

LOST

"Arrival"

EPISODE 6.01

SUBMITTED FOR THE RIGHTER'S UNTIE S6 WRITING CONTEST

SUMMARY

JACK finds himself in an all too familiar setting as the aftermath of the incident is revealed...

Meanwhile, BEN realizes his actions may not have been the wisest as he is given a new task by LOCKE.

WHITE FILLS THE SCREEN.

WHOOOSH!

A familiar EYE OPENS and it's IRIS ADJUSTS to the bright light.

JACK SHEPHARD.

JACK holds his LEFT HAND out in front of his face so he can gather a better view of his surroundings. The CAMERA ZOOMS OUT to reveal an all too familiar setting. LUSH, TROPICAL JUNGLE.

THE ISLAND. JACK is still on the damn island.

A couple of BEATS go by, JACK slowly gets up, still in his DHARMA attire. He looks around for his fellow survivors. NOBODY. NOTHING. Oddly enough, it's quiet. Only the DISTANT sound of WAVES crashing on the beach and BIRDS chirping away can be heard.

JACK moves at a BRISK PACE through the JUNGLE. The look in his eyes one of SADNESS, ANGER and downright CONFUSION. Why is he still HERE?!

Still MOVING, he notices an OPENING that only catches his ATTENTION as he passes it. LYING MOTIONLESS on the jungle floor is none other than SAYID.

With URGENCY, JACK rushes over to SAYID to inspect. SAYID is UNCONSCIOUS. Worse still, he's BLEEDING.

JACK
(as if about a number of
things)
Damn it...

JACK looks up and around, not knowing what to do, but goes to lift up SAYID's ARM as-

BANG!

JACK panics for a MOMENT as the GUNSHOT rattles throughout the JUNGLE. He hears MOVEMENT coming from his LEFT. OUT of some rapid overgrowth walks out one BENJAMIN LINUS.

Wearing BLOOD-STAINED CLOTHES. He has a pistol in his hands.

BEN
Hello Jack...

JACK looks up, somewhat in DISBELIEF. JACK and BEN share and INTENSE STARE.

BEN (CONT'D)
Sorry to get your attention in
such a rash manner, but I thought
it might be the safest way given
our history.

JACK looks at BEN, incredulous. A tense BEAT.

JACK
Did you know?

BEN
Did I know what?

JACK
Did you know that we would end up
in 1977?

BEN
No, no I can't say that I did.
(Beat)
It wasn't long before I knew when
you were, though.

JACK gives a CONFUSED look.

JACK
How did yo-

BEN
A picture, I saw a picture. You,
Hurley, Kate... everyone in 1977.

There is a moment of SILENCE between the two.

BEN (CONT'D)
I know what you're going to ask
next, Jack. And the answer is
yes. I do remember some of you in
my childhood...
... Some a bit more clearer than
others...

JACK looks down in DEFEAT.

JACK
(sighing)
Whatever happened, happened...

BEN
That's exactly right, Jack.

Another moment of silence falls between the two. BEN breaks
the silence, as if getting down to business.

BEN (CONT'D)

Jack, you believe you came back for a reason, correct? That you and all your friends had some 'destiny' to fulfil

BEN crouches next to JACK. His voice in a very serious tone.

BEN (CONT'D)

Well, I believe that too. I believe that you were meant to rid this island of an evil...

(searches for words)

To... To set things right.

JACK

What are you talk-

Suddenly, SAYID comes alive and starts coughing up BLOOD. Both JACK and BEN immediately switch focus to SAYID, who is taking DEEP BREATHS, too far out to talk.

JACK (CONT'D)

We've got to do something.

(Shaking his head, beat)

We don't have much time.

BEN

I think... I think I know someone who may be able to help him. But we're going to have to be fast.

JACK

Where are we taking him?

BEN

The Barracks.

JACK accepts BEN's offer and takes one of SAYID's arms, as BEN takes the other and they lift him up carefully.

BEN (CONT'D)

Welcome home, Jack.

BEN smiles, but JACK keeps his eyes ahead, determined to save SAYID as we...

SMASH CUT TO:

LOST

BLACK: 9 HOURS EARLIER...

INT. STATUE INTERIOR NIGHT

A CLOSE-UP reveals BEN's face somewhat in SHOCK. The CAMERA ZOOMS OUT to reveal JACOB's ENEMY (as LOCKE) with him. BEN is FIXATED on the BURNING CORPSE of JACOB.

LOCKE
Benjamin...

BEN turns to LOCKE as a BEAT goes by.

LOCKE (CONT'D)
I'm going to need you to do
something for me.

BEN suddenly realizes exactly who is talking to him - certainly not JOHN LOCKE.

BEN
Who are you?

A BEAT of SILENCE follows.

LOCKE
I will answer any question you
have in time, you just have to do
this one thing for me.

BEN
You just got me to kill my own
leader...
What is it exactly that I have to
do to get answers!?

LOCKE
(bluntly)
Bring me Shephard.

BEN
Jack? I don't think he's 'here'
exactly.

LOCKE
He will be soon enough. When you
find him, I'll be at your old
home at the Barracks.
You are not to enter with him,
understand?

BEN slowly begins to understand JACOB's last words and his anger is slowly growing at LOCKE. But he remembers his encounter with ALEX not that long ago, and realizes what must be done...

LOCKE (CONT'D)
You're going to have to wait just
a little longer...

The MOVEMENT of the DOOR behind attracts BEN's attention momentarily. He looks back to LOCKE.

Gone. JACOB's ENEMY is nowhere to be seen.

BEN looks back at the entry to see that it's RICHARD.
RICHARD wastes no time with BEN.

RICHARD
Where's John?

BEN
...That wasn't John.

RICHARD
I know.

BEN looks at RICHARD, surprised.

RICHARD (CONT'D)
His body is outside.

RICHARD looks around the interior of the STATUE.

BEN
I killed him, Richard.
(Beat)
I killed Jacob.

RICHARD now notices the FIRE, on which JACOB's corpse continues to BURN, but remains EMOTIONLESS.

BEN (CONT'D)
Your reaction surprises me to say
the least.

RICHARD turns to BEN

RICHARD
This is a matter that is far
bigger than me or you.
You have no idea what you've got
yourself into.

RICHARD turns back to the BRIGHT, BURNING, FIRE. BEN stares at RICHARD, almost with CONCERN for a moment.

BEN
Oh I don't think I'm the only one
entwined in this... and you know
it.

RICHARD remains silent. BEN begins to leave.

RICHARD
(still facing the fire)
Where are you going?

BEN
I don't think you have any need
for me Richard. You certainly
seem to have done well enough in
the three years that I've been
gone.
(Beat)
...I'll be at the Barracks.

RICHARD does not look back, BEN goes through the exit.

FADE TO:

INT. TENT DAY - 1977 (**FLASHBACK**)

A YOUNG BEN wakes up. He is in one of the OTHER'S TENTS at their CAMP. His CHEST bandaged, he unwraps it and notices no scarring whatsoever. He REMOVES what is left of the BANDAGE and puts on a SHIRT lying on a seat nearby. After shaking off the sleep, he heads outside.

EXT. OTHERS CAMP

He takes a few PACES outside to find the CAMP BURSTING with activity. EVERYONE is out and about, moving from here to there, doing something. BEN notices that he gets odd looks from most, if not all of the people who notice him. He heads towards the other side of CAMP when...

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!!!!

An EARTH-SHATTERING EXPLOSION SHAKES the very FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH!! Suddenly, a LOUD, BUZZING sound begins to EMIT, as if out of NOWHERE. The ground continues to SHAKE VIOLENTLY as BEN and all THE OTHERS are BROUGHT to their KNEES with hands sheltering their EARS. BEN looks up to NOTICE that the SKY is getting BRIGHTER and BRIGHTER into a SHADE OF PURPLE.

EVERYONE is in ABSOLUTE AGONY. It seems like HOURS before EVERYTHING begins to CALM DOWN. In reality, it's a matter of SECONDS.

BEN slowly gets up back on his feet, and isn't up five seconds before he falls back to the GROUND as he FAINTS.

CUT TO:

INT. TENT - HOURS LATER

BEN wakes up in a familiar place. The same TENT, the same BED. He immediately notices RICHARD sitting on the CHAIR in the TENT.

RICHARD
(concerned)
Are you okay?

BEN
I think so... I mean, I'm not hurt or anything.

RICHARD
Good. You had us worried for a moment there, you were pretty shaken up.

BEN
What was that?

A BEAT goes by as RICHARD searches for words

RICHARD
Well, that's the thing. I am certain what I saw was a nuclear explosion... What happened next we have no idea.
(Beat)
That's why we need your help.

BEN
(surprised)
Me?

RICHARD
Yes. We need you to go back home and find out whatever you can about what happened, okay?

BEN
I don't want to go back
(angrily)
I like it here.

RICHARD
I know, but Ben, if you want to help us you have to do this for me.
(Beat)
Your patience will be rewarded Ben, I promise.

BEN
(reluctantly)
Fine...

RICHARD looks SATISFIED.

RICHARD
Good. Do you remember where we
first met?

BEN
Ummm, yes.

RICHARD
Well Ben, in a weeks time I want
to meet you there and your going
to tell me everything you find
out, okay?

BEN
Okay.

RICHARD
Alright then. Rest up and when
you're ready, just come and see
me.

BEN and RICHARD share a SMILE before RICHARD exits...

CUT TO:

EXT. STATUE BEACH - NIGHT

RICHARD leaves the STATUE to find ILANA waiting just
outside the ENTRANCE.

ILANA
Where is he?

RICHARD keeps walking.

ILANA (CONT'D)
Hey! The other man just stormed
off into the jungle...

RICHARD
Gone. They're both gone.

ILANA grows FRUSTRATED

ILANA
And what about Jacob?
Is he gone too?

RICHARD stops and faces ILANA.

RICHARD

No...
 (beat)
 Jacob's dead.

A BEAT goes by as HORROR washes over ILANA's face.
 Frustration turns into a growing ANGER within ILANA.

ILANA

What?! How could you let this happen?
Why didn't you do something?!

RICHARD

What exactly was I supposed to do? Until about 10 minutes ago, I thought that was John Locke in there.

(Beat)

Now I'm going to need your help to get my people back to our camp.

ILANA

Then what?

RICHARD

Then a few of us will go to the barracks.

ILANA

The Barracks?

RICHARD

It's a long story.

They begin walking. A couple of BEATS of silence go by as ILANA calms herself down.

ILANA

You know Richard, you seem awfully calm given recent 'events'.

(Beat)

You wouldn't happen to know something I don't, would you?

RICHARD

No, I can honestly say that I don't.

As RICHARD turns his attention to THE OTHERS, something catches his eye.

It's SUN. Sitting alone on the BEACH, staring out into the ENDLESS OCEAN. ILANA notices her too.

RICHARD (CONT'D)
 Start getting everyone ready, I
 just need to talk to her for a
 second.

ILANA
 Sure.

ILANA heads off to organise both her people and the others
 as RICHARD walks towards SUN.

RICHARD
 Sun...

SUN remains FIXATED on the OCEAN. TEARS running down her
 CHEEKS.

SUN
 He's gone...
 My husband's gone forever.
 So just leave me alone.

RICHARD
 I'm sorry for your loss Sun, I
 really am, but you can't stay
 here. We're going to back to our
 camp, but then I'm going back to
 the barracks if you want to come.
 But Sun, I can't leave you alone
 here, not now.

A BEAT goes by. SUN gives no ANSWER

RICHARD (CONT'D)
 Sun, please.

RICHARD extends his HAND, after another moment of silence,
 SUN looks up and takes it.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWAN CRATER - MORNING

The CAMERA FOCUSSES on the CRATER which the AUDIENCE
 recognise to be what's left of the SWAN STATION after
 DESMOND turned the fail-safe key. The CAMERA TRACKS OUT to
 reveal SAWYER sitting on the edge, peering into it. His
 mind is fixated on one thing - JULIET. Suddenly a VOICE is
 heard.

VOICE (O.S.)
 Hey.

SAWYER turns around. It's KATE. SAWYER turns back around.
 KATE approaches and sits next to him.

KATE looks nervously at SAWYER

KATE
I'm glad to see you're okay.

SAWYER
Glad you made it too.

SAWYER's voice is DARK and GRITTY and certainly his tone is slightly SARCASTIC. KATE realizes she is probably the last person SAWYER wants to talk to as a few BEATS of awkward silence go by.

KATE
Sawyer, for what it's worth. I'm sorry. I shouldn't have convinced you to come back.

SAWYER remains SILENT. He couldn't care less.

KATE (CONT'D)
But I was only doing what I thought was right. So was Jack...
(beat)
...And so was Juliet...

Suddenly, SAWYER springs to life.

SAWYER
Don't you dare talk about *her*!
Not after what you've done.

An intense BEAT goes by.

KATE
My point is that none of us set out on this knowing what would happen... Especially Jack.

A long silence follows.

SAWYER
Do you know where he is?

KATE
Who?

SAWYER
Jack.

KATE
Well I saw some tracks not that far away from here that looked like his.

SAWYER gets up.

SAWYER
Take me to him.

KATE now gets up, maintaining eye contact with SAWYER.

KATE
Sawyer, if I do, you have to
promise me you won't do anything
stupid.

SAWYER grabs KATE's arm.

SAWYER
If you're feeling so sorry for
me, you'll take me to Jack.

KATE brushes SAWYER away and looks at him FIERCELY. SAWYER
knows she'll take him to JACK.

SAWYER (CONT'D)
Ladies first...

After yet another tense BEAT of staring at each other, KATE
leads SAWYER away into the JUNGLE.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - MID AFTERNOON

BEN and JACK have been SLOWLY making their way through the
JUNGLE with SAYID for a few hours and the EXHAUSTION shows.

BEN
Let's rest here.

JACK nods in agreement. They carefully rest SAYID against a
TREE. JACK leans down to force some WATER into SAYID. While
doing this, his curiosity gets the better of him as he
breaks the silence.

JACK
When we were talking earlier...
What exactly did you mean by
saying I had a 'destiny'?

BEN
I suppose you are referring to
the 'evil' I spoke of.

BEN crouches down next to JACK and SAYID.

BEN (CONT'D)
Well Jack, this is going to sound
confusing, but not even I'm
completely sure by what I
meant...
(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

(slowly)

Things have definitely changed here.

(Beat)

I believe...I believe I may have made a mistake.

JACK

(confused)

What do you mean?

BEN

Believe me, I don't know where I would start.

(Beat)

...But things will become clearer in time - for both of us.

BEN takes a DRINK of WATER and then looks at SAYID.

BEN (CONT'D)

We should go. I don't think we have an abundance of time.

JACK FROWNS, finally giving in to reality.

JACK

(crushed)

It's too late...

(beat)

He is going to die, and it's going to be slow and painful.

As JACK says this, he begins to BREAK DOWN emotionally. BEN looks as RESOLVED as ever... They have to get to the Barracks.

BEN

The Barracks aren't that far away from here at all now, Jack. We have to get him there at the very least.

BEN gets up and JACK follows, more out of loyalty and hope for SAYID. They pick up him up as we...

FADE TO:

EXT. BARRACKS - AFTERNOON (**FLASHBACK**)

A YOUNG BEN walks through the BARRACKS casually. It is FOUR DAYS since THE INCIDENT He's back after his short stay with the 'HOSTILES'. The BARRACKS is unusually quiet. There is nowhere near the level of activity going around that BEN is used to. He can see some people over by the FAR SIDE of the BARRACKS they're only a few. Where is everyone? BEN decides to head straight HOME...

INT. BEN AND ROGER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

BEN slowly sneaks into his house. He immediately notices his FATHER, ROGER, crashed out on the COUCH. BEN stands still for a moment, as if not knowing what to do. Eventually he decides to wake his father. Moving slowly towards the COUCH. He gently shakes ROGER by the SHOULDER.

BEN
(whispering)
Hey...

ROGER GRUMBLES and MOANS. BEN tries again, still softly.

BEN (CONT'D)
Hey Dad, it's me...

ROGER reluctantly stirs awake and opens his eyes. It takes a moment for him to realize exactly what is in front of him. His SON, alive and well.

When he does, he immediately jumps up and BEAR HUGS BEN

ROGER
I can't believe it...

ROGER finally lets go of BEN.

ROGER (CONT'D)
I thought... I thought I'd lost
you.

ROGER hugs BEN again, this time not nearly as long as the first.

ROGER (CONT'D)
Those bastards take you away and
then Horace, Stu, Dr. Chang...
Everyone, they all couldn't care
less about what happened to you
after the incident.

BEN realizes this may be an opportunity to find out information for RICHARD. BEN knows he has to be careful.

BEN
(curiously)
...The Incident?

ROGER
Yeah, yeah, they're all down at
the Swan or somethin'... I dunno,
it's not important.
What's important is you're back
and you're okay.
(Beat)
(MORE)

ROGER (CONT'D)
...They didn't do anything to
you, did they?

BEN
(overly defensive)
No.

BEN realizes his mistake as ROGER looks at him oddly...

BEN (CONT'D)
I... I don't remember much.
(Beat)
But I ran away when that
explosion happened,

ROGER
Well, you're safe now.

ROGER hugs BEN, again. BEN looks for an excuse to get out of there, his MIND fixed solely on the task RICHARD gave him.

BEN
Is it alright if I get some
sleep? I'm kinda tired.

ROGER
Sure, sure kid. When you wake up,
I'll make you a nice dinner or
something special like that.

BEN smiles at his FATHER, appreciating his efforts. He heads to his room.

CUT TO:

EXT. BARRACKS - NIGHT - HOURS LATER

BEN walks STEALTHILY through the BARRACKS. His bag slung over his SHOULDER, he seems ready for a bit of a TREK. He heads towards HORACE's house. The fact that barely anyone seems to be around makes things easier for BEN. When he eventually reaches the DOORWAY to the HOUSE, he pulls out a set of KEYS. His fathers. QUIETLY, he unlocks and opens the door and sneaks in...

INT. HORACE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

BEN's eyes adjust quickly to the darkness. He notices a LIGHT BEAMING from UPSTAIRS. Luckily, HORACE's STUDY was DOWNSTAIRS. BEN is as QUIET as a MOUSE. One wrong move and this could all go very wrong...

BEN enters the STUDY. It's a SMALL ROOM, but still rather MESSY.

PAPERWORK all over the TABLE, some HALF-EMPTY GLASSES of WHISKY, BLINDS closed and a DUSTY BOOKCASE at the back of the room. BEN heads to the DESK in hope that he can find what he needs.

He grabs a TORCH from his BAG and SEARCHES through the PAPERWORK. Nothing important. He tries to OPEN a DRAWER but it's locked. He tries the next DRAWER.

Success! BEN opens it to reveal numerous SUSPENSION FILES. BEN SCROLL THROUGH the VARIOUS FILES, if BEN paid attention, he would realize that there is far more valuable information here than what he thinks.

He finds it. A FILE with "The SWAN" scribbled untidily on it. He OPENS it and finds a MAP detailing it's location. He stuffs the FILE into his bag and closes the drawer when...

WAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHH!!

ETHAN. CRYING. BEN crouches down in HORROR. DOOMED if he is caught. After pulling himself together, he quickly pulls out the chair and hides under HORACE'S DESK.

Each SECOND feels like a MINUTE. The CAMERA stays CLOSE on BEN as he hears FOOTSTEPS and ETHAN seems to get LOUDER and LOUDER...

The FOOTSTEPS stop...

VOICE (O.S.)

Hmm, I don't remember this being open.

BEN recognizes the VOICE to be that of AMY. BEN guesses she's holding ETHAN, who is still CRYING, but not as LOUDLY as before. The CAMERA pans UP from BEN under the TABLE to reveal AMY entering the room.

FLICK. She TURNS ON the LIGHTS.

AMY

Let's see if mommy can find a nice story to read to you.

She HEADS towards the BOOKCASE, right BEHIND the TABLE. The CAMERA pans back down on BEN. TERRIFIED. A P.O.V. SHOT reveals AMY'S legs. Not even 5 FEET AWAY

AMY (CONT'D)

Ahh.. This is a good one.

ETHAN still crying away. AMY'S legs start to move away again...

FLICK. LIGHTS OFF... BEN gives a SIGH OF RELIEF.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - HOURS LATER

BEN treks through the JUNGLE, MAP in one hand, TORCH in the other. Off in the distance, the GRINDING sound of MACHINERY can be heard. BEN knows he is CLOSE.

Eventually, BEN finds himself on a LEDGE overlooking the SWAN SITE. He is quite SHOCKED by what he sees.

A GIANT CRATER created by quite some FORCE that goes MILES into the GROUND. On the SIDE he is CLOSEST too lies what seems to be an ENDLESS PIT. Several WORKERS are GATHERED AROUND it. He notices SEVERAL of the DHARMA MEMBERS on the WORKSITE. He can see RADZISNKY, HORACE and PIERRE CHANG talking amongst themselves not that far away from his current position.

BEN slowly and quietly moves down, he is close to their position when a LOUDSPEAKER suddenly booms; "SIX MINUTES UNTIL ENERGY RELEASE"

BEN moves up against a TREE to HIDE urgently. What was *that?!*

A few BEATS go by, he is BREATHING HEAVILY. BEN realizes he is close enough to just listen in on the conversation between RADZINSKY, HORACE AND DR. CHANG.

HORACE

...Well I'm sorry Stu, but the cement isn't going to get here until next week.

RADZINSKY

Don't you get it? We need it now!
We need to seal this thing off
and build the Swan as soon as
possible.

The LOUDSPEAKER booms again; FIVE MINUTES UNTIL ENERGY RELEASE.

RADZINSKY (CONT'D)

(frustrated, to CHANG)

...And I still don't understand
why we have to do this thing
every damn 108 minutes!

DR. CHANG

Because my calculations show that
108 minutes is when the
electromagnetism is at an
acceptable level to release. How
many times must I tell you?

A COUPLE of BEATS go by as RADZINSKY and DR. CHANG are growing increasingly angry with each other.

HORACE

Okay, okay, let's calm down gentlemen. Now. We nee-

"4 MINUTES UNTIL ENERGY RELEASE - ALL NON-ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL EVACUATE NOW."

An ALARM starts BEEPING. BEN sees the GROUP walking at a BRISK pace AWAY from the site. BEN decides it would be better if he left too as we...

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - LATE AFTERNOON

A CLOSE-UP REVEALS a familiar GUITAR CASE, It SHAKES as if it has been HIT by SOMETHING. As the CAMERA TRACKS OUT, we see that it is stuck in a TREE. On the GROUND looking UP stands HURLEY and MILES. The TREE isn't the tallest ever, but tall enough for either HURLEY or MILES.

MILES

Well that didn't work.

HURLEY

No dude, I just didn't hit the right spot.

HURLEY picks up another ROCK and THROWS it. The GUITAR CASE shifts again, but not enough to fall.

MILES

Yup, that worked...

(Beat)

Here, watch.

MILES picks up a LARGE STONE and is about to throw it when MOVEMENT is heard from the BUSHES behind them. HURLEY starts stepping back, as the MOVEMENT gets closer and closer, MILES makes out the IDENTITY of who it is...

MILES (CONT'D)

Jin?

Out walks JIN.

JIN

Hello Miles, Hurley.

HURLEY rushes up and hugs JIN.

HURLEY

Jin!! I'm so glad you made it! We thought we might have been the only ones!!

MILES

(correcting HURLEY)

You thought we might be the only ones.

HURLEY

Yeah... well...

(beat, points to CASE)

We're just trying to get that down.

JIN looks up for a MOMENT and then heads up towards the TREE and springs himself UP.

JIN

Ready to catch?

JIN shakes the branch which the CASE is stuck in and it comes loose. HURLEY catches the CASE roughly. HURLEY looks at the CASE for a SECOND and back up at JIN who is making his way down.

HURLEY

Seriously dude, you're awesome.

JIN

So now what?

HURLEY thinks for a MOMENT, but MILES has already made up his mind.

MILES

Now, we head back to the Barracks.

HURLEY

Wait... what?

I don't think this a great idea considering we just kinda killed a whole bunch of DHARMA people..

MILES

Yeah well, me and Jin here weren't exactly on DHARMA's most wanted list before so hopefully word hasn't travelled too fast.

HURLEY

What about Jack and Sawyer and Kate? They'd probably go to the beach

MILES

Look, I don't know what the hell just happened, but I do know that our best bet at finding out is at the Barracks.

(Beat)

So, if you want to come with me, fine. If you don't, even better! Just make up your mind.

MILES storms ahead. HURLEY looks to JIN who nods and they begin following. They remain a few paces behind MILES.

JIN

How did the case survive the bomb?

HURLEY

I don't know... I think it's magic or cursed or something... That or it's made of some kind of super-metal, I guess.

MILES

(not looking back)

I think the operative question is how did we survive the bomb.

We FOCUS on HURLEY and JIN contemplating this as we...

CUT TO:

EXT. BARRACKS - DUSK/EARLY EVENING

BEN and JACK still carrying an UNCONSCIOUS SAYID finally make it to THE BARRACKS.

BEN

Stop here.

They stop by a BENCH in front of BEN'S HOUSE. BEN goes to REST SAYID against the BENCH and JACK follows.

BEN (CONT'D)

Now Jack, if you enter my house, you'll find a man who can save Sayid.

BEN searches for his next words - and what he should and shouldn't tell JACK.

BEN (CONT'D)

The man in my house is not who he appears to be...
...And he certainly is not to be trusted.

JACK
Yet he can save Sayid?

BEN
I believe so, yes.

There is a BEAT of AWKWARD SILENCE.

BEN (CONT'D)
Well, what are you waiting for?

JACK is growing more and more DOUBTFUL

JACK
Why am I going in alone?

BEN
...Because you have faith, Jack.

Looking at SAYID, JACK realizes what must be done.

JACK
I'll be back soon.

JACK walks off towards the HOUSE.

FADE TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY - 1977 (**FLASHBACK**)

A YOUNG BEN walks through the JUNGLE. He is SLOWLY making his way to his RENDEZVOUS with RICHARD. He finds the spot easily enough but is SHOCKED to find RICHARD waiting there for him.

RICHARD
(smiling)
Surprised to see me?

BEN lets out a bit of a FORCED LAUGH, he wants to get down to business.

BEN
Here's some information I found
in Horace's desk.

BEN hands over the FILE he stole. RICHARD begins SCROLLING through it. BEN continues talking.

BEN (CONT'D)
I think the explosion had
something to do with
electromagnetism or something...

RICHARD is listening, but is truly surprised by the files' contents.

BEN (CONT'D)
 I'm pretty sure that they're
 releasing some energy gradually
 so it doesn't happen again.

RICHARD makes his way to the end of the FILE.

RICHARD
 Ben, you have given us more than
 enough... Thank you.

RICHARD turns around and begins to walk away.

BEN
 Wait!

RICHARD stops

BEN (CONT'D)
 You said my patience would be
 rewarded...

RICHARD
 And it will be Ben
 (beat)
 You're just not ready yet

BEN
 How do you know? *I'm ready.*

RICHARD
 I know because Jacob told me so.

BEN
 Jacob? Who's Jacob?

BEN is growing FRUSTRATED. RICHARD ponders what to say next.

RICHARD
 Jacob is our leader Ben, our *true*
 leader... And he's a very wise
 man. If he doesn't think you're
 ready, you're not. Trust me, Ben.

BEN calms down a bit. RICHARD's words begin to have a certain GRAVITY to BEN.

RICHARD (CONT'D)
 One day, you'll meet him and you
 will understand what I mean, I'm
 sure of it...
 (beat, calmly)
 ...But you're just going to have
 to wait just a little bit longer,
 okay?

BEN reluctantly accepts this. He NODS and we...

FADE TO:

EXY. BARRACKS - DUSK/EARLY EVENING

BEN is sitting alone with SAYID. The CAMERA ZOOMS OUT to reveal SAWYER and KATE arriving. They CROUCH behind some BUSHES. They can just see JACK heading off into BEN's house but he is quickly gone. BEN is just sitting there. SAWYER's had enough.

SAWYER

Alright, you just wait here a second.

SAWYER storms off towards BEN STEALTHILY. He gets there within a matter of SECONDS. SAWYER taps BEN on the SHOULDER. BEN is so immersed in THOUGHT, it takes him a moment or two to TURN AROUND.

SAWYER (CONT'D)

Long time...

THUD!!

SAWYER punches BEN square in the FACE, knocking him out cold in the process. SAWYER searches BEN. SAWYER pulls out BEN's GUN and checks that it's LOADED. PERFECT

KATE quickly rushes over, noticing SAYID. SAWYER couldn't care less at the moment. The CAMERA remains tight on KATE looking over SAYID.

KATE

He's too far out... he's lost too much blood.

NO REPLY. KATE turns around to see SAWYER over halfway to BEN'S HOUSE.

KATE (CONT'D)

(yelling)

Sawyer!! No!!!

CAMERA tracks SAWYER walking onto the doorsteps...

CRACK!!

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

SAWYER KICKS the DOOR WIDE OPEN, immediately grabbing JACK's ATTENTION. SAWYER holds his gun straight up at JACK. SAWYER is ENRAGED like never before.

SAWYER

Surprised to see me, you son of a bitch?!

JACK

(calmly)

Sawyer, put the gun down. We can tal-

SAWYER

Talk!? Funny, I remember asking you to listen to me not that long ago..

(beat)

Look where we've ended up... So no Jack, I'm done talkin'.

CLICK. SAWYER cocks the PISTOL. a CLOSE UP reveals his FINGER on the TRIGGER about to PULL when...

VOICE

Put down the gun, James.

It comes from the STAIRCASE. Both SAWYER and JACK immediately look up to who they think is...

JOHN LOCKE.

JACK and SAWYER are both in COMPLETE SHOCK, A WIDE SHOT reveals SAWYER focussed on LOCKE, yet still pointing his GUN at JACK, who is FLOORED by what he is seeing. JACOB's ENEMY smiles as he makes his way down the staircase. The CAMERA closes in on his GRIM SMILE...

LOCKE

We need to talk.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING

In a HOSPITAL BED lies a WAKING DESMOND HUME. The CAMERA sits Behind a CHAIR where a mysterious FIGURE is looking over DESMOND. After WAKING fully, DESMOND immediately notices the man.

DESMOND

I'm sorry... do I know you?

The MAN leans FORWARD - the CAMERA switches perspective to REVEAL JACOB!

JACOB

No, I don't believe we've met...

JACOB gets out of his CHAIR and moves over to DESMOND. He offers DESMOND his hand. DESMOND takes it and they SHAKE.

JACOB (CONT'D)
My name is Jacob.
(Beat)
And I need your help.

DESMOND laughs, a bit CONFUSED. JACOB sits back down.

DESMOND
I'm sorry brother, but we just met. I don't know what I coul-

JACOB
You need to do come back to the island, Desmond.

DESMOND sits up, FURIOUS when someone opens the DOOR.

PENNY and CHARLIE.

DESMOND looks back at the CHAIR - NOTHING.

PENNY
Des, you look upset, what's wrong?

PENNY embraces DESMOND whose attention is taken away from the CHAIR and kisses PENNY.

DESMOND
Nothing...

DESMOND looks back at the CHAIR. Utterly CONFUSED... *Was that real!?*

DESMOND (CONT'D)
Nothing at all...

SMASH CUT TO:

LOST

AUTHOR'S NOTES

- JACK wakes up Pilot/316 style
- RICHARD seeing the nuclear explosion is why he assumes that he saw the Oceanic survivors die.
- RICHARD's task for BEN is more of a test to see how loyal and willing BEN is to help THE OTHERS. (After being healed)
- DHARMA periodically releasing the energy post-incident was essentially their way of 'pushing the button' before the Swan was built.
- The alarm that sounds when there's four minutes to energy release would be the same alarm that sounds at the hatch with four minutes to press the button.
- The file BEN grabs for RICHARD obviously had a lot more information than BEN realized
- JACK doubts BEN when he wants him to enter his house alone, but if its there's a chance to save SAYID (which JACK cant do) he'll take it.