

= I Do (Lost) =

" I Do " is the sixth episode of the third season of Lost , and the 55th episode overall . It aired on November 8 , 2006 , on ABC . The episode was written by Damon Lindelof and Carlton Cuse and directed by Tucker Gates . The character of Kate Austen (Evangeline Lilly) is featured in the episode 's flashbacks , where her brief marriage to a police officer , Kevin Callis (Nathan Fillion) , is shown . In the present events , Jack Shephard (Matthew Fox) considers whether or not to perform surgery on Ben Linus (Michael Emerson) , and is motivated by Kate 's claims that if he does not comply , Sawyer (Josh Holloway) will be killed .

This was the last episode to air before a 13 @-@ week hiatus , so it was written so that it would fit as a " mini @-@ series finale " , and also had a major theme in the contrast between Kate 's relationships with Kevin and Sawyer . " I Do " gained mostly positive reviews , with much praise to the cliffhanger ending , and had 17 @. @ 15 million American viewers upon release .

= = Plot = =

= = = Flashbacks = = =

While on the run from the law , Kate goes to Miami , where under the name " Monica " she meets and gets engaged to a police officer , Kevin Callis (Nathan Fillion) . Before their wedding , Kevin 's mother , Suzanne , gives Kate a gold locket that had been passed down on the female side of the family at weddings . A while after the ceremony , Kate calls U.S. Marshal Edward Mars (Fredric Lane) . She does not want to run any more and pleads for him to stop chasing her . Mars guesses that Kate has gotten involved with a man , and tells her that if Kate can really stay put , settle down , he will stop chasing her , but that they both know it is unlikely that Kate will ever stop running . Later , Kate shows signs of relief after getting a negative pregnancy test , and decides to reveal the truth about her life to her husband . She drugs Kevin , places her mother @-@ in @-@ law 's locket in his hands and leaves .

= = = On the Island = = =

On the main island , John Locke (Terry O 'Quinn) tells Nikki Fernandez (Kiele Sanchez) , Paulo (Rodrigo Santoro) , Sayid Jarrah (Naveen Andrews) and Desmond Hume (Henry Ian Cusick) that Mr. Eko (Adewale Akinnuoye @-@ Agbaje) was killed by an animal , and decides to bury Eko where he died as he thinks the other castaways have seen " too many funerals " recently . As Locke goes to the beach to get shovels , Sayid follows him and asks what really killed Eko . Locke says that the survivors call it " The Monster " , and further speculates that The Monster may be what brought them there and that Eko died for a reason , he just does not know what it is yet . After the burial , Locke sees a message on Eko 's stick : " Lift up your eyes and look north , John 3 : 05 " .

On Hydra island , Jack Shephard (Matthew Fox) checks Ben Linus 's (Michael Emerson) x @-@ rays and medical file , and tells Ben that the tumor in his spine will become inoperable in a week . Jack however adds he is not going to operate on Ben because he does not trust the Others ' promise of freeing him , Kate and Sawyer (Josh Holloway) .

After the quarry where Kate and Sawyer are working suffers an invasion by Alex (Tania Raymonde) , who demands to know where her boyfriend Karl (Blake Bashoff) is , Juliet Burke (Elizabeth Mitchell) brings Kate to talk to Jack , telling her that it is the only way to prevent Danny Pickett (Michael Bowen) from killing Sawyer . When Jack and Kate see each other , Kate asks him to operate on Ben to prevent Sawyer from getting killed , but Jack gets angry and refuses .

After returning to her cage , Kate and Sawyer have an argument , and she climbs out of her cage and breaks open Sawyer 's , saying if he does not want Jack to save his life , he is going to save his own . Sawyer then tells her that they cannot run because they are on another island , something he did not tell her " because I wanted you to believe that we had a damn chance . " Kate and Sawyer

then have sex , unknowingly in full view of the cameras . At the Hydra station , Jack finds his door unlocked and unguarded , and outside reaches a surveillance room , where he sees Kate and Sawyer cuddling together on a monitor . Ben appears behind him , and after a brief exchange Jack decides to do the surgery , but wants Ben to keep his promise to let Jack off the island .

As Juliet anesthetizes Ben and Jack begins the operation , Pickett goes with another man to Sawyer 's cage . Kate and Sawyer attempt to fight , but Pickett 's companion overpowers Kate and holds her at gunpoint , leading Sawyer to surrender . Meanwhile , Jack sabotages the operation by cutting Ben 's kidney sack , and demands that Tom (M.C. Gainey) let him speak with Kate . Before Pickett can shoot Sawyer , Tom calls over the walkie @-@ talkie . As Pickett gives the walkie to Kate , Jack tells her she has an hour 's head start , and directs her to call him on the radio when she is safe .

== Production ==

Show runners Damon Lindelof and Carlton Cuse wrote " I Do " as a " mini @-@ season finale " , as it was the last episode before mid @-@ season hiatus , and would end in a cliffhanger . It also served as a climax and beginning of a closure of Jack , Kate and Sawyer 's captivity on Hydra Island , with the writers saying that afterwards there would be a return to the beach and the six @-@ episode block would be " more palatable " and make more sense , comparing them to the first seven episodes of season 2 where the tail section survivors are introduced . Executive producer Bryan Burk also said the pre @-@ hiatus episodes were " our season 2 @.@ 5 . Like , this is kind of like wrapping up a lot of where we were last year " , considering season three would really begin in the seventh episode .

A main theme of the episode is Kate 's inability to commit to other people , always running from difficult emotional situations , and having barriers between her and her interests ? physical , as in Sawyer 's cage or Jack 's aquarium , or metaphorical , as in her inability to settle down as Kevin 's wife . Kate 's marriage , which was first alluded in the season one episode " Outlaws " , is meant to be a contrast with her relationship with Sawyer in the realtime events ? Kate and Kevin is a heartfelt and passionate relationship where Kate tries to get involved but her lifestyle ends up on making the marriage fail , whereas with Sawyer both are afraid of intimacy and connection yet still end up together .

Nathan Fillion was cast as Kevin because the producers thought he fit as " someone to believe that Kate had actually married and settled down with " for being " really good and kinda fun and intelligent " , and also because Cuse and Lindelof were fans of Fillion 's work on Firefly . Fillion said that he was a Lost fan and described his experience working at the show as " a dream " .

== Reception ==

== Ratings ==

17 @.@ 15 million American viewers watched this episode live , standing as the ninth most @-@ seen program of the week . It also had 1 @.@ 1 million viewers in the United Kingdom .

== Critical reception ==

Chris Carabott of IGN gave a 9 @.@ 3 out of 10 to " I Do " , describing it as " delivering some key moments in the series ' history and leaving viewers with a spectacular cliffhanger ending . " Carabott complimented Locke 's scenes as " short but nonetheless powerful " and praised Matthew Fox 's acting , saying he " steals the show with one of his best performances to date " . Writing for Entertainment Weekly , Christine Fenno considered that the flashbacks " weren 't as exciting as the action on the island , but they were full of fun details " and liked Jack 's scenes at the operating room . Jonathan Toomey of AOL 's TV Squad called " I Do " " an episode worthy of being called a mid

@-@ season finale " , thinking that the romantic scenes between Kate and Sawyer worked for " the tension that existed " . BuddyTV 's Oscar Dahl considered " I Do " as " a worthy end to Lost 's truncated Fall season " , having a good reaction to the cliffhanger and saying the episode " set up incredible possibilities for the rest of the season " . Not all reviews were positive , with Slant Magazine 's critic Andrew Dignan feeling it was " lacking both the immediacy and urgency that keeps viewers clamoring for months on end " , and being critical of the writing , particularly on most of the essential plot elements occurring in the final minutes .

" I Do " was selected as one of the " 25 Sexiest TV Shows on DVD " by Entertainment Weekly . IGN ranked the episode 28th out of the 115 Lost episodes , describing it as a " turning point episode of the third season . " On the other hand , a similar list by Los Angeles Times ranked " I Do " as the 91st , saying it " mostly botched " the plot point of Kate 's wedding despite Nathan Fillion 's presence , and feeling it was an episode that " probably shouldn 't have had to have as much pressure on it as it did (acting as a mini @-@ cliffhanger in early Season 3) " .

Evangeline Lilly submitted this episode for consideration for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series for the 59th Primetime Emmy Awards .