

**Million Dollar Question**

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| **Episode 14 Confessionals** | | |
| **Castaway** | **Old Count** | **New Count** |
| Denise | 6 | 5 (-1) |
| Lisa | 6 | - |
| Michael | 11 | 10 (-1) |
| Malcolm | 5 | - |

Day 36

1. **Michael (1/10):** Getting rid of Abi, it's the best feeling I've had since I've been out here. It sucked life out of you having her here. I’ve never met anybody like that before.
2. **Malcolm (1/5):** On the one hand, it's a really good thing that Abi is gone. The bad news is she went out with a bang. Whenever somebody wants to go out with a bang in this game, they tend to throw me under the bus with compliments, of all things. *"Malcolm will definitely win the game. Malcolm is a 100% a lock if you let him get to the end."* I think they're trying to be nice but the amount of damage control I have to keep doing after somebody blows up at Tribal Council is getting ridiculous.
3. **Michael (2/10):** Malcolm and I have a *Survivor* alliance, but the decision that I have to make for the endgame strategy has to be who I want to sit next to in the final three. There is a feeling that Malcolm's the runaway. Abi sees it that way. Lisa sees it that way. I don't see it that way. I believe I have a better story than he has. I have to step outside the game for just a minute and look at it from an outside observer in order to truly make the decision on that.

Day 37

1. **Denise (1/5):** Oh, we have a challenge today which we-we weren't expecting. My fear is I will be the next one to go. We've had this solid four, but four can't go to three so I am desperate to win it because one of us is going to get the short end of the stick, and I definitely don't want it to be me.
2. **Lisa (1/6):** We did not need Malcolm winning an immunity advantage. He was already a huge threat to win, just on his own. So it was going to be an uphill climb just battling Malcolm. Now battling Malcolm with an advantage? Forget it.
3. **Malcolm (2/5):** Today, I managed to pull it out. I won some sort of advantage in the the final Immunity Challenge which is huge. It's the last challenge before this thing goes to the jury vote, and at this point, I'll take any advantage I can get. Everything is going exactly as I planned. I have a final three deal with Lisa and Skupin. I think I can beat them at the end. I absolutely think I could beat Denise at the end, but she's the hardest person to beat for me right now. Her story is too similar to mine. You know, the person from the tribe that was wiped out early on made it all the way to the end. So, I feel bad for her but the best thing for my game right now is to go to the final three with people I can beat.
4. **Denise (2/5):** I tried to approach Malcolm about going to the final three together, and he's just very hesitant to make any kind of commitment, and so for me, knowing that he had planned so hard to make sure we had a six, and had planned so hard to make sure we had a four, makes me very leery about his thoughts on keeping me in that final three. So, this is kind of scramble time and I need to figure out a plan and figure it out fast.
5. **Lisa (2/6):** Today’s been a good day. I just found out that Denise is willing to turn on Malcolm and go to the final three with Mike and me. She realizes she doesn't have a chance against him. None of us do. So this is fabulous.
6. **Lisa (3/6):** I hugged her, big hug. Didn't shake her hand. *(chuckles)* Didn't give her my word because I don't know what Skupin is going to think about this.
7. **Michael (3/10):** Lisa and I have a pact with Malcolm to go into the final three together, but now it looks like we have the same deal with Denise, which is great because either way, Lisa and I will be in the final three with one of those two, depending on who wins immunity.
8. **Michael (4/10):** You know, the word on the street is Malcolm's unbeatable, and he makes it to the final three, it's a landslide, he'll get every vote. I don't know. I think I can beat Malcolm. And I think I can tell a pretty good story at the end. So I just have to keep my cool and figure out who I want to sit next to in the final three because that's the million dollar question right there.

Day 38

1. **Lisa (4/6):** I hated it when Abi used to tell me that I needed to keep Michael on a leash, but I think you need to be pretty level headed to be able to make some strategic moves, and sometimes Skupin is not that level headed.
2. **Michael (5/10):** Lisa and I are not on the same page as far as who sits in the final three, and who that last person is on the jury. So if I want to control the outcome of the game, I have to have immunity in my hand so I can create the final three instead of just falling into the final three.
3. **Malcolm (3/5):** Tree Mail was a larger message than usual. We are gonna do the, uh, Fallen Comrades walk today, where you go pay your respects to everyone who’s fallen before you in this game. It's a very cool thing to be able to take some time and go remember them one last time before, uh, the blood starts flowing tonight.
4. **Malcolm (4/5):** I knew I needed to win that Immunity Challenge to really guarantee my spot at the final three, but the minute I get nervous around a girl or anything, my hands start to shake just a little bit and then when I saw my hands start shaking, it just got worse and worse and worse. So, it's a very disconcerting scenario because my fate now rests with Lisa and Skupin.
5. **Michael (6/10):** I can't believe I did it. This win means I made it to the very, very, very, very end. And what I'm most proud of is the fact they all said the same thing, *“Malcolm is going to win.”* And it turns out, it was not even close. Now, there's a ton of strategy. Who do you keep? Who do you put on the jury? Can you get their vote? And it's up to me to make that decision.
6. **Malcolm (5/5):** This is the first time, in a long time in this game, I haven't been calling the shots. Hopefully, I've strategized well enough to where it doesn't matter. I have an oath from Lisa and Skupin that they're with me, that Denise is going home. But people are out here playing a game for a million dollars, and if they get any crazy ideas, I could be in for a nasty surprise tonight.
7. **Denise (3/5):** I am so mad. Malcolm and I could have stayed together and split the vote, have it be a tie, but now that's not going to happen. So my head is clearly on the block tonight. The problem is Skupin is kind of the dreamer guy. His mind is going a thousand different places and he may not always see the repercussion of what happens if you take the best of the best of the best to the end. So I have to figure out a way to convince him that it's worth it to take me with them. I'm one stubborn, determined woman. And if I can make it happen, I'm gonna make it happen.
8. **Michael (7/10):** The obvious choice would be get Lisa and Denise on board and vote Malcolm out. That just seems like the obvious. But when it comes right down to it, I would love to take Malcolm and beat him straight up man to man, two warriors, fought to a head. He won three individual challenges. I won three individual challenges. What a great head-to-head battle that would be.
9. **Michael (8/10):** Right now, I haven't decided who I'm going to keep yet. I am strongly considering keeping Malcolm. You know, my wife said to me as I was walking out the door, *“Make us proud of you."* And I would love to get to the final three by keeping my word, and being honorable, and come the final vote, have her say, *"You made us proud."*
10. **Lisa (5/6):** Tonight, we can either bring Malcolm or Denise to the final three. Assuming Michael and I will vote together, which is a big assumption, because Skupin is a wild card here. Handing the title of *Sole Survivor* on a platter to Malcolm would just be stupid. Everybody who signed up to play this game came to win, and I did, too. So after what I've been through, I would do whatever it takes to make sure Malcolm is not in the final three.
11. **Denise (4/5):** I feel badly that Malcolm was really upset, but at the same time, this is that part of the game when I can say, *“You know, Malcolm, you were a great ally. Um, you played a great game, but this is the part where I outwit you. This is the part where I went one step past you and you can be angry, but that's the game.”*
12. **Michael (9/10):** As he was leaving Tribal Council, Malcolm said, uh, *“Congratulations on your million dollars, Denise.”* Meaning she was going to run away with it. Um, I'll have a lot to say about that tomorrow. (59:35 → 59:44 = 9s) Some people might not want to vote for any one of us. I guess who can plead their case the best is potentially the one that’s going to win a million bucks.

Day 39

1. **Denise (5/5):** It was great to hike up to the cliff this morning, you know, to have the three of us, and just to sit up here and have a different perspective. (1:00:28 → 1:00:37 = 9s) Here I am, this little old sex therapist from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, that everybody thinks is probably going to ride on coattails, who actually has played some strategy. And I feel like I'm thriving out here.
2. **Michael (10/10):** We walked up to Tree Mail this morning and there was bacon and sausage and I'll tell you, your strength starts to return just from knowing you're going to eat. 23 seasons I watched this game and I've always wondered if I could play this whole game strategically enough to get myself in the final three. I knew I could make it to the end 23 seasons ago. When I came out here, I tried to tell myself the same thing, but thoughts of doubt kept creeping in because every time I got around a campfire, I thought, *“Don't fall in the sucker.”* But I'm here, and it feels good to be here.
3. **Lisa (6/6):** You know, I left show business, got married, raised my kids, and that was a thing of my past. And now I'm back in the game of *Survivor*. And you would think that it would feel very similar, but it's nothing like what I experienced growing up as a child because on *The Facts of Life* I had a role, I had a script, I played a character, I didn't have to worry about me. I didn't really realize how much of your heart and your soul and your spirit and your body are involved in this game, that your head is just a little bitty part of it. And yet it's a huge part of it when it comes to winning the game. The overwhelming feeling is one of gratitude. I mean, of the eighteen that started, there are only three that get to experience Day 39. This is just a rare privilege, and I'm very aware and humbled that I get to experience something so incredible.