

**The Buddy System**

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| **Episode 09 Confessionals** | | |
| **Castaway** | **Old Count** | **New Count** |
| Rob | 8 | - |
| Phillip | 1 | - |
| Natalie | 0 | - |
| Ashley | 0 | - |
| Andrea | 0 | - |
| Mike | 3 | - |
| Matt | 1 | - |
| Grant | 1 | - |
| Ralph | 2 | - |
| Steve | 0 | - |
| Julie | 1 | 2 (+1) |
| David | 4 | 5 (+1) |

Day 21

1. **Matt (1/1):** First and foremost, I'd like to congratulate myself on being the most naive person to ever play the game of *Survivor*. Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me. So, I am reaping the benefits of-of my... my shame. I can't believe I got blindsided twice by the same people. Like, I feel like a moron. It's like it's the biggest practical joke in the world that's being played right now.

Day 22

1. **David (1/5):** I thought last night's move by Rob was genius. Um, this was, like, a hit straight out of a mob movie. Like, the guy comes back. There's little question about whether or not you can trust him, but you just welcome him back in and you pat him on the back, you sit down and you have dinner with him and then you go out on the fishing boats and kill him.
2. **Julie (1/2):** For them to send Matt back to Redemption was just cold-blooded. I mean, do not-- uh, it's a game, but do you not have any feeling at all for a human being? So, you know, with people like that playing the game, there's no breaking that barrier. That's how we feel right now. There's no breaking their loyal shield.
3. **Ralph (1/2):** Now... since we're merged we have no control, I don't think. That's very aggravating. I have no clue what-what's going on. They won't let us know nothing. I mean, how can we play a game when we don't even know where to start?
4. **Rob (1/8):** Voting Matty off last night accomplished one main goal and that was bringing the old Ometepe tribe much closer together. I have a whole vision that I'm trying to put into action here, keeping us versus them mentality, thus, the separate shelters, the separate eating times. I want my group to hate Zapatera. It's us versus them, and we're better than them. And we're going to be arrogant about it, and we're going to show it. I'm not. But I want them to. Because I want their votes at the end of the day.
5. **Rob (2/8):** So Natalie just came and told me that Ralph approached Ashley and said that if she makes it to the top three that he's voting for her. He's doing that so that Ashley makes a case to not vote off Ralph. *(chuckles)* We're going to vote his ass off anyway. Okay, he's not going to vote for me, Ralph? Well, you're not going to vote for Ashley, because she ain't going to be there now and it's your fault. Ashley, you could have made it to the end but you decided not to tell me anything. You have to tell me everything. It's my game. I'm in charge.
6. **Mike (1/3):** Today's Immunity Challenge was so close, so close. It was, like, well, you know, prepare yourself for Tribal Council. It's going to be one of the five of us tonight unless we can pull off a miracle, a Hail Mary.
7. **Mike (2/3):** You know, I think we're all preparing to potentially go to Redemption Island. Um, we-we've tossed around the idea of trying to, uh, see if we can woo some of the Ometepe tribe, but Rob's got them on such lockdown. I mean, he's like the, uh, he's like the prison guard.
8. **David (2/5):** Immediately upon returning from the challenge, Mike and I decided to look under the flag. Well, we had a thought that maybe an idol had been placed there. But the, uh, “Mariano Crime Syndicate” decided to get shovels out and dug a few feet deep around the area. By that point in time, we had... pretty much come to the conclusion that there was nothing there.
9. **Mike (3/3):** They came running back, grabbed shovels. They thought we were looking for an idol, and I-I think Rob thinks to some degree that we may have found it before... *(chuckles)* before, uh, they were able to get back with the shovels.
10. **Rob (3/8):** Here's the thing... I still can't shake this idol paranoia. Like, idols are what killed me last time around, and I'm still struggling with them. I know I have one idol. But last night at Tribal, Ralph played his idol. So I believe another idol could be in play at this point. (15:22 → 15:31 = 9s) Tonight, we basically have to make up a vote blind. It could potentially cost me my *Survivor* life.
11. **Rob (4/8):** So we have to pick someone to vote out tonight knowing the possibility that person may actually have an idol or somebody else may have one and give it to that person. This is one of those times in Survivor where you have to gamble.
12. **Rob (5/8):** Tonight's Tribal Council was pretty interesting. I think the biggest thing that I took away from it is that Phillip is slowly becoming a very loyal soldier. Which is good for me. And even when faced with, *"You're at the bottom of the pack"* comments, by the other tribe, he responded that, *"I love being at the bottom. That's where I'm comfortable."* I'm very happy that Phillip is obeying and doing as he's told and he'll be rewarded for it. (23:14 → 23:23 = 9s) Phillip's not really crazy. He's kind of playing crazy. But he is a little crazy, you know? So even this early, I'm still thinking about my end game and the jury. So as far as Phillip and I go, Phillip's at the top of my list. He's my number one. That's all he needs to know. So... Natalie and Phillip are coming to the final three with me.

Day 23

1. **Phillip (1/1):** Everybody thinks Phillip is naive. Phillip is idiot. Phillip is a crazy guy. This is a game. Everybody wants to stand at finals with a guy like me who's been polarizing, insulting. And so, knowing Boston Rob the way I know him, he's thinking, who can I have stand next to me and who doesn't look so pretty? Phil Sheppard. But I'm a smart guy. I'm a complex person, and, uh, I gotta make something happen. But that's gonna-- there's a time for that and now isn't the time.
2. **Ralph (2/2):** We need to get this game on the road. Time's ticking. We're getting close on time. We've gotta make some moves.
3. **David (3/5):** When nobody is willing to play the game it's not a lot of fun. We're just... sitting here trying to hang on as long as we can, and there's-there's no guarantees that, uh, I'm not already the next on the list.

Day 24

1. **Rob (6/8):** A win is always important. I never want to lose. I always like to have an edge. I don't want the Zapatera people to have immunity. I don't want them to have any kind of momentum. I don't want them to feel like they have any power. So as long as someone from our side wins, I'm going to be happy at this point.
2. **Julie (2/2):** Rob is trying to tell his people that fish isn't any good. I think that Rob just doesn't want his people to take anything from us. Now, if Rob were to catch all that fish, that would have been a different story. They would have been feasting over there.
3. **Rob (7/8):** Here's the thing, I'm running my tribe like the Army. I'm the general, they're soldiers and they're all doing as they're told which is a wonderful thing.
4. **Grant (1/1):** There's no food out here, so I'll eat anything, no matter what Rob says. I'm my own man, I make my own decisions but... I don't really think there's a dictatorship going on.
5. **David (4/5):** The Ometepe tribe was told not to eat the fish. I don't know if Rob wants to keep them weak or he just wants to maintain control over them. I mean, it-it's cult-like. He showed the power that he has by just instilling fear in everyone with the whole Matt situation. If you give any inclination that you're wavering in your loyalty, you know, he'll just cut your head off then and there. So nobody is going to cross him.
6. **Rob (8/8):** You know, what it comes down to tonight, is David or Steve. Do I eliminate what I consider the biggest strategical threat in the game right now, or do I give the old dying T. rex what he wants? Because I think he wants to go home and getting rid of Steve, it may give me a jury vote. I mean, I've been known to have a mercy killing in me from time to time. Haven't I?

Redemption Island

1. **David (5/5):** The last few days have been really frustrating. Um, it seems like every time the wheels start to spin and I start to-to be able to play the game, that brakes get put on it by somebody else.