

"Still Lost" - The *Virtual* 7th Season

LOST

"Revision"

Episode 7.01

by
Tony Eichberger

Tony Eichberger
(818) 736-7126
Tony.Robert.Eichberger@gmail.com

LOST
"Revision"

TEASER

AN EYE OPENS

INT. HOTEL - BATHROOM - NIGHT - **FLASH SIDEWAYS (2020)**

A TEENAGE GUY -- Caucasian, 15, with a big bob of curly, blond hair -- gazes at his reflection in the mirror. He wears nothing but a towel around his waist.

An MP3 PLAYER rests by a soap dish near the sink. His hand plugs the chord into the headphone jack, then hits the screen of the MP3 player. His finger pushes the "PLAY" icon.

The All-American Rejects' "GIVES YOU HELL" begins to BLARE from his device. The teenager turns on the faucet inside the shower stall.

One hand juts out from behind the shower door, hangs the plain white towel on a towel rack.

He stares up at the showerhead as water cascades down upon him. Slathers handfuls of shampoo into his hair.

MINUTES LATER

The teenager's bare feet step out of the shower onto a bath matt.

BACK AT THE SINK

His music continues to PLAY as he uses an electric razor to shave.

The guy's arms and chest contort as he does stretches. His hair is wet, matted down. He begins to perform karate moves.

A sudden KNOCK on the door, followed by a FEMALE VOICE.

VOICE
Sweetie-fins?

The teenage guy rolls his eyes, wraps the towel around his waist. He speaks with a British accent.

TEEN GUY
Aw, Mum!

VOICE

Hurry it up! We don't want to be late.

His hand clicks off the MP3 player.

The adolescent guy opens the door, revealing...

PENNY WIDMORE, seemingly at the age of 46, dressed in a beautiful red evening gown. She adjusts an earring on one of her lobes.

PENNY

I swear, Charlie, you take as long as I used to, at your age.

OLDER CHARLIE

I want to look pretty for Grandpa.

PENNY

Funny man. Put on your trousers and suit.

They trade playful faces, as Charlie closes the door.

FIVE MINUTES LATER

Charlie emerges from the bathroom, adorned in a spiffy suit and tie along with elegant slacks. He walks farther into the hotel suite.

OLDER CHARLIE

There. Your penguin is ready. Happy?

PENNY

Oh, stop. You look like a million quid.

OLDER CHARLIE

What do you think, Dad?

DESMOND HUME, seemingly at the age of 49, lies across a king-size bed, also dressed in a suit and slacks. He clutches a bottle of MacCutcheon whiskey in one hand.

DESMOND

You look like a trillion quid.

Penny swats her husband on the leg, as a phone RINGS.

PENNY

You're going to wrinkle them, Des.

She grabs her cell phone from the foot of the bed. In one corner, the date reads "31/12/2020." Her caller ID reads: "GEORGE MINKOWSKI" and she brings the phone to her ear.

PENNY (CONT'D)

We're on our way down, George.

MINKOWSKI (V.O.)

What's the hold up? He's waiting for you.

PENNY

(looks at Charlie)

Sweetie-fins needed some extra time in the loo.

OLDER CHARLIE

Mum!

MINKOWSKI (V.O.)

I just don't want him in a bad mood. Try to be here in ten.

PENNY

Will do.

She hangs up the phone. From where he lies on the bed...

DESMOND

Take it easy on the boy, Penny. He wants to look nice for the birds.

He gives Charlie a thumbs-up, without eye contact.

DESMOND (CONT'D)

I'm proud of you, Charlie. And I'm not just saying that because I want you to take over my soddin' conglomerate someday.

OLDER CHARLIE

Dad, you're sure you're up to going? You look wrecked.

DESMOND

Your gramps would never let me live it down if I missed his big night.

PENNY

It's Charlie's big night, too.

OLDER CHARLIE

Dad, you're positive -- ?

DESMOND

Aye. I just had a bad dream. I was on this island -- a bunch of people with guns were killing each other. No big deal.

PENNY

You've been having a lot of those kinds of dreams lately, darling.

DESMOND

Just a sign of getting older.

Desmond forces himself to sit upright, slams down another swig of whiskey.

DESMOND (CONT'D)

Let's get on with this.

PENNY

It's important to him, Des.

DESMOND

Yet, you were never important enough for him to claim as his own. Not until his missus made him come clean.

Penny glares at Desmond, helps him stand on both feet.

PENNY

He made a mistake, Desmond.

DESMOND

Of course. And we're just supposed to let it go, eh?

(to Charlie)

People always have an excuse for your gramps, Charlie. He's special. He's a new year's baby.

PENNY

Desmond, that's enough.

DESMOND

No reproach for the great Charlie Widmore. Enslaver of fools, holder of wisdom, king of the flippin' world -- !

OLDER CHARLIE

Dad, think fast!

Desmond turns, just in time to see...

A FLASH. Charlie, behind a digital camera, has just snapped a candid photo of his parents together.

As Desmond blinks, a WHITE FLASH fills his line of vision...

INT. THE SOURCE - THE ISLAND - **FLASHBACK (2007)**

Desmond, now at the age of 36, awakens to find himself knee-deep in the Source's pool of water. His hands begin to pull the cork stone. He hesitates, ponders aloud:

DESMOND

But I don't want to go back. Not
to that life.

He holds up his hands, steps away from the cork. But Desmond reconsiders, and slowly paces back toward the stone -- and he cautiously re-grips the cork's surface. Through his mind:

A SERIES OF FLASHES

In the old DHARMA barracks, BENJAMIN LINUS kneels beside the deceased HORACE GOODSPEED -- reaching down to close Horace's eye...

Underneath a tent, BOONE CARLYLE takes his final gasps of breath...

Outside the Flame station, BEA KLUGH bulges her eyes out as she's shot squarely in the chest...

HUGO "HURLEY" REYES drives a DHARMA van through the beach camp -- running over RYAN PRYCE...

As the Looking Glass Station floods, CHARLIE PACE holds his hand up to Desmond through the control room window, revealing the words "NOT PENNY'S BOAT"...

NAOMI DORRIT dies on the ground, as KATE AUSTEN kneels from a few feet away under the jungle's cover of darkness...

In New Otherton, ALEX ROUSSEAU falls to the ground, as MARTIN KEAMY executes her in the back of the head...

Aboard the Kahana freighter, MICHAEL DAWSON bulges his eyes as he watches the bomb explode...

MATTHEW ABADDON spurts blood as his upper body collides with a vehicle's windshield...

In his hotel room, JOHN LOCKE gags as Ben strangles him with a piece of rope...

SERIES OF FLASHES (CONT'D)

Against the jungle floor, DANIEL FARADAY chokes out words of horror -- realizing his own mother has just killed him...

JULIET BURKE bangs a rock against the remains of the Jughead bomb, wincing as she scrounges up every bit of her remaining strength...

On Widmore's submarine, SAYID JARRAH jumps into the airlock, just the bomb he carries explodes...

Submerged beneath the ocean, the interlinked hands of JIN-SOO KWON and SUN-HWA KWON separate, their wedding rings still intact...

In Ben's old barracks home, CHARLES WIDMORE drops dead, as Ben shoots him nearly at point blank range...

JACK SHEPHERD lies flat on his back in the bamboo field, VINCENT at his side, as Jack's eye proceeds to close...

RESUME - DESMOND IN THE SOURCE

Desmond takes a deep breath -- then repositions his hands against the cork stone, tentative.

DESMOND

It had to happen. It all had to happen.

He rotates the cork, hefts it out of its socket.

DESMOND (CONT'D)

If I don't do it, they'll never see me again. I'll never see them again.

As he lifts out the cork, the water begins to drain. The chamber GOES DARK. Then, a RED VOLCANIC GLOW bursts from the empty slot. The ground begins to SHAKE.

DESMOND (CONT'D)

I'll do it all over again, you hear.

(whispers)

Whatever it takes to save them...

Desmond loses his balance, tumbles to the ground -- as he slips and slides, the weary time traveler hits his head against a rock, and another WHITE LIGHT blinds him...

EXT. BEACH - DAY - **FLASH FORWARD (2012)**

Desmond's EYE opens.

He lies flat on his back atop a sandbar. Sits bolt upright, spits out a mouthful of seawater. Looks down at his clothing -- he wears a collared beige jacket and matching slacks.

DESMOND

Where am -- ?

Still groggy, he takes in his surroundings. A lush, mountainous landscape hugs the beach. Waves lap against the sand, wash over Desmond's shoes. He realizes, dejected:

DESMOND (CONT'D)

I'm back.

FOOTSTEPS approach Desmond, as A SHADOW eclipses him. He looks up, sees:

A WOMAN, Latina, 36, long dark hair, dressed in brown threads. She carries a rifle in her arms, positions it. The woman wears a red-beaded necklace around her neck.

ARMED WOMAN

We've been waiting for you,
Desmond.

She angles the gun at Desmond, cocks it.

Desmond stares back at her -- fearless, and downright pissed.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. BEACH - SANDBAR - DAY - 2012 - CONTINUED

Desmond maintains his defiant gaze at the armed woman -- she doesn't back down, either.

DESMOND

Where are they? Where's my wife
and son? Penny and Charlie!

ARMED WOMAN

They should be okay -- as will you,
if you come with us.

DESMOND

A fine way to gain my trust, eh?
Threaten me with a gun!

ARMED WOMAN

It's only a last resort.

DESMOND

A last resort for what?

She remains silent. Desmond notices another person walk up next to her. A MAN -- Caucasian, early-sixties, heavysset, bearded, with a perpetual squint. It's "MR. SQUINTY" -- one of the former Tailies who'd joined The Others.

Desmond reacts to the sight of him, with familiarity.

DESMOND (CONT'D)

You.

SQUINTY

Welcome back, Desmond.
(to the woman)
Don't hurt him, Roxanna.

ROXANNA

I know what our orders are, Erwin.
We deliver him intact.

DESMOND

Deliver me? Deliver me to who?
Who are you working for?

ERWIN

There's a new man in charge.

DESMOND

Who?

ROXANNA

You will find that out in due time.

DESMOND

No! No way in bloody hell! I'm
not going anywhere with you people
until you tell me -- !

Roxanna knocks Desmond out against the back of the head. He
tumbles to the ground.

DESMOND'S P.O.V.

Erwin and Roxanna become BLURRY, and he soon only can see
their legs. As his vision continues to become OBSCURED --
Roxanna kneels down, her midsection looming above his head.

A FLASH:

Roxanna falls to the ground, blood dripping from her mouth.

RESUME DESMOND - ON THE GROUND

Desmond stares up at Roxanna, whispers as he falls
unconscious:

DESMOND (CONT'D)

You're in danger...

Desmond's head falls to one side -- both of his eyes close as
another WHITE LIGHT erupts...

INT. BALLROOM - LONDON - NIGHT - **FLASH SIDEWAYS (2020)**

Light from a CHANDELIER shines down upon Desmond, who squints
-- then fully reopens his eyes.

VOICE

Desmond!

CHARLES WIDMORE, seemingly at the age of 83, stands there in
a tuxedo. He looks at Desmond, impatient.

WIDMORE

Your son is about to accept his
award. Don't you think his father
should be there for him?

Widmore leaves Desmond speechless -- he walks over to his
wife, ELOISE WIDMORE, also seemingly at the age of 83,
wearing a sparkly blue cocktail dress. He links his arm with
hers; they stroll to a stage area where chairs are assembled.

Over her shoulder, Eloise locks eyes with Desmond -- her stare firm and disapproving. Desmond tightens his lips.

STAGE AREA - HALF AN HOUR LATER

GEORGE MINKOWSKI, seemingly at the age of 57, wearing a tux of his own, stands at the podium. Desmond and Penny both sit in the front row, their son Charlie sandwiched between them.

Charles and Eloise Widmore sit on Penny's other side, with another ELDERLY WOMAN -- wearing a green evening gown -- seated between Charles Widmore and Penny.

Minkowski addresses the crowd:

MINKOWSKI

I've been Charles Widmore's senior chauffeur for more than two decades, and in that time I'd be hard-pressed to find a more honorable, forthright, upstanding gentleman of his caliber.

DESMOND

Bollocks.

Penny elbows Desmond, as Minkowski continues his intro.

MINKOWSKI

But if there's one person in this life who's Mr. Widmore's pride and joy, it's his only grandson, Charles. A charismatic, selfless young man, who, four months ago, saved the life of a tourist to our great island.

Widmore rises from his seat, gives Minkowski a Look.

MINKOWSKI (CONT'D)

But... I'm sure he can tell you about that much better than I. So let's hear it for our guest of honor, iconic entrepreneur and devoted grandfather, Charles Widmore.

Everyone APPLAUDS as Widmore ascends the stage. Desmond claps, halfheartedly. Widmore prods Minkowski away from the podium, relishes the spotlight for himself.

WIDMORE

Sixteen years ago I discovered I had a daughter -- a lovely young lady named Penelope. Little did I know that, barely one year later, she would bring a little boy into this world who will truly, truly make it a better place for all of us. I am so confident in this assertion that, due to his act of heroism last summer, I insisted he be honored alongside of me at my eighty-fourth birthday celebration this New Year's Eve.

He gestures for Charlie from the stage. Charlie rises and approaches, shyly.

WIDMORE (CONT'D)

Please give your accolades to my dearest grandson, Charles Donovan Hume.

The audience APPLAUDS as Charlie joins his grandfather on-stage.

WIDMORE (CONT'D)

He goes by "Charlie," to avoid confusion. And I couldn't be more humbled that his parents named him after me.

Desmond rolls his eyes.

WIDMORE (CONT'D)

On August Twenty-Third of this past year, an American family was vacationing at Oxford. Their eight-year-old daughter, one Annie Wilder, lost her balance and fell into the River Thames. Charlie and some of his mates were enjoying a picnic lunch along the river bank when they witnessed this tragedy. Young Annie didn't know how to swim, but within seconds my grandson plunged into the depths of those waters and saved that poor child's life. Her family, as you can imagine, is extremely grateful to Charlie -- and I am extremely proud of his good-hearted instincts.

Charlie smiles at his parents from the stage, and they return it. Minkowski hands off an engraved swan-shaped statuette to Widmore, who presents it to his grandson.

WIDMORE (CONT'D)

Charlie Hume, on behalf of the Royal Family, our Prime Minister, and Britain's Fifty-Seventh Parliament, I am pleased to bestow upon you the Diamond Swan of Courage.

Charlie accepts the award from Widmore, who slaps his grandson on the back.

BALLROOM - HALF AN HOUR LATER

Desmond, Penny, and Charlie socialize with PARTY GUESTS. Desmond and Penny hold champagne goblets, while Charlie drinks soda from a fancy glass. The elderly woman in the green dress approaches them, tousles Charlie's hair.

ELDERLY WOMAN

There's our sweetie-fins.

OLDER CHARLIE

Grandmum!

PENNY

He's getting too old for that nickname, Mum.

Penny's mother smiles at her daughter. Charles and Eloise Widmore join them -- making a beeline to Charlie.

WIDMORE

There he is.

He turns to acknowledge Penny's mother, neutral.

WIDMORE (CONT'D)

Bella.

BELLA

Charles.

Bella trades hostile gazes with Eloise, then smiles back down at their mutual grandson.

BELLA (CONT'D)

I'm sure Charlie has many important people to meet.

WIDMORE

He most certainly does. In fact,
I'd like to introduce him to a few
of my associates right now.

BELLA

(to Charlie)

Come find me later, darling. I
have a special gift for you.

OLDER CHARLIE

Of course, Grandmum.

Bella walks away, as Widmore escorts Charlie toward another crowd of people.

PENNY

I'm going to freshen my drink.
Desmond?

DESMOND

I'm fine, dear.

PENNY

That's a first.

Penny heads toward the champagne tower -- leaving Desmond and Eloise alone together. Desmond tries to smile at Eloise, who merely scowls at him.

DESMOND

Is something bothering you, Eloise?

ELOISE

You're not supposed to be here.

DESMOND

I beg your pardon?

ELOISE

Neither you nor Penny. You both
must let your son find his own way.

DESMOND

I haven't the foggiest idea what
you're --

ELOISE

You know exactly what I mean,
Desmond David Hume.

She leans in, murmurs:

ELOISE (CONT'D)

It's high time for you to move on.

Eloise holds her intense raccoon eyes on him. An awkward lull. Then, she leaves Desmond's personal space -- just as Penny returns with her drink.

PENNY

Is Ellie okay? She seems quite bothered.

DESMOND

You know her... always showing up in places she shouldn't.

(beat)

I'm concerned about Charlie.

PENNY

Why's that?

DESMOND

I think this was a bad idea... letting him accept the award.

PENNY

He did a good thing, Desmond.

DESMOND

Your father's manipulating him. Trying to get into Charlie's good graces.

PENNY

He has a right to know his grandson.

DESMOND

Why do you constantly make excuses for him? You know what he's going to do -- he'll try to groom Charlie, to take over for him. Teach him his ways.

(beat)

Do you really want Charlie to end up like your father?

Penny frowns, sips her beverage. Bella rejoins them, grabs Desmond and Penny each by the arm.

BELLA

(to Penny)

Put down your drink, Penelope.

(to both of them)

We need you for pictures.

She pulls them away, over to:

THE BASE OF THE STAGE AREA

Widmore has one arm around Charlie, with Eloise standing at her husband's side. Bella positions herself on Charlie's other side -- and Penny stands next to Bella.

Minkowski holds up Charlie's digital camera.

MINKOWSKI

Okay, you folks scoot in a little closer. Come on, show each other some love...

(gestures)

Desmond, stand behind your in-laws so we can get you in the shot.

Desmond takes another swig from his champagne goblet, places himself between Widmore's and Eloise's shoulders. As he lowers his glass, it brushes against his breast pocket -- and Desmond's corsage falls to the floor.

MINKOWSKI (CONT'D)

Okay -- big, big smiles...

(gazes)

Oh, Desmond, you dropped your flower...

Desmond kneels to pick it up. As he begins to move back into a standing position...

Eloise elbows him in the face -- "accidentally on purpose."

ELOISE

Oh, goodness... I'm terribly sorry!

Desmond tumbles to the floor, blood gushing from his nostrils.

His champagne glass SMASHES against the floor... into hundreds of tiny shards as the remaining liquid splatters outward.

OLDER CHARLIE (O.S.)

Dad!

PENNY (O.S.)

Desmond! Desmond!

Everyone gathers around Desmond, who lies flat on the floor.

Desmond's eyes close as he drifts unconscious...

And yet another WHITE LIGHT dominates his sight.

EXT. JUNGLE - OUTSIDE OF THE SOURCE - DAY - **FLASHBACK (2007)**

Desmond opens both eyes, still groggy.

HURLEY (O.S.)
Desmond? Desmond?

Desmond struggles to sit up. HUGO "HURLEY" REYES -- still at the age of 29, wearing an oversized red T-shirt -- kneels beside him. He holds up two of his fingers in a peace sign.

HURLEY (CONT'D)
How many fingers, Des?

Desmond looks around, adjusts to the flash.

DESMOND
I'm back on the island?

HURLEY
Dude, you never left.

DESMOND
How did I get here?

HURLEY
Um, on a submarine... Charles Widmore and his people kidnapped you. They brought you here to, like, work your magic.

Desmond looks straight at Hurley, profound.

DESMOND
I'm not supposed to be here.

HURLEY
Yeah, I know. We're going to get you back to Penny and your son -- Charlie.

DESMOND
"We?" Who's "we"...?

He stops short, sees BENJAMIN LINUS -- still at the age of 43, wearing a light thistle collared shirt -- who stands several feet behind Hurley.

DESMOND (CONT'D)
You!

In a mad fit of rage, Desmond lunges at Ben -- tackles him to the ground.

HURLEY

Dude, stop!

Ben's eyes bulge out, desperate. He tries to resist, but Desmond manages to hold Ben down against the jungle floor.

Desmond raises his fist, ready to punch Ben's lights out.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. JUNGLE - OUTSIDE OF THE SOURCE - 2007 - CONTINUED

Desmond pins Ben to the ground, fist raised in mid-punch...

HURLEY

Dude, don't! It's cool! He's one of us now!

Desmond stops short, gives Hurley a look of disbelief.

DESMOND

"One of us?"

HURLEY

He helped us -- to stop the Man in Black.

DESMOND

The Man in Black... he's dead?

HURLEY

Like, wormfood, man.

Ben takes that moment to leap up, grips Desmond's wrists -- then thrusts Desmond to the ground. Towering over him...

BEN

Desmond, listen to me, please --

Desmond trips Ben, shoves him to the jungle floor. They wrestle, each trying to get the upper hand. Ben tries to talk sense into him, amid their brawl:

BEN (CONT'D)

Desmond, it's okay. Jack put Hugo in charge.

DESMOND

And what about you?

Desmond holds Ben in place. Ben looks at Hurley, who meets Desmond's gaze.

HURLEY

He's... sort of my right-hand man.

Desmond reacts... his eyes dart back toward Ben, whom he still holds with an iron grip.

DESMOND

He's manipulating you, brother.

HURLEY

No...

BEN

I'm not, I swear!

DESMOND

You're not touching Penny, or my son!

BEN

Nor do I want to. Just hear what I have to say, please!

Desmond looks deep into Ben's eyes, shaking.

BEN (CONT'D)

You're not supposed to be here, Desmond.

Desmond absorbs those words.

A FLASH:

Penny's face is practically frozen in fear, blood trickling from her mouth.

RESUME JUNGLE

Desmond slowly reaches down, once again squeezes Ben's collar with every remaining ounce of strength and rage.

DESMOND

Neither... are... you...!

Ben gags -- but abruptly reaches up, and almost blindly manages to poke Desmond in the eye.

Desmond howls, releases Ben -- who jumps to his feet, adrenaline rushing... and pummels Desmond's face with several consecutive punches. Enough to knock Desmond out cold.

Ben stands, composes himself.

Hurley stares at Ben, taken aback.

HURLEY

Dude...

They look down at Desmond, who lies unconscious atop the grass... nose and upper lip bleeding.

BEN

There was no other way, Hugo. He
couldn't be reasoned with.

HURLEY

So... what do we do now?

BEN

That's entirely up to you.

(beat)

But I would suggest we send him
home.

Hurley looks down at Desmond. Then, back up at Ben.

HOURS LATER

Hurley and Ben carry a still-unconscious Desmond over a hill.
They halt in their tracks, stare down upon a grassy knoll
beneath them.

GRASSY KNOLL

Next to a banyan tree, CINDY CHANDLER -- still at the age of
34, her hair still long and fluffy -- stands with ZACH and
EMMA. Zach appears to be approximately eleven-years-old,
while Emma appears slightly older than thirteen.

Cindy and the two children, still dressed in pirate-like
attire, appear weary and disheveled. Their eyes linger back
upon Hurley and Ben, suspicious.

BEN

Hello.

HURLEY

(to Cindy and the kids)

Guys... this is Desmond.

CINDY

The guy from the Swan hatch?

(clarifies)

Juliet told me about him.

EMMA

Why's he sleeping?

BEN

He isn't sleeping, Emma.
Unfortunately, we had to knock him
out.

CINDY

"We" meaning "you," right?

Zach gasps, his eyes closed. Cindy touches the boy's shoulders, protective.

CINDY (CONT'D)

Zach? What's wrong, sweetheart?

Zach opens his eyes. His voice drips with an uneasy somberness.

ZACH

You can't let him go.

HURLEY

Who? Desmond?

Zach nods.

CINDY

(to Zach)

What do you mean we can't -- ?

ZACH

If he leaves, he'll die.

BEN

Everyone dies sometime, Zach.

Cindy glares at Ben, shields the children from him.

CINDY

Don't talk to them.

Hurley lays Desmond's feet on the ground. He approaches Cindy and the children. She gazes at Hurley, confused. Hurley reaches out, touches Cindy on the elbow.

HURLEY

I want to get him back to his family. Will you help me, Cindy?

Cindy glances down at Zach's terrified expression. She looks back over at Hurley's kind eyes, heaves a sigh.

PALA FERRY DOCK - HOURS LATER (DUSK)

Hurley, Ben, and Cindy tote Desmond's body down the Pala Ferry dock, as Zach and Emma follow behind them. They approach...

THE ELIZABETH, docked in the bay.

CINDY

What's going to happen to us?

HURLEY

We'll figure that out. Do you know where everyone is?

CINDY

Scattered about, most likely. We haven't seen many others since the mortar attack.

BEN

The boat's here. Clearly, someone else survived.

VOICE

Sure did.

A SPOTLIGHT SHINES on them. From the Elizabeth's deck, Erwin -- five years younger -- looks down upon the new arrivals, cautious.

ERWIN

Cindy... what are they doing here?

CINDY

It's all right, Erwin. There's a new man in charge.

(a side-glance)

But not Mr. Linus, anymore.

HURLEY

(to Erwin)

Dude, I want to get him back to the mainland.

(beat)

You don't happen to know how to sail, do you?

ERWIN

Do I know how to sail?

(laughs)

I used to pilot a riverboat casino down the Mississippi.

HURLEY

Then this should be a breeze for you. If you're willing to do it.

Erwin smiles, releases a hearty chuckle.

ON THE DECK OF THE ELIZABETH - DAY (DAWN)

Desmond lies on a lounge chair, gradually opens his eyes.

DESMOND'S P.O.V.

Hurley stares down at him, flanked by Cindy, Emma, and Zach.

HURLEY
Dude, rise and shine.

RESUME

Desmond blinks, still disoriented.

DESMOND
What's... what's going on, brother?

HURLEY
I'm sending you home.

DESMOND
You're not going to keep me here?

HURLEY
Your choice, dude.

Desmond sits up, sees Erwin approach them.

DESMOND
Who's he?

HURLEY
Don't worry. He used to be a
Tailie.

CINDY
(to Desmond)
He's going to pilot Libby's boat...
to get you back to the mainland.

Desmond shifts his gaze to Erwin, who smiles down on him.

ERWIN
Hope you don't get seasick.

DESMOND
(to Hurley)
Why are you doing this?

HURLEY
It's what Charlie would have
wanted.

Desmond quivers, a tear slipping from his eye. Hurley pats him on the shoulder.

HURLEY (CONT'D)
 Hey, don't get like that. You
 should celebrate. You're going to
 see Penny soon.

DESMOND
 Penny...

A FLASH:

Penny, at the age of 38, falls to the pavement.

Desmond kneels next to her, wraps his arms around her. Penny
 isn't breathing... she just lies there, a corpse.

He cradles her in his arms, wails. Looks up at the GATHERING
 PEDESTRIANS... and sees the EIFFEL TOWER in the b.g.

INT. GALLEY OF THE ELIZABETH - AN HOUR LATER

Desmond stirs awake, finds himself lying a futon. He stands,
 gazes through a porthole -- blue water laps against the
 glass.

He makes his way up the stairs leading out of the cabin,
 emerges:

EXT. ABOVE DECK

Nothing but miles of ocean surrounds him on all sides.

Desmond looks over -- sees Erwin behind the steering wheel.
 Erwin catches Desmond's eye, waves.

DESMOND
 I'm really going home...

He comes closer to Erwin -- who nods at Desmond, maneuvers
 the steering wheel.

DESMOND (CONT'D)
 How far out are we?

ERWIN
 We're getting really close. Ben
 gave me a bearing to follow. So,
 any moment now...

DESMOND
 Any moment, what?

ERWIN
 We'll be emerging on the other
 side.

DESMOND

The other side of what, brother?

They watch as the boat sails straight through a SHEET OF TRANSLUCENCE.

The boat begins to ROCK and SHAKE. Erwin whoops, almost in excitement... but Desmond squints his eyes shut, winces as A MECHANICAL SIZZLE penetrates his ears. He grits his teeth...

ERWIN

You okay? What's wrong?

Blood trickles from Desmond's ears and nostrils -- he slaps his hands over his ears as the noise becomes LOUDER.

Then, a familiar WHITE LIGHT flashes into his line of vision...

INT. PUB - ENGLAND - **FLASHBACK (1996)**

Desmond stares across the table at:

DONOVAN, in his late-thirties, wearing a blue sweater covered by a plaid jacket. A glass of alcohol sits in front of him.

DONOVAN

Are you bloody insane?

DESMOND

Donovan...?

(looks around)

What do you mean, am I -- ?

(realizes)

Wait, I remember this... I was asking you about time travel. If it's possible.

DONOVAN

Which part? The island full of mysterious hatches? Or the computer which keeps the world from ending?

DESMOND

You didn't believe me. You were my best mate, but you didn't believe me.

Donovan stares at Desmond as though his buddy has gone insane.

DESMOND (CONT'D)
 Don't look at me like that! I've
 been back in time before, and now
 I'm living my life over again.

Donovan snickers.

DESMOND (CONT'D)
 It's not funny, Donovan.

DONOVAN
 Penny's father berates you for not
 being a great man, and voila,
 you've dreamed a future where you
 push a button to save the world.

DESMOND
 No. No, see, it wasn't a dream.
 None of this is a dream -- it
 already happened. And you'll be
 asking me what happens next.

DONOVAN
 Alright, then -- what happens next?

DESMOND
 It doesn't work like --
 (slinks back)
 You know what? It won't matter
 what I tell you. You'll never
 believe anything I say.

DONOVAN
 A wonderfully convenient backpedal.

Donovan takes a sip of his drink. The song "MAKE YOUR OWN
 KIND OF MUSIC" by Cass Elliot begins to PLAY on the jukebox.
 Desmond jumps up, reacts.

DESMOND
 See! There! Right there! There's
 Mama Cass... playing right this
 moment in this pub, just like she
 did the first time.

DONOVAN
 Des, you're worrying me now.

DESMOND
 And Graybridge is going to lose,
 even though I thought they'd won
 the first time -- the first time I
 was here... again!

He rambles, faster:

DESMOND (CONT'D)

And tomorrow, Jimmy Lennon comes to collect the bartender's debt -- except he hits me with his baseball bat, instead!

He looks up at the SOCCER GAME on the television set. Jumps up, flares at Donovan.

DESMOND (CONT'D)

You're wrong, brother! Time travel is real! And I have to be somewhere... somewhere better than here!

DONOVAN

You've had a wee bit too much to drink. I'm calling you a cab --

DESMOND

I've got to save Penny! I don't care how many times I have to live these lives -- I'm not going to let her die!

He rushes toward the exit. Donovan leaps up, shouts with concern:

DONOVAN

Desmond!

IN THE EXITWAY

Desmond nearly collides with A MAN -- Caucasian, late-forties, brown hair buzzed close to his head. As Desmond looks down at the man's feet, he sees...

A pair of RED SHOES.

Desmond jerks his head back up at the man, in horror.

RED-SHOED MAN

Careful, mate. You nearly ran me over.

DESMOND

You're the bloke with the red shoes... who's going to die.

RED-SHOED MAN

I beg your pardon?

DESMOND

You get crushed by the scaffolding,
outside the jewelry shop. Eloise
knew it was going to happen... but
she did nothing. She let you die.

RED-SHOED MAN

Who the bloody hell is Eloise?

Desmond grabs him by the shoulders. The man tries to resist.

DESMOND

Listen to me, brother! You have to
get out of this city! Get far, far
away from here!

RED-SHOED MAN

You're crackers! Let go of me!

DESMOND

Please! You don't have to die!
You can make your own fate!
(emphatically)
I'm telling you -- !

The red-shoed man clocks Desmond squarely in the forehead
with his fist.

Everything goes BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. HOTEL SUITE - LONDON - **FLASH SIDWAYS (2021)**

Desmond moans, stirs awake. He looks over, sees...

Penny, still fourteen years older, wearing only a slip. She strokes Desmond's arm.

DESMOND
What... happened?

PENNY
You passed out, Des.

DESMOND
At your old man's birthday party...?

PENNY
You really don't remember?
(smirks)
You got trashed and sang "I Might Have Been Queen."

DESMOND
In front of everyone?

PENNY
During Karaoke.

Desmond brings his finger to his nose -- which is reddened from soreness, but no longer bleeding.

PENNY (CONT'D)
Dr. Chambers fixed you up. You were good as new in no time flat.

She slides her fingers up to his shoulder.

PENNY (CONT'D)
Don't fret, love. It's not the end of the world.

DESMOND
You aren't mad?

PENNY
Well, it's not like we all haven't seen you get that way, before.
(beat)
Just promise me you'll try to take it easy on the bottle, from now on.
(MORE)

PENNY (CONT'D)
It's a new year, and we're not
getting any younger.

DESMOND
Aye.

He leans in, kisses Penny on her lips.

DESMOND (CONT'D)
I promise.

PENNY
Good.

She kisses him back... and they roll over onto the bed.
Penny giggles.

PENNY (CONT'D)
What's your pleasure tonight?

DESMOND
You decide.

PENNY
Why don't you be the big, strong
shepherd.
(beat)
And I'll be the farmer's daughter
with a heart of gold.

Penny slides herself from underneath Desmond, crawls on top
of him. As they kiss, intense...

Desmond reaches over, tries to turn off the bedside lamp --
which flickers as his fingers touch it...

And a WHITE LIGHT obstructs Desmond's vision...

INT. JEWELRY SHOP - LONDON - **FLASHBACK (2010)**

Desmond, now at the age of 38, finds himself surrounded by
glass cases filled with gemstones and expensive watches. He
takes in the sight of it all.

A female STORE CLERK -- African-British, late-thirties,
slender -- approaches him. She speaks with a Cornish accent.

STORE CLERK
Looking for something pretty to
give to your sweetheart?

DESMOND
Aye... I mean, I think so...

STORE CLERK
What's the occasion?

DESMOND
That depends. What's the month and
year right now -- ?

He looks at her name tag, which reads "GINGER"...

DESMOND (CONT'D)
-- Ginger?

Ginger chuckles, confused.

GINGER
February... Two-Thousand-and-Ten.
What, you don't own a calendar?

He absorbs that tidbit. Then, pulls out a snapshot from his pocket, hands it to Ginger. She stares down at the photo:

DESMOND AND PENNY cuddled together in front of the marina backdrop. Desmond wears a bright red shirt, while Penny wears a black blouse.

DESMOND
My wife, Penny. It'll be our five-
year anniversary.

GINGER
Congratulations. What did you have
in mind?

DESMOND
Um... a watch, maybe.

GINGER
So you can count every second you
spend with her, eh?

She gestures, leads him over to a counter. Desmond eyes the gold wristwatches. Ginger removes one from the case, displays it for him.

A diamond Bulova.

DESMOND
It's beautiful. Just like Penny.
(beat)
But I was thinking of something a
little more... golden.

GINGER

Sparing no expense, eh? But I've always thought gold watches were a bit garish, if I do say so myself.

DESMOND

Then what would you suggest?

GINGER

I think I have something on the other side of the store that will be just perfect. Be right back.

She leaves. Desmond continues to browse at the merchandise, when a FAMILIAR VOICE jumps out at him:

FAMILIAR VOICE

Only fools are enslaved by space and time, Desmond.

He swivels, comes face-to-face with...

Eloise Hawking, now at the age of 72. Her hair is styled much differently from her flash-sideways self, arms folded.

ELOISE

You're lingering, Desmond. Following your desires to relive the past... only to find those desires repeating on end, like a damaged record player.

DESMOND

You're insane, woman.

(beat)

Everywhere I go, no matter the place or time... there you are, stalking me, uttering empty --

Eloise shushes him.

ELOISE

Your consciousness is misaligned, I can tell. Your selfish feelings from other years of your life are seeping in, overshadowing your ability to think in the here and now.

Desmond is speechless. Then, slowly, he becomes confrontational.

DESMOND

What about you?

ELOISE

What about me, Desmond?

DESMOND

How do you bloody know so much about me?

(rants)

You refuse to sell me a ring, you munch on roasted chestnuts, you let that bloke in the red shoes die, then you're suddenly married to Widmore -- who's trying to take my grandson away from me --

He trembles, fixated on her -- but Eloise doesn't even flinch.

DESMOND (CONT'D)

What is it with you? Who are you?

ELOISE

I'm just a woman who knows what must be done. Who must make sure the timeline remains intact.

DESMOND

And you've always known that, from when you were just a wee lass? That you'd grow up to police the space-time continuum?

ELOISE

I've been anointed. As a protector.

DESMOND

A protector of what?

ELOISE

Of time.

Desmond swallows, but persists.

DESMOND

Who? Who anointed you? Who are you working for?

ELOISE

Even if I wanted to tell you, I can't. They could be watching -- listening. I've already said too much.

She reaches over, removes the watch from where Ginger left it on the counter.

DESMOND

Said too much? You've barely told me anything I didn't already know before!

Eloise holds it up to the light, angles the luster so it shines directly toward Desmond's eyes...

ELOISE

Light can be a fickle substances, Desmond.

She continues to usher the light Desmond's way, even as he squints his eyes shut.

ELOISE (CONT'D)

It may scatter, it may move mountains. But the one thing it will not do is allow you do bend time according to your own whims.

Desmond blinks, groans as he brings his fingers to his temples...

A SERIES OF FLASHES

Erwin guides the Elizabeth into a harbor, dons a smile -- as Big Ben sits along the skyline.

At the pub with the jukebox, JIMMY LENNON knocks Desmond out with a baseball bat.

Desmond throws his arms around Penny and a two-year-old Charlie. He embraces his family, tearful -- as Erwin looks on in the background.

The PHOTOGRAPHER along the pedestrian walkway at the River Thames pulls down a backdrop screen. Penny and Desmond -- dressed in black and red, respectively -- pose for their photograph with the harbor marina scene behind them.

In the Hydra Station infirmary, Desmond -- furious about being brought back to the island against his will -- tackles Charles Widmore.

On a street in Paris, a 40-year-old Desmond walks hand-in-hand with a 37-year-old Penny. They smile at each other, lovingly.

As their platoon sprints across a muddy training field, BILLY prods Desmond amid other UNIFORMED SOLDIERS and intense rain.

SERIES OF FLASHES (CONT'D)

Back in Paris, Penny is hit by a loose electrical wire -- she GETS SHOCKED by a SURGE OF ELECTRICITY, as Desmond runs to her side in horror.

RESUME JEWELRY SHOP

As Desmond reopens his eyes...

GINGER (O.S.)

Sir?

Ginger has returned with a golden, heart-shaped locket. She holds it in front of Desmond.

DESMOND

Wh-- what happened?

GINGER

This is what I had in mind for your sweetie. I think it would look absolutely gorgeous on her.

Desmond reaches to touch the locket... but Eloise snatches it away, holds it firmly in front of Desmond's face.

ELOISE

Absolutely not.

DESMOND

No. You can't decide for me, Eloise.

ELOISE

It's not my decision to make. But neither is it yours.

GINGER

(to Eloise)

I'm sorry... who are you?

ELOISE

No one you need to concern yourself with, dear.

GINGER

Excuse me, but I'm the one responsible for --

ELOISE

You'll have a new vocation, soon enough.

(to Desmond)

(MORE)

ELOISE (CONT'D)

As for you, Desmond, I have a message for you to deliver.

She reaches into her pocket, pulls out a folded piece of paper. Hands it to Desmond... who unfolds and reads it.

The name "KEITH JOHNSON" is scribbled on the paper, with an ADDRESS underneath... and an AIRLINE SCHEDULE printed below that.

DESMOND

Who's Keith Johnson?

ELOISE

Someone who needs your help.

(beat)

You must go to him, in New York. Approach him when he is alone. You need to convince him to get on that flight with you. But you must only board the flight if he is on it, too. Otherwise, it won't work.

DESMOND

What won't work?

ELOISE

Would you quit asking so many questions! I'll tell you as much as you need to know.

(beat)

The young man's name is Walter Lloyd. He goes by "Walt." Perhaps you've met his father... Michael Dawson.

Desmond reacts.

ELOISE (CONT'D)

They were once stranded on the island, with your friends. But later, Walt returned to the mainland and assumed a new identity.

DESMOND

Why is he so important?

ELOISE

What part of "quit asking so many questions" didn't you understand?

(sighs)

Old habits die hard with you, Desmond. I want you to...

She holds the locket closer to his face -- then, with her other hand, snaps her fingers in front of his eyes.

ELOISE (CONT'D)
 ...snap out of it!

Desmond blinks -- and for a millisecond, the WHITE FLASH re-invades his line of vision...

EXT. STREET - PARIS - **FLASH FORWARD (2012)**

Desmond finds himself walking down a street, which is lined with Parisian boutiques and cafes -- arm-in-arm with a smiling Penny. He notices his own wardrobe... a collared beige jacket and matching slacks.

PENNY
 So where should we go for dinner?

Desmond looks around, confused. Then, suspicious. He spots the Eiffel Tower in the b.g.

DESMOND
 Where are -- ?
 (a tangent)
 Charlie...?

PENNY
 Charlie? Oh, please stop worrying about him. He and my mum adore each other... he'll be fine with her.

DESMOND
 How does Charlie know your -- ?
 (blinks)
 What year is it?

PENNY
 Des, are you feeling okay?

DESMOND
 What year is it, Penny?

Penny gapes, baffled.

PENNY
 Two-Thousand-and-Twelve. Remember? -- just last week you were laughing about how the soddin' Mayans are going to have egg on their faces.

DESMOND

The world could end. And it might
be all our fault.

His dead-serious face doesn't break.

PENNY

Desmond, you're scaring me.

DESMOND

And we're here... in Paris... for
what, again?

PENNY

Our seven-year anniversary. The
honeymoon we never got to take.

(beat)

Desmond, please...

As she pleads with him, Desmond's eyes wander over to the top
of a building... where a loose power line BREAKS OFF --

DESMOND

NO!

-- heading straight toward Penny.

Desmond reacts, horrified.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. STREET - PARIS - 2012 - CONTINUED

Desmond lunges toward Penny, pushes her out of the way. They hit the pavement --

PENNY

Desmond!

-- as does the power line. It falls onto Desmond's legs, practically wraps itself around his feet like a snake.

Penny screams, watches her husband be seemingly ELECTROCUTED.

Desmond cries out, as the electricity RIPPLES across his body... and he experiences another WHITE FLASH...

INT. HOTEL SUITE - BATHROOM - **FLASH SIDeways (2021)**

Desmond finishes shaving with a hand razor, gazes at himself in the mirror. He notices a small, bloody cut on his chin.

From inside the running shower...

PENNY (O.S.)

Desmond, get back in here. The water feels fantastic.

DESMOND

Penny...?

She pokes her hair-drenched head out of the stall, once again 46 years of age.

PENNY

Don't make me come and get you...

DESMOND

Penny, no!

As Penny's feet cross over from the tiled shower floor, toward the bath matt --

She slips. Her head cracks against the metal towel rack, hits the floor.

DESMOND (CONT'D)

NO!!!

Desmond lunges forward, falls on his knees next to his unmoving wife. Her eyes are closed -- blood dripping from the back of his skull.

DESMOND (CONT'D)
 Please, no! Don't take her away
 from me! You can't take her away
 from me -- I need her!

Desmond squeezes his arms tightly around Penny's upper body,
 tears flowing. He wails, hysterical.

As his vocals echo, the WHITE FLASH takes Desmond into...

INT. OXFORD UNIVERSITY - DANIEL'S LAB - **FLASHBACK (1996)**

Desmond resurfaces in his past body. He gazes over to catch
 a glimpse of Daniel Faraday -- at the age of 19 -- who adorns
 himself with a beige vest.

DESMOND
 Your vest. It's for --

DANIEL
 Radiation.

DESMOND
 Do I get one?

Desmond reacts to what he's just heard himself say. Whatever
 happened, happened...

DANIEL
 You don't need one. For prolonged
 exposure, I do this twenty times a
 day.

A defiant Desmond pauses, then utters:

DESMOND
 Doesn't do much for you head, does
 it?

Daniel considers, then chuckles.

DANIEL
 No. I guess not.

Daniel flicks some switches on his laboratory equipment,
 while Desmond stews. As Daniel reaches over, removes a rat
 from a cage -- he holds the creature in his palm.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
 And this... this is --

DESMOND
 Eloise.

DANIEL
I forgot. You're from the future.
You already knew that.

Daniel chuckles again, plunks "Eloise" down into the maze.
Desmond tightens his lips, says nothing.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
So you probably already know what
this is for.

DESMOND
I probably do.

DANIEL
Then I don't need to explain how,
if the numbers you gave me are
correct, this will unstick Eloise
in time. Just like you.

Desmond pouts, watches as Daniel presses a button. RED
LUMINESCENCE showers down upon the rat, then goes out.

DESMOND
And I also know what this --

DANIEL
Wait, shhshhshh! She's not back
yet...

They watch the rat nibble.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
...there she is. Okay, here goes
everything.

Daniel lifts the maze's entrance flap, and "Eloise" begins to
scamper through the winding pathways.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Come on, come on, that's it, come
on, that's it...yes, yes, yes!
(cheers)
Yes! Oh, it worked! This is
incredible!

DESMOND
Because you just finished the maze
this morning, and you're not going
to teach her to run it for another
hour. I know, brother.

DANIEL

How...?

(realizes)

Ah, yes. The future.

DESMOND

The future. The same place you just sent her.

DANIEL

No, no, no. Not her body. Her consciousness. Her mind

Daniel runs over to a chalkboard, erases the scribbles.

DESMOND

You could have been a little more original than to name the rodent after your own mother, though.

DANIEL

(as he erases)

So this is why I send you back... to chide me for honoring the woman who brought me into this world?

DESMOND

I don't know why you --

He stops himself. Then, chooses his next words carefully.

DESMOND (CONT'D)

It doesn't matter. Whatever I say, you're still going to go to that bloody island.

Daniel turns, faces Desmond with confusion.

DESMOND (CONT'D)

Now why would I go to an island?

A SWISH, as Desmond brings his fingers to his temples.

DESMOND (CONT'D)

Oh, bloody hell...!

DANIEL

Is it happening again?

DESMOND

It's happening again -- !

And the WHITE FLASH strikes Desmond's line of vision, transporting him to...

INT. BARRACKS - CAMP MILLAR - **FLASHBACK (1996)**

Merely one day earlier...

Desmond wakes up, wearing only his T-shirt and boxers, to the sound of SERGEANT-MAJOR FOLEY hollering at his platoon.

FOLEY

On your soddin' feet!... Move, move, MOVE!

DESMOND

Oh, not this again....

Desmond drags himself out of bed.

FOLEY

What are you waiting for, Hume?

Desmond slogs his way into the lineup. Foley begins to pace around, then gets in Desmond's face.

FOLEY (CONT'D)

What's the matter, Hume? Did you not hear me?

DESMOND

Just enjoying the loveliest dream ever, sir. It's what I do best.

FOLEY

So you were having a dream, were you? And what were you dreaming about that it took you SO SODDIN' LONG TO GET TO YOUR MARK?

DESMOND

I was on a tropical island. A big, black smoke monster was chasing me around. And all of a sudden, it turned into this bald bloke who spoke in riddles.

Foley scowls, stares down Desmond -- who smirks.

FOLEY

You couldn't have at least had a bloody military dream?

(to the platoon)

All of you! In the yard, four minutes. And you can thank Private Hume for having to do it in double time. Move!

As the platoon heads for the exit, Desmond grunts. He clutches his head, prepares for another WHITE FLASH...

INT. THE KAHANA FREIGHTER - RADIO ROOM - **FLASH FORWARD (2004)**

Desmond is now eight years older, with longer hair and a blue collared shirt. Sayid, at the age of 36, stands next to him.

As he looks down, Desmond sees a red phone receiver in his hand. He hears, over the phone:

PENNY (V.O.)
Des, where are you?

DESMOND
I'm... I'm on a boat. Um... I've
been on an island, and --
(chokes up)
Penny, we'll be together soon.

INT. PENNY'S LIVING ROOM - SAME

Penny, wearing a white sweater, speaks into her own phone with a fully decorated Christmas tree in the b.g.

PENNY
I know we will, Desmond.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

DESMOND
Just promise me something, Penny.

PENNY
Anything.

DESMOND
Eight years from now, after we're
married and we're raising our son
together --

PENNY
How do you know we'll have a -- ?

DESMOND
When I disappear, you have to
promise you won't come looking for
me.

PENNY
What?

DESMOND

Please. Don't come looking for the island. It's too dangerous.

PENNY

Des, I've been looking for you for the past three years.

DESMOND

No...

PENNY

I know about the island. I've been researching...

As STATIC interrupts...

DESMOND

Penny... please, no!

PENNY

...and then when I spoke to your friend, Charlie, that's when I knew you were still alive.

DESMOND

But you won't be.

PENNY

That's when I knew I wasn't crazy.

DESMOND

You're the last person on Earth who's crazy, love.

He smiles -- a bittersweet combination of affection and heartache.

DESMOND (CONT'D)

But I'll come back to you, on my own.

PENNY

How? Desmond, you know my father will never --

DESMOND

Just forget about him! Please, believe what I'm telling you --

PENNY

I love you, Desmond.

DESMOND

I love you too, Penny. I've always
loved you. I'm so --

He stops himself again. Clamps his mouth shut.

PENNY

Desmond? Des, are you still there?

DESMOND

I'm here, Penny.

PENNY

I'll find you, Des --

DESMOND

No... you can't --

PENNY

-- no matter what --

DESMOND

-- you're going to get yourself
killed -- !

PENNY

-- I won't give up --

DESMOND

-- I know you won't. And that's
what scares me...

BOTH OF THEM

I love you.

As Desmond fights through his tears -- trying to resist the
forthcoming inevitability of yet another WHITE LIGHT...

INT. ANTIQUE SHOP - ENGLAND - **FLASHBACK (1996)**

Desmond is now eight years younger... again. He stands in
front of a display counter, browses at a collection of
antique rings.

Slowly, realization hits Desmond... he looks up and sees,
standing before him...

Eloise Hawking, at the age of 59, who wears a white-and-cream
striped blouse with a cream shaded shawl. Her smile is all-
knowing, as it pierces Desmond's glum reaction.

ELOISE

Not a first-timer anymore, are you?

DESMOND

You.

ELOISE

Yes... me.

(beat)

Now shall we do this the easy way
or the hard way?

DESMOND

The hard way.

She sighs.

ELOISE

May I ask your price range?

DESMOND

So now I'm supposed to say how I'm
not a man of means.

ELOISE

Oh?

DESMOND

I'm not playing your little game
anymore, Eloise.

ELOISE

I'll bet I have just the thing you
need.

She reaches down behind the counter.

DESMOND

I'm not going to sit back and watch
her die, old woman. You can't keep
me and my wife apart forever.

ELOISE

Wife? What wife? You haven't even
proposed to Penelope yet.

Desmond glovers. Eloise pulls out the familiar ring from
their shared past.

ELOISE (CONT'D)

This won't blind any queens, to be
sure, but still has the sparkle of
life.

DESMOND

Better that than death.

ELOISE

Take the ring, Desmond.

DESMOND

Why? So you can deny it to me? So everything plays out exactly the way it did before?

ELOISE

I don't make the rules.

(dead-serious)

Now take the soddin' ring so I can grab it back out of your mitts.

DESMOND

I'm not following your script. Not anymore.

ELOISE

And why not? You know you can't change the past. So why don't you just take it?

She tries to force it into Desmond's hands, but he clamps his fingers against his palms.

ELOISE (CONT'D)

Oh, you're going to be difficult about this, I can see.

DESMOND

You're damn right I'm going to be difficult. I'm not going to argue with you about breaking Penny's heart. I'm not going to go on Widmore's bloody sailing race. I'm not going to spend three years entering numbers into a computer, and I'm not going to turn some failsafe just to end up completely starkers in the jungle! I'm not going to time travel, or let Penny's father become close to our son, or pull the cork out of the ground, or anything like that!

He takes a breath, studies her face.

Eloise, calm and intense, responds:

ELOISE

Yes, Desmond... you will.

DESMOND

I beg your pardon?

ELOISE

You will do all of those things,
the same way you did them the first
time. And during that second time.
Because in the next moment, when
your consciousness drifts... so
will your memories.

(beat)

And you'll be right back where you
started.

Desmond seethes, but slowly absorbs her words.

DESMOND

What's done... is done.

ELOISE

Now don't you feel like quite the
fool?

Desmond grits his teeth, then his face softens. He extends
his hand, allows Eloise to place the ring in it.

ELOISE (CONT'D)

Now give it back.

Desmond obeys, releasing his grip on the ring. Drops it back
into her palm.

ELOISE (CONT'D)

Very good. See how easy and clean
that was?

DESMOND

So now we go wolf down some roasted
chestnuts? Aye?

ELOISE

Not quite.

(beat)

You have another journey ahead of
you, very shortly.

DESMOND

Great. Just great.

He resigns himself to this fate, as the next WHITE FLASH
emerges... carrying him forward in time...

INT. AMBULANCE - PARIS - **FLASHBACK (2012)**

Desmond's eyes flutter open. He is strapped to a gurney, surrounded by PARAMEDICS. One of them speaks to him IN FRENCH, for which we are given the benefit of SUBTITLES:

PARAMEDIC

(in French)

Do not worry, sir. We will bring you to where you need to be, I promise.

DESMOND

Penny?... Where's my wife?

PARAMEDIC

(switches to English)

We could not allow her inside the ambulance. Hospital policy.

DESMOND

Policy. What kind of bloody -- ?

The paramedic talks over Desmond, directs an order to his fellow colleague.

PARAMEDIC

(in French)

Give it to him.

ANOTHER PARAMEDIC nails Desmond in the arm with a jet injector.

Desmond drifts off...

EXT. PARIS SIDEWALK

UNIFORMED OFFICERS of the French National Police mill around the accident site. They use tape to rope off the area surrounding the loose, broken electrical wire.

As Penny watches the ambulance disappear down the street, A COMMISSAIRE tries to comfort her. In awkward English:

COMMISSAIRE

Do not worry, Mrs. Hume. Your husband was still breathing. He will be in good hands.

A tear slides down Penny's cheek. She continues to stare in the direction of the ambulance, even though it's now out of view. The *Commissaire* nudges her.

COMMISSAIRE (CONT'D)

Please come with me, *madame*. We
will escort you to the hospital.

As Penny turns, allows the officer to lead her over toward a
squad car...

FROM THE WINDOW OF A NEARBY DINER

Eloise Hawking, at the age of 74, sits at a booth. She gazes
out the window, takes slow sips of tea.

Her lips just barely quiver as she watches a distraught Penny
climb into the squad car -- which takes off in the opposite
direction from which the ambulance had departed.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

EXT. THE ISLAND - **FLASH FORWARD (2012)**

Desmond awakens... only to find himself being dragged across the rugged terrain of the island.

He grunts, struggles to break free from the grip of those who yank him forward -- to no avail.

DESMOND

What is this? Who are you people?

They stop... and their hands plunk him down on a patch of grass. Gun barrels invade Desmond's personal space.

Desmond studies his surroundings. It appears to be a mini-village of yurts, with ocean waves lapping at a shoreline.

He looks up:

Erwin and Roxanna stand directly above Desmond -- aiming their guns down at him. Roxanna still wears her red-beaded necklace.

ERWIN

Take it easy, buddy. We're going to keep you safe.

DESMOND

Safe?

(panic-stricken)

Nobody's safe here anymore, brother!

ROXANNA

(to Erwin)

What's he babbling about?

DESMOND

Something bad's coming to this island... and none of us can hide from it!

Erwin and Roxanna trade glances of alarm.

DESMOND (CONT'D)

Hurley! The last time I was here... Hurley was the island's protector.

ROXANNA

Desmond, you must calm --

DESMOND

Where's Hurley? I need to talk to
him -- now!

Cindy approaches them, flanked by a group of her fellow
OTHERS. She is now at the age of 38, her formerly long hair
trimmed neatly above the shoulders.

CINDY

Desmond? Remember me?

Desmond takes a good look at her. Faint recognition.

CINDY (CONT'D)

My name's Cindy. I helped Hurley
and Ben get you home, after Widmore
brought you here against your will.

DESMOND

A hell of a lot of good that did
me, eh?

CINDY

I understand your frustration. But
everyone is brought to the island
for a reason. The sooner you
accept that --

DESMOND

I'm not accepting anything until I
get to speak to Hurley.

Desmond locks his eyes onto Cindy, dead-serious. Cindy
sighs, then signals to Erwin.

As Erwin disappears into one of the yurts...

CINDY

(to Desmond)

We can protect you.

DESMOND

If only that were true.

Hurley -- still the same age as when Desmond last saw him --
emerges from the yurt. He wears plain brown clothing.

HURLEY

Dude -- welcome back.

DESMOND

No time for pleasantries, brother.
We don't have a lot of time.

HURLEY
Time... for what?

DESMOND
You should know, shouldn't you?
You're the head honcho around now,
aye?

HURLEY
Dude... it's not that simple
anymore.

DESMOND
Then simplify it for me. Why did
you bring me back here?

HURLEY
Um, I didn't --

DESMOND
Pulled me away from the love of my
life, in the middle of our
vacation! Why? So I can pull out
another cork? So I can be blasted
with more electricity?

Hurley glances at the rest of The Others, uncertain. They offer him no help in return.

HURLEY
Well, actually...

Desmond suddenly gasps. His eyes close, and his upper body jerks around several times, as though he's having a seizure.

Hurley, Cindy, Erwin, Roxanna, and the rest of The Others merely watch him. A faint reflection of WHITE LIGHT seems to swash against their faces.

Desmond re-opens his eyes. Hurley kneels down next to him.

HURLEY (CONT'D)
Desmond, man, I promise you -- I'm
going to get you home again.

DESMOND
No, you won't, brother.

Hurley reacts. Desmond's expression seems frozen, ominous.

DESMOND (CONT'D)
Because I've seen what happens
next.

OFF Hurley, who immediately looks over at Cindy. She wears a look of utter fear, then scans their comrades.

Erwin gazes down at Desmond, with sympathy. Roxanna tightens her posture, takes a protective step toward the crowd of onlooking Others.

Cindy looks back at Hurley -- who, in turn, gapes at Desmond...

And Desmond's eyes, widened and matter-of-fact, now appear frozen in time... as he breathes in and out, in and out, heavily...

SMASH TO BLACK:

END OF SHOW