

# Showgirl To Survivor

people speaks exclusively to *Survivor's* winner

**S**HOWGIRL and businesswoman GiGi became the surprise winner of *Survivor SA: Santa Carolina*, pipping the scheming Ashley Hayden at the post to win R500 000 for herself and another half a million for Hospice Houghton. **people** spoke exclusively to the humble winner.

**Are you surprised you won?**

You know what? After that last council which was so positive toward me I did think I had a chance, but there were still so many things I couldn't work out. I didn't know who Sade voted for, or whether people like Louw were just saying nice things to me and then intending on voting the other way, so I was sitting there trying not to have too much hope.

**Ashley definitely played the game and some have said you merely coasted through; that you won based on the fact that you didn't anger anyone rather than what you actually did. What are your thoughts on that?**

My whole aim was to stay low, play under the radar, stay as long as possible. I was quietly determined and just stuck things out without complaints. It's just how I am, if I start something I finish it. I went in with a message and that was to reveal that showgirls are normal people who are survivors in their own rights. They're strong women, businesswomen and most of all, they are determined. Audiences can be crueler than anyone on that island. Now I think I have achieved my aim of showing these are amazing girls are not just airheads. Old grannies now shake my hand and that's quite something.

**What would you say was the most important move you made in the game?**

When I hid the pot from Louw. Sade and Hanna didn't even know where I hid it. Till that point, I had just kept my head down. Now they were looking at me and thinking GiGi is not just the girl in the corner. So when I hid it, things started changing for me. People looked at me differently after that. Also when I was at Chibudu, I was always worried that people would vote me off, and when the merge happened I was saved. I saw that there were loads of strong guys who the girls would go after first. I was saved by that merge.

**What memories will you take away from this?**

I worked with such a wonderful bunch of people. Seeing Okkert in action was amazing. He's such an athlete. Also I have never been so cold and hungry as I was out there and I will remember that, too. For us that came to an end, but there are a lot of people who live like that in South Africa and I now understand why people steal in order to eat.

**Did you make any friends for life on the show?**

I made friends, I'm not sure whether we will be long time friends who visit each other all the time. I am sure they'll pop into the club from time to time, and I will happily feed them all, eternally. We may work together, too, but we haven't gone into any details yet.

**Tell us about your charity. Why did you choose them?**

Hospice Houghton has been the charity of the club since we started five years ago. My co-partner's wife died of cancer, and I went through the whole thing with their family and saw the work these people at the Hospice do, free of charge.

The way they deal with the situation, so calm, so compassionate. It's such a good cause.

**What are you going to do with your share of the winnings?**

I am renovating the club and building a new dressing room for the girls. The rest is just going to be for sensible things like my bond.



**WIN WIN WIN**

THE thrills, cons and the pursuit of justice continues this week with the *LEVERAGE* team. Parker (Beth Riesgraf) may be petite, cute and blonde, but she's also a practiced thief, whose idea of fun would scare the hell out of most people. Like Hardison, she grew up in the foster care system, but her tale is one of abuse and neglect. She's insecure about only one thing: her ability to pass herself off as a normal person. Be sure not to miss the next episode of *LEVERAGE*, only on DSTV's Sony Entertainment Television, channel 113, on Thursdays at 20h30.



**WIN WIN WIN**

Sony Entertainment Television is giving away one digital camera every week. Simply sms the word 'sony' followed by a, b or c to answer the question, followed by your name, surname and postal address to 35912 for a chance to win. Competition closing date is May 17, 2010. Sms cost R3. Terms and conditions apply. **Question:** When can you catch the next thrilling stunt from Parker? **Answer:** a. Thursday 20h30 b. Wednesday 20h30 c. Friday 20h30



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