

Everest Survivor – FTC Speech

Members of the jury,

First, thank you all for an incredible season. It has genuinely been an honour to play alongside every single one of you. Thank you to the hosts for putting together such an amazing game and thank you to Fio for convincing me to play.

Now, anyone who knows me knows this speech is normally about twice as long, so if you think I've left something out, please ask me. I welcome every question.

Tonight, you're not just voting for who you like the most. You're delivering a verdict.

Like any court case, I ask you to look at the evidence, examine the facts, and judge the game based on what was intentionally accomplished not simply what was visible on the surface.

I submit that throughout this game I built relationships, controlled information, adapted to every twist, and consistently influenced the outcome of the votes without relying on idols or challenge wins.

That is the case I'd like to present.

Exhibit A: The Original Tribe.

Every successful case begins with a strong foundation.

From Day One, I focused almost exclusively on relationships. I quickly formed a tight alliance with Ricci and Bethany that became my home base for the early game. At the same time, I built strong working relationships with Tully and Corny, giving myself multiple avenues moving forward instead of becoming dependent on a single alliance.

The Molly vote wasn't a defining strategic moment. It was simply the correct vote after the chaos that unfolded. More importantly, it allowed those relationships to strengthen while my threat level remained low.

Exhibit B: The First Swap.

When tribes changed, my game didn't reset, it expanded.

I immediately re-established my alliance with Ricci and Tully, but I wasn't satisfied simply being in the alliance. I deliberately worked to become each of their closest ally.

Those paid dividends.

Because of my relationship with Ricci, information flowed directly to me from conversations he was having with Clint, Andrew and Marissa. Meanwhile, I was quietly building my own relationships with those same people.

By the end of that tribe, I wasn't relying on one source of information.

I had become one.

The Brayden vote, much like Molly's, was straightforward, allowing me to continue strengthening my position without exposing my own game.

Exhibit C: The Second Swap.

This was the point where my case could have completely fallen apart.

I genuinely believed I had drawn the worst possible tribe. I was so concerned that I even asked Tully during the Blacktea challenge to throw the challenge because I thought I was in serious danger.

Instead, the relationships I'd already built became my insurance policy.

Andrew approached me with a three-person alliance involving Clint. I quickly developed genuine relationships with Jack and Sams, with Sams becoming one of my closest allies all the way to Final Six.

At the first vote, I didn't overplay. I voted with the majority against Void because there was absolutely no reason to create unnecessary attention while nobody was targeting me.

When Void survived with an idol and AK left instead, I immediately rebuilt that relationship.

That decision became one of the most important moves of my entire game because it gave me an ally that proved invaluable after the merge.

I also recognised Omar was actively targeting me while making little effort to build trust with me. Rather than waiting to become the victim, I became the prosecutor. I built the case, pushed the vote, and removed someone whose interests directly conflicted with mine.

Exhibit D: The Merge.

This is where the evidence becomes overwhelming.

For much of the merge, I occupied the most valuable position in Survivor.

The middle.

Not because I was floating.

Because both sides trusted me.

I wasn't surviving between alliances.

I was operating between them.

Information flowed through me. I leaked information to Ricci when it strengthened my game. I shared information with Clint's side when it strengthened my game. Every piece of information was weighed before I decided where it belonged.

The Tully vote hurt personally, but strategically it demonstrated that I had earned the trust of the Observed group.

When I learned Ricci's side wanted Andrew gone, I encouraged it. Andrew had begun dictating decisions rather than collaborating, and I knew Clint would become significantly more dependent on me if Andrew left.

That wasn't coincidence.

That was restructuring the power dynamic.

The only piece of evidence I didn't possess all season was the Ricci blindside.

Every other Tribal Council, I knew where the votes were going.

When Jack left, I understood exactly what that meant. He was an exceptional player, but his departure fractured the game into smaller groups.

Smaller groups meant more opportunities.

More opportunities meant more influence.

And more influence meant more control.

Exhibit E: Rebuilding the Case.

After Ricci left, I didn't collapse.

I adapted.

I rebuilt around Bethany and Void, replacing my original core alliance almost immediately.

Then Theo approached me with a Final Three alongside Soul.

Again, I wasn't trapped.

I had options.

Marissa was also attempting to play the middle. I couldn't allow someone else to occupy the same strategic space that had given me so much control, so I supported that vote.

I also actively pushed the Gem and Star votes because I believed they strengthened Theo's independent position. If Theo was going to reach the end, I wanted him relying on me, not on numbers I'd allowed him to keep.

At Final Ten, I resisted voting out Fuggles because they were exactly what every strategic player wants: a massive shield, a loyal ally, and someone who was willing to work with me while still allowing me agency.

Clint, I genuinely wanted to continue working with you as well. I simply couldn't redirect that vote.

Eventually, though, every shield becomes the biggest threat remaining.

When Fuggles reached that point, I made the move.

Bethany was my Day One ally.

I knew there would eventually come a time when keeping her became impossible, but I couldn't bring myself to write her name down. Just as Clint couldn't write Jack's name down, loyalty still mattered to me.

At Final Six, Sams represented one of the biggest social threats remaining. I knew Bree possessed an idol. Whether Bree played it or not, I was comfortable because one major threat was leaving regardless.

The final votes against Void and Theo simply reflected the path I believed gave me the strongest chance to arrive here.

Members of the jury, I'd now like to present the final piece of evidence.

Throughout this game:

I never depended on immunity.

I never depended on idols.

I never told someone I didn't bother to talk to them because they lived on the other side of the world (unlike someone in the FTC).

I depended on people.

I built relationships that survived swaps.

I rebuilt relationships after blindsides.

I maintained trust with players who were actively targeting one another.

I became a central source of information.

With one exception, I knew where every vote was going before it happened.

I influenced votes rather than reacting to them.

Most importantly, I was never forced to play from the bottom.

Every time the game shifted, I shifted with it and usually before everyone else did.

So now the case rests with you.

Your role is not to decide who had the flashiest move.

Not who won the most challenges.

Not who found the most advantages.

Your role is to determine whose game demonstrated the greatest combination of strategy, social awareness, adaptability, and control from Day One until tonight.

If, after considering all the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt, you believe that player was me, then I respectfully ask for your verdict.

And that verdict is your vote.

Thank you.