Castaway – Plot Synopses

1. **Robinson Crusoe** (novel by Daniel Defoe)

Crusoe is the novel's narrator. He describes how, as a headstrong young man, he ignored his family's advice and left his comfortable middle-class home in England to go to sea. His first experience on a ship nearly kills him, but he perseveres, and a voyage to Guinea "made me both a Sailor and a Merchant," Crusoe explains. Now several hundred pounds richer, he sails again for Africa but is captured by pirates and sold into slavery. He escapes and ends up in Brazil, where he acquires a plantation and prospers. Ambitious for more wealth, Crusoe makes a deal with merchants and other plantation owners to sail to Guinea, buy slaves, and return with them to Brazil. But he encounters a storm in the Caribbean, and his ship is nearly destroyed. Crusoe is the only survivor, washed up onto a desolate shore. He salvages what he can from the wreck and establishes a life on the island that consists of spiritual reflection and practical measures to survive. He carefully documents in a journal everything he does and experiences.

After many years, Crusoe discovers a human footprint, and he eventually encounters a group of native peoples—the "Savages," as he calls them—who bring captives to the island so as to kill and eat them. One of the group's captives escapes, and Crusoe shoots those who pursue him, effectively freeing the captive. As Crusoe describes one of his earliest interactions with the man, just hours after his escape:

Crusoe gradually turns "my Man *Friday*" into an English-speaking Christian. "Never Man had a more faithful, loving, sincere Servant, than *Friday* was to me," Crusoe explains. Various encounters with local peoples and Europeans ensue. After almost three decades on the island, Crusoe departs (with Friday and a group of pirates) for England. Crusoe settles there for a time after selling his plantation in Brazil, but, as he explains, "I could not resist the strong Inclination I had to see my Island." He eventually returns and learns what happened after the Spanish took control of it.

2. Lost

Lost is an American drama television series that originally aired on ABC from September 2004, to May 2010, over six seasons, comprising a total of 121 episodes.

Twin brothers were born on a mysterious island in the Pacific Ocean in the distant past. One was cursed with no physical form and no name, referred to only as the Man in Black. The other was gifted immortality and various magical powers and was installed as protector of the island. His name was Jacob. Because of rules set down by their adoptive mother, they could not kill one another. The Man in Black desired only to take human form and leave the island. Jacob wanted to stop that from happening because his brother would wreak havoc in the outside world.

Over the centuries, they brought travellers to the island to perform tasks for them. The Man in Black sought someone who could kill Jacob for him. Jacob sought a new protector to replace him. Eventually, Jacob's followers formed a tribe known colloquially as the Others.

The last group of travellers brought to the island were the passengers of Oceanic Flight 815, which crashed in September of 2004. Dozens of survivors of the crash banded together to survive their time on the island. The two key survivors were Jack—a man of science—and Locke—a man of faith. For 108 days, these castaways battled the elements, the Others, the Man in Black himself (in monstrous form) and each other.

Six of the Oceanic passengers managed to escape. These six—including Jack—returned to the outside world. Meanwhile, the island was pulled into the past by Ben, the current leader of the Others. Doing this sent Ben to the outside world. Those remaining on the island skipped through time before landing permanently in 1974, at which time Locke was thrown into the outside world in 2007.

The "Oceanic Six" and Locke were drawn back to the island. Those on the island made their peace with being stranded in the past. Ben found and killed Locke out of jealousy for his seeming connection to Jacob. Ben then orchestrated everyone's return to the island in another plane crash, carrying along Locke's corpse. After the crash, Locke was resurrected.

In the past, the survivors decided to destroy the island with a nuclear weapon. The only result was that they were sent into the future—to 2007—where they met up with the returnees.

Locke convinced Ben to kill Jacob. After this it was revealed that this was not Locke, but the Man in Black, finally in human form. He needed to "deactivate" the island long enough to escape. He attempted to kill all of the Oceanic 815 passengers—those selected as contenders for Jacob's position. Jack survived.

Jack's only hope of killing the Man in Black was to deactivate the island as well, so they worked together. Once the island's power was shut off, the Man in Black could escape, but he was also now mortal. Jack—with some help—defeated the Man in Black and used his final moments of strength to reactivate the island, thus allowing his remaining friends to escape.

Years later, after all the characters had died, they are reunited in the afterlife in a strange alternate version of their lives as if they had never encountered the island and the original Oceanic 815 had landed in Los Angeles uneventfully. Gradually, the characters reconnect and learn that this "reality" was just a gateway for them to pass from the world of the living to their final reward.

3. Lord of the Flies (novel by William Golding)

The plot of the novel is the story of a group of boys who are in a plane that is shot down by enemy forces and crash lands on a deserted island. The main character, a young boy named Ralph is, at 12 years old, one of the oldest of the group. He is quickly elected as the group's leader and takes charge of the boys, instructing them how to build a shelter and hunt for food. Unfortunately, Ralph develops a rivalry with one of the other older boys named Jack who wishes to lead the group himself.

Due to hysteria and stress, the younger boys begin to suspect that there is a frightening monster on the island and the group devolves into a frenzy where Jack splits away and announces that he is starting his own group. Many of the boys join him, leaving Ralph on his own. The other group becomes savage under Jack's rule and accidentally kills one of the boys after suspecting him of being a shape-shifting monster in the dark of night. Jack's tribe sets out after Ralph to kill him and are only stopped by the arrival of a Naval ship on the island which has come to rescue them.

4. Cast Away (film starring Tom Hanks directed and co-produced by Robert Zemeckis)

In 1995, Chuck Noland is a time-obsessed systems analyst, who travels the world resolving productivity problems at FedEx depots. He is in a long-term relationship with Kelly Frears, with whom he lives in Memphis, Tennessee. Although the couple wants to get married, Chuck's busy schedule interferes with their relationship.

A Christmas with relatives is interrupted by Chuck being summoned to resolve a problem in Malaysia. Flying through a violent storm, his Airbus A300 cargo plane crashes into the Pacific Ocean. Chuck escapes the sinking plane and is saved by an inflatable life raft, but in the process loses the raft's emergency locator transmitter. He clings to the life raft, loses consciousness, and floats all night before being washed up on an island.

After he awakens, he explores the island and discovers it is uninhabited. Several FedEx packages from the crashed plane wash up on the shore, as well as the corpse of one of the pilots, whom he buries. He tries to signal for rescue and makes an escape attempt with the remnants of his life raft, but cannot pass the powerful surf. He searches for food, water, shelter, and opens the packages, finding a number of potentially useful items. He leaves one package, with a pair of wings painted on it, unopened.

During a first attempt to make fire, Chuck receives a deep wound to his hand. In anger he throws several objects from one of the packages, including a Wilson Sporting Goods volleyball. A short time later he draws a face in the bloody hand print on the ball, names it Wilson, and begins talking to it.

Over four years, Chuck ekes out a meagre existence on the island, and has regular conversations and arguments with Wilson. After a large section from a portable toilet washes up on the island, Chuck uses it as a sail in the construction of a raft. After building and stocking the raft and deciding when the weather conditions will be optimal (using an analemma he has created in his cave to monitor the time of year), he launches, using the sail to overcome the surf. After some time on the ocean, a storm tears his raft apart. The following day, Wilson falls from the raft and is lost, leaving Chuck overwhelmed by loneliness. Later, he is found drifting by a passing cargo ship.

When he returns to civilization, Chuck learns that he has long been given up for dead; his family and friends held a funeral, and Kelly has married Chuck's dentist and has a daughter, Katie. After reuniting with Kelly, the pair profess their love for each other but, realizing a future together would be impossible due to her commitment to her family, they part. Kelly gives Chuck the keys to the car they once shared.

Chuck travels out into the country to return the unopened FedEx package to its sender. The house at the address is empty, so he leaves the package at the door with a note saying that the package saved his life. He departs and stops at a remote crossroads. A woman passing by in a pickup truck stops to explain where each road leads. As she

drives away, Chuck notices the illustration on her truck is similar to the one on the parcel. He looks down each road, then back to the road the woman took, and smiles.