

**There’s a New Sheriff in Town (Pt. 1)**

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| **Episode 08 Confessionals** | |
| **Castaway** | **Count** |
| Sarah | 1 |
| Brad | 3 |
| Troyzan | 0 |
| Tai | 1 |
| Aubry | 1 |
| Cirie | 9 |
| Michaela | 3 |
| Andrea | 1 |
| Sierra | 7 |
| Zeke | 4 |
| Debbie | 3 |
| Ozzy | 0 |
| Hali | 3 |

Day 19

1. **Sarah (1/1):** You know, I come from a very conservative background. I don’t know any transgender people until now, and the fact that I’ve been with Zeke and gotten to know him as a person from Day 1… I love that guy, and it doesn’t change who he is to me. If anything, it makes us stronger, I feel. So I woke up this morning, and Zeke is Zeke.
2. **Zeke (1/4):** One of the reasons I didn’t tell people is I sort of wanted people to see me as myself. Often in my life, when I tell people I’m trans, that’s sort of what they’re interested in, and everything else about me sort of gets pushed to the wayside, but, you know, *Survivor*, it makes you tough, it makes you resilient, and it makes you adaptable. And I think I had all those qualities before, but they’ve certainly been strengthened and grown. And I think I was able to be a… a little more brave and a little bolder to help others and also to get over my own fears and to get over my own, you know, issues and complexes and insecurities of being transgender. You know, I really, really like the people I am playing with, and it is heartening, in this game, that often your lowest moments, you know, when something bad does happen to you, that people who are out to get you in some regard, do stand in your defense and do come to your defense. And I was truly touched, but in the meantime, there’s-there’s still a task at hand. A task that I’m rather committed to. I’m here to win a million dollars. I’m here to play *Survivor*. So let’s just get back to it.
3. **Cirie (1/9):** We walk into the challenge, and there’s a buffet on the table. So I’m like, *“Oh, wow, it is a merge feast,”* you know? So you’re happy. But at the same time, there’s Jeff next to a table, covered. So it’s like, *“Uh-oh, something ain’t right.”*
4. **Zeke (2/4):** Here’s the deal with Brad Culpepper, because I don’t think he liked the way he came out looking in the first *Blood vs. Water*, so Brad falls on his sword to be, like, the hero and the great provider. I think this is very much part of, like, the “Culpepper brand,” to sacrifice themselves for others.
5. **Cirie (2/9):** Brad and Tai got brownie points, because… you provided for everybody, in a sense. But that makes me suspicious, because everything in this game is calculated.
6. **Sierra (1/7):** I made the merge. I have food. I feel like a whole new woman. And now I’m going to go in guns blazing, and I’m ready to make some moves. And I also have my Legacy Advantage, but I can only use it when there’s thirteen or six people left in the game. Right now, we are at thirteen, but I’m willing to do whatever it takes to keep it in my back pocket until the final six.
7. **Cirie (3/9):** Once the merge happens, everything takes off like a jet plane. Yeah, we all happy and we’re eating and drinking and last suppering together, but people are having conversations, people are reuniting, everybody is sizing people up, and things are gonna start flying. People’s heads are gonna start rolling. So this is where I step my game up.
8. **Brad (1/3):** In football, you’re only as good as your next game. I made the merge. Awesome. It’s in my rearview mirror. I’m looking straight ahead. Who’s the next person gonna be? It’s not gonna be me. Tai and I connected prior to today on numerous occasions. I think I’ve kinda taken over his Caleb role from last season. So I think I can trust Tai going forward. And on my old tribe, Michaela and Hali were on the bottom, so I want to gun for them first.
9. **Tai (1/1):** I love Brad. He and I have a lot of things in common. So I think he has my back. I have a number. I’m comfortable. I’m happy.
10. **Hali (1/3):** Little Debbie got loose. She was shaking it all over the place. I think alcohol was an excuse for Debbie to go “Debbie” on us.
11. **Debbie (1/3):** I’m okay that other people think I’m drinking, but I never had a sip of alcohol. (11:09 → 11:20 = 11s)
12. **Debbie (2/3):** If I have to pretend to be drunk and do a bad twerking and a shaking of my booty to crack these people up and feel very comfortable with me, then I’ll do it. At this point, thirteen is still a large number in this game, and you don’t know where their alliances are, so relationships absolutely matter, because if you think our camp is not going to be full-blown pandemonium, you’re a fool.
13. **Debbie (3/3):** I swallowed my pride and I did apologize to Brad, because on Exile, Cochran said, *“Extend the olive branch all the way around.”* We kissed and made up. I wanted to make sure that me and Brad were as solid as we could be in a game of deception and intrigue.
14. **Aubry (1/1):** I was so proud of Zeke, it’s amazing. More respect for Zeke in telling his story than I do for a handful of these jokers in knowing them for 20 days. And I think Zeke is right, the experience of going on *Survivor*, it makes you tough. And nothing is gonna be easy about the merge. There are thirteen people at this camp, and now the game at hand is figure out where people stand and who’s in the loop and who’s out of it.
15. **Brad (2/3):** My number one goal is reconnecting and strengthening the bonds that I had with people that I’ve-- haven’t been with, people that I maybe had a little rocky time with. Bonded with Tai. Debbie, she’s come back and apologized. And with Sierra and myself and Troyzan, so far so good. (14:26 → 14:38 = 12s)
16. **Brad (3/3):** You know, if I’m just thinking about myself and who I can play best with, I don’t feel that good about Michaela. Her reputation precedes her a little bit, and in the long term, I don’t really trust her. So right now I’m getting everyone together to get on the same page, and Michaela would be the first gobble up after the merge.
17. **Sierra (2/7):** So me and Brad don’t care to work with Michaela. I think she’s a little shifty. She’s tough to be around. She’s a loose cannon. She’s a beast in challenges. There’s many threats that Michaela has that keeping her in the game will hurt a lot of us. (16:09 → 16:22 = 13s)
18. **Sierra (3/7):** Every time I talk to somebody, here comes Michaela, creeping around a bush. She will not let anybody talk. She’s also very blunt and doesn’t have a lot of tact. (16:38 → 16:52 = 14s)
19. **Sierra (4/7):** Yeah, I’m constantly on edge with Michaela around. This has to be a blindside. She can’t know that her name is getting tossed around. And if one thing sets Michaela off, then we’re all going down.
20. **Zeke (3/4):** Michaela could be a potential number for us to work with going forward. So this vote is a bigger deal than anyone is letting on. There have been two sort of natural groups, fighting to get in a power position moving forward. It’s Cirie, Sarah, Andrea and myself. Then there’s Brad and Sierra’s group. And I think everyone is wondering, is the other side going to strike first, and I’m going to be caught with my pants down. And we have to strike first. These are the last moments of people pretending to get along. It’s the smiles before the bloodbath.

Day 21

1. **Hali (2/3):** Going into a merge, it’s just like… *(simulates explosion)* people are everywhere. There’s pockets of conversation everywhere and you can’t keep track of-- of who is all talking. There’s not a lot of people that I feel like are working with me at this point in the game. Seems like Michaela is on the chopping block, but I want to work with Michaela. I think that she’s a great person, but she’s also a good number for me right now. So I just need to kind of lit a fire under Michaela’s butt to start getting some strategy on that’s going to help me.
2. **Michaela (1/3):** You can become a target very quickly here. Like I’ve already heard my name, and I haven’t done anything. And that really kind of pissed me off. Ooh, I was about to explode. Being out of the loop at this point in the game is very dangerous. I’m going to have to find some people that I can trust so I’m not the one going home, and maybe that person is Cirie.
3. **Cirie (4/9):** Michaela wears her heart on her sleeve. I used to be like that. I was-- I literally, when I was Michaela’s age, I was a hothead like Michaela. I thought I knew… *(laughs)* I thought I knew everything, but I learned when you put that guard up, you push people away, and in a game like *Survivor*, you want to bring as many people in as possible. You don’t want to be pushing people away or making people feel uncomfortable.
4. **Michaela (2/3):** Cirie and I had a real, like, straight up heart-to-heart conversation, ‘cause we do have a lot of similarities. And Cirie has skyrocketed in trust with me, and I’m extremely excited to play with her.
5. **Cirie (5/9):** Right now, Michaela’s public enemy number one, but I genuinely like Michaela, and as a human, and as a older… person to a younger person, you want to save her, and I if I can do that, that’s one person that I can count on to have my back.
6. **Andrea (1/1):** Tonight’s vote seems so simple. However, this is *Survivor: Game Changers*. No vote’s easy. Everyone has ulterior motives. So tonight’s Tribal Council is about who’s gonna take control of this game.
7. **Sierra (5/7):** As of now, I feel like I’m the person who’s in charge. I love having control. And from what I see, my perspective, there’s the big group and then we have our outsiders who are Hali and Michaela. I think Michaela going home tonight is what’s best, but I’m really worried about an idol getting played.
8. **Sierra (6/7):** Seeing Hali play this time versus the time I played with her before, she’s playing completely different, and that triggers something that she might-- she might have an idol. (30:10 → 30:20 = 10s)
9. **Sierra (7/7):** Right now the numbers are so big, I want to just split it between those two in case there is an idol.
10. **Hali (3/3):** Everyone’s just saying Zeke, so I’m going to put Zeke’s name down because what else do I have right now? But I’m not comfortable.
11. **Cirie (6/9):** I don’t particularly like to vote for Michaela. Is that good for my game? Why would I just go with that plan? Because Sierra says so? Being that there were two options, Michaela or Hali, why not Hali?
12. **Zeke (4/4):** Tonight’s vote is the opening shot in a war between two alliances, and I think everyone sees Michaela and Hali as potential soldiers in their armies. So this vote is making sure the other side is one man down.
13. **Cirie (7/9):** Here’s the thing, you can’t win the war unless you have a sufficient army. And if Michaela goes home, that’s one less person that I can count on.
14. **Michaela (3/3):** My name’s on the chopping block, but I don’t want to explode at all, ‘cause that’s not gonna help me in this situation. I’m super thankful to have Cirie here. My life is completely in Cirie’s hands, and I trust it there. That’s why I like to play with people I trust.
15. **Cirie (8/9):** Everybody is on edge. Everybody is watching everybody. So I need Michaela to vote for Zeke to stick with the plan, so nobody knows Cirie is the one that changed the plan. (34:25 → 34:36 = 11s)
16. **Cirie (9/9):** For me, tonight’s Tribal Council is about saving a person that I can depend on and use for the numbers on our side. And if I pull this off, the future of my game is looking good.