

**The Penultimate Step of the War (Pt. 1)**

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| **Episode 13 Confessionals** | |
| **Castaway** | **Count** |
| Tony | 5 |
| Natalie | 0 |
| Michele | 2 |
| Sarah | 3 |
| Ben | 4 |
| Denise | 3 |
| Nick | 1 |
| Jeremy | 3 |
| Kim | 0 |
| Sophie | 0 |
| Tyson | 0 |
| Adam | 0 |
| Wendell | 0 |
| Yul | 0 |
| Parvati | 0 |
| Rob | 0 |
| Ethan | 0 |
| Danni | 0 |
| Amber | 0 |

Day 29

1. **Michele (1/2):** Tribal Council was a disaster, as usual. I think the votes are all going to Jeremy, so I gave Jeremy the 50/50 advantage, and he decided to not play it. But I guess this Tribal Council ended with a positive outcome because Jeremy is still here. On the flip side, people know that I was willing to play my advantage for him, so now everybody knows about my advantage. I’ve been wanting to play this really aggressive game, but I sort of feel like I took a butter knife to a gunfight, and I don’t really know how I can recover.
2. **Jeremy (1/3):** This is Groundhog Day for me here. Three Tribals in a row that everybody is coming after me. I-I wish I knew why I was so popular around here.
3. **Jeremy (2/3):** But I have a connection with Michele, and Michele gave me that 50/50 coin to play if I needed it. But I give that 50/50 back to Michele. I want nothing to do with that. My game is not coming down to a 50/50 coin flip. This is the penultimate step of the war. This is right before we take off, and it’s gonna get really, really ugly.

Day 30

1. **Denise (1/3):** Last night at Tribal Council, I just said to Jeff, like, *“I’m done.”* But when I say I’m done, it’s not I’m done with the game-- it’s I’m done with dealing with things the way that I’ve been dealing and getting myself as upset as I have been about the process.
2. **Denise (2/3):** I’m not a tattoo gal. I don’t have any tattoos. Probably never will. But then I was laying in the shelter last night, and I thought, *“No, I need two tattoos.”* I need the one on the left hand that says, *“Endure,”* to remind me I can. I’m capable of staying out here for another 9 days. But then I also know that it’s okay to let go. Like, *“Endure”* and *“Let Go”* and know that both of those are totally okay.
3. **Tony (1/5):** This thing, right, with Jeremy-- he’s a fireman. I’m a police officer. We’re always feuding, and-and we have a little rivalry going. It’s for fun over here on *Survivor*. But I know Jeremy is a number for me. I know he trusts me. So, right now, my plan is to try to keep Jeremy around. Because if Jeremy goes home, the hyenas are gonna come out in a full pack and start attacking us.
4. **Tony (2/5):** So, Sarah and I, we’ve played this game. Six years ago, we formed an alliance, Cops-R-Us, and I burned her.
5. **Tony (3/5):** Now I got to know Sarah, and we said, *“Let’s just stick together and just keep this Cops-R-Us going all the way to the end.”* And we’ve been doing good so far. I mean, that’s our plan right now, is to take Cops-R-Us all the way to the end.
6. **Sarah (1/3):** Ben, Sarah, Tony. We’re in a lock solid final three. Period. No ifs, ands, buts about it. Here’s our problem that we’re running into is Ben wants Jeremy gone. But if we got rid of Jeremy, Tony and I are sitting ducks. So, at this point, getting rid of Nick would be the smarter option for my game. But what’s smart for my game is not the smartest for Ben’s. And, at this point, Ben’s pretty stubborn, and he’s not gonna budge. So I figured I would have my work cut out for me this afternoon, to have to try to convince Ben to get rid of Nick.
7. **Sarah (2/3):** If Ben never gets a turn at driving, Ben’s not gonna go to the end with me. So if we make Ben believe that this is his decision, then everything’s good. But this is just a ploy so we can vote Nick out.
8. **Ben (1/4):** Jeremy is more beneficial for my game at this point. So there’s this thought of keeping Jeremy, Tony and Sarah. With seven people left, keeping them around is a shield for me. They’re bigger threats. Where Nick, on the other hand, he’s walking around frantic. He’s trying to play both sides, and he’s not doing a very good job, ‘cause everybody’s seen it. And Denise, she’s lockstep with me, and she’ll vote any way that we want to vote. This right now, in this war, is the hardest mission yet. The reason why is because it’s gonna be a huge blindside. Plus, there’s a 50/50 immunity that we have to flush and do this correctly. At this point in the game, if this goes screwed up, our squad and this mission is blown out.

Day 31

1. **Denise (3/3):** Nick gets immunity. The one person that we’ve been hoping initially wouldn’t get immunity so that we could vote him… got immunity. So then it was instantly like, *“I wonder what the plan B is gonna be.”*
2. **Ben (2/4):** Nick winning was a bad thing for us. You know, we were trying to target Nick and blindside him, and so now we have to come back to camp and rethink how we’re gonna pull this off.
3. **Ben (3/4):** So, it would be easy to take Denise out. However, Denise is my friend and a number right now. And I’ve been debating on whether or not to push Jeremy to go or whether or not to keep him. It takes one of the shields out for me, but, in the same breath, it breaks up Michele and Jeremy. So, at this point, I’m trying to create a little distrust between Jeremy and Michele and also make sure we know where that 50/50 idol’s going.
4. **Ben (4/4):** I started planting seeds in Jeremy’s head and being like, *“Hey, can you get that 50/50 from Michele? Let’s start-- let’s try to vote out Michele.”*
5. **Jeremy (3/3):** Everybody’s saying Denise’s name ‘cause this is the easiest one. Denise was the one that was, like, checked out last Tribal Council, but that’s the thing. It’s never an easy vote, especially *Winners at War*. So, right away, I’m like, *“Nah, this doesn’t sound right to me.”* Denise is definitely a smoke screen. I don’t know who they’re putting their votes on, if whether it’s me or Michele, but I don’t trust Ben at all.
6. **Michele (2/2):** Ben is saying, *“Keep an eye out for Jeremy. He’s gonna ask you for your advantage.”* And then Ben is going to Jeremy and saying, *“Ask Michele for her advantage and see if she’ll give it to you.”* So he’s playing both sides. Ben going-- that’s great for me, and Jeremy going-- that’s worse for me, because me and Nick are gonna be picked off next. So I have a best-case scenario, or worst-case scenario, and I’m just hoping it leans more towards this side than towards Jeremy.
7. **Tony (4/5):** So, Jeremy, he wants to vote out Ben. Jeremy and Ben been clashing for a while now. So, he wants Ben out of the game for his best interest. That’s not my best interest. Not for the cop. I really don’t want to get rid of Jeremy, but, at this point, Sarah and I think that our best thing to do would be to stay strong with Ben.
8. **Tony (5/5):** So, we’re gonna split the votes between Michele and Jeremy. So, the guys-- me, Nick and Ben-- we’re voting Jeremy. Denise and Sarah, they’re voting Michele. And then Michele can play her advantage that she has, a 50/50. And whether it’s *“Safe”* or *“Not Safe,”* our real votes tonight are going to Jeremy.
9. **Sarah (3/3):** Right now, the plan is to vote out Jeremy. But I also don’t fully trust Nick. He’s a hard one to read. I think Nick definitely wants to build a résumé for himself. And I guess tonight’s gonna tell whether he’s with us or if he’s against us.
10. **Nick (1/1):** There’s two plans going on, one to get Jeremy out and one to get Ben out. And I’m in a bit of a power position. I have Ben’s fate in my hands, and I have Jeremy’s fate in my hands. But I’m not making my decision based on what I want to happen tomorrow or the next day. I’m making my decision based on Day 39. How do I get there? Who can I beat? How do I win this two million dollars? I am just trying to win this game, period.