

**It’s Merge Time**

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| **Episode 07 Confessionals** | |
| **Castaway** | **Count** |
| Michele | 3 |
| Aubry | 8 |
| Tai | 2 |
| Cydney | 1 |
| Joe | 1 |
| Jason | 5 |
| Julia | 0 |
| Scot | 5 |
| Debbie | 4 |
| Nick | 11 |
| Neal | 5 |

Day 16

1. **Scot (1/5):** I am absolutely going to be picking off the Brain tribe now, because of that, because of that indecision, because I can’t trust them.
2. **Aubry (1/8):** Peter went home, which is what I thought was going to happen, but I went up there, wrote Julia, crossed it out and wrote Peter, and I ended up putting a target on my back and on Joe’s. So… future of the Brains tribe, we’re done, I think that’s it. And I think it’s every man for himself.
3. **Scot (2/5):** If I have to go to another Tribal, I am absolutely going to write down Aubry… Joe… Aubry… Joe, and I’ll just cross them out until I decide which one I want to go first.

Day 17

1. **Joe (1/1):** Tai’s relationship with the chicken is a father to a son, I think. He does everything with the damn bird. He probably likes it better than us. After Tribal, Aubry and I, we’re on the chopping block, and now Tai and Scot and Julia, they’ve got a threesome and they’ve got two Brains, and, you know, bye-bye Brains. You know, Aubry, she at least changed her vote back to Peter. So, boom-boom, Joe’s done because I broke ranks. At this stage of the game, one chicken’s doing better than me.
2. **Cydney (1/1):** Neal was walking around with a big bulge in his pocket, and I’m just like, *“Hmmm. I know what the idol looks like.”* So when I saw the imprint in Neal’s pocket, I looked at Jason, I was like, *“We’re going to have to flush that bad boy on out.”*
3. **Jason (1/5):** Neal has a bulge in his cargo pocket, and, uh, the reason I think it looks so much like the idol is ‘cause I have a matching one. Now the target’s really on him because that makes him a threat to everybody. You know, but I gotta wait. I gotta plant the seeds and wait for the perfect time to let ‘em sprout up. I’m-I’m as pleased as punch right now. I kind of hold all the power.
4. **Jason (2/5):** You know, I was sitting there on the Chan Loh beach, feeling pretty good, getting ready to blindside Neal, and then this boat shows up. What the hell is going on?
5. **Michele (1/3):** I made the *Survivor* merge. That’s crazy! It’s, like, my dream as a kid. But, you know, unfortunately, I was in a good position at Chan Loh, now everything shifted. I don’t know what’s going on on the other side and, uh, that’s a scary thought.
6. **Debbie (1/4):** This season has been particularly tough so making the merge is huge and I made it. I never doubted that I would make it, however. You know, the game is switched up again and it’s really going to be insane out there. I love change. I love mixing it up. I take the offense, pull people in, because people want to be pulled in. Everybody’s dangling. I’ll pull ‘em in. Lock ‘em down.
7. **Scot (3/5):** I made it to the merge! I made it to the merge on *Survivor*. That is awesome. It is such a huge deal. And as soon as I saw Jason and Cydney, I just thought, *“Oh, man, we’re back together.”* It’s like we’re in the Playoffs. It’s-it’s time to start over, refocus. Hopefully, my team is strong and ready to get a championship.
8. **Aubry (2/8):** And just like that, Joe and I have been saved. After the last Tribal, I felt like total crap, so much so, that I was telling myself, *“I’m a free agent. I’m separating from Joe.”* Like, *“That's it.”* And then to see Neal and Debbie, I was so relieved. It was like being separated from your wacky family and then seeing them again.
9. **Tai (1/2):** When Brain, Beauty and Brawn all together finally, you’re thinking number-- four Beauty, four Brain, three Brawn. How are we going to line up? In *Survivor*, I have to trust somebody. So Scot is my only ally I know and he’s the most logical, since he know about the idol.
10. **Nick (1/11):** During the merge feast, people were getting a little tipsy, but I’m just listening left and right, seeing who’s getting along, seeing what information is out there. And it’s obvious the Brawn are going to be arrogant, like they’re in charge and nobody can stop them. The Brains are not going to want to work with that type of person because they’re the exact opposite. They want to be in the shadows. Right now, my true alliance is with Michele. We’re in a great spot within these two tribes, but I’ve learned: slow it down, read the people, let them keep bringing you information, and then you just slice ‘em up.
11. **Debbie (2/4):** Aubry is a little upset about the way things panned out and feels guilty. She has no need to do that. I know the four Brains -- myself, Aubry, Neal and Joe -- we’re still strong.
12. **Neal (1/5):** The Brawn are going to be an ongoing physical threat. Plus, they’re just kind of bullies. So it makes sense to go with a Beauty and Brain alliance.
13. **Nick (2/11):** Neal and Aubry pitched the fact that, *“Hey, we just need two more of your Beauty. Nick, can you get in Michele?” “Yeah, I can probably get in Michele.”* So they wanted to be the Brains versus the Brawn, just like I thought. (11:36 → 11:48 = 12s)
14. **Nick (3/11):** It makes sense to go with the Brains, but if you corner yourself, if you put yourself in a position where your back is against the wall, that’s not good *Survivor*.
15. **Jason (3/5):** It’s merge time, and the Brawn, we got to get back on track. So we were open with Nick, ‘cause we want him to feel comfortable. Right now, we need him for the numbers. And I believe that Neal has an idol, so Neal is the main focus.
16. **Nick (4/11):** You gotta wonder if Scot and Jason had too much rum at the merge feast. Scot welcomed me right away, and Jason says, *“Neal has an idol.”* Thank you for bringing me into your alliance. You’re such sweethearts, both of you.
17. **Jason (4/5):** Holy crap. This is unreal. Tai has a Hidden Immunity Idol, which is amazing because when you take two separate idols, mine and even his, and you link them together, now we have a Super Idol that we can play after the votes have been read, which means we are literally unstoppable.
18. **Nick (5/11):** I don’t like Scot’s and Jason’s overconfidence. They’re just like, *“Screw everybody else. This is our game.”* But as much as it annoys me, that’s a great thing for me. It really is, because they’re never going to suspect a blindside on them. They’re never going to see it coming.

Day 18

1. **Debbie (3/4):** I seem to be one of the few people here that plays offense, and I know I need six to have the numbers over Brawn. It’s a battle for power, and I’m playing to win.
2. **Tai (2/2):** I woke up this morning, I didn’t even sit down, Debbie, like, two seconds behind me, she say, *“Hey, I really like you. You’re going to be in our alliance.”* It was pretty aggressive. I’m not buying her story. I’m not a fool! I see right through Debbie.
3. **Aubry (3/8):** Deb needs to cool her jets. She is trying too hard. Double and triple teaming people isn’t the way to go when you’re trying to get the numbers. You have to show confidence, and right now we’re showing desperation.
4. **Jason (5/5):** Beauty always goes with the jock, always. It’s just the way of the world. The Beauties don’t date the brainiacs. They’re at the dance with us and we’re just shoving-- shoving geeks in lockers right now. Sorry, Brain. We want to go after Neal, but we believe he’s holding the idol, so we take out someone that they never see coming, Aubry.
5. **Michele (2/3):** I think Jason probably thinks that he’s on top. He’s the one who’s constantly going, *“Hey, this is what’s going on. This is what this person said. This is the way that we’re going.”* So it looks like Brawn and Beauty are kind of together. But Brawn is way too controlling and I never counted out working with Brain.
6. **Aubry (4/8):** I’m on board with the Brains sticking together, but someone is going to have to get their head out of their butt and start talking to people like a normal human being. I think it’s pretty obvious that people are… irritated by Debbie, and if we don’t get the Beauties on our side, the Brains are screwed.
7. **Nick (6/11):** I’m still open to working with the Brains tribe, but Debbie is aggravating me at this point. She almost takes strategy in her own hands for the Brains tribe, and I don’t want anybody having more power than I do in this game.
8. **Neal (2/5):** We know that we have to get at least two of the Beauties on board, but people are so turned off by Debbie. It’s bad. We’re in a bad situation.
9. **Aubry (5/8):** I’m getting a good roller coaster out of *Survivor*, man. I was thinking we’re screwed. But now, it turns out Neal has the Hidden Immunity Idol. This is what we needed to start doing things. The game is on. Let’s go.

Day 19

1. **Neal (3/5):** Tonight it will be the four Brains going up against the bullies, against the Brawn. Fortunately, I have the idol, and if I think I need to play it, I’ll play it. I could save myself or maybe pass it on to Aubry, and hopefully, we’ll take control of this game.
2. **Nick (7/11):** Tonight is the first Tribal Council after the merge, and pretty much everything is at stake of where the dominoes will fall, or so I believe. It’s Brawn versus Brains, and I’m in the middle, along with Beauty, for the most part. We’re like the pretty girl at the dance -- you’re either going home with the quarterback or you’re going home with the valedictorian. It’s a fun position to be in. It’s fun being the pretty girl. I never felt like a pretty girl before, but now I do. It feels great.
3. **Scot (4/5):** The Brains are screwed. We’re going to just pick them off one by one until they’re gone. The best-case scenario is Neal plays an idol because he’s paranoid, but Aubry goes home anyway. I feel confident in our alliance of Beauty and Brawn right now, because everybody seems to feel very comfortable going, *“Hey, why not? We’ll just take the Brains out.”* And then once we get to seven, then we’ll figure it out, even though Jason and I already have it figured out. *(laughs)*
4. **Nick (8/11):** Right now, I’m leaning towards Brawn and voting out one of the Brains right away. But Scot and Jason are always going to be overconfident, and when everybody feels safe is when you do your damage.
5. **Neal (4/5):** Nick, I believe, wants to go with us. So now we have to convince Michele to come on board. We need to have six, but in a moment of desperation, all I have to do is reach into the family jewels… and grab out the idol.
6. **Aubry (6/8):** To gain power in this game, the Brains need Nick, the Brains need Michele. I want a Brawn gone. And we have to start making stuff happen. The Brains don’t get Nick and Michele, Neal and I are playing the idol.
7. **Michele (3/3):** You know, I’d love to work with Aubry and Debbie, but I’m not sure strategically it’s my best option. So I think I have to just kind of, you know, assess the relationships more. I could go whichever way I wanted right now, so I’m figuring out really what is best for me.
8. **Nick (9/11):** It makes sense to go with Brawn right now because I do believe I can manipulate them *(snaps finger)* just like that, and beat them in puzzles *(snaps finger)* just like that. They’re just idiots. I like Aubry. I would hang out with Aubry more than any other girls here. But, unfortunately, at Tribal Council tonight, Aubry’s going home. (32:25 → 32:40 = 15s)
9. **Nick (10/11):** I know how big of a decision this is. I think I’m making the right decision. I’ll see when the game ends if it is or if it isn’t.
10. **Scot (5/5):** Getting ready for Tribal tonight and then all of a sudden, Jeff’s coming. The doctor is coming to us. Immediately, red flags went up. Jeff doesn’t do this. The doctors don’t do this. At least one of us is in serious enough condition that they would come to us. This season of *Survivor*, it’s tough.
11. **Debbie (4/4):** It’s brutal. It’s absolutely brutal out here, and a little thing blows up into a huge deal. If I lose Aubry to an injury, that changes the whole ballgame here.
12. **Neal (5/5):** The infection on my back just looks really gross, but I think it’ll be fine. If medical tries to pull me from this game, they are going to have to literally drag me out of here.
13. **Aubry (7/8):** I know it took everything within Neal not to get upset because he wants to play so badly, and he just told us how lucky we were to be here… *(pauses)* and he’s right. But, like, really, my number one ally? Gone. *(wipes away tears)* So Neal’s going, and it’s on the tip of my tongue, *“What about the idol?”* And I’m just hoping he would give me the idol.
14. **Nick (11/11):** Aubry was going home, and thanks to some lucky medical evacuation, she lives for maybe another day or two.
15. **Aubry (8/8):** I didn’t think I’d be crying this much on *Survivor*, but there have been ups and downs and right when I thought that… *(sniffles)* we were going to get some traction under us, my biggest ally is out of the game, I got a nice little bulge on my leg that everyone got to see, and I’m thinking to myself, *“With Neal gone, there is no way the Beauties join the Brains and the idol went home with Neal.”* That son of a bitch. Really, Neal left me hanging, but *Survivor* is a path. You pave your way by yourself. It’s like going on the *Oregon Trail*. You have to ford every river, you have to caulk every wagon, you have to up the hills and down the hills, and sometimes you get dysentery and die. You have to pave your own way.