

# 'Bachelor in Paradise' Contestant Chris Bukowski Talks Friendship with Michelle Money and Celebrity Break-Up from Elise Mosca



By [Sarah Batcheller](#) and [Whitney Johnson](#)

If you tuned in to the third episode of *Bachelor in Paradise* last night, then you saw a new side of reality TV contestant Chris Bukowski. In an exclusive celebrity interview, CupidsPulse.com had the chance to speak to the Illinois native, and he expressed that this sensitive, softer side of him is more true to form than what

was previously portrayed on the small screen, stating, “This is the side that my friends and family see everyday.”

## **Exclusive Celebrity Interview with Chris Bukowski**

Choosing to leave Mexico because of a knee injury, Bukowski asked his new *BIP* love interest Elise Mosca to head home with him. When Mosca accepted, Bukowski gave his final rose to BFF Michelle Money, in order to extend her chance at finding a relationship love on the show. “She [Money] is one of my closest friends in the reality TV world and the real world,” the reborn fan-favorite says. “She deserves someone to share her life with, and I want to see that happen for her. She’s truly an amazing person, and I wanted to give her the opportunity to find someone amazing for herself.”

**Related Link:** [‘Bachelor in Paradise’ Newcomer Chris Bukowski Says Dates with Elise Mosca Were “Spectacular”](#)

It’s no surprise that the blue-eyed entrepreneur appreciates being portrayed in a more positive light. He’s glad that the *Bachelor in Paradise* audience finally saw who he truly is, concluding, “Something that everyone in my life will say about me is that I’m honest. If people were more honest to themselves and to each other, there’d be a lot less bullshit in this world – and on reality TV!”

## ***Bachelor in Paradise* Star Talks Celebrity Break-Up**

While there’s no doubt that fans were surprised to see this version of Bukowski, what everybody *really* wants to know is how his whirlwind romance with Mosca netted out. Bukowski shares that Mosca stayed in Chicago with him for six days

after they left Tulum and that they dated for about a month after that. Unfortunately, though, the two lovebirds couldn't make it work. "I broke it off because we were at two very different points in our lives," the Bracket Room owner admits of their [celebrity break-up](#). "I wasn't confident that Elise was the right girl for me and didn't want to lead her on to believe anything different."

Sources close to us say that the adorable couple were flown back to Mexico before filming of *Bachelor in Paradise* ended with the intention of updating the rest of the cast (and viewers, of course!) on the status of their relationship and love. They also shared that this scene never played out because the producers wanted Chris Bukowski to propose, but he wasn't ready to.

**Related Link:** [Chris Bukowski Says "Paradise Wasn't Paradise for Me"](#)

Despite their celebrity breakup, the currently-single restaurant owner only has nice things to say about Mosca. "It's tough for me to hear people say she's crazy when she's only crazy about falling in love," he explains. "She's a nice, genuine girl, and I've never heard anyone who knows her say a bad thing about her. She's very caring and will make someone very lucky one day...as long as she lays off the sequin outfits!" he jokes.

Bukowski also encourages *Bachelor in Paradise* fans to "not punish someone for wanting to be loved. All we need is love, and love is actually all around," he says in reference to the movie *Love Actually*. He adds, "I love that movie, by the way!"

*Keep up with Chris on Twitter @ChrisJBukowski. Be sure to tune in to Bachelor in Paradise on Monday nights at 8/7c on ABC!*

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# 'Bachelor in Paradise' Newcomer & Reality TV Star Chris Bukowski: "Paradise Wasn't Paradise For Me"



By [Sarah Batcheller](#)

We followed-up with *Bachelor in Paradise* contestant Chris Bukowski about his arrival to Tulum, Mexico and the stir he caused on his first night there. For those of you who haven't been watching, the four-time *Bachelor* franchise veteran went on what appeared to be a great date with Clare Crawley and

ended the evening with a controversial ocean frolic and a lot of kissing with Elise Mosca. “After the whole makeout session, I don’t think Clare and I spoke another word to each other,” the reality TV star says in our [celebrity interview](#).

**Related Link:** [‘Bachelor in Paradise’ Star Chris Bukowski Says Dates with Elise Mosca Were “Spectacular”](#)

## Reality TV Contestant Opens Up About Relationships and Love

Bukowski, a master at making a memorable first impression, arrived with a date card and asked Crawley to spend a day of pampering with him. The heartbreaker left her looking all giddy and happy, despite the warning about him that she got from the others. He confirms, “Clare and I had a great date, and I do regret not pursuing our relationship and love further, but at the time, it seemed like there was no romantic connection there.”

The real chemistry he felt on *Bachelor in Paradise* was with Mosca, who had already formed a connection with Dylan Petit. But when asked if it was love at first sight, he says, “I didn’t have an instant attraction to Elise. I barely knew who she was. The two girls I was initially considering taking on the date were Clare and Lacy Faddoul.”

We all know that there’s more to these love triangles than what reality TV reveals. And although the show paints Bukowski as the bad boy, he maintains that he’s better than that. “I don’t think anyone will ever be happy with editing, but at this point, it’s all pretty funny to me. Can’t take this stuff too seriously!”

At the end of the episode, he receives a default rose from Mosca (after she was rejected by Petit and gave an awkward speech about what women “deserve” in a partner), but he

assures us that what we saw go down on *Bachelor of Paradise* wasn't *that* dramatic. "Dylan and I squashed the whole thing at the rose ceremony, but that wasn't shown," the restaurant owner shares in our celebrity interview.

## **Celebrity Interview with *Bachelor in Paradise* Star**

You may have noticed on episode 2 that Bukowski wasn't hanging out with the rest of the cast while Petit took Sarah Herron on a one-on-one date. It turns out that he was further courting his new crush: "I definitely hung out with Elise more than what viewers saw. I actually setup a makeshift date on the beach that wasn't aired."

**Related Link:** ['Bachelorette' Contestant and Hopeless Romantic Chris Bukowski Wants His "Fairytale Ending"](#)

As much as we love Bukowski for adding some spice to the season, it doesn't look like a good start to "happily ever after" for the *Bachelor in Paradise* newcomer. Although he won't reveal any teasers about next week's episode, he does leave us with this closing thought: "I didn't feel the need to be there any more. Paradise wasn't paradise for me..." According to sources, he'll excuse himself next week and leave paradise.

Back home, Bukowski watched the show with former *Bachelor/Bachelorette* contestants Jaclyn Swartz, Christy Hansen (who will be arriving in paradise soon), and some other friends.

We can't wait to see what happens next Monday night!

*Keep up with Chris on Twitter @ChrisJBukowski. Be sure to tune in to Bachelor in Paradise on Monday nights at 8/7c on ABC!*

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# 'Bachelor In Paradise' Star Chris Bukowski on Celebrity Romance with Elise Mosca: Dates Were "Spectacular"



Interview by [Whitney Johnson](#). Written by [Sarah Batcheller](#) and Shannon Seibert.

Bartlett, Illinois native Chris Bukowski was the fourth runner-up on Emily Maynard's season of *The Bachelorette* and was seen as a main competitor on season 3 of the *Bachelor Pad*. Since his initial reality TV appearance,

he has molded himself into quite the entrepreneur as the owner of The Bracket Room, a sports bar and lounge in Arlington, Virginia. Earlier this summer though, Bukowski put his business on the back burner and returned to the small screen with the hope of finding a celebrity romance on *Bachelor in Paradise* (fourth time's a charm, right?).

## Chris Bukowski on Looking for Relationship and Love on Reality TV

**Related Link:** [‘Bachelorette’ Star Marcus Grodd Is Engaged to ‘Bachelor in Paradise’ Costar](#)

He recently created quite a media frenzy when he “crashed” the premiere episode of Andi Dorfman’s season of *The Bachelorette*. We saw on the *Men Tell All* episode that host Chris Harrison wouldn’t let Bukowski come to the stage and meet her. “I was totally thrown off-guard when Chris said something to me – I wasn’t miked or anything. He kind of bombarded me!” he shares in our exclusive celebrity interview. Still, he says that final pick Josh Murray “seems like a good guy for Andi.”

When he got the call for *Bachelor in Paradise*, it was no surprise that he was open to the experience. “The producers approached me about it, and I figured, ‘Why not?’ I was able to take time off from the restaurant, so it worked out really well in that sense. When you have an opportunity to be on reality TV, it’s hard to say no!”

Bukowski shows up on the island in tonight’s episode and is immediately surrounded by familiar faces, including AshLee Frazier. Although he and Frazier were friends prior to the show, he says she was too busy with Graham Bunn to spend any time with him. “I knew almost everyone there, which made it a little hard to find a relationship and love. Obviously, if something was going to happen, it would’ve already.”



**Related Link:** [‘Bachelor in Paradise’ Star AshLee Frazier: “My Goal Was to Know Graham Bunn”](#)

## ***Bachelor in Paradise* Celebrity Romance and Fling**

Still, that didn't stop him from having a celebrity fling. The restaurant owner had a brief "showmance" with castmate Elise Mosca and gushes that their dates were "simple but at the same time spectacular – not your normal, real world dates." He also states that their celebrity romance is "too good to spoil" for *Bachelor in Paradise* fans, refusing to share any of the hot details.

Evidently, a happy ending isn't in the cards for this entrepreneur, though. Sources close to us reveal that Bukowski only stays in paradise for two episodes, sending himself home next week. Still, he doesn't blame the show's format for his failure to meet someone special. "I've seen it work on reality TV before, so it was worth a shot. Plus, it's really hard to find a relationship and love in the real world! At the end of the day, I just wanted to have a good time – and I did."

In regard to the Jesse Kovacs drama that audiences are wildly anticipating later this season, the blue-eyed contestant admits, "I'm definitely caught up in some of my own controversy on tonight's episode, but I'm not around when Jesse gets there, so I'm not sure what kind of trouble he got into." Well, now we're awaiting *two* scandals! Make that three gossip-worthy moments as we watch ousted Michelle Kujawa's love life unravel...

Another source shares that Bukowski and fellow *Bachelor in Paradise* contestant Christy Hansen (who hasn't shown up in Tulum, Mexico yet) became good friends prior to the show after meeting in Chicago. Unfortunately, Hansen arrives in

paradise *after* Bukowski is gone, so audiences won't get to see them together. While the hopeless romantic clarifies that they're not dating, he won't confirm whether or not he's single.

**Related Link:** [New Beginnings for Old Flames on 'Bachelor in Paradise'](#)

Back in the real world, Bukowski maintains his determination to find love, as many of his fans witnessed during his recent search for "Deerfield Abby." The *Bachelorette* veteran describes how he and fashion blogger Dana Weiss of *Possessionista* tracked her down: "Dana saw that I posted on Facebook that I was looking for someone in Deerfield, Illinois. Once Dana and I connected, it turned into quite the extensive search and got way bigger than I thought it would. Dana is amazing, and she definitely helped find the Abby I was looking for, but it turns out that Abby has a boyfriend, which is why her friend was so mad about Dana's post. At the end of the day, it was settling to be able to find her even though nothing happened from it – except for now I have about 15 new friends named Abby."

As his time on *Bachelor in Paradise* comes to an end (for now, at least), his business continues to flourish. "We just signed a deal that will open two more Bracket Room's," he says enthusiastically. "We'll have one at Reagan National Airport and Dulles International Airport, both in Washington, DC." He's also launching a cold-pressed juice brand this December in Chicago. "I'm not releasing the name for another couple of weeks though."

*Keep up with Chris on Twitter @ChrisJBukowski. Be sure to tune in to Bachelor in Paradise on Monday nights at 8/7c on ABC!*

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# New Beginnings for Old Flames on 'Bachelor in Paradise'



By Shannon Seibert

We've seen them fight for love, fall in love, and lose love. But the game has changed again! A number of beloved alumni from *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette* shows returning to reality television to give finding The One another shot. ABC is launching a new series called *Bachelor in Paradise* and sending a group of former contestants to Tulum, Mexico, to see if the romantic sparks fly as old flames are reunited and new couples are introduced.

**Related Link:** [AshLee Frazier Says, "I Want to be Well-Rounded Before I Fall in Love"](#)

On Monday, August 4th, the show will premiere with 14 previous *Bachelor* and *Bachelorette* contestants. On the first episode, two of the women will fail to receive roses and be sent packing; the following week, the men will face the same elimination. This pattern of goodbyes will continue throughout the show. Of course, there's a twist: In addition to two people heading home each week, two more alum will join the cast.

Fan favorites, including Chris Bukowski, AshLee Frazier, Jesse Kovacs, and Michelle Money, will be heading to paradise. Additionally, three of the current *Bachelorette* Andi Dorfman's cast-off are returning to the small screen: Marcus Grodd, Dylan Petit, and Cody Sattler. Not only is the cast attractive, but there is bound to be fun, flirting, and tons of drama!

**Related Link:** [Former 'Bachelorette' Star Chris Bukowski Wants His "Fairytale Ending"](#)

During the show's seven-week run, we'll watch our favorite contestants face competition and avoid obstacles on their mission to find love. Be sure to tune in for the tantalizing moments, shocking surprises, and epic love stories, all unfolding in a tropical paradise!

**Do you have any predictions for the show? Share them with us in the comments below!**

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## 'The Bachelorette' Contestant

# and Hopeless Romantic Chris Bukowski Wants His “Fairytale Ending”



Interview by [Whitney Johnson](#). Written by Liz Kim.

*The Bachelorette* season 8 contestant Chris Bukowski might seem like he has everything – great looks, a booming restaurant, and the kind of job that allows him to travel all over the country – but he admits that there’s still something missing in his life. “I’m the most single person in America,” he laments. Hailing from Chicago, Illinois, the reality TV star boasts a pretty impressive resume, including senior sales executive for the New York Islanders, V.I.P. Concierge at the Wynn Las Vegas, and currently owner of The Bracket Room in

Arlington, Virginia (with plans to open future locations). But at the end of the day, he misses the magic of a *real* first date with someone special.

**Related Link:** [Former 'Bachelorette' Desiree Hartsock on Finding Mr. Right](#)

## **Reality TV Star Talks About Experiences on *The Bachelorette* and *Bachelor Pad***

Fans first got to know Bukowski when he was cast on Emily Maynard's season of [The Bachelorette](#). He initially didn't have any interest in the show. "One of my friends I grew up with in Chicago wrote a letter to ABC about why I should be the next *Bachelor*. And you know how it works – you pretty much have to be on *The Bachelorette* in order to be the star of *The Bachelor*," he explains. He got some emails from ABC casting but brushed it off as a prank.

A change of jobs brought him back to Chicago, and he decided to take a chance and audition at a casting call by his condo. Ultimately, it was Maynard's photo that convinced him to give it a shot. "I never watched the show before, so I didn't really know what I was getting myself into. Once they showed me who the girl might be, though, I thought she was right up my alley," the reality TV star says. "Physically, Emily was really hot! I decided then that, if they cast me, I would do it."

Bukowski didn't expect to fall for Maynard as hard as he did, but as their relationship and love progressed from week to week, he quickly became a fan favorite. After making it to the final four, fans were shocked when Maynard let him go, especially because she couldn't give him a reason as to why he wasn't getting a rose. "After *The Bachelorette*, I left my job.

I was alone in my thoughts, and I was a little heartbroken,” he candidly shares.

**Related Link:** [Chris Bukowski Says He Still Has Feelings for Emily Maynard](#)

Instead of wallowing for too long, he agreed to compete on *Bachelor Pad*, a show that featured contestants from *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette* who play for a cash prize. “It was an outlet where I could go to escape, just have some fun, and maybe win some money,” he reveals. “I did it for the experience, and I’m glad I did.”

While he didn’t win the big prize, the handsome Chicago native left quite a different impression on fans than he did during his time on *The Bachelorette*. Previously, viewers knew him as a hopeless romantic who just wanted to find a relationship and love, but on *The Bachelor Pad*, he hooked up with multiple castmates (he attributes this to crafty editing), lied, and exuded a cockiness that turned off a lot of people. Bukowski defends his behavior as a necessary tactic to win the game. “They are two completely different shows,” he explains. “One is a show where you’re putting yourself out there to potentially fall in love and find a wife. The other is a game show. It’s funny because they made me seem so terrible, and I really wasn’t that bad.”

He also shares that his motivations were different than those of his competitors. “I’m very competitive, and no one else on the show had that mindset,” he admits. “I wasn’t sure what they were concerned about. I wasn’t into falling in love with anybody, and I just wanted to have fun.” No matter how he was portrayed, he says that he had the most fun out of anyone in the house and felt that he left a winner.

# Chris Bukowski on Finding a Relationship and Love in the Real World

While the restaurant owner is thankful for his time on reality TV, he also believes that this exposure is keeping him from meeting the right person. "I would say I'm definitely looking to settle down," he divulges. "It's just tough. People learned a lot about me really quickly because I was on the shows. So when I go out with a girl, they already know about me, and it kind of takes away from the whole first date experience and getting to know somebody."

Simply put, "it really does suck. To be honest, I would say my dating life is almost zero right now."

**Related Link:** [Dating Advice: How to Approach a Spring Fling](#)

He also admits that the hopeless romantic who fans met on *The Bachelorette* is his true self. He dreams of meeting his future wife by chance at the airport and admits that this desire is fueled by his love for chick flicks. He adds, "I love the fairytale endings. Sure, these things only happen in the movies, but you still get that little hope that it can happen in real life too."

Ever the foodie, it's no surprise that Bukowski's perfect date idea is a nice lunch, an even better dinner, and fine wine. "I may not seem like it, but I'm a really laid-back person," he says. "I'm happy with enjoying great food, catching a movie, or just hanging out at my place."

While it remains to be seen if Bukowski will be a future *Bachelor*, he has some opinions about the current leading man, Juan Pablo Galavis. Although he's picking Nikki Ferrell as his favorite to win, "it seems like Juan Pablo is definitely having fun, but I'm not convinced that any of those girls are



going to be his future wife," he shares. "I think he's using the show as a way to enjoy himself and probably get himself out in the public eye."

*You can keep up with Bracket Room on the website <http://www.bracketroom.com/>. You can also keep up with Chris on Twitter @chrisjbukowski. Be sure to tune in to The Bachelor finale tonight on ABC at 8/7c.*