

Whining high school teacher and self-declared explosives expert Dr. Arzt blows up while handling old dynamite that the survivors found in the hull of a slave-trade ship. But the fate of the four people on the rescue raft is left uncertain after some mysterious people on a boat kidnap young Walt, shoot Sawyer and blow up the raft. At finale's end, we see Jin dive into the water trying to save Sawyer, and Michael, treading water, screaming for his son. Back on the island, Jack and Locke open the mysterious hatch, leaving director/creator J.J. Abrams plenty of script options for next season.

House

(Fox)

Body Count: 0

When his ex-lover, Stacy, turns up, asking him to help save her husband, House not only has trouble solving the puzzle (mood swings and abdominal pain), he realizes that there's a part of him that wants Mark to die. But, he tells his buddy Wilson, does he want Mark to die so he can get Stacy back, or does he want him to die so she'll suffer? The better part of him, of course, comes through — and reaffirms House's TV track record with dying patients. He diagnoses the disease and saves Mark's life.

The O.C.

(Fox)

Body Count: 1

With her drinking problem growing alarmingly worse (in one scene, she's clutching a vodka bottle like a purse), Kirsten gets checked into a cushy treatment center. Brewing tension between Ryan and Trey turns into a fistfight after Ryan learns his half brother tried to force himself on his girlfriend. Ryan's friends head to Trey's apartment,

them through a scope from another building. The finale leaves viewers wondering whether Gibbs is next.

a single shot — a reference early in the episode to a murder case the CSI crew was investigating.

CSI: Miami

(CBS)

Body Count: 1

Horatio's brother, Ray, returns, having worked undercover with the feds on drug cases. He looks dead after taking several bullets in the chest during a shootout but miraculously reappears in the final scenes (he had a bulletproof vest) as Horatio reunites him with his police-detective wife, Yelina (Horatio's unrequited love), and son, Ray Jr. During an investigation, Calleigh gets spooked when she hears a gun cocked against her head. Later, the triggerman is revealed to be troubled Det. John Hagen. He commits suicide, with her in the same room, which sends her on an even bigger emotional bender.



ISABELLA VOSMIKOVA Fox

'24': Jack (Kiefer Sutherland) gets a well-earned trip south.

24

(Fox)

Body Count: 6

Within the first half hour, three people die as Jack tries to rescue Tony from the clutches of a femme-fatale assassin. She nonchalantly shoots a neighbor in the head (after carefully putting on lipstick) and sends his two roommates to a parked car, where they die in an explosion. Terrorist Habib Marwan falls to his death after Jack corners him on a helipad. But two CTU agents are eliminated when Chinese government officials kidnap Howard Bern. Even after Jack helps save a million Angelenos from a nuclear explosion, the president's

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Deadwood

(HBO)

Body Count: 6

George Hearst, the new tycoon in town, seems to have folks tied up in knots. But Swearengen makes it clear to Hearst that he's not bowing to anyone. He has Wu lead a band of men to kill Lee. At least four other men die there during the power struggle, including one who gets an ax in the back. Wolcott — who is confronted by Hearst about his penchant for killing prostitutes — is shown swinging in a noose, having apparently committed suicide. And in a nod to the cliffhanger genre, the town's new minister, Andy, stabs Tolliver in the middle of a wedding celebration. We have to wait until next season to learn if he lives or dies.

Medium

(NBC)

Body Count: 4

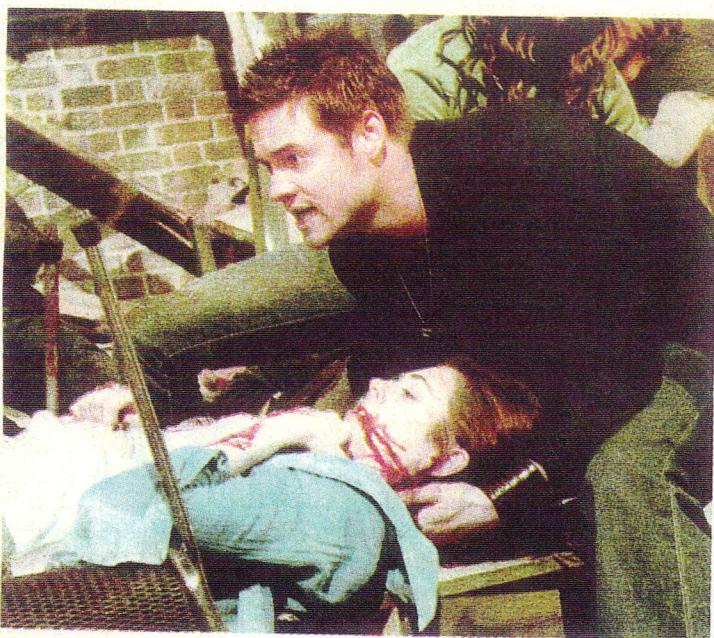
Capt. Kenneth Push, the Texas Ranger who gave Allison guff in the pilot, returns as he and the psychic mother try to stop a killer who's been surgically removing the hearts of victims, all redheads. Allison begins having visions, in which Push gives her clues. As his heart condition worsens, Push lands in the hospital, in need of a pacemaker. The closing scene: the Ranger lying on his hospital bed, snipping the wires attached to his chest, hoping that his hastened death will allow him to tell Allison the name of the killer.

ER

(NBC)

Body Count: Several partygoers

Noah Wyle's (Dr. Carter's) departure from the hospital drama after 11 seasons made news. But in the finale, his decision to move to Africa is overshadowed by a freak accident. At a party attended by Drs. Barnett and Morris, several balconies collapse, leading to numerous casualties, including a good friend of Dr. Barnett.



NBC Universal

IN ACTION: Dr. Ray Barnett (Shane West) is at a party when disaster strikes on NBC's "ER." His good friend is a casualty.

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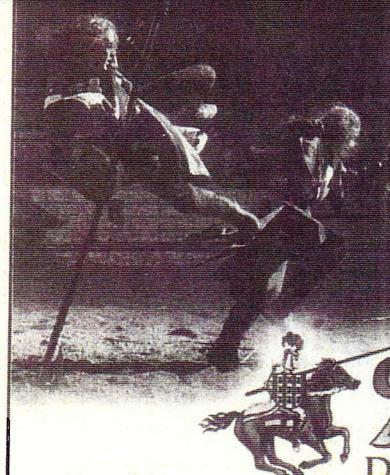
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