

EPISODE 213: "THE UNDERDOGS"



21 days ago, 18 strangers were stripped of their identities and immersed in a new world of heightened paranoia, stress, and drama. They soon found themselves Stranded in Aruba. They were split into two tribes, Caquetios wearing blue and Arawak in yellow. What transpired was a true story of unlikely underdogs out casted from their tribe and persevering against all odds.

Right off the bat, powerhouses Danielle, Shane and Terry aligned bringing in strategists Melinda and Cirie. Proving to be the powerful swing player that she is today, Melinda kept all her bases covered by befriendng Courtney and Misty. Bob Dawg was

quickly seen as a wildcard. Caquetios proved their staying power by winning the first Immunity Challenge and sending Arawak to their first of many Tribal Councils. Margaret was the first victim.

Day 3 brought about a game-changing twist that formed the next 20 days of the game. Arawak publically voted off Cindy, while Bob Dawg was voted off of Caquetios. However, they were not out of the game; they were merely voted off or "out-casted" from their tribes onto the opposing tribes. They were given Immunity until a merger, the catch: they could not vote nor would they participate in challenges.

Caquetios continued their winning streak while Arawak voted off Brandon and then Brianna. Close buddies Gary and Judd were in control on Arawak and along with help from Morgan and Jamie felt they had the game under control. On Caquetios, without Bob Dawg around to target, the majority alliance set their sights on Misty and Courtney. When Arawak finally won a challenge, Caquetios got their opportunity to take out their biggest rivals. Misty was voted off leaving Courtney to fend for herself without a friend.

The next day, Cindy was caught cheating for a 3rd time and was removed as an outcast. The players voted off took a vote and elected Misty as the new outcast in Cindy's place. This came as a shock to the Caquetios 5 who worked hard to oust Misty the night before. As newly elected outcast, Misty and Bob Dawg deliberated on how to mix the tribes; sending Aras Shane and Danielle to Arawak and Gary and Judd to Caquetios.

On Arawak, Danielle and Shane found they were alone without Terry and stuck with their loose alliance member, Aras. On Caquetios, outcasts Misty and Courtney found new life in the Arawak members Gary and Judd. They blindsided Cirie and Terry leaving Melinda as the only remaining member of the original 5 person alliance on Caquetios. When Arawak finally lost another Tribal Council it was pure mayhem as Shane and Danielle scrambled at Tribal Council and ultimately betrayed their former tribe-member Aras.

When the two tribes merged, the former Arawak members teamed up with Courtney, Misty and Melinda to vote off Danielle. Shane fought hard to stay in the game, but when Rafe pulled out the idol that Bob Dawg gave him, Shane was voted off with just 1 vote. At the next Tribal Council, Rafe yet again escaped as allies Judd and Jamie were blindsided in a back to back council twist. Rafe and Morgan shortly followed suit. In a game of underdogs, the ultimate underdogs of Misty, Melinda, Courtney and Bob Dawg all went from first boots to the remaining 5. Now they are in control of the game; however, will the new underdog, Gary, the final remaining Arawak member, overtake them?

Bob Dawg, an original outcast viewed as a wildcard throughout the entire game. Will this wildcard become the unlikely winner? Melinda, stuck in-between two alliances the entire game, she managed to become the swing vote in almost every major vote. Can she make it to the end and convince the jury that she is the ultimate payer? Gary is the last remaining Arawak member and the number one jury threat. Can he overcome the 4 person alliance to make it to the finals? Courtney was isolated by the Caquetios members from early on and viewed as Misty's goat. Can she overcome this to become the unsuspecting victor? And Misty, given a second chance by re-entering the game, she was the most hated member by Caquetios and has taken the most flack in the game. Is the fact that she was previously voted off too much to conquer?

In a season of unlikely players overcoming tremendous odds to defeat the obvious frontrunners, who knows what will happen as the final 5 compete against one another one final time. They will endure 2 more Immunity Challenges, 3 more Tribal Councils, a jury of their peers and in the end, only one will become the last person Stranded in Aruba.

Bob Dawg - CONFESSIONAL - The jury sees me as a goat because they believe that only someone who's been in the loop since day 1 deserves to win, or something like that. They have preconceived notions of how the game should work, and I am shattering them. When I'm in the final 3, I'm going to pull the proverbial bull by the proverbial fucking horns. I'm going to badger and debate the jury until I get every single one of their votes. As Misty said in a recent pm, my strategy is very lucid and straightforward. To answer your question, yes, I'm optimistic about the finals. If I get the luck I need, and if I do enough smooth talking to the jury, I think I could win. I mean, Richard Hatch won after almost every single person said he wouldn't, right?

Misty - CONFESSIONAL - The jury reaction against me has been brutal and I can't blame them. I never expected to play the way I've played coming in but the simple fact is that I came back as an outcast and my partner was exposed as having the idol, so I had to take matters in my own hands. I made all the tough decisions, directed the strategy and made sure I was always on top of things. That's never enough. People root for who they want and that's not going to change. I love playing this game and I'm usually a lot more subtle than this. But I believe I've made all the sound strategic decisions. It will all be for naught if Melinda wins immunity. I love her a lot and I brought her this far simply because of her loyalty. She's a good player and a challenge threat and I'm going to have to take her out next if I have any shot at winning.

Courtney - CONFESSIONAL - I will definitely be disappointed if I don't make F4...At first I was surprised to have made it this far...Now that I have though I think it'd be such a great story for me to win it! I'd be crazy Courtney who started off with no alliance and then ended up being a total game changer twice and pulling off surprise boots over and over again! As it is, my plan has worked out and we have perhaps the most "undeserving" final 4 like ever hehe...The jury hates us for a reason

Gary - CONFESSIONAL - Well, it looks like I may be riding into the sunset tonight. And I'm very OK with it, I've accomplished more than a lot in this game and all in all I'm probably the most like person left in the game and if that's why I'm going home than great. It just means that a douchbag is gonna win. It's a very interesting dynamic with these 4, they say that they voted out Morgan for playing both sides, but it becomes clearer everyday that there is only 1 side. Misty & Courtney pretend like they're fighting an uphill battle when they're already in the final 3, the only one on the outside of this group is me, and sadly it's been me for a long time.

Melinda - CONFESSIONAL - I was ecstatic to have won immunity at the final 6. Misty, Courtney, and I worked together really well in order to eliminate the guys, and I won the challenge just like I said I would pull it off. I think it would be really smart for Misty/Bobby to get me out, because I think I'm probably the biggest jury threat, and also a challenge threat. I don't trust Misty for a second, I think she'd love to take me out during the last round, because I think I will definitely win if I can make it to the end.

OJEDA, NIGHT 21

Courtney and Melinda celebrate their victory in voting off Morgan.

Courtney - Yes! We are so in the F4 no matter what girl!

Melinda - I know I can't believe it!! 😊 Way to go during that challenge tonight girl! We all worked together to make it happen it is guaranteed! I think we should go after Gary this round, but if he wins immunity then obviously Bobby... This is so sweet, I am so glad we are going to get to the end together!!

Courtney - Yea I kno! I was really surprised it worked out so well! Yea I'm totally fine with those votes. No matter wat I am using the idol next round and the 3 of us control the votes and are making it to the final 4 for sure! I can't believe us underdogs are going to be the final 4!!!

Melinda - I know, it is truly amazing! I never imagined we could pull it off so well!! 😊

Courtney - I kno I'm sooo happy! I guess it is not over yet tho...Gary was supposed to be Arawak's strongest challenger so if he wins immunities he might still make it to the end and win...He is a sneaky one! I believed you more than him tho hehe

Courtney - CONFESSIONAL - Melinda scares me! She is so strong in challenges...I think Gary has just been acting weak tho so to me they are like the same person...Melinda might b a little better in challenges but I think Gary is a bit more liked by the jury...So it is a toss up...Whoever wins the ic will probably decide it...

Constantly scheming Misty is thinking ahead and comes across condescendingly towards her best friend, Courtney. She sets her sights on her ally Melinda.

Courtney - Yes! We are so in the final 4 for sure girl!

Misty - I know. We so rock. You really need to speak up more at tribal. Melinda is running away with this at this rate.

Courtney - O really? I see everything just fine...Yea Melinda is really smart...I am so happy to have made it this far tho! I mean none of us had alliances to start off with and now we are in the final 4! I was so happy that vote didn't come to a tie or anything too!

Misty - Yeah. Please trust me on this. She says she wants the three of us at the end and Gary will be next followed by Bobby. If Gary is immune, Bobby goes. Of course I agreed. We'll need to be careful.

After discussing the threat Melinda poses with Courtney, Misty celebrates with Melinda.

Misty - We rock this so much. I told you the jury would recognize good play eventually. 😊 How is everythign on your end?

Melinda - Everything is looking good...

Misty - Fantastic actually. F3 here we come. Of course if it really is a F3, I would be happy to have the three of us at the end. We seriously worked it out amazingly well.

Melinda - Well, we are guaranteed final 4 now! We truly worked together so well to get here. And nobody ever figured out the three of us were doing it!! Gary next, then? Unless he wins immunity, then it's Bobby.

Misty - Gary next. Done deal. Bobby isn't going to be happy about that... 😊 treacherous

Meanwhile, Misty manipulates Bobby into trusting her yet again, and asks him to run anything he hears by her.

Misty - You ought to be more careful Who you trust... Gary and Morgan set you up. They told Courtney to vote for you and then told Courtney to use the idol. Obviously that was never going to happen. So please run anything you hear by me first.

Bob Dawg - What do mean set me up?

Misty - Gary and Morgan tried to get you to vote for Courtney with them to try to get the idol out. And then told Courtney and me to vote for you. And just before tribal, Gary comes running up to

tell Courtney to use it, so the idol goes and so do you. Believe me, no one here is that stupid to fall for that. I told you Morgan was going tonight. So please be careful with Gary now.

Bob Dawg - but if I were to vote for Court, then she would only have one vote. If Melinda did it as well, it would be a tie. And Morgan would go based on you and Courtneys votes, I don't see what they would of gained

Meanwhile, Courtney goes on the offense with Bob Dawg and wonders why he decided to target her. She slips up and Bob Dawg slowly realizes that she and Misty are closer than he thought.

Courtney - Why have you been going after me so hardcore? Be honest now...

Bob Dawg - Thats the thing though, I wasn't targeting you this tc. I recall wanting to boot you when the merge started, but I have no reason to now. I know you think I'm lying, I really don't know how I can convince this to you, but I'm not lying. Gary and Morgan are trying to make you paranoid

Courtney - If you think I only got this from Gary and Morgan then like I said I suggest you rethink who your real allies are...Now I will ask you 1 more time knowing that I will be playing the idol next vote for real since that is when it expires...What are you thinking?

Bob Dawg - Tell me, who have you heard this fom? Since I have no power whatsoever then you have no reason to fear. what are you and Misty talking about?

Courtney - By the way I didn't kno you wanted to boot me when the merge started! What?! O well...at least you are being honest... There is only 5 of us left Bobby...I think you can figure out who I'm talking about...I have been fearing for my life these last rounds becuz you have been going after me even tho I've really wanted to take you to final 3. I think i kno why but I would like to hear it from your mouth...

Bob Dawg - I had a 2 minute discussion talking about removing the idol holder, but then I realized I would have a better shot against you as opposed to Gary or Morgan because they have allies on the jury. It just wouldn't make strategical sense. So, whos next? Is it me?

Courtney - If you realized that then why did you gather Gary, Morgan, and Melinda to blindside me? 2 minute discussion?

Just as Bob Dawg talks with Courtney and Misty, he approaches Melinda in his 3rd attempt at scrambling. Melinda plays along repeating her same strategy last round.

Bob Dawg - So..what now? he. I want to go to the finals with you, but we need a new plan

Melinda - Yeah, definitely... what are you thinking?

Bob Dawg - I don't understand what Gary and Morgans plans were, do you? Now that we're at 5, I guess Gary should go home. Then, we vote Courtney out at final 4 since she seems to be respected by the jury. Do you have a better plan?

Melinda - I think that sounds like a good plan... hopefully Misty will be down for that

Bob Dawg - Can we beat Misty at f3? Maybe we should force a tie and vote for Misty, since Courtney will use the idol on herself

Melinda - So then are we for sure booting Gary next? I think he's pretty good at challenges and the jury is probably all on his side. Then hopefully at the final 4 one of us wins immunity.

Bob Dawg - Melinda, don't prevote for anyone tommorrow. We have to make sure one of us wins immunity first. I want Misty to go, cool? Who have you been talking to?

Melinda - I've talked a little to Misty and Courtney, not much about the game though... I think they both want to take out Gary. Sounds like a plan, I'll do either, I think they're both threats.

Bob Dawg - What about? I hope I don't sound paranoid, lol, do I? I think the final 3 should be you, me and Gary. As much as the jury might like him, he has done nothing in this game

Melinda - Alright, I am down with whatever... that might be a good idea because I think Courtney and Misty aren't going against each other at all.

Melinda reports back to Misty, who is still angry at Gary and convinced that he was lying to her the previous round when he was in fact telling the truth. Misty celebrates all the people she has backstabbed along the way.

Melinda - Bob Dawg just messaged me saying he wanted to vote Gary next round, and then he wants to go to the finals with you and me.... but of course we're sticking to Courtney. So I guess he isn't going to be mad about it... lol I didn't even tell him we should vote for Gary, he proposed it to me.

Misty - Yeah. We're all good. I'm still quite amazed at how well we've done together. Gary... 😏 He had his chance to be honest but he didn't take it.

Melinda - Yep, I am pretty amazed too!! 3 heads and 3 sets of ears are better than 1! Nobody really suspected we were working together and we seized some pretty nice opportunities

Misty - I told you it would work out perfectly if we made it seem like you were an outsider with no ties to anyone. I can't wait for Morgan to come back and see that she's out. Gary already had a clue when he started questioning me if you had told me anything.

Courtney - Alright Melinda I'm going to take off for the night! Good job with everything today!

Melinda - Alright, have a great day! I probably won't be on much tomorrow, but I am so happy with what we've accomplished!!

Courtney - Yea me neither. We can relax!!! hehe. We can be a little cocky for at least 1 round 😊

Melinda - 😊 Definitely!

As Day 21 comes to an end, the castaways are given Day 22 off.

OJEDA, DAY 23

Gary understands that he's the likely next boot, but just like the other underdogs in this game he won't go out without a fight.

Gary - so when are you 4 gonna vote me out? I just wanna know so I can make some plans

Misty - I might be around tonight, on and off most likely, since it's a free night here I think.

Courtney - Ok Gary... You wanna tell me everything that happened today?

Gary - Why no one listens to me anyway? if you wanna know what happened why don't you ask Bobby or Melinda like you guys always do.

Courtney - I listened to you Gary but you told me that stuff at the last minute... I had heard about the plot to vote me out ahead of time so how was I supposed to trust you? You told me you heard it right at TC but I heard about the vote out Courtney thing before that... Morgan did vote against me so I know it is not just lies... If you do not want to give me your side of the story that is fine tho. As you know I am safe at the next vote so I was just trying to give you a chance to explain yourself...

Misty refers back to Courtney as she normally does to discuss the threat of Gary winning Immunity.

Misty - Gary left a message asking when the 4 of us were going to vote him out and that he needed to know so he could make plans. He hasn't been back but I left him a message that I would like to talk but I had to mention, like I did with Morgan, not to say anything to Bobby or Melinda. After getting burned that last time, I hope he takes the hint. My thought is that we need to cover ourselves if he does win immunity so I was thinking of telling him that if we do everything possible to help him get immunity to stay safe, he votes with us. What do you think?

Courtney - I agree that maybe Bobby, Melinda, and Gary pull something funny...I think that would be dumb of Bobby because his only shot at winning is having you with him. However he might really be dumb so that is a problem...I thought you were confident in Melinda though? I don't think Gary will win immunity but I know exactly what you mean about covering you in case he does...I don't think we should make that deal with Gary though! If we help him and he gets it he can still vote however he wants!

Yet again she asks Courtney for help, this time in regards to voting off their close and loyal ally Melinda.

Misty - Another question for you to think about. Who do we really want with us in the F4? Bobby is a no-brainer. Gary has been so low-key that I question if he can say he really did anything in this game. And we both know how good Melinda is, both in challenges and playing the game. She's been by our side since Terry left basically. We owe her a lot but is she too much competition? At F4 it's not about what information we can get anymore. It's about who wins the challenges.

Courtney - Yea that is a good question...I've been wondering the same thing. The way I see it Gary and Melinda are the same. They are both good in challenges, both following, and both probably have the best chance at winning if they make it to the finals...So really it doesn't matter too much...Melinda is huge competition and I am scared of her. The thing is Gary is too...He hasn't been winning lately but I think it's because he hasn't been trying and stuff. He was 1 of the other tribe's best challengers so I think ever since he was identified as that he has been lying low...I know what you mean about F4...It's all about the challenges at that point. I really don't know! I think Gary might be more of a jury threat than Melinda but Melinda might be a better challenger....It is so tough though I honestly don't know...

Meanwhile, Melinda looks at her other options.

Melinda - Do you know what time the challenge/TC is tonight? And what's the plan for voting tonight?

Bob Dawg - Were voting for Gary right? I don't know when the challenge is

Melinda - Ok, sounds good. Do you think Misty/Courtney are voting for him too?

Bob Dawg - I think so, btw, congrats on that last immunity!

Melinda - Oh thanks! Good luck at tonight's, hopefully it's a fun one!

Bob Dawg - I hope so. It sucks that the game didn't last 39 days and that we got no merge reward challenges

Gary accepts his position.

Gary - should be a great Monday, I look forward to going home tonight

Misty - Now why would you say that? It might not be as bad as you think it is.

Gary - i just said, i'm looking forward to it

Misty - So you're saying you're giving up? Everyone's been fighting to stay in front and you're in the F5 already.

Gary - you people are far to ruthless for my liking. you lie, over and over and expect the "truth" in return you offer "friendship" and deliver the opposite I'm sure you're a very nice person in real life dear,perhaps we'll talk after the game

Gary - CONFESSIONAL - I'm not really doing anything to stop my vote out. They all know that I would whoop their asses in a jury vote, so I can't be taken. I'm happy that I lasted past the tribe switch because I thought for sure that I was going home.I'm really happy that I've been able to play the game my way, I'm likeable and I love to stir shit, granted I didn't get to start enough battles,but hey we can't have it all.

Misty - All we need to do is make sure Gary doesn't get through and we're good. 😊 I was hoping he wouldn't show but he's here like always. Has he said anything yet?

Melinda - I have not even talked to Gary in days. I don't know where he stands or what he is planning... but as long as he doesn't win immunity, we should be good... hopefully Courtney gets here soon.

Bob Dawg makes amends.

Bob Dawg - sorry for that nasty pm, its just a game. Regardless of what happens, I think you're a cool guy

Gary - hey man,i don't take anything personal. "the plan" had already been revealed before I decided to not go with it anyway. It's been a fun game and I've done what I came to do so I am very ok with going home tonight. I can't wait to talk to some of these people outside the game

Bob Dawg - yeah, your a big threat, take it as a compliment. Even though the jury seemingly hats me, I've laid more more then I usually would have

Gary - I'm only a threat cause the jury likes me more than anyone else here

Misty confirms with Courtney that it has to be Gary tonight since he is already down and out.

Misty - Gary is basically given up and he's pissed at me so we don't have a choice. It's got to be Gary tonight.

Courtney - He's pissed at you?! Wat did he say? We can always redeem ourselves if we save him tonight...

Misty - Not just me. Everyone. He said the 4 of us are too cutthroat for his liking. Unhappy at our "friendship".

CHALLENGE BEACH, DAY 23

Jeff Probst - Come on in guys. I know I'm saying this early but thats to prepare you because tonight will be a grueling 4 part challenge that could last very long. So if youre ready early, please tell me and we'll begin early.

Bob Dawg - ooo, I like this one. How long will it take exactly?

Gary - why does my last day have to be a long 1? 😊

Jeff Probst - Okay, it's going to be a 4 part challenge. After each round 1 person is eliminated until we are left with 1 winner. Are we ready? We'll start with the first round being endurance, first person out loses the round. You'll count starting with 001. Every minute you count a new number. Pretty straight forward right?

Jeff Probst - Bobby you're out. You posted 002 too late.

Bob Dawg - damn

Jeff Probst - Moving on: Courtney Gary Melinda Misty. This next round will be unscrambling a word that applies to the Aruban Culture... I'm sure you all remember this headache of a challenge. The last person to PM me the unscrambled word is out. You cannot help each other, however.

Jeff Probst - GO! Niibnob

Jeff Probst - so far no one's gotten it right

Jeff Probst - Misty and Melinda moving on... only 1 spot left.

Jeff Probst - Courtney Melinda and Misty! Moving on. Next round, you will have to assemble a puzzle in your confessional threads, last to do so is out.

Gary - well, that sucked

Jeff Probst - Misty! Moving on... One more spot ladies...

20 minutes later...

Jeff Probst - If no one else solves the puzzle by 8:55, Misty will win by default...

Gary - so yeah, I coulda finished this puzzle 20 minutes ago. 😊 Are we gonna finish this tonight?

Jeff Probst - Okay guys, Misty wins Immunity yet again! Everyone prepare for council, it'll begin at 9, and PMs will go off at 9:10.

OJEDA, NIGHT 23

Misty confronts Gary yet again.

Misty - So the vote for me at that last one was from you?

Gary - why don't you ask one of your sources?

Misty - I didn't ask anyone how they voted. I just assumed it was you since you wanted Morgan to stay and I told you I wasn't going to keep her just before you left.

Gary - whatever yo, it's all good in the hood. nobody here can beat me against the jury and that's why you're all taking me out tonight, it's not a big deal. I've enjoyed my time with you

Gary talks with Melinda for what could be the last time.

Gary - so I figure you guys are voting me out tonight I just wanted to say that it's been fun getting to know you and look forward to chatting after the game Good Luck!!

Melinda - I'm not going to shoot any crap to you. Yeah, I'm voting for you tonight. I've really enjoyed playing the game with you and I think you're a class act. And I can't wait to talk after the game is over.

Gary - Thanks yo! again good luck. You have all the power in the game hun, it's your choice that I go home tonight, no amount of wishing will change that. I still think the world of you and look forward to getting to know you without a game in the way Good Luck. It's been a helluva ride

Jeff Probst - Misty, seeing the jury this way, does it give you much confidence going into the final tribal council, should you make it there?

Misty - You know what, Jeff? I worked incredibly hard to get here and I've brought along the people I've grown the closest to and trust the most. If I do get to the end, I will be putting up a fight because I have every confidence that I've made all the right moves to get there. And if I lose to one of these people simply because I was an outcast, and not because my decisions were flawed, that will be of a little comfort at least. The person who gets the jury to vote for them would deserve it.

Gary - you wouldn't lose cause you were an outcast, you'd lose cause people really don't like you

Jeff Probst - ...I get the feeling that everyone's waiting until the Final Council to reveal to the jury their strategies... Courtney, is this a wise move?

Courtney - I dunno...it depends on the jury and how they react...I know Bobby is planning on arguing his case in front of the jury...

Misty - I think the jury are all making it pretty clear how they feel about all of us right now. 😏

Gary - Which is why I'm going home! They actually like me 😊 funny what not being a douchebag can get ya

Jeff Probst - Melinda, what have you been doing to secure your spot in the finals?

Melinda - I've been very careful about who I have trusted in this game. I've had to do a lot of adjusting and finding my groove. But I've found a group of people that I work well with and that have my back, just as I have theirs. I've eliminated some of my biggest threats which is helping to secure a spot for me in the finals.

Misty - I made the effort to get to know everyone. If they feel I was somehow not being genuine because I was friendly and still played a hard game, they are being unfairly judgmental. We're all fans of the show and we yell out at screen whenever we see anyone do something stupid or make a wrong move. I like everyone here and I've made some good friendships with people but sometimes the situation is just not workable to keep people that you like because it can bite you in the ass later.

Courtney - Please give me a chance! I think I am playing a good game!

Danielle - 🐑

Jeff Probst - Okay, I'll end you guys' humiliation... Please vote now if you haven't already. You guys have a couple more minutes to convince the jury why they should vote for you in the end, I suggest you take this rare opportunity.

Misty - Vote for Pedro! No, just kidding... 😊 Whatever the jury may think of me, if I get to the end, the last thing they can say is that I somehow accidentally got there or that someone else decided to bring me along as an easy beat. I might be an easy beat, but it won't be for those reasons, that's for sure.

Danielle - Blah 😏

Jeff Probst - Okay, I'll go tally the votes. If anyone has a Hidden Immunity Idol and would like to use it, now is the last time you can do so.

Gary - Courtney, ya wanna loan it to me?

Courtney - I am using it on myself of course...

Danielle - 🐑

Jeff Probst - Okay all votes cast against Courtney tonight will not count.

I'll read the votes:

Gary, the tribe has spoken.

OJEDA, NIGHT 23

Misty, Melinda and Courtney celebrate their victory at Tribal Council, but also take heed in the reactions of the jury.

Courtney - Yay! We are so in the final 3 girl! I have to say tho...that tribal council was harsh...

Melinda - I know it totally was! They are going to MURDER us at the final tribal council.... oh man! I am so happy! We have worked together SO SO SO well! I love it!

Courtney - I kno! I don't care wat they throw at me...I am so proud that we're going to be in the final 3 together! We have been such a great team and they are just bitter 😊. Unless Bobby pulls out a miraculous victory he is so gone! He wasn't even at tribal council...

Courtney - CONFESSIONAL - With Gary out of the way my strategy is simple. Win tomorrow's challenge or hope Misty does. Boot Melinda. Hope for a F3. If not, then hopefully win the F3 and take myself to the finals...Not sure if I'd take Misty or Bobby. Misty is my friend and I'm probably taking her. I think I can win against her, we have a deal, and I think she's been true to me. Bobby I think would be a slam dunk tho so I'm not totally rejecting that option...

Misty - We did it. That was a tough one but we had to do it. Staying around tonight as usual?

Melinda - Yeah I am so excited! We have a 3/4 chance now of beating Bobby tomorrow and securing our alliance in the end! That was a rough tribal though, I can't believe how bitter they all are... I think it is ridiculous. I can only imagine what the final TC will be like, when they can actually SPEAK.

Misty - Oh, I can imagine how bitter they will be. They've already made themselves quite clear. 😊 They were brutal. I told you I had no chance. 😞

Melinda - CONFESSIONAL - I'm now the only person in the entire game to have NEVER received a vote cast against me... and I hope that I never will see my name written down until the final tribal council! I'll definitely use that fact at the final TC if I can get there. I think Courtney will stick with me no matter what, but if Misty or Bobby wins immunity I'll be a little frightened. I have an alliance with Bobby that if one of us wins immunity we'll take out Misty and go to the final tribal, but I think after tonight's tribal people might be seeing that I would probably win in the final vote... Courtney just is not all that bright when it comes to arguing a case for herself, whereas I think Misty, Bobby, and I are a lot better.... so I think they may see that and try to take me out. So now tomorrow's immunity is the MOST IMPORTANT immunity challenge in the game. If I win it, I have a great chance at going on and winning this game. If I lose, I have to hope that they make a blunder and keep me in the game.

Meanwhile, Misty and Courtney plan to backstab Melinda.

Misty - Melinda is the one we need to get out next. Hopefully you can talk to Bobby to see what he thinks of how that tribal went and perhaps talk about jury votes. You really need to let him see he can't bring Melinda along but you have to do it subtly.

Courtney - Well...that was a harsh tribal council...Glad we've made final 4 tho! Hope I can make it to final 3 over Melinda! I hope Bobby now realizes who the real jury threat is. I doubt he will tho since he thought I was a bigger threat than Gary 😞

Misty - You have to do the talking with Bobby but be careful. He thinks he has Melinda. And Melinda might be telling him that we're going after him next which is the farthest thing from the truth. I need to go now. I'll talk to you again tomorrow. In the morning again perhaps.

Misty continues to keep Melinda in the dark about her plans with Courtney.

Misty - I'm pretty happy with how things have gone for us. Could be better from the point of view of the jury but that's to be expected. I knew what I was facing when I came back in.

Melinda - The final 4 are probably the biggest rejects from the original Caq team, and somehow we were able to also infiltrate and dispose of the Arawak team as well! I think we all deserve to be here, even if it's hard for the jury to swallow. I'm really interested to see what Jeff will have us do for the last immunity challenge! Is this a pretty normal week for you other than the wrapping up of the game? I'm pretty excited for the new Survivor to start... I'm rooting for Amanda.

Misty - Oh, I love Cirie in particular. She's always at the top of the list. Funny how things worked out so well. There's no more Arawaks left and it's because we knew we could count on each other. You know, I can completely understand how those voted out would feel. I don't envy them. It's probably the lesser of the evils as they might think.

OJEDA, DAY 24

Bright and early, Misty begins the day by working on Bob Dawg.

Misty - I guess you've seen the tribal council thread? I think it's safe to say the jury hate us. As in truly deep-seated rage. I don't think there's anything we can say that they'll accept.

Bob Dawg - I'm a lawyer, I've got it down pat. Trust me. The jury won't know what hit 'em. So tonight is an endurance challenge?

Misty - I have no idea what the challenge is going to be. But it will be something. I doubt Jeff will use the endurance again though. You'll be able to be here tonight?

Bob Dawg - yeah, im definatly going for it tonight. So whos the projected f3, and who do you think the jury will vote for? I have no idea why the jury is so pissed, perhaps its their egos. The powere players? If they were so good at the game, we couldn't have pull off a coup so easily.

Misty - Exactly. They allowed us to get where we are right now so why are they so angry? They could have easily done something about it before. I think F3 will be tough. I don't know what to think to be honest. It might boil down to who the jury hates the least. What do you think?

Bob Dawg - Maybe we should just go with the original plan and have you, me and Courtney, because I think the jury respects Melinda a little

Misty - I have to say I kind of agree there. I do know that you like Melinda and I like her a lot as well. What are you going to say to her if she asks you what the plan is?

Bob Dawg - I'll just say Courtney, I guess. What about you being the "sacrificial lamb"?

Misty - I don't understand. What do you mean me being the sacrificial lamb?

Bob Dawg - It was a joke. I was asking if you wanted me to tell Melinda to vote for you?

Misty - Oh! 😊 No. I would rather not. Thanks. Besides, she wouldn't believe that you want to target the only other outcast here.

Courtney - CONFESSIONAL - I think Bobby just wants to make sure he has an ally at F3 instead of Misty having all the options so that is y he will never work with me. I also think that he wants to be known as a smart strategist who controlled the game or something and blindsided ppl like his own allies... totally pathetic failure where all his plans backfired despite him having the most options and power becuz he is a goat! It is humorous to me 😊. I think mayb he knows he can't win so he is doing everything he can to not b a goat. He is trying to make big moves, have allies, and basically do everything to not b taken to the end or do wat is easy...I can understand that...So Misty and my job is to make sure it looks like he got super lucky and that we did everything for him and dragged him to the end with us...

Bob Dawg decides to play his wild card and throw Melinda for a loop.

Bob Dawg - Why did you tell Courtney I wanted her out?

Melinda - What are you talking about?? I did not do any such thing

Bob Dawg - I believe you, but Courtney said you approached her telling her that. Maybe shes just desperate because she knows she can't win... So, pretty angry jury huh? I never expected a bunch of twatwaffles

Melinda - Hmm... I guess the girls are probably coming after me then. Well one of us has to win immunity tonight, then we decide who goes home. Yeah, they're not going to be happy to vote for any of us... seems like they especially hate Misty, so I wonder if we should take her to the finals instead of Courtney. Either way, though, I just hope we can get there first.

Misty reports back to Courtney that their plan for taking out their ally Melinda is in full effect.

Misty - CONFESSIONAL - I love Courtney and Melinda. I want so badly to keep the three of us together and vote out Bobby. But it would be the dumbest thing in the world to do on a practical level. The jury already hates all of us but Melinda is probably slightly less hated. I would not even contemplate the choice if this were a normal game and there were no outcasts. I would keep my allies together in a heartbeat. I told both we would stick together. Of course Courtney is saying that we should be practical about it and keep Bobby. She's even being selfless about it and telling me to take Bobby if there's a F2. And then there's the consideration that it's very likely going to be a F3. Taking out Bobby at F4 would be a noble gesture of loyalty. But I doubt the jury would ever take it that way. They are already openly mocking us during TC. They would say it was stupid. So what do I do? It's such a horrible choice to make. Would anyone forgive someone who did that? I keep swinging between the two options. I feel depressed and horrible right now.

Misty - Just had a short conversation with Bobby. I asked him what he thought and he said he that the original plan of you, me and him sounded good because he felt that the jury respects Melinda a little more. I asked him what he would tell Melinda and he said you. You should talk to him and ask him what he thinks if you see him.

Courtney - Hi Misty. Yea I've talked to Bobby and he said he isn't going to vote me out! I hope he's telling the truth! Melinda is the only person in this game who hasn't even received 1 vote.

Misty - Let's makes sure that never happens tonight then. I see your point. I'll keep things up with her and I hope she does not think too badly of us.

Courtney - CONFESSIONAL - I am honestly not super confident in my ability to beat Misty and Melinda in challenges...I hope I can beat them...At the least hopefully Misty can beat Melinda and I think she would keep me over Melinda...I am hoping 1 of us win. Anyone but Melinda! Even Bobby! Melinda will probably not take Bobby if she has the chance. Misty will probably take Bobby. Bobby will probably take Misty. I might take Bobby or Misty...I am trying to focus on this challenge tho...This is a huge one!

Meanwhile, Bob Dawg and Melinda have a plan of their own.

Bob Dawg - If you or me win immunity, we're still voting for Misty right? Even though the jury hates her, the jury believes she played the best game

Melinda - Yeah I agree... they're giving her a hard time but I think they see the rest of us as just being carried.

Bob Dawg - The thing was, I wasn't being carried. I was planning from day 1 all the way to today, while having fun. These guys don't see that

Melinda - Yeah, they all see me as being dumb and not deserving to be here.

Bob Dawg - I'm totally going to mindfuck the jury tomorrow, the jury has no idea what's hitting em, and I'm not exaggerating

Melinda - lol I look forward to it!

Bob Dawg - CONFESSIONAL - Stranded in Aruba is without question the most fun I've ever had. It's amazing how even in an impersonal, online environment you can learn about yourself. I've already come upon this realization, but I'm not good at getting my point across to people. Even though I seem like a slowpoke. "Hey esse, are you special?" was one comment from a while back. I have a lot of things going on in my head, and it seems only to be random when the complicated thoughts going on in my head can be translated to mere mortals with the due amount of wit and clarity. Sometimes even I don't know what I'm thinking. The jury speech that I have prepared for tomorrow's Final Council is full of holes. I most certainly had plans, at least that's what I thought they were. I'm genuinely concerned that the jury will look at me as a goat tomorrow. As to Misty if she wins immunity tonight, I want to say congratulations, you played a hell of a game. If Melinda wins, congrats to you too, great game. If Courtney wins, well, that's as unlikely as poles shifting (not the magnetic poles, the actual poles), but if you do, congrats, at least you have your head in the game. I wanted to play the game, have fun, look like a mastermind and carry the cool people to the end. Somewhere along the way (the very start), I lost some footing. These clowns are intense motherfuckers, and don't take too kindly to a style of gameplay like mine. Here's to winning, I hope. Please

The final Immunity Challenge is set to begin.

Misty - Good luck!

Melinda - You too! 😊

Melinda - CONFESSIONAL - Well, tonight I am going to try my damndest to get that immunity necklace for the very last time. I have a bad feeling that if they have the chance, they will get rid of me tonight. The way the jury really went after Courtney and Misty at that last tribal council makes me think Bob Dawg will want to go after me and not them... Also, I think Misty is up to something, and I could easily see her voting me out tonight, even if Bob Dawg is an option. So I really am going to focus on winning the challenge tonight, because it would make me

sick to have to vote for one of those three as a juror. Courtney and Bobby have basically been dragged here and don't think strategically for themselves, and I would have a hard time voting for Misty who shouldn't even be here being she was voted out already. So ideally I will win immunity tonight, if not, I hope Misty has no intentions on turning on me.

TRIBAL COUNCIL, NIGHT 24

Jeff Probst - Come on in Courtney, Misty, Bobby and Melinda. We'll welcome the jury of 6 now, with Gary voted off at the last tribal council.

Tonight, your final Immunity Challenge will be held here, in front of the players who know you the best.

Melinda - Oh Goodness... here

Bob Dawg - *Walks in Clint Eastwood style*

Jeff Probst - Okay, I recently asked the jury a series of questions about the lot of you. They responded with a commentary. I'm going to give you that commentary and their answers, and it's your job to guess who it was that said it. I'll ask 10 questions, you have 1 minute to answer each. Are we ready?

Bob Dawg - yes(prays for mercy)

Misty - Got it, Jeff.

Jeff Probst - 1. When asked: "Who do you think will be voted off next?", which juror between Shane, Judd, Gary and Danielle answered:

"Melinda, her usefulness as a puppet has just run out."

Courtney - Judd

Melinda - Gary

Misty - Gary

Bob Dawg - Gary

Jeff Probst - Gary was the correct answer. Everyone but Courtney got it right Bob Dawg - 1
Courtney - 0 Melinda - 1 Misty - 1

Jeff Probst - 1. When asked, "Who do you think is the most annoying?". Which of the jurors between Shane, Danielle, Gary, and Judd answered: "Bob Dawg. His dumbass ghetto/pompus shit is soooo annoying and not funny."

Melinda - Shane

Misty - Danielle

Courtney - Shane

Bob Dawg - Shane

Jeff Probst - The correct answer was Shane. Everyone besides Misty got it right. Bob Dawg - 2
Courtney - 1 Melinda - 2 Misty - 1

Jeff Probst - 3. When asked the question, "Who do you think is the least deserving?" Which between Gary, Danielle, Shane and Judd answered: "Courtney, as she's managed to avoid making a single game move the entire time she's coasted through this game. Yes, she turned the tables on old Cauquetios after the flip. But it was an obvious move to make, and she lucked out in having Misty as her swing vote."

Jeff Probst - No one got it right, the correct answer was Judd. 4. When asked the question "Who is your personal nemesis?" Which of the four jurors answered: "Bob Dawg, he is an ass."

Jeff Probst - The correct answer was Shane, everyone answered correctly, moving on. 5. When asked the question, "Who does not even deserve a spot on the jury?" which of the 4 jurors answered: "Misty, she was voted out, and should have never come back. If Cindy didn't cheat she wouldn't be here. Therefore she doesn't deserve a spot."

Jeff Probst - The correct answer was Shane. No one got it right. 6. When asked the question, "Who do you think should win?" which of the four jurors (Judd, Dani, Shane, Gary) answered: "Melinda. Once again, her social game is down the shitter, but at least she has/had one at one point or another. Too bad she didn't use it when she needed it the most. "

Bob Dawg - Judd

Misty - Judd

Melinda - Danielle

Courtney - Judd

Jeff Probst - The correct answer was... Danielle. Bob Dawg - 2 Courtney - 1 Melinda - 3 Misty - 1

Bob Dawg - aww,shit

Jeff Probst - When asked. "Who do you dislike the most of the remaining players?" Which of the 4 answered: "Courtney, you're a nice enough person, but you're a follower. Take a chance and listen to your own instinct instead of Misty's for a change. "

Melinda - Gary

Courtney - Shane

Bob Dawg - Gary?

Misty - Gary

Jeff Probst - The correct answer was Gary. Courtney - 1 Bob Dawg - 3 Melinda - 4 Misty - 2. 8.

When asked: "Who do you think will be voted off next?" which of the jurors answered: "Melinda. Misty is clearly running this game, and she doesn't have any wish to take someone with more than half of a brain cell to the final 3. She's clearly aimed for a Blanded in Aruba final, and only Bobby, Courtney and her fit the bill. "

Bob Dawg - that's such bullshit, I'm the one running the game. Judd

Courtney - Gary

Melinda - Judd

Misty - Judd

Jeff Probst - The correct answer was Danielle. No one got it right. 9. When asked the question, "Who do you dislike the most of the remaining players?" which Juror answered: "I definitely dislike Bob Dawg the most. I feel he's an incredibly dull personality that brings nothing to the game socially, and I haven't found a single thing he's said the entire time either funny or interesting."

Melinda - Gary

Courtney - Shane

Bob Dawg - Shane

Misty - Danielle

Jeff Probst - Misty, you're answering too slow... we can't play the "wait until everyone else answers" game all night. No one got the right answer, it was Judd.

Jeff Probst - Final Question: When asked: "Who do you think should win?" Which juror answered: "Courtney, Yeah she had the idol, but I think she would still be here without it. And she didn't piss people off like Misty/BD did."

Melinda - Shane

Courtney - Judd

Misty - Danielle

Bob Dawg - Shane

Courtney - Just wanted to say guys that I hope the jury keeps an open mind on things becuz I've kept my strategy in the dark but there is a lot I haven't said! I am no one's goat I can tell you that right now!

Bob Dawg - FINAL WORDS - An excellent game, well manufactured, WELL THOUGHT OUT. A microcosm of humanity. Did I have sex with every single female member of cast and crew? Your cameras will have to tell that story, as they know me better than I know myself. What a game. And I seriously was outwitted. I didn't take the time to think that Melinda would have a better shot against Misty than me. Congrats, Melinda, the true Phantom Menace and winner. I hope I entertained you all, and I thought I played an above average game, how others think about that and how I'll be edited is a different story. You guys literally missed out on a great jury speech. I would of floored everyone. All in all, a great time. BOBBY FOR ALL STARS!

OJEDA, NIGHT 24

The final three rejoice as Courtney thanks Melinda for saving her.

Courtney - Thanks for saving me girl! You are awesome!

Melinda - 😊 I never ever planned on voting you out. Yeah, it'll be great to get to know all that after tomorrow night! It was the least I could do for lying to you about the beginning of the game... I was alligned with Shane/Dani/Terry/Cirie... :-/ sorry!

Courtney - Thx! It's ok! You totally made it up to me 😊. No matter wat I will be thrilled with the winner! I love you girls so much! We were awesome ever since the swap and I like your taste in reality show favorites hehe

Melinda - 😊

Misty gives her friend Courtney tips for the final Tribal Council in order to beat Melinda.

Courtney - Well I think I overcame the biggest problem...Getting to the finals...Of course...new problems have now arisen...How open minded is the jury going to be? I think I might've hit the point of no return...Pissed way too many people off to the point that they've made up their minds and nothing I say can earn their votes...Hopefully that is not the case but we will see...It seems some people are even wanting to vote for the Outcasts over me!

Courtney - Yay! I'm alive! If nothing else we made final 3!

Misty - Rock stars, babe! 😊 You have to put up a fight at tribal but remember not to antagonize the jury too much. They'll be insulting but be calm but you also don't have to take it.

Courtney - I am totally going to! Thx for the advice! I am so happy with this final 3! No matter wat I can be happy with who wins! Great job girl! I thought Melinda might vote me out but I am glad she didn't!

Misty - There's a very good chance she could have voted me out too... Her chances are good no matter who she went up against. We'll be putting up a fight no matter what.

Courtney - I was surprised that Bobby tried to vote you out! I guess becuz you were the mastermind...

Misty - Yeah... Well, we'll definitely be stronger opponents than Bobby, that's for sure.

Misty gets a feel for where Melinda's mindset is going into the final Tribal Council, but Melinda is the one asking questions. The tight all-girls alliance of three slowly begins to turn against one another as they air their dirty laundry.

Misty - It's going to be fun... At the finale for sure... I can imagine the welcome we'll be getting.

Melinda - Most definitely, I'm glad to be there though. Hey can you answer me a question honestly? Had I not won immunity tonight, would you have tried to get me out? I honestly do not care if you were planning it, I would definitely respect you for doing it.

Misty - I would have tried. But quite honestly, I was swinging back and forth about it. You can ask Courtney. I was feeling terrible just thinking about it. I adore the two of you to death but my first loyalty was always to Courtney and you know that.

Melinda - Oh of course I always knew that, and at times I contemplated going against you because I think you are a tremendous player of this game. In the end my instincts said just stick with them, and I'm glad I did. I have tons of secrets... Sorry to tell you now, but I was indeed apart of the Cirie/Danielle/Shane/Terry alliance from the beginning... 😊

Misty - Yeah. I know. It's not a secret. Courtney and I knew that from the start but we just let you run with it... 😊

Melinda - Aww, ok! Well I thought you guys maybe knew about it, but I thought I had ya'll tricked Why'd you guys trust me then??

Misty - Honestly? We needed you and you needed us. It was pretty simple. And you were a lot more open than everyone else.

Melinda - For sure. Well I thought we strategized really well together. I can't believe that people could not see it.

Misty - So other than Bobby, were you considering voting me as an alternative?

Melinda - If Bobby had won immunity, we worked out a deal to vote you out tonight... but I had high doubts he would follow through with it.

Misty - Bobby said he wanted you out to me. He was all over the place. I don't know how anyone could have relied on him for anything. I also knew something was up by how you were talking to me before the challenge. So any more things we need to hash out?

Melinda - Well Misty, for I think maybe the last time in this game, I'm going to say goodnight! Have a good day tomorrow if I don't see you in the morning.

Misty - Looks like Jeff has set the schedule for tonight. I hope we have enough time.

Melinda - I think we should definitely have enough time... 2 hours sounds like plenty enough time for them to torture us 😊

Misty summarizes her conversation with Melinda to Courtney, and discusses their strategy for the final Tribal Council.

Misty - She just admitted she was part of the Caquetios alliance! 😊 I told her we both knew already.

Courtney - O darn! I think you shouldn't tell her that... We have to save our good stuff for tomorrow! We have to make ourselves look great compared to her...

Misty - It doesn't really matter that much. We'll just make our own case.

Courtney - Yea... Gawd the jury hates us tho!

Misty - You know, it all depends. They hate all of us but if we can show Melinda followed us rather than vice versa, we could pull it off. For one thing, she voted Bobby out to face us at the end rather than vote me out and face weaker opponents.

Courtney - You did call a lot of the shots for real! She did make some big votes tho like the tie-breaker against Judd and stuff...We're going to have to make it clear that it was our plan...

Misty - I voted for Judd too. She made the tiebreaker because of immunity. She was with us and did what was best for us and that's what counts.

Courtney - Ok see you tomorrow girl!

Misty - Just about to leave too. Night! 😊

OJEDA, DAY 25

It's the final day in the game for the three finalists, and you can cut the anticipation with a knife.

Misty - You're here! 😊 Good luck. We'll need it.

Courtney - Yeah I know! Bobby is voting for Melinda apparently...Good luck!

Misty - Thanks! You too! I can't believe he honestly thinks that. It's probably a reflection of what's being said in the jury. We'll see if we can turn that around...

Courtney - I hope that is the case! It looks pretty bad though

Misty - I know. Sigh... We have to make them see that she just stuck to us and slid by when she could have taken a risk but never did.

Just before the Final Tribal Council is set to begin, the remaining castaways gather to take a look back at their fallen comrades.

Jeff Probst - Before we go forwards with our Final Tribal Council tonight, I suggest we all take a look back at the 15 castaways that were previously stranded here.

<http://stranded.immunityidol.net/aruba/councils/lb.html>

(and be patient, because it may take a long time to load)

And now, it's finally time for the jury to decide who will become the final castaway Stranded in Aruba.

FINAL TRIBAL COUNCIL, NIGHT 25

Jeff Probst - Welcome everyone to the final tribal council of Stranded in Aruba. Let's welcome our final 3, Courtney, Melinda and Misty.

And let's bring in our jury of 7: Danielle, Shane, Judd, Rafe, Morgan, Gary, and voted off last night: Bob Dawg.

Jury, you are still prohibited from speaking out of turn, but tonight you will each get 10 minutes to interrogate the final 3. But before that, let's give the final 3 a chance for their opening statements. Ladies... the floor is yours.

Courtney - Hello everyone. I really want to get to know everyone after this game is over, and it's been a honor to play this 25 day game with all of you. Since it is now the end of Stranded: Aruba, I am ready to reveal my true face to you guys and finally not be a "fake bitch" anymore. You are

going to get the cold hard truth today from me, and whether I win or lose the game, I prefer it be because people know what happened and made their decisions off of those facts. There are several gross misconceptions that I need to dispel of Courtney:

As you can see, I'm not talking like a moron anymore. Like Shane, I was playing a character and trying to be a little unique with the way I talked. This was for fun and also for strategic reasons. I purposely mashed up my grammar and spelling that would make seem dumb or immature. I'm sure my way of talking probably annoyed some people, and others might have seen through it. However, I do think it definitely fooled at least a couple and maybe most of the people into thinking I was dumber than I am. I managed to maintain this style of talking for most of the game, which can be extremely difficult when you're rushed into making important strategic decisions with people on the tribe or wanting to be consistent with how you present yourself to others. I think this kind of strategic detail is 1 of the things that separated me as a player from Misty or Melinda.

Courtney is not just a "nice girl". Courtney is an absolute killer, and people just didn't realize it. In my last online Survivor game I was in, I had 8 alliances within the first few days of the game. So I know how to make alliances, I know that I need to play the game, and I know that people aren't just talking about how great our tribe is and how nice everybody is in the first few days of the game. I knew that from the beginning. It was my creative, unique, risky, and conscious strategy to go into this game without making any alliances at the start of the game. I got in trouble, because of all my allies in my last game, so I decided to approach this game with the opposite idea. This time, I would wait to see who allied with me first, before making alliances. I was going to adapt and sort of feel people out before just getting myself in some majority alliance that would probably destroy itself at some point in the game like many do or get screwed by a swap twist.

I am not Misty's follower. We just worked together really well as a team, because we both would gather information and then trade and figure out plans together. I acted like her patsy, because I needed people to continue working with me at least a little. I could get away with acting like I found out instructions at "the last minute" unlike Misty. That is why I was the one to play that role with Gary, Bobby, and Melinda. Now I was pretty sure that people saw right through it, since I saw right through all of Caquetios back at the Misty vote. I guess not though since juror Gary really does think I was following Misty's lead and that Melinda actually took a non-Outcast Courtney to the finals with her over Outcast 19th/20th place Bobby! Misty was always known for being a snooper and a plotter, so we thought it'd be best if she went ahead and played bad cop, while I kept my naïve halo on acting like good cop. However, I was not actually her patsy as I was the one who made a lot of the key decisions, and I had done just fine for myself before we were ever allied.

Courtney did not ride coat-tails. Courtney flipped on old Caquetios getting rid of power players Terry and Cirie, while setting up the mid-game exactly how I wanted it. Courtney made a 4-person alliance with Judd and Gary, stringing Melinda along just in case...not Misty. Courtney explained all of this in a mass PM to Judd, Gary, and Misty and formed the side alliance with Melinda before the vote against Cirie and told her that it was us "outsiders" to the end. Terry revealed that Melinda was definitely in the majority alliance to me Courtney (not Misty), and I was the one who revealed this to Judd, Gary, and Misty. Misty thought maybe we should let Melinda know that we were on to her, but I was the one who said it was probably better to let

her think she was tricking us to keep our alliance more pure-hearted and emotional-based

Courtney then came up with the plot to overthrow the Rotu 4 at the merge, when the game was starting to go in the direction of Judd/Gary controlling everyone. It was possible that Judd/Gary would keep their promise to Misty/Courtney, or that maybe Judd and Gary would even turn on each other before the end, but I had done well to give myself many options, and the most appealing one was to side with the goats and get rid of the strongest competitors. Courtney arranged a 5 person alliance between Misty, Melinda, Rafe, Bobby, and of course myself which successfully voted out Jamie and then Judd

When you flip the game at least 4-5 times like I did that is not riding coat-tails! That's not being a goat follower! I have kept most of my strategies and thoughts hidden during this game, but now is the time for you to see the real Courtney who's been operating behind the scenes.

Melinda - Well, I first want to say it has been a pleasure playing this game with all of you; I really enjoyed myself the entire time. From the moment I stepped in to Aruba I had one agenda, and that was to become the sole survivor. For the majority of the game, I was seen as an incredibly weak, tag-along, sacrificial lamb who could not think for herself. While this was never the case, I did my best to make people think I was in no way a threat. Some of you may criticize that as not playing an intelligent game, but I hope tonight that I will be able to convince you of the numerous huge moves I made which ultimately got me here in the finals. And I hope after questioning me and hearing what I have to say, you will realize that I was the true puppet-master of this game, and that my strong ability to adapt and change my strategy is what makes me deserving of winning this game. I did have to backstab a lot of people to get here, but am I ashamed of that? Hell no! I'm extremely proud of every move I made, and I'd be happy to let you all know what went through my brain throughout this competition. I hope tonight you will judge me based on my strategic game, not based on whether you like or trust me as a person. So anything you want to ask me tonight, I'd be happy to give you honest answers for, so that you might be able to understand where I was coming from throughout this game.

Danielle - 🤔

Melinda - I didn't know we were writing our biographies of how every move we made in the game...

Misty - Heya, everyone! First off, this has been a hell of a ride and I've enjoyed getting to know all of you. I think with perhaps a couple of exceptions I've actually worked with all of you at different points in the game. I think you all have a good idea who was most in control and called the shots through almost all of the merge. Let me get the outcast thing out of the way. I did what I could to make the absolute most of this opportunity as I'm sure any one of you would have. I know some, if not most, of you won't even consider voting for me because of that. I understand. But if it's for other reasons, I hope you at least give me a chance to win you over.

I knew coming back what I had to deal with. Courtney stuck with me when I was on the outside so I promised her that I would help her get to the end. It was tough but we managed it. I made the effort to bring Melinda in with us before the merge because I knew we would need her help down the line and it worked out perfectly for us as you can see. Coming into this, I never expected to be at the forefront of things, but as it so turns out, it was necessary due to the circumstances I faced. I know none of you are happy that you got voted out but I can tell you none of your boots were done at the spur of the moment like some of them seemed and there were sound strategic reasons behind every single one of them.

With that said, I look forward to facing any questions, statements, bricks that you all might have thrown my way. You've all waited long enough to finally get a chance to voice your opinions (like they weren't clear enough before). So here we go. I'm ready. Bring it on, guys.

Courtney - Well you can say things of very little substance since you're leading the winning poll right now in the jury house. I have to fight to win

Melinda - Don't worry Courtney, I have plenty of substance, but I thought I wouldn't use it all in my opening statement.

Misty - Could you perhaps talk yourself up a bit more, Mel? 😊

Melinda - i didn't pre-write up any of what i needed to say because I didn't really think that was what a true survivor would do. I've thought about what I want to say, but I'm not going to hand the jury an essay of why I am the best player here. That just does not seem right.

Courtney - You don't have anything to really talk about anyways. Everyone knows what your strategy was. It's obvious to everyone

Melinda - Well, have any of you seen a survivor in the finals who has brought a piece of paper with notes? That just isn't my style. Then what was my strategy Courtney?

Courtney - You were floating. You were going along with the numbers and letting others call the shots so you could stay under the radar. You threw some challenges so you appeared weaker than you were, made promises to different players, and was trying to get to the end

Misty - But apparently claiming you were the mastermind behind everything is... 😊

Jeff Probst - Okay Jury, I have disabled the jury house because I want you all to make your own individual decisions. You will now each get 10 minutes to interrogate the final 3. You can only vote after you have finished your interrogation. Danielle, as the first juror, you're the first up... you ready?

Danielle - I'm ready. Courtney, first I'd like to apologize for my comments last Tribal Council, regardless of whether or not that was the "real" Courtney. I think you were playing smart if you were being honest in your opening statement, but I have to go on what I experienced in the game for my vote. My questions to you are: Why do you deserve to win this game? In what way did you play a better game than Misty? At the last Tribal Council, you said that you had been the one "behind" Judd's elimination. How so?

Melinda, What was your best strategical move in this game? What was the hardest moment for you in the game? Did you just ride the coattails of whatever alliance was the majority, or were you playing your own game?

Misty, Why do you deserve to win over Melinda? At what point in the game do you think things turned in your favor?

Melinda - Well Danielle, with out a doubt my best strategical move was taking Judd out of the game. I had been asked in one of my confessionals a long time back "If you could vote out any one person from either tribe, who would it be?" I immediately responded by saying "Judd!" He was extremely intelligent, smooth, and had power. Courtney claiming that she took him out is a ludicrous statement, because it was Misty and I who voted for him and me who made the deciding vote to take him out. Both girls had at one point the intention of our Caq team going to the end with Judd and Gary, but I constantly told them this was not a good idea and that we needed to get rid of Judd ASAP.

The hardest moment in the game for me was when I had to vote Terry out of the game. He was one of my best friends here, and that was the first moment when I decided to backstab my alliance. It was a hard decision, but I knew I needed to find a new set of people to work with.

I most definitely was never riding anyone's coattails. On day one I created an alliance with Cirie, and when you invited me into the alliance of 5, of course I accepted. But I never wanted to appear as a threat to anyone in this game, so I made people think I was honest and that I could just do whatever people wanted me to do. I knew at some point I maybe would need to seek other options, so I made sure to remain friendly with Courtney and Misty because you never know when you might need people somewhere down the line. I was always giving my input and trying to get my agenda accomplished within my alliances, but I made sure that people non within my alliance did not know I was the one making a lot of the decisions.

Misty - The thing is that I never waited for things to turn in my favor. I made the move to set things up well in advance. I brought Melinda on board early on so that I could use her down the line. I had an alliance with Judd and Gary but was well aware they had other options open to them

The thing that got me moving on my plans early was the exposure of Courtney's HII. I knew that I couldn't wait any longer and got Rafe, Bobby and Melinda on board to Boot Jamie, whom I could tell had more going on than he was letting on. It also served to eliminate one of Judd's options. I knew it was only a matter of time before Judd moved on me and Courtney.

Melinda might claim she instigated our move but far from it. I had already discussed it with Courtney well in advance. She wanted to go for Judd first but I swayed her to go for Jamie. Melinda later voiced the opinion that udd had to go too so knew they were all on board for it, which was why I used the opportunity to vote for Judd at the couple tribal.

And from that point on, I was in the driver's seat and I had Melinda and Courtney watcing my back at all times. Melinda was support and never ever made any real risks. I also made sur that the moves I made never alloed her any control over me or Courtney's fates.

Courtney - I believe we all deserve to win the game, and it depends on what the jury is looking for. If you are looking for the best player of us three though, I think I deserve it the most. Misty outplayed and outwitted, but failed to outlast. Melinda outplayed and outlasted, but didn't outwit anybody. I believe I did all three

I played a better game than Misty, because I was able to outlast without having to rely on an Outcast twist to bring me back in the game. Not only that, if Cindy hadn't "cheated," then Misty would not have been brought back into the game. I am not the only one who benefited from Misty being brought back into the game. Melinda did as well. The difference is that I had different options, while Melinda was forced to rely on Misty and myself, once I turned on original Caquetios

Back to Misty though, I'll admit our gameplay was very similar from the swap onwards. However, I was the one who planned the flip on Gary/Judd/Morgan/Jamie not Misty. I anticipated what was in her best interest and offered it to her to secure her loyalty and that's why we performed so well as a team. In addition, I was the one who suggested we make a F3 alliance with Bobby. Misty said she was not close to Bobby. I could not really believe that, since they were both Outcasts, and she would tell me important game comments that Bobby had told her in their private meetings that the hosts gave them as part of the Outcast twist. I don't know if she was being truthful or just trying to act like she wasn't close to him, but I knew that would be a hard offer to resist, since who wouldn't want an ally who was willing to take her to the end and bring along the

person she has the best shot of winning against? Additionally, I annoyed people way less back on original Caquetios, and that's why I outlasted her

Melinda - Misty that is a lie and you know it. I campaigned to you and Courtney that Judd needed to go way back when we were on Caq... but you both wanted to keep him because he was "trustworthy" and that maybe we'd get rid him farther down the line.

Misty - What made you think I was telling you the truth at the time? I was still getting to know you and it took a while to break your shell. You lied to me and said you were not in the Caquetios alliance when both Courtney and I both knew you were. So obviously I wasn't that trusting of you then.

Melinda - She's pointing me out as the weaker one because she obviously knows that that is not true and is trying to make herself look like she had a braincell throughout this game. Courtney played a pretty good game, but I don't think it compares to mine. Nor did I ever trust you, but like you said last night, we worked well together because we had similar agendas.

Jeff Probst - Shane, you are up.

Shane - ITS TIME FOR SHANE TO SPEW HIS MIND. THE TIME YOU HAVE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR. I WILL ADRESS EACH OF YOU ONE BY ONE. BUT FIRST I GOT SHIT TO SPEW!

I THINK THIS IS A HORRIBLE FINAL 3. IN FACT, ITS DISGUSTING, HOWEVER I DO BELIEVE THAT, ALL OF YOU ARE SHIT, THERE IS ONE SHIT WHO STECH DOESNT ISNT QUITE AS BAD AS THE OTHERS, WILL THAT SHIT GET MY VOTE? WHOS KNOWS.

MISTY, I WILL SAY THAT YOU WERE SNOOPY AND SNIFFY, AND IT CAME OFF AS ANNOYING AND BITCHY. HOWEVER, YOU WERE GENERALLY NICE TO PEOPLE. ME AND DANIELLE PERSONALLY VOTED YOUR ASS OUT, AND YOU ARE ONLY HERE BY A FLUKE THAT CINDY CHEATED, AND ANOTHER ARAWAK SHOULD OF BEEN VOTED IN, NOT YOU. AND FOR THAT I CANNOT VOTE FOR YOU.

MELINDA, AHH MELINDA. YOU DID NOTHING THIS WHOLE FUCKING GAME, AND ANY STRATEDGY YOU CLAIM TO HAVE MADE, IS BULLSHIT, SO DONT EVEN SAY IT. YOU WERE INVISIBLE, AND WERE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE 5 PERSON ALLIANCE ON THE ORIGINAL CAQUIETOS. YOU BASICALLY WERE NEVER VOTED OFF CAUSE NO ONE CARED ABOUT YOU CAUSE U DID NOTHING. U SAT THERE AND GOT A FREE RIDE TO FINAL 3 CAUSE EVERYONE ELSE WAS A BIGGER FISH TO FRY. YOU VOTED OUT BOB DAWG, WHO YOU FUCKING COULD OF BEAT, WHEN U COULD OF GOT MISTY OUT. WOW YOU WERE DMB. AND NOT SAY THAT VOTING JUDD OUT WAS A BIG THING, CAUSE IT WAS NOTHING. I AM ALSO SICK OF YOUR FUCKING COMMENTS AT THIS TC SO FAR. A PENGUIN COULD OF DONE THAT, AND A RETARTED PENGUIN AT THAT. YOU WERE INVISIBLE AND DID NOTHING, AND FOR THAT I CANNOT VOTE FOR YOU.

COURTNEY, YOU HAD NO CLUE WHAT WAS GOING ON EARLY IN THIS GAME, AND U WERE AS ALMOST AS INVISLBLE AS MELINDA. HOWEVER, I DO NOT THINK THAT U NEEDED THE IDOL TO GET HERE. I THINK U COULD OF MADE IT WITHOUT THE IDOL. YOU BETRAYED ME, BUT YOU HAD TO DO WHAT U HAD TO DO. IM NOT SURE I BELIEVE YOU THAT U PLAYED DUMB, AND I DO KNOW U WERENT MISTYS UNDERLING. BUT YOU PRETTY MUCH DID NOTHING OF IMPORTANCE HIPPY, AND FOR THAT I CANNOT VOTE FOR YOU.

SO YOU MAY ALL BE WONDERING, I TOLD EACH OF YOU, THAT I CAN'T VOTE FOR ANY OF YOU. SO BASICALLY, I WILL SIT BACK, LISTEN TO YOUR ANSWERES THIS NIGHT, AND SEE HOW U ANSWER

MY QUESTIONS. IF YOU WANT TO COMMENT OF WHAT I JUST SAID, GO AHEAD SHANES ALL EARS.

YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW U CAN LOSE MY VOTE?

1. I DONT WANNA HEAR SUCKING UP. IF I HEAR ONE PERSON SUCKING UP AND BEING FAKE, U DONT GET SHANE'S GREAT VOTE.

2. IF YOU CLAIM TO HAVE DONE MORE STRATEDGY THAT YOU ACTUALLY DID, (LIKE IF MELINDA TELLS ME SHE IS A POWER PLAYER) YOU WILL NOT GET MY VOTE.

I WANT EACH OF YOU BASH THE OTHER 2, TELL ME WHY I SHOULDNT VOTE FOR THEM

WHICH 3 PEOPLE IN THIS GAME DESERVE TO BE IN THE FINAL 3, OUT OF ALL 18. IF YOU THINK ITS YOU, TELL ME WHY, I WANT REASONS FOR THIS, WHICH 3 DESERVE TO BE WHERE YOU ARE, U MAY INCULDE ANY OR ALL OF THE CURRENT FINAL 3, AND I WANT TRUTH AND REASONS.

THANK YOU!

Misty - Easy. Melinda didn't do anything besides be backup for me and Courtney. I told her to stick close to Bobby and make an alliance with him because he was targeting her. As a mole, it also allowed me to know everything that was going on in the tribe all the time. In the end, she still stuck with us all the way and even voted out Bobby when she would have stood a better chance against him. Courtney and I shared everything obviously. We discussed everything thouroughly before making any moves. The thing was that she was usually nervous about her own safety so I did what needed to be done and stood out as the outfront one. Oh. I believe the three people who played the best are in the final 3. I know all of you might not agree but we worked closely with each other to make sure we all got here. I was completely open with them and they were with me as well. I have to say that we all worked well together to get to this point, which accounts for us being here.

Melinda - Shane, I just want to point out the fact that when you were voted out, you gave me no chance in ever making it past 2 rounds at maximum, so obviously you did not have the grasp on what was truly going on as you may have thought. And while you may have thought I was at the bottom of our alliance, I made a pact early on with Cirie and Terry, that was a deal to go to the final 3 if our alliance did indeed make it to the final 5. It was evident to me how close you and Danielle were, and terry and Cirie understood that as well. Maybe I started off at the bottom of the totem pole, but my strategy a lot of times in this game was to focus on two people to really work well with. It was initaly Cirie and Terry, and then it turned in to Misty and Courtney. I could have voted off Misty, but I don't think that would have been in my best interest. When it comes down to it, either of these girls would have voted for the other one, because they basically played the game as a team of 2 people, not as individuals. Every decision Courtney made was influenced entirely by Misty. Bob Dawg however, there is the slightest chance he might respect the game I played, because he was able to see a lot more of it than you were able to see. So that's my reason for voting for Bob Dawg. I saw huge threats go one after the other, so it was definitely apart of my strategy to not stand out, and it got me here, and no matter how pissed you are, you have to admit that it worked. I won't go into my entire strategy throughout this game because I know you don't want to hear it. I think all three of us deserve to be in the final 3. While I believe I played better than these two girls, there is no denying that the way all three of us got here worked, so for that fact we deserve to be the final 3. Call me a sheep or whatever

you want, but I took out some great players, and that's what I was supposed to do. We all wanted to win this game, and I played all my cards right in order to get here... it was not luck.

Courtney - Shane I can't say I know what was going on exactly during the early part of the game, but it was my strategy to stay distant from my original tribe. It didn't really matter, because if no one allied with me like what happened, I could just change sides and do just fine as I did. I actually technically didn't betray you. I was never in any alliance with you. Even when you talked about the Caquetios tribe alliance, I'd say, "Good idea!" without ever saying I was actually with the tribe. I never said, "Yes. I'm with you guys" until the swap, but that was lying to Terry and Cirie not you. You also had formed your alliance with the other 4, so I don't know if you can say I "betrayed" you, since you were plotting and lying to me first. I quickly realized that was not going to happen when you started playing dumb about the Bobby vote. I actually knew you were not naïve and out-of-the-loop like you were acting. People who play the tribe cheerleader role like you did are usually in a position want to maintain the status quo, so that told me you were likely in the majority

Misty - And one more reason why not to vote for Melinda? She did not honor your alliance at all. She could have taken the risk to jump to Arawak at the merge. Jamie, Rafe, Danielle, Shane, Bobby. That's six votes. You're all sitting there because of her own inaction.

Shane - ME, DANI, AND TERRY WERE FINAL 3. AND YOU WERE SO DUMB U DIDNT FOLLOW MY DIRECTIONS AFTER I MADE IT CLEAR. MAKES ME SICK.

Melinda - Misty, that is a load of crap. I was well aware that the new Arawak team was not sticking together. For me to return to Dani and Shane would have been a terrible move for me, and you know it.

Jeff Probst - Courtney, try to keep your answers more brief so you have time to answer each juror, thanks.

Jeff Probst - Judd you're up.

Judd - Okay, guys, I'm going to keep this short and sweet, because apparently, we've only got 10 minutes allotted for each juror. It's hard for me to cut down on the eccentric verbosity and keep to a word limit, but since I tend to double the length of any final TC I'm a juror for, I'm trying to do the hosts, and everyone else, a favor by keeping things simple and straight-to-the-point.

The one thing all three of you have in common is that all of you hid your games for the vast majority of the time out here. So tonight, I'd like you all to drop that veil and show me the player behind the curtain. One of you is the true Wizard of Oz, and I'm trying to find out who that is. Here's what I want to hear. I want each of you to list for me the big strategic moves you made in order to stay in control of this game. I want you to tell me every impressive play you made with the intention of maintaining a firm grasp of the other players and keeping things going in a direction that was beneficial to you.

I'm not looking for anything that plays on the jury's emotions. I'm not looking for apologies or for a justification of your strategy. Hell, I'm not even looking for honesty. My vote will most likely be going to the player that tells me, in the most effective way possible, the dominant game moves they made to advance through Aruba and continue to dictate how events in the game would play out.

Feel free to list as many or as few as you'd like. Spend your time emphasizing the major ones, or spend your time listing as many as possible. It's all up to you. You have 10 minutes, no more. I'd suggest using every second of it. Good luck.

Melinda - I started the game very quiet and under the radar, as to not make myself a threat immediately

- I asked Cirie for an alliance and we began to work together
- I accepted the invitation to the 5 person majority alliance of Dani, Shane, Cirie, Terry, and myself
- I quickly became close with Terry and Cirie and set up an alliance within the alliance
- I proposed the plan to throw out random votes, causing confusion in the tribe, and bringing some cracks in the alliance I knew I probably would need to leave at some point
- Once we switched I was able to become close with Courtney and Misty, because I knew I might need them down the line. I made them believe I was never apart of any alliance and that I would be with them 100%
- I was cordial with Judd and Gary so that I would not become a target of their's and made them believe I was honest/trustworthy
- I voted for Terry, even though he was my ally, in order to show the tribe I was with them, not Terry
- I pretty much single-handedly won an extremely important immunity challenge that got me to the merge (however I was prepared to convince Courtney/Misty to get rid of Judd had we lost that challenge)
- I was pretty quiet at the merge and told Dani/Shane I was still with them so they would not target me, or reveal to the others of our alliance
- I constantly told Misty and Courtney we needed to align with Rafe and Bobby and pick off the possible Arawak alliance
- I won a crucial immunity and pretty much single-handedly took out the biggest threat in the game- Judd
- I voted Morgan out rather than Rafe, showing my loyalty to Rafe and Bobby, and making them believe I was not at all associated with Courtney/Misty
- I worked well with Misty/Courtney to help me win immunity at the final 6, guaranteeing our alliance a ticket to the final 4
- I made sure that we got rid of the biggest jury threat in the game, Gary and I was the one to push for him to go, even before rafe
- I have never had a vote casted against me, and I'm the only person who has been able to do that
- I've continuously been the puppet-master, while others like Cirie, Terry, Shane, Danielle, Judd, and Misty have been seen as the targets, even though I have come up with just as many, if not more schemes and plots

So I am proud of all of these moments in the game. I think the biggest by far was taking you, Judd out of the game, and I think that was the moment people started recognizing that I was even a factor in this game. But I've always been a huge force in this game, and it's the little things that most people did not recognize which have been the foundation of why I've had success in this game. I didn't want to be recognized because look at what happened to the people who were viewed as strong... they went out one after the other. So I was a strong player, but I was quiet and sneaky in the way I went about it. Very Happy and proud of how I played.

Misty - I knew the alliance with you and Gary was not going to last long so I made the move to boot Jamie, hoping that you would not see it as me and Courtney working against you. But I made sure I had the votes in hand before telling you what I wanted to do. Having immunity also helped me push it through. I knew at least one or two people could be possibly throwing their votes at you, considering Rafe, Melinda, Courtney and I were the only other ones there. As it turned out, it was fortunate that Melinda had the immunity and followed through on it. So luck played a bit of a

factor in that. After telling Melinda to stick close to Bobby and Rafe, she told me she had made a F3 alliance with them and insisted that Gary and Morgan had to go next to set up a F5 where she said she would choose to sit next to me and Courtney... Right... I was going to let that happen. And that's why I immediately made a plan with Gary and Morgan and took Rafe out. No way was I leaving anything in Melinda's hands. If anything, I always had her fate in mine. I was considering voting her out instead of Gary but Gary did not sound like he was with me at all when I talked to him. I couldn't take the risk with him and that's why he left. The excuse of being a jury threat was secondary. But the main thing that got me here was bringing Bobby along for the ride. Melinda could not trust him at all since he was all over the place with strategy. Completely unpredictable. In the end, she chose not to risk it and brought the two of us to this point with her. If either me or Courtney had gotten immunity, she would have probably gone.

Courtney - 1. Not making any alliances, deals, or promises pre-merge when it was clear we had a strong winning tribe, that there were Outcasts in the game, and that a swap twist was highly likely. This decision convinced everyone I was naive and was too stupid to know to make an alliance, when as you can see, I have no problem backstabbing, lying, and forming alliances

2. Turning on Caquetios at the swap. I weakened the entire Caquetios tribe (Shane, Danielle, Melinda, etc.) and took out 2 power players Cirie and Terry, while also gaining new allies (Judd and Gary), while still being able to maintain my clean image thanks to #1. Most people are in huge trouble after a massive backstab like that, because everyone has your number like Jonathan Penner. When I did it, I came out smelling like roses, and people either blamed themselves like Terry or blamed people around me (like Misty as the assumed mastermind)

3. Coming up with the plan and executing the plan to turn on Judd/Gary/Jamie/Morgan. It shattered that power group, and Bobby, Melinda, and Rafe sort of owed me for "saving" them from imminent death. It also distracted everyone from the fact that I had the idol

4. The next round, Misty and I turned on the Rafe/Melinda/Bobby alliance and sided with Gary/Morgan for a new F4 alliance to the end, all the while still stringing Melinda and Bobby along. We got rid of Bobby's key side-ally Rafe, and limited both Melinda and Bobby's options, while giving my idol another break

5. The round after that, Misty/Melinda/myself worked together to win immunity for 1 of the 3 of us, and we had control of the vote despite Bobby's plan to get my idol flushed out. I told everyone I was playing the idol and never used it, so I had it for another round

6. The alliance I made with Melinda back at the swap tribe and my stupid and perhaps abrasive act convinced Melinda that I was a weaker jury threat than Bobby, and she decided to choose a non-Outcast like myself to take to the finals instead of an Outcast

Jeff Probst - Rafe, you're up.

Rafe - I think I've heard all I need to hear, Jeff. That, and I can't think of anything so important that I would be willing to wait 20 minutes to hear.

Jeff Probst - Okay then, Gary you're up.

Gary - Well, it's been fun boys & girls. This is actually very funny to watch as the factor that I've always based my jury vote on has pretty much been pissed on by all of you 2 of you more than 1. So how do I solve my problem here? How do you foolish people redeem yourselves a little? Courtney, you've pretty much done nothing in your statements tonight to make me wanna vote for you, you're cocky (which normally I would admire) But, that's not how you get people to vote

for you. Do you feel like you don't need out votes? are you satisfied with just making it this far? Melinda, you've been trying to showcase your talented gameplay, But, I've got a news flash for ya! I've only been with you since the flip, so focusing on that part of your game does nothing for me. Why do you feel the need to defend yourself so strongly? Misty, what to say? ah fuck it. Why did you have so little faith in me when I showed time and time again that I was sticking with you? Thanx all and good luck.

Melinda - I feel the need to defend myself so strongly because I truly believe I played this game better than Courtney and Misty, and the two of them are basically trying to tag-team me. I think that shows that neither of them played this game as an individual. I never wanted to play this game by anyone's standards but my own. I think I proved by winning three immunity challenges that I am a strong force in this game, and I am going to defend that because I believe so passionately that it is true. Satisfied?

Gary - see this is the kinda shit I'm talking about, do I really need the sass? Melinda, do you want my vote or not? no sass please?

Shane - 😊😊😊⚠️

Melinda - Gary, i assure you I was not trying to be sassy! Seriously, I was just asking if you wanted anything else that i didn't mention. Gary, I for sure want your vote. I have had a great amount of respect for the way you played this game. You played it with honor and class all the way though, and I thought we had a mutual respect for eachother. Sorry if I am coming off as cut-throat, I am truly just trying to get the point across that i am not weak, and maybe I've gone too overboard in trying to prove that, but like I said, it is because I am so passionate about the situation.

Misty - I'm truly sorry Gary. I honestly was trying to see if I could keep you and that's why I sent you those messages wanting to talk. But in the end I did not feel confident that you would stick with us at F4 and would possibly try to vote Courtney or me out. The whole deal with Morgan and what she was doing called things into question. You had my back when you didn't need to and I know I let you down. That's all I can say.

Courtney - I understand what you mean Gary. Since I have a limited opportunity to talk about all my game moves though, I sort of have to promote myself in 1 huge lump and I wouldn't be surprised if it's coming off overwhelming cocky. Obviously, that is not my intention. I am trying to get all my plans and strategies out there that is all. I also prefer to say more good things about myself than less or act like I didn't play a good game when I am proud of what I accomplished. I am not just satisfied with making it this far. I want to win of course! If I was just here to make friends and go far, I wouldn't have turned on you and Judd who didn't lie to me that I know of. I play to win, and that is the reason why I flipped on you and Judd. You guys were in the middle controlling a 6-person alliance. I wanted to win so I jumped off that sinking ship.

Jeff Probst - Okay, because bob-dawg and morgan are not here, I'm going to allow you guys to discuss the questions that have been asked, pose some interesting statements and then at 9:00, we'll end the discussion, you'll post your closing statements and We'll vote.

Gary - Thnx Girls! all I'm saying is your fait is in our hands, you might wanna try and be nice 😊 take care and good luck.

Shane - MELINDA, WHY DO U FRICKIN CLAIM THAT VOTING OUT JUDD WAS A HUGE STRATIGAL MOVE, YOU SAID IT WAS YOUR BIGGEST MOVE. WTF! ALL U FUCKING DID WAS WIN A CHALLENGE, THEN DID THE OBVIOUS THING AND TAKE OUT JUDD. A MONKEY WITH HALF A BRAIN COULD OF DONE IT!

Melinda - Well, if a monkey with half a brain would do that, only Misty and I have more than a half a brain, because Courtney obviously thought Morgan was a bigger threat than Judd. It was a huge move because Judd was the biggest threat in the game... I agree with you, i thought it was an

obvious move, but Courtney did not and voted for Morgan, which is one of the many reasons I played a smarter game than her.

Misty - For Morgan, all I'll say is that I liked talking to you although we didn't manage to see each other around that much due to our schedules. You tried to play two sides when there was really only one, unlike what I led you to believe. It was a good move, but nice try though. Sneaky... I liked that. And for Bobby, I think I got to know you a little bit better than the others did. Maybe you're willing to vote for a fellow outcast? Maybe you're not. Whatever the case, it was good getting to know you even though I never understood the basis of your strategy. 😊

Courtney - I only voted for Morgan, because I had talked with the tribe about who to vote off if not Morgan and Morgan's name was mentioned by you guys. I wanted Judd gone, because he'd stir up trouble. If I voted for Judd, and the 3 of you accidentally voted for Morgan due to the fact that we couldn't talk to one another, he'd go after me hardcore, and obviously I didn't want that to happen. I was thinking of how I was going to make amends with Gary/Morgan, after we turned on them that round, so if all else failed, I knew that I could always just act like I was scared of Morgan/Jamie instead of outright backstabbing Judd/Gary. If I hadn't turned on that entire alliance, Judd doesn't go anywhere anyways Melinda, so your argument is flawed. You only had that chance, because I wanted him gone in the 1st place.

Melinda - First, how would he know it was you who voted for him? Second, what you are saying is that you did not think for yourself and what YOU thought was a smart idea, you followed what you thought other people were doing. If you wanted him gone in the first place like you claim, you didn't follow through. That is a flat out lie Courtney.

Courtney - People aren't stupid. It's quite easy to figure out who votes for who, and who starts lying about it. Second, I did think for myself which is exactly why that Judd vote out opportunity came up in the first place? Did you propose the plan to switch on Arawak? Nope. You did nothing. Had I been an emotional player, I'd have stuck with Gary/Judd, and you'd have gone home probably after Bobby then Rafe. I also wanted there to be a tie, because I wanted you to be put on the radar and take a stand in public, so having you be the tie-breaker was great. I knew it'd be a lot harder for you to make something happen with Gary, which is what helped me vote out Rafe against your will the next round.

Melinda - Courtney, YES I DID! I told you and Misty from the start that we need to get rid of the Arawaks because they are working together! You and Misty wanted to wait it out. That is a complete lie and for you to claim that it was your idea is complete bullshit. Had I not nagged and nagged the two of you that we could not stick with Judd and Gary, we probably would have gone 7th 6th and 5th. If anything Misty was the first person who was open to getting out Judd and Gary, not you.

Courtney - You didn't nag at all! at least, you didn't nag at me. You were probably too scared that I was actually going with Gary/Judd to the end. The first time you talked about wanting Judd out was when you were voting him out and it surprised me a little that at least you were thinking for yourself. You're the one bullshitting! You didn't say anything about it all. You were a timid mouse. I presented the plan to Misty and she can attest to that. I only approached you after she did, because I was at class earlier in the day, but I had presented the plan to her the night before

Melinda - Alright, again, thank you all for making this game such an enjoyable experience for me. Misty and Courtney, we fought hard tonight and I have complete respect for the both of you as players of this game. I fought hard and passionately tonight in hopes you will all see the complex game that I played. I was never a sheep, and in the end I was able to do it by myself. If I offended you by arguing so strongly my beliefs of why I deserve to win, I'm sorry, but I would not be so vocal about it if I didn't truly believe I deserve to win this game over either of my competitors. They both came at me tonight as a team, but I came here as an individual who

believes she played the best game out of anyone here, despite the criticisms people had of my methods. Misty was already voted out of this game because she was nosy and rubbed people the wrong way. And while I think she played a smart game once she returned, I do not believe someone who already was voted out deserves to win. Courtney could never think for herself, Misty is a far smarter player than Courtney and is the only reason Courtney had a chance in this game. I worked with them both because we had common interests, and in the end we worked well together. It was a grueling game, filled with ups and downs, but I am asking for you to vote for me to win tonight, because I was able to adapt to every twist that came my way and position myself in a great position to win this game.

Courtney - By the way, I also predicted that the challenge at F9 would be a chop challenge, and I sent messages to everyone in the 5 person alliance planning for it. Obviously I was totally in charge of the plans that day and thinking 5 steps ahead of you. I was the one who considered Judd's extra vote, and that we had to win immunity that day. You made no suggestions except that we should vote with however Bobby wanted, because we needed the vote to be united

Melinda - Courtney, this is truly pathetic the shit you are spewing. I did indeed say immediately after Judd got his extra vote that we needed to get him out ASAP. You can try and tell all the lies you want to make me look like the follower you were. But when it comes down to it, the indisputable fact is that I made the move to take Judd out, you did not. Argue all you want that you wanted to do it.... you didn't, and I did.

Courtney - You mean I just imagined that you turned on Caquetios at the merge and voted with the majority, because you're a follower? Or that you were the tag along of the original Caquetios alliance? Or that I imagined the conversation we had about you being mad at us for changing the Final 5 plan like the conservative and scared player that you are? Speaking of flip-flopping and lying, I like how you earlier today said I played a good game, and now you're saying I played worst than Misty lol

Jeff Probst - While I would love to read the votes now and declare our winner, I cannot. We will meet tomorrow after Survivor on the Immunityidol.net forums. I'll set up a special section for Aruba. And there we can discuss Survivor: Micronesia, Stranded in Aruba, Stranded in Bolivia, we can keep in touch and discuss future seasons of the series. And I hope you all stick with me and the series throughout the fanfics and hopefully meet some of the future contestants along the way.

I'd like it if you all registered using your sucks usernames or any real life name you'd like to identify yourself with, but you're certainly entitled to use your in-game identities.

I'd like to thank you all for an awesome game and I will see you tomorrow where I will reveal the winner of Aruba and host the reunion special along with a reveal of who everyone is.

Please keep your identities secret until the reveal tomorrow!

Thanks so much, it's been amazing guys.

Melinda - Thanks Jeff, you were a truly amazing host. Completely fantastic game.

Courtney - I agree. Fantastic game Probst! Good game ladies. This game was grueling all the way to the end!

Judd - Great game, everyone, and good luck to the Final 3. I'll see you all tomorrow night.

Shane - **THANK FOR SHARING THIS EXPERIENCE WITH SHANE!**

Misty - Yeah. Girls, I loved working with the two of you immensely. Can we put the claws away now? 😊 Thanks for the great game, Jeff. See you all tomorrow!

Melinda - Haha that was a terrific catfight. 😊

OJEDA, NIGHT 25

On the last night of the game, the final 3 reflect on their experience and congratulate one another.

Melinda - Great tribal, incredible fight! 😊

Misty - I loved every moment of it. We all made it great and they got their money's worth. 😊

Melinda - Great game Courtney, I think you put up an incredible fight tonight and hopefully there are no hard feelings. 😊

Courtney - Thx! no hard feelings at all! I was just going to say the same to you. Wow you were tough! We're going to have such a great fanfic with our catfight at the end lol. Misty was the most classy one. Watch her win it! Good job and I meant it when I said I'll be fine with whoever the winner is!

Melinda - I didn't think I would be, but Courtney, you surprised me girl!! You really did make me believe you were a dummy, but I must say, you're incredible. I think any one of us would make a fabulous winner after that good fight 😊

Courtney - I know! Thx! Was it my stupid talk lol...Like i am not sure...

Melinda - Haha YES it was your stupid talk! Job well done!! OMG I really can't wait to get to know you after this because we both I think played really good games. I didn't know you had all that in you and I am incredibly impressed.

Courtney - Good job tonight! I like how you were the classy one lol. Man Melinda is a fighter!

Misty - I know! 😊 I just sent you a message too. We did great no matter what and if anyone wins I'm fine with it because we know we all played great.

Courtney - I know I'm worried about being wordy. I also ignored some of the jurors like Bobby, Morgan, and Rafe. So I don't think I'll win. I tried though! Thanks for supporting me! I think it was better to get all my thoughts out rather than hold back though so I can feel good about things no matter what. I am very pleased with this final 3 at least 😊

Read the conclusion of Stranded in Aruba with the live vote reading and reunion/reveal special.

<http://strandedgaming.com/episodes/aruba/FTC.html>