

= All the Best Cowboys Have Daddy Issues =

" All the Best Cowboys Have Daddy Issues " is the eleventh episode of the American drama series first season of Lost . The episode was directed by Stephen Williams and written by Javier Grillo @-@ Marxuach . It first aired on December 8 , 2004 , on the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) . In the episode , flashbacks reveal Jack Shephard being responsible for his father 's dismissal from a hospital after performing surgery while drunk . In the present , Jack and a team go searching for two fellow plane crash survivors after they are kidnapped by somebody who was not listed in the passenger manifest .

The flashbacks were inspired by Grillo @-@ Marxuach 's background as the son of a doctor , and the episode in general went through several changes in the writing stage , one of them being the creation of two new characters who help look for the missing survivors , who were then scrapped in favor of including regular character Boone Carlyle . " All the Best Cowboys Have Daddy Issues " was watched by 18 @.@ 88 million Americans and was met with positive reviews from critics , with several reviewers commending the scene in which Jack saves Charlie Pace .

= = Plot = =

= = = Flashbacks = = =

Jack Shephard (Matthew Fox) operates on a woman who flatlines , and despite his attempts to revive her , his father Christian Shephard (John Terry) forces him to stop and call the time of death . It is later revealed that it was actually Christian 's operation ; Jack was called in by a nurse after it becomes apparent that his father was performing the surgery under the influence of alcohol . Christian attempts to cover this up by making Jack sign a form detailing the surgery , albeit with his inebriation omitted from the report , stating that the hospital will revoke his medical license if alcohol is mentioned .

However , sometime later Jack learns the patient 's husband is suing the hospital . Jack and Christian then attend a board meeting discussing what went wrong during the operation . The board reveals that the deceased woman was pregnant , which was unknown by Jack . Horrified , he confesses to the board that Christian was operating under the influence during the surgery , which impaired his judgment that led to the chain of events causing the woman 's death .

= = = On the Island = = =

On Day 16 , October 7 , 2004 , back at the caves , the camp has learned from Hugo " Hurley " Reyes (Jorge Garcia) that one survivor , Ethan Rom (William Mapother) , is not listed in the passenger manifest . Furthermore , Charlie Pace (Dominic Monaghan) and Claire Littleton (Emilie de Ravin) are missing . Jack and John Locke (Terry O 'Quinn) run through the jungle to find three distinct footprints , indicating that Ethan took Charlie and Claire . Locke decides to go back to gather a hunting party , but Jack continues alone . Locke returns with Kate Austen (Evangeline Lilly) and Boone Carlyle (Ian Somerhalder) and finds Jack . After they find a knuckle bandage left by Charlie as a clue , the party find two separate trails . Locke takes Boone in one direction , while Jack and Kate take the other .

It soon turns out that Jack and Kate are following the correct trail when they find more of Charlie 's knuckle bandages . When it starts raining , Jack believes he hears Claire screaming . Jack tumbles down an embankment to find Ethan , who warns Jack he will kill one of his captives if he does not stop following Ethan . A fistfight ensues , but Ethan gains the upper hand and subdues Jack . When he regains consciousness , Jack continues on , eventually finding Charlie , who has been hanged by Ethan . Kate cuts him down , and Jack furiously performs CPR ? despite Kate 's pleas that he is dead . Jack does not give up and brings Charlie back to life .

Back at the caves at nightfall , Jack learns from Charlie that " they " only wanted Claire all along . In

the meantime , Boone and Locke are still looking through the jungle . Boone decides to go back to the caves . As Locke throws him a flashlight , Boone drops it , and it lands on a metal surface embedded in the ground . Curious , the two proceed to remove the mud over it to find out what it is .

= = Production = =

" All the Best Cowboys Have Daddy Issues " was written by Javier Grillo @-@ Marxuach . Throughout the writing process , the episode went through several changes . The working title for the episode was " What It Takes " ; however , the writers deemed the title " lame . " In writing Jack 's flashback scenes , Grillo @-@ Marxuach drew his inspiration on his own background as the son of a doctor . Two new minor characters , named Arthur and Sullivan , were originally created to accompany Locke . The idea was later scrapped in favor of including series regular Boone Carlyle ; this development would serve as a genesis for the character 's upcoming death in a later episode , " Do No Harm " . The idea behind the metal surface , which would be known as the hatch for the rest of the season , came when the producers were storyboarding the season . The hatch 's discovery was to be introduced earlier into the episode , but was moved to the end to give the episode a cliffhanger .

With Jack and Kate 's journey , in the original outline they were to come under a dart attack by the Others , the island 's native inhabitants , however it was cut because executive producer Damon Lindelof deemed the attack too " cheesy . " Grillo @-@ Marxuach described the " hysterical CPR " as " the biggest cliché in the book , " but added " the nine people who were writing for the show decided , maybe we earned that . It gave us the emotional payoff for the episode . "

The fight scene between Jack and Ethan was performed by the actors themselves . The two were given the freedom to set up how their characters would fight each other . However , stunt coordinator Michael Vendrell wanted Ethan to be " as feral as possible ; no school of combat , karate , kung @-@ fu . " Before filming the scene where Jack finds Charlie , episode director Stephen Williams scouted for a suitable location and found " what looked like a cathedral , " because of the layout of trees behind where Charlie was hung . Monaghan had to be harnessed to a cable for roughly four to five hours . The actor described the scene ; " they put me in the tree and I just hung there . I just hung limp . I tried to fall asleep , I tried to relax . When everything was going on , when they cut me down from the tree , when [Matthew Fox] was trying to revive me , when [Evangeline Lilly] was crying , I really didn 't hear any of it . I just was in a semi @-@ meditative state ; however close that I could get with someone smacking me in the chest .

= = Reception = =

" All the Best Cowboys Have Daddy Issues " received a 6 @. @ 8 in the ages 18 ? 49 demographic in the Nielsen ratings . The episode was watched by 18 @. @ 88 million viewers , the sixth largest audience in American television the week it aired . It was also an improvement of over 1 @. @ 7 million over the previous episode , " Raised by Another " . In the United Kingdom , the episode was seen by 3 @. @ 76 million viewers . It was the second highest @-@ rated series to air on Channel 4 for the week .

Critical reactions of the episode were positive . Chris Carabott of IGN rated the episode 9 out of 10 , calling it " a swift return to form " with " plenty of striking and emotional moments " that made it one of the better episodes of the first season . Carabott commented on the flashbacks ; " We don 't necessarily learn anything new about Jack from a personality standpoint , " but Fox did " an exceptional job of conveying Jack 's heartbreak as he reveals that his father operated on a woman while under the influence of alcohol . " He enjoyed Jack and Ethan 's encounter , calling it " chilling . " Carabott also praised the scene where Jack tries to save Charlie ; " I remember believing that they had killed off Charlie on my initial viewing and even though I knew the outcome this time , it was still a hard scene to watch , " adding " after Jack finally manages to resuscitate him , you have to feel for Charlie because you know that he 's disappointed in himself for letting Claire down . " Another IGN article ranked " All the Best Cowboys Have Daddy Issues " the 33rd best Lost episode .

Todd VanDerWerff of the Los Angeles Times rated the episode the 79th of all Lost episodes (apart from the series finale) , described the episode as " thrilling , " but opined that the show since " has done similar things much better . " Whitney Pastorek of Entertainment Weekly did not care for Jack 's flashbacks , but commended the scene in which Jack saved Charlie , stating " even though I knew he was going to go back to the CPR and save Charlie 's life , I started crying . This is how you identify good TV : When you know what 's going to happen and you still get swept up in it all . "