

= Adrift ( Lost ) =

" Adrift " is the second episode of the second season of Lost and the 27th episode overall . The episode was directed by Stephen Williams and written by Steven Maeda and Leonard Dick . It first aired on September 28 , 2005 , on the American Broadcasting Company . In the episode , flashbacks depict Michael Dawson 's struggles for the custody of his son Walt Lloyd . The realtime events show Michael and Sawyer , who have just had their raft destroyed , becoming hostile towards each other as they drift back to shore , while Kate Austen and John Locke enter the mysterious hatch and encounter Desmond Hume .

The storyline picks up the raft storyline which was left hanging after season one 's finale , " Exodus " , and also revisits the events seen in the previous episode , " Man of Science , Man of Faith " . Originally envisioned as a Sawyer episode , the episode was rewritten to focus on Michael . The sea scenes were shot on the Hawaiian shoreline . " Adrift " had 23 @.@ 17 million American viewers and stands as the second largest audience on the series ' run , but received negative reviews , which focused criticism on the flashbacks , the raft scenes , and the lack of plot advancement .

= = Plot = =

In the flashbacks , Michael Dawson ( Harold Perrineau ) struggles with his ex @-@ girlfriend Susan Lloyd ( Tamara Taylor ) , who has asked Michael to sign away his paternal rights to their son , Walt . Though Michael initially resists , suing in order to keep his custody , he eventually relents as Susan persuades him to doubt his own motivations and whether he is pursuing his own desires or Walt 's best interests .

After the raft was attacked and destroyed by the Others , Sawyer ( Josh Holloway ) surfaces in the ocean . Michael is heard screaming for Walt repeatedly , and Sawyer screams for Jin @-@ Soo Kwon ( Daniel Dae Kim ) . Sawyer decides to rescue Michael first , and swims over to him , dragging him onto a piece of flotsam and performing CPR . Michael then wakes up , and blames Sawyer for making him fire the flare , drawing their attackers to them . Shortly after , the two notice a shark is encircling them ; Michael believes the shark was attracted to Sawyer 's bleeding wound , and the two have continuous arguments .

Back at camp , after Kate Austen ( Evangeline Lilly ) disappears into the hatch , John Locke ( Terry O 'Quinn ) descends as well , and finds her unconscious in the computer room . An armed Desmond ( Henry Ian Cusick ) walks up behind them , and asks Locke if he is " him " . Locke at first claims to be the person whom Desmond is seeking , but fails to correctly answer a riddle he poses . This failure prompts Desmond to round up the two and orders Kate to tie up Locke . However , Locke convinces Desmond that Kate be tied up instead . Desmond agrees , and Locke slides her a knife before locking her in a dark room . Kate frees herself and finds she is in a large pantry filled with foodstuffs , all in boxes bearing a strange marking . Kate then climbs into a ventilation shaft .

The plotline converges to the same point at the end of the previous episode , " Man of Science , Man of Faith " . An alarm klaxon begins to sound . Desmond walks Locke at gunpoint to the computer terminal , and forces him to enter " the numbers " into the computer , which resets a 108 minute timer . Soon after , Desmond detects Jack Shephard ( Matthew Fox ) , and after channeling him to the computer room , forces Locke to greet Jack as seen in the previous episode .

Back at the raft , Michael and Sawyer see one of the raft 's pontoons , and they decide to board it . Sawyer swims to the pontoon , giving Michael his gun in case the shark appears . When it does , Michael fires several times , apparently injuring the shark . Michael then joins Sawyer on the pontoon , and when the morning breaks , he cries , realizing that he should not have brought Walt with him on the raft , and blames himself for his son 's kidnapping . At this point , Sawyer notices that they are back near the island . When they wash ashore , they meet Jin running toward them , hands tied behind his back , shouting the word " Others " , and fleeing a group holding him captive .

= = Production = =

Season one 's final episode finishes with two cliffhangers , the opening of the hatch and the attack of the Others on Michael 's boat . When production of season 2 started , the writers decided that season premiere " Man of Science , Man of Faith " would focus on the hatch , leaving the raft for the second episode . To avoid bloating the first episode , some of the hatch storylines , such as Locke 's incursion , were left to be revealed in " Adrift " . The episode was originally going to be Sawyer centric , and was to feature actress Jolene Blalock as a guest , but this was rewritten " at the proverbial last minute " and changed to a Michael @-@ centric episode .

Director Stephen Williams described filming at the sea as challenging , since the waves caused cameras , lighting and the scenery where the actors were standing to be " moving out of sync with one another " . Williams however thought that the scenes became more realistic due to the location . The aquatic scenes took three nights to complete , and Harold Perrineau received swimming lessons in preparation . When Sawyer is getting ready to swim to the other platform , a shark swims past , and in an underwater shot a DHARMA Initiative insignia can briefly be seen near its back fin . This was an inside joke or " easter egg , " which turned out to be more visible than had been intended . While a mechanical shark which required three puppeteers was built , the shot of Michael being attacked was done with a shark fin being held by an underwater crew member .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

23 @.@ 17 million American viewers tuned into " Adrift " , making it the second most @-@ watched episode in the show 's history , behind the season opener .

= = = Critical reception = = =

Reviews were mostly negative . Mac Slocum of Filmfodder.com said the flashback storyline " wasn 't all that interesting " . Entertainment Weekly 's Jeff Jensen called the flashbacks " among the poorest and most clumsily integrated flashbacks we 've seen so far " , as he felt nothing new was learned , and also disliked Michael 's on @-@ Island storyline , noting he " got the sense that the actors and directors weren 't quite sure what to make of these scenes " . Jensen however complimented the Hatch scenes , considering that Terry O 'Quinn 's performance and his interaction with Henry Ian Cusick were " salvaging the first mediocre episode of the season " . Ryan McGee of Zap2it thought that revealing the Hatch events through different perspectives a " fresh narrative approach " , but complained about the lack of plot advancement , and considered the raft storyline " three times as long as needed , with a really fake shark attack to boot " . IGN 's Chris Carabott gave the episode an 8 @.@ 2 out of 10 , praising Perrineau 's performance and the flashback , but the website later ranked " Adrift " 80th out of the 115 Lost episodes , jokingly saying that the shark should have eaten Michael " and save us a lot of ' Waaaaaalt ! ' and ' They took him . From my hands ! ' shout fests " . A similar list by Los Angeles Times ranked the episode as the fourth worst of the series , describing it as " boring " . New York magazine listed " Adrift " in its " Twenty Most Pointless Episodes of Lost " , complaining about " grinding the story to a halt " and the " plodding " flashback , and saying that the episode would have been improved if Sawyer and Michael reached land faster .