

Episode 10 - BLUE BALLS

*Act 1: The fish rapidly must adjust to conditions in their new tank. La'ron announces his intentions to exit right out the gate, but **Alexis beats him to the punch and leaves.***

*Act 2: As soon as things seem stable they are put into the Cell, where the loud noises and uncomfortable conditions send La'ron fleeing from the show. Payton surprises the audience by staying the night in the cell, and **Simbal and Burt have a heroic, physical battle** which Simbal ultimately wins.*

Act 1

Confessional: Goldstriker sits with La'ron, to convince him to stay. Goldstriker convinces La'ron to say "these white people are trying to kill me," while trying to calm him down about the nature of the show. La'ron asks if they're really shooting scenes for a reality show and Goldstriker says no, but they'll keep doing it anyway because it's funny. La'ron asks why TTS called Burt "nigga" and Goldstriker laughs and says "yeah man."⁵¹⁷⁹

Little to no time has passed since the conclusion of episode 5. The fish are all milling around recovering from the reveal. Jobe has the flamingo from the island⁵²⁷⁴ and wanders around breaking things, including the dollhouse in the yard.⁵²⁸⁷ Troll TTS supposedly coming from "wild randy" stir Alex into a froth,^{5260, 5269, 5272, 5275} until Ben has to come upstairs and tell him Wild Randy has been banned for the night. They stay up late, exclaiming various revelations about the show, and busting up the house.^{5188, 5185}

Burt locks into a schizo patter in the morning, rattling through his favorite topics: dude wipes, gay male dating shows, and a theory that the show is an elaborate birthday surprise for him. He asks Jobe when his birthday is and Jobe claims not to know.⁵³⁴³

Confessional: The gather to interrogate Jobe about what he knows about them and the show, and he pretends to know absolutely nothing. "I'm Binx!" "Who you?!"⁵¹⁸⁶

Alex winds himself up when Wild Randy returns on the TTS, but Binx calms him down and they have a suspiciously romantic hug as she talks about how she will always be there to chill him out, like he's the Hulk.⁵³⁷⁸ She cooks him lunch and he hugs her from behind,⁵⁴⁰⁹ and they continue to fail to look platonic when they move into the yard as he boxes a sandbag and raves about Wild Randy while she looks on admiringly.⁵⁴¹⁴

Alexis fully commits to leaving the show. She admits to Mizzy she stole her candy last week.⁵³⁹⁵ The fish gather together to wish her well when she leaves - there's not much fanfare as her mind was made up yesterday, so it doesn't really need to be an end-of-act moment. Burt finds this exit confusing and tries to air some theories about the show being infinite or a series of incepting houses to the other fish, but La'ron shouts at him to shut up.^{5400, 5402} So, he begins writing his theories silently in a notebook instead. Simbal leaves the room, calling Burt

"stupid."⁵⁴⁰³ Burt proves him wrong by going upstairs and having sex with a plushie TTS names "Simbal."⁵⁴⁰⁵

Confessional Burt (post cell): "Why are you not gay anymore?" "I was playing gay"

The most-stressed fish, Simbal, La'ron, Payton, and Alexis talk about feeling unsafe for the FX3s. La'ron thinks they could die being on the show and says Burt is making him hysterical.⁵⁴¹¹ At the same time, Connor tells Mizzy he delivered on what he told her yesterday, that the longhouse would fall apart on its own.⁵⁴¹⁵

*Confessional: La'ron "I don't care if it's fishbowl. God will give me better, and it'll be something I'm comfortable with."*⁵³⁷⁴

Act 2

Goldstriker brings the fish into B2 to begin the Cell, and informs the fish of the gravitas of winning this challenge - that it tends to forecast the final contestants.⁵⁴³⁸ A new freeloader, Wyatt, is added just after the challenge starts, but should be downplayed or not even mentioned, as though he's just a producer sitting in the room because he does nothing of note and is removed within a few hours.⁵⁴⁴⁰ Now that the fish are all together, TTS accuses Burt of "Burting off," in front of the audience this morning, and he says "I wasn't Burting off, I was just stroking it," permanently adding that term to everyone's lingo.

Sharks rearrange the house, while Goldstriker sits with the fish and does the "Peru" bit for Connor.⁵⁴⁸⁶ La'ron and Payton are shown gradually⁵⁴⁵⁴ hunkering deeper⁵⁴⁷⁹ into the corner of the room while the fish compete in noisy mini-challenges including acting like wolves⁵⁴⁹⁷ and screaming.^{5499, 5501} When Goldstriker begins to work out disruptively in the corner of the room, La'ron asks him about getting a hotel,⁵⁵⁰⁷ and then leaves the cell,⁵⁵⁰⁹ and the show. He tries to say goodbye to everyone but Goldstriker slams the door in his face.⁵⁵¹³

As soon as La'ron, the final member of the longhouse, is gone, the house spiritually changes into its boxers. The fish open up about things they weren't talking about for La'ron's sake,⁵⁵¹⁴ including their commitment to staying in the room even if it means peeing in a bottle. The fish are asked to tell their life story⁵⁵²⁰: Payton says she doesn't know what she's gonna do with her life at all, Simbal says he is staying on Fishtank for "professional reasons," and wants to make films, Alex talks about becoming his own man, Mizzy talks about wanting to be on a crime show, Binx talks about trying to break into IRL, and Burt talks about his major accomplishments in education and business but finishes with the phrase "I want to become a role model for African sex workers." Connor bursts into tears when Goldstriker encourages him to talk about his dad's struggles with CTE.

The fish do confessionals inside the cell - most answers are useless because the setting gives a specific place & time for the conversations, but almost every fish singles out Payton for refusing to socialize with anyone but the two fish who left today.⁵⁵²⁴ She admits she hasn't put any effort

into getting to know any of the remaining fish and now mistrusts or fears every single one of her roommates in the house, but would like to win regardless.

Burt refuses to sleep, and spends the entire night categorizing the trash.^{5551, 5565, 5567, 5576} Mizzy leaves the cell first thing in the morning.⁵⁶²² Payton receives positive TTSeS and seems promising, but walks out, citing boredom.

Confessional: Payton "My best friends and family are gone. We're just gonna fuck around and find out, how about that? I just want to have a good time. All this sulking and shit, I fucking hate."⁵⁶³⁸

Connor agitates Burt, who claims he is staying in the cell "For the benefit of everyone else" by cleaning and being entertaining to help them stay longer.⁵⁶⁴⁴ The fish try to convince him to leave for his own sake, and Connor begins to deliberately make a mess to stress him out.⁵⁶⁵⁴ Goldstriker visits to ask Burt if he would like to leave, and he says no.⁵⁶⁵⁹ The fish make a mess of the cell again during a "tower stacking" challenge, and he begins to weep.⁵⁶⁶³ Connor is next to leave because he is the first to drop a tire during a challenge. Interestingly the final two of that challenge are Simbal and Burt.⁵⁶⁷⁶

The fish outside the cell are tasked to force the fish out⁵⁷¹⁰ and resort to splashing them with food and condiments.⁵⁷¹⁴ The fish are given real fish to hold and whoever drops their fish must leave.⁵⁷¹⁹ Alex drops his fish while defending Binx from Connor.^{5721, 5725} Binx and Burt try to team up on Simbal, with Binx trying to weaponize Burt's schizophrenia to motivate him to attack Simbal for her.^{5727, 5734, 5736, 5739} Burt works himself into mania accusing Simbal of scheming with production and doing something mysterious and menacing with the "blue balls" in the cell.⁵⁷⁴¹ When Binx drops her fish by accident,⁵⁷⁵⁹ Burt and Simbal have a dramatic, physical battle for the championship, eventually ending when Burt has squeezed his fish so tightly that it falls apart in his hand.⁵⁷⁷¹