program of the week . In the United Kingdom , the episode had 1 @.@ 247 million viewers , ranking third in multichannel shows after *Ford Super Sunday* and *The Simpsons* . In Canada , " The Cost of Living " had 1 @.@ 15 million viewers , ranking as the 26th highest @-@ rated program of the week .

Reviews were positive , though most critics found that the character of Eko was killed too soon in the show . Writing for Zap2it , Rick Porter said that while " The Cost of Living " was the best episode of season 3 thus far with " an illuminating flashback , some heavy island juju and a nice mix of the campers and the Others " , the death of Eko removed from *Lost* " one of its most compelling characters and best actors , which just flat @-@ out sucks . " Kristin dos Santos of E ! Online called Mr. Eko " the best character of the show " , and was therefore very disappointed with his death .

Christine Fenno of Entertainment Weekly stated that she would miss Adewale Akinnuoye Agbaje , and found Juliet 's message to be the best part of the episode , that like the rest of season three " answered a few questions ( whose tumor ? ) , raised a few questions ( who 's the eye @-@ patch guy ? ) , and ignored many long @-@ standing questions ( how did Yemi and Eko crash on the same island ? ) . "

IGN 's Chris Carabott ranked the episode 9 @. @ 3 out of 10 , saying it was " one of the series ' best efforts " exploring the series ' mythology and providing new paths , while also featuring Eko in " one of the most refreshing flashbacks that the series has produced thus far " and " a shocking confrontation " with the Smoke Monster . The reviewer still complained about Nikki and Paulo 's participation , considering them " poorly developed " and giving " the sense that they are being shoehorned in " . The website later ranked " The Cost of Living " as the 25th best episode of the series , saying that while early Season 3 " might have dragged a bit " , " The Cost of Living " " saw the excitement and drama ramp up considerably . The only thing marring this otherwise excellent episode was the presence of Nikki and Paulo . " On the other hand , a similar list by the Los Angeles Times ranked it 96th , considering that despite being " actually a pretty good piece of TV " , the episode was " just marred by the fact that the show was forced into killing Mr. Eko , a character whose story was far from over . "