

= The Other Woman (Lost) =

" The Other Woman " is the 78th episode of the serial drama television series Lost and the sixth episode of the show 's fourth season . It aired on March 6 , 2008 on the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) in the United States and on CTV in Canada . The episode was written by co @-@ executive producer Drew Goddard and executive story editor Christina M. Kim , and was directed by Eric Laneuville .

The narrative begins on December 24 , 2004 , 94 days after the crash of Oceanic Airlines Flight 815 . Recent island arrivals Daniel Faraday (played by Jeremy Davies) and Charlotte Lewis (Rebecca Mader) leave the survivors ' camp without notice for the Dharma Initiative electrical station called the Tempest . In flashbacks that depict events on the island , Juliet Burke (Elizabeth Mitchell) discovers that her boss Ben Linus (Michael Emerson) , the leader of the island 's original inhabitants referred to as the Others , is in love with her .

The writers advanced several story lines with " The Other Woman " . The episode furthers Juliet 's back story and relationships , sheds more light on the season 's new characters , and features the first appearance of Harper Stanhope (Andrea Roth) . The introduction of the Tempest further develops the series ' mythology , specifically the " purge " . In the third season , the purge was mentioned in episode " Enter 77 " and seen in " The Man Behind the Curtain " .

" The Other Woman " was watched by 15 million Americans and received mixed reviews . Critics from the Los Angeles Times , Entertainment Weekly , and BuddyTV deemed it the worst episode of the season , partially due to a flashback storyline that was seemingly recycled from the third season episode , " One of Us " . Another criticism was that audiences actually learned more about Ben than Juliet , despite the focus on Juliet . Emerson also received more praise for his acting than Mitchell , who plays Juliet ; however , Mitchell won a Saturn Award for her performance . Positive reviews commended the action in the episode 's climax .

= = Plot = =

The episode opens with flashbacks to Juliet 's life on the island following her recruitment in September 2001 by the Others . Juliet has an affair with an Other named Goodwin (Brett Cullen) , who is married to therapist Harper Stanhope . Harper discovers the affair , and warns Juliet that their leader Ben will punish Goodwin because he has a crush on Juliet . Following the crash of Flight 815 , Ben sends him to infiltrate a group of surviving passengers ; Goodwin is killed by Ana Lucia Cortez after she realizes he is not a survivor . In October 2004 , Ben invites Juliet to what he initially describes as a dinner party , but is actually a private date . Ben leads Juliet to Goodwin 's impaled corpse , where she accuses him of having wanted Goodwin to die . Ben then subsequently reveals his love for her .

On the night of December 24 , 2004 (three months after the crash of Flight 815) , two members of a science team from the Kahana freighter anchored offshore ? Daniel and Charlotte ? who landed on the island three days earlier with a hidden agenda , sneak off to find the Tempest . Juliet and the crash survivors ' leader Jack Shephard (Matthew Fox) notice their absence from the beach camp and pursue them . After hearing the whispers , Harper approaches Juliet . She tells her that Daniel and Charlotte intend to kill everyone on the island by deploying a lethal gas at the Tempest and that Ben 's orders are for Juliet to kill them . On a trek back to the beach in the morning , Kate encounters Daniel and Charlotte and is knocked unconscious by the latter . Jack and Juliet come across Kate and they split up : Juliet continues for the Tempest alone , as Jack minds Kate . Inside the station , Juliet finds Daniel in a hazmat suit at a computer . After a standoff , Daniel and Charlotte convince Juliet that they are not going to kill anyone ; they are neutralizing the gas in case Ben decides to use it again , as he had twelve years earlier in an Others @-@ led purge of Dharma . Jack arrives at the Tempest and Juliet explains that those on the freighter came to the island to wage war against Ben and she expects him to win . She fears for Jack because Ben thinks that she belongs to him , but Jack shows no worry and kisses her .

In the Barracks , Ben bargains with 815 survivor John Locke (Terry O 'Quinn) for his freedom . He

reveals that Charles Widmore (Alan Dale) ? the father of Desmond Hume 's (Henry Ian Cusick) girlfriend , Penny (Sonya Walger) ? owns the freighter and hopes to exploit the island . Ben also tells Locke who his spy on the freighter is . Ben continues to reside in the Barracks following his release .

= = Production = =

When asked about what she learned about her character through " The Other Woman " , Elizabeth Mitchell surmised that Juliet 's " mistakes are morally questionable , if not morally wrong . But you do see that behind this is a human being who is struggling to live and have a life that makes sense to her . " Mitchell did not think that Juliet was too surprised that Ben has romantic feelings for her , but " it was horrifying under the circumstances " because she had just found out that Goodwin had died . Michael Emerson thought that his character Ben was childish when he shouted " you 're mine ! " to Juliet ; Mitchell compared him to " a twelve @-@ year @-@ old boy throwing a temper tantrum over ... his first love " . Mitchell said that " it was emotionally draining shooting this episode " because she was intimidated by Emerson and Matthew Fox 's acting skills .

Co @-@ executive producer and staff writer Adam Horowitz stated that " It 's always interesting to pull back another layer on one of our characters , and to see another chapter in Juliet 's story on the island and bring us to where she is now was great " , while fellow co @-@ executive producer and staff writer Edward Kitsis thought that " the interesting thing about the episode is the way Ben looks at Juliet ... everything is informed by that look . " Horowitz also enjoyed the juxtaposition of Juliet 's character development with the revelations on the " freighter folk " . Kitsis picked the episode 's final scene where Hugo " Hurley " Reyes (Jorge Garcia) and James " Sawyer " Ford (Josh Holloway) discover that Ben has negotiated his release and will be dining with them that evening as his favorite of the episode . Actress Rebecca Mader , who plays Charlotte , said that she was " so excited " for the episode to air because she thought that it was " even better " than the previous episode , which is widely regarded as one of the best episodes of the series . Charlotte knocks Kate unconscious with the barrel of her gun and asks " what ? " to a speechless Daniel in " The Other Woman " . Mader found this hilarious and described it as " the pinnacle of [her] career " .

Andrea Roth makes her first appearance as Harper in " The Other Woman " . During casting in early October , Harper was described as " a tough , no @-@ nonsense and beautiful [therapist who has a tendency to be] overly controlling and obsessive . " The character was also noted as a recurring role ; however , Harper did not make another appearance in the season . The writers have since stated that she will eventually reappear . A jungle scene with Mitchell , Fox and Roth was filmed until 4 : 00 a.m. on October 27 , 2007 with industrial sprinklers and Mitchell referred to this as her " most intense experience on the show " . Harper 's appearance and disappearance in this scene are sudden so fans speculated that this was actually an apparition or manifestation of the island 's black smoke monster . This was refuted by Lost 's writers .

Named after William Shakespeare 's 1610 play of the same name , the Tempest first appears in " The Other Woman " and is apparently alluded to on an unseen layer of the Dharma " Swan " station 's blast door map of the second season . The writers wanted to explain some of the island 's history in the fourth season and decided that " The Other Woman " would reveal where the gas that Ben used came from and that Dharma had stations set up for protection against hostile forces . They also enjoyed having Goodwin on the show and wanted to bring him back . " The Other Woman " had commenced filming by October 11 , 2007 and was completed on October 30 .

" The Other Woman " contains Jack and Juliet 's second kiss . Juliet was conceived by the writers as the next possible love interest for Jack after the death of the second season character Ana Lucia Cortez (Michelle Rodriguez) . Fans hated Ana Lucia so the writers did not pursue the romantic story arc . Mitchell guesses that her character was created because " they needed a bridge between Ben and everyone else , and they needed someone to come in and be a little salt in the oyster of Jack and Kate . " She believes that Juliet did genuinely fall in love with Jack , but not knowing whether " her attraction to Jack or her willingness to do anything to get off the island " is more important to her . Juliet forms something of a " love rectangle " with Jack , Kate and Sawyer .

Mitchell " feel [s] like [Jack and Juliet have] a very grown @-@ up relationship . They seem to really respect and like each other " , whereas Sawyer and Kate are like " rambunctious teenagers " . The couple has gained an Internet fandom and been given the portmanteau nickname " Jacket " .

= = Reception = =

" The Other Woman " was watched live or recorded and watched within five hours of broadcast by 13 @.@ 008 million viewers in the United States , ranking seventh for the week in television programs with the most viewers and achieving a 5 @.@ 4 / 13 in the coveted adults aged eighteen to forty @-@ nine demographic . Including those who watched within seven days of broadcast , the episode was watched by a total of 14 @.@ 933 million American viewers ; this number went toward the season 's average . 1 @.@ 439 million Canadians watched it , making Lost the eighth highest @-@ rated show of the week . In the United Kingdom , 1 @.@ 1 million people viewed the episode . The episode brought in 691 @,@ 000 viewers in Australia , placing it as the twenty @-@ second most watched show of the night .

A common claim by critics of Entertainment Weekly , IGN , SyFy Portal , AOL 's TV Squad and BuddyTV was that more was learned about supporting player Ben , instead of Juliet who was centered on in flashbacks . Jeff Jensen of Entertainment Weekly praised Emerson 's acting and stated that " in the end , this was really a story about Ben and the lengths he will go to protect himself and the Island from his enemies . " SyFy Portal 's Dan Compora said that " The more I hate Ben , the more I realize that Michael Emerson is just a very fine actor doing his job . " Oscar Dahl of BuddyTV called Emerson an acting " god " and said that " The Other Woman " was " ostensibly a Juliet episode , [but] Ben 's presence made a far bigger impression on me " . Despite Emerson 's shadow , Elizabeth Mitchell received the award for " Best Supporting Actress on Television " at the 34th Saturn Awards in a tie with Summer Glau , who plays Cameron Phillips in FOX 's Terminator : The Sarah Connor Chronicles .

" The Other Woman " has been cited as the weakest episode of Lost 's fourth season . Despite his claim , Patrick Day of the Los Angeles Times pointed out that " even this so @-@ so episode of Lost stood far above anything else being shown on network TV this season " . He noted that the " most heartbreaking scene " was Claire Littleton 's (Emilie de Ravin) appearance because it reminded him of how little the character had done to advance the season 's plot . BuddyTV 's John Kubicek dubbed " The Other Woman " " the worst episode of Lost season four so far " because it " followed the soap opera that is the romantic entanglements of the major players , which is not the reason most people love Lost . " Jeff Jensen of Entertainment Weekly graded the episode as a " C ? " and called it " the only true dud of the season " . He thought that its " story was kinda all over the place " and that " the whole thing felt forced " . Jensen was not fond of Andrea Roth 's guest performance because he felt that " she came off as too arch and unreal . " In contrast , TV Guide 's Bruce Fretts praised Roth 's " suitably creepy " appearance . Other critics also reviewed the episode as poor . Maureen Ryan of Chicago Tribune said that " The Other Woman " " seemed somewhat pallid and predictable ? several elements ? felt like they 'd been recycled from previous seasons and story arcs . " The Star @-@ Ledger 's Alan Sepinwall considered the episode to be the second weakest of the fourth season after " Eggtown " . He criticized the Tempest storyline due to a lack of explanation for the station 's original purpose and thought that Juliet 's flashbacks were redundant .

" The Other Woman " was also the subject of mixed reviews . Tim Goodman of the San Francisco Chronicle wrote that " I really liked this episode , but I liked it less than the [preceding episodes] ? it seems that someone took their foot off the gas just a fraction and the reduction in speed was notable . Time 's James Poniewozik had mixed feelings for the flashbacks , but enjoyed Ben 's character development . Nikki Stafford of Wizard " enjoyed " the " interesting " episode , although " not nearly as much " as the previous episode . She rejoiced at the return of her " favorite Other " Tom (M.C. Gainey) and wrote that " Locke used to be one of [her] favorite characters , but now he 's a tool " . Digital Spy 's Ben Rawson @-@ Jones stated that " the episode came together nicely in the end , with an expected twist and a snog , although for a great part it bordered on tedium . Juliet is a character who simply isn 't interesting enough to fully sustain one 's attention over a flashback .

She 's been so peripheral and irrelevant over this season , and it felt like a token gesture to foreground her at last . There was a nice pay off though , with a long awaited smooch between her and Jack . " Daniel of TMZ graded the episode as a " C + " ; however , he wrote that " the Ben / Locke scenes were great and Juliet in a bikini did not disappoint . " TV Squad 's Erin Martell was " not impressed with Jack and Juliet 's chemistry " and found their kiss " unconvincing " . Martell commended Emerson 's acting , Ben 's one @-@ liners and his " too funny for words " casual greeting to Hurley and Sawyer at the end of the episode after he is released from captivity . The Huffington Post 's Jay Glatfelter thought that " this was another great episode [that] could have lived up to last week 's episode , but there was still a lot of solid character development . "

Verne Gay of Newsday referred to the episode as " yet another brilliant outing by TV 's best drama [that] keeps getting better " ; she was not the only critic to give a positive review . E ! ' s Kristin Dos Santos thought that the fight scene between Juliet and Charlotte in the Tempest was " awesome " and suggested that Alan Dale receive a " lifetime achievement award for his parade of marvelously malicious patriarchs " , such as Widmore . Chris Carabott of IGN gave the episode a score of eight out of ten and described it as " a good episode of Lost that has all the action , suspense and excitement that this show consistently delivers " . Carabott wrote that " seeing how twisted [Ben and Juliet 's] ' relationship ' really is was fascinating " . SyFy Portal 's Dan Compura wrote that " this week 's episode contributed to what is shaping up to be a pretty solid fourth season . ? Fine acting carried the episode despite a few potholes in the plot . " Compura also enjoyed the title and the " nice cat fight " in the Tempest between Juliet and Charlotte .