

'The Bachelor: Women Tell All' Recap: Old Catfights Resume and Michelle's Redemption

By Krissy Dolor

Before we get the pleasure of seeing next week's final rose ceremony, we must first cross one last bridge: the infamous "Women Tell All" episode, where both the *Bachelor* in question and his dearly departed bachelorettes reflect (and awkwardly watch back) the ridiculous moments that made them famous.

While it's no surprise that old beef between Raichel and Melissa continued to stew, the night's big shocker was Michelle's – dare we say it? redemption – which, of course, made for excellent television. So without further adieu, let's dig right in to last night's episode:

It started off with a classic Brad Womack and Chris Harrison heart-to-heart, where Brad took another look back at some of the more colorful women on this season (including Madison, who was fangless last night). While he mentioned the usual (Chantal O.'s first impression slap, his first date with Ashley H., how funeral talk with Shawntel N. made him uncomfortable), Chris wanted to know what Brad *really* thought of Michelle. "She has a lot of game," he said. "And that's coming from a guy that has zero game." True statement, Brad – but we still adore you!

Next, Chris Harrison announced that yes, ABC will bring us *Bachelor Pad 2* this summer. With the "Bachelor Nation" count toppling 500, it's no surprise that this *Bachelor* spin-off will continue. Who *doesn't* want to see former contestants

duke it out – again? There's nothing wrong with some good old fashioned recycling.

But the real drama began when Chris turned the show over to the ladies. The Michelle-bash started instantaneously, and she was called "two-faced" and "shady" by Stacey and Sarah P. (I'm sorry, who are you again?). She was even compared to a "creepy spider" by Jackie, who was one of my early favorites this season. Ashley H. and Madison quickly rushed to a crying Michelle's defense, who believed she went on the show for the right reasons. Michelle said she was aggressive and grabbed every chance she could with Brad was because she missed her daughter: "If it wasn't right, I wanted to go home." Touché.

Taking a break from the Michelle drama, Chris brought Melissa into the hot seat, whose tension with Raichel caused them both to make an early exit during week two. "I genuinely don't think I initiated any conflict in the house," said Melissa, as Raichel nearly passed out in her seat, since she believes that Melissa is partly to blame for her demise. After a long and over dramatic rehashing of their dispute, Melissa apologized. Raichel's classy response? "Of course I'm sorry. I'm not sorry to her, though." Keeping it real.

But the Michelle drama was far from over. Chris viewed Michelle's actions as a defense mechanism, and said, "I found you unbelievably entertaining." She said her comments weren't meant to be malicious, and that she was trying to be sarcastic and funny: "You have to make light of a situation in an intense situation." While I have been guilty of a Michelle-bash or two, I wouldn't have gone so far as to criticize her parenting skills, which is what Stacey did, making her look like a crazy madwoman. But Meghan said it best: "Monday nights would not have been the same without you." We definitely have to agree there!

Both Ashley S. and Ashley H. (who looks great as a brunette!) tearfully watched their respective parting moments with Brad

and reflected on what happened. While Ashley S. wanted closure, Ashley H. said she still had questions about her and Brad's relationship, even at the end of their run, which she regrets. But no worries! Ashley, staying true to her bubbly self, said, "Brad primed me for what is yet to come." Is this a hint of a possible role as the next *Bachelorette*?

And finally, the moment we were all waiting for – Brad's turn on stage. While Shawntel N. looked beyond miserable, Brad was positively glowing. This is the happiest I've seen him all season, and it was simultaneously unnerving and endearing to watch. He said seeing Ashley S.'s tearful goodbye broke his heart. He called Michelle "his girl forever," and said, "I'll defend you 'til I'm blue in the face." And he still feels that his carnival date with Ashley H. was the best first date he's been on in his whole life.

But I *do* believe Brad gave us a tiny hint as to who he proposed to in South Africa. When Chris brought up the final two women's names, Brad smiled that boyish/giddy smile of his when Emily's name was said. While five out of six of the former *Bachelor Pad* contestants said Brad should pick Chantal O., Michelle said last night that Brad needs someone like Emily. But regardless of who Brad ultimately chose, it seems this woman has given him the fairytale ending he's been searching for after two seasons. "I'm telling you, I'm truly happier than I've ever been," he said. "It has nothing to do with me; it has everything to do with her." Cue collective *Awww*.

And there you have it! What did you guys think of last night's episode? Let's chat in the comments below. If you haven't already, check out our exclusive article, where we interviewed the former *Bachelor* and *Bachelorette* contestants. Also, visit us daily for more in-depth interviews with them – we'll have something *Bachelor*-related every day until the final rose ceremony!

'The Bachelor' Season 15 Preview: Diary of the Departed

By Krissy Dolor

The final rose ceremony is almost upon us, but we need a little dirt on what Brad is *really* like, straight from the horses' mouths. Which is why next week will be the infamous Tell All episode, where Brad will have to face the women he rejected this season. So in honor of the two-hour reveal, let's see what Ashley H. had to say in her 'Diary of the Departed' video below. Don't forget to watch ABC's *The Bachelor* with us on **Monday, March 7 at 8 PM/7 PM Central Time** to find out who comes back – and what they have to say about Mr. Womack himself. And be sure to visit us next week! We will be posting **exclusive *Bachelor* coverage** leading up to season 15's finale!

'The Bachelor' Season 15, Episode 9: A South Africa

Safari Ride

By Krissy Dolor

After last week's intense hometown dates, Brad Womack and the final three bachelorettes (Chantal O., Emily and Ashley H.) find themselves in South Africa, a first in the show's history. The producers of ABC's *The Bachelor* chose Sabi Sands, a gorgeous reserve, to set the perfect backdrop for this week's episode. Let's take a look back at what happened last night:

Brad's first date was a safari ride with Chantal, complete with a safari hat (see above). The day's highlight (besides seeing the lions, wildebeests and hippos, oh my!), was watching Brad and Chantal analyze each species they passed, including the giraffe, which, according to Chantal, is "gorgeous, in a weird way." At their picnic, Brad asked, "Who does this?" What, go on safari rides through the African bush? Well, Brad, you do – and we are all immensely jealous of your life.

While everyone knows that Brad and Chantal are the most open with each other, Chantal said she wanted to prove how much she's in love with him, even though she makes her feelings clear every week. Perhaps a trip to the fantasy suite will do the trick! The two pushed aside their dinner and hurried to their room – which was actually an open air tree house. Chantal compared the fantasy suite to being in Vegas: "What happens in the fantasy suite, stays in the fantasy suite." Well, then. We'll just have to use our imaginations.

Date number two was with Emily, who rushed over to Brad (and he to her) like they haven't seen each other in years. "I've been counting the seconds," Brad said dramatically. But oops – he forgot something. What could it be? If you guessed an elephant, you'd be correct, as Brad returned to Emily on top

of one. For the next five minutes, we got to hear Emily's two catch phrases: "Oh my goodness gracious," and "Oh, dear Lord." I mean, *really* – is she not the cutest thing? "This is like *The Lion King*, but better," she said. We agree. At lunch, Emily asked Brad if he was ready for a five-year-old. He said he is, and added that he loves that she is a packaged deal. This leads to a classic Brad-Emily kiss, fully backed by the ridiculous, sweeping love music ABC chooses to play each time they make out.

At dinner, Brad was a nervous wreck, as Emily always turns him into a stuttering ball of mush. What was interesting about this date was that Emily told the cameras beforehand that she is in love with Brad, but was scared to tell him. "I have only said I love you to one person in my life," she said. Though Emily accepted the fantasy suite card with a bit of hesitation, she opened up inside their suite and told him her feelings, which stunned Brad – in a good way, of course.

But someone's date had to go badly, and this week, it was Ashley's. The Madawaska, Maine native, after seeing the helicopter for her date, ran away screaming. She came back, of course, but it set the tone for the rest of their day. During their picnic, Brad asked Ashley where she wanted to live after she was done with school, and she said she'd want to move to southern Maine to be closer with her sister. While it seemed like an innocent enough question, we all know Brad is looking for someone who wants to share a future with him. Later at dinner, he told Ashley that in their conversations they have never meshed their futures together – which concerned Brad. "Not once did you mention Austin," he said.

Ashley immediately put up her defenses, and said, "I feel like you're just looking for a wife." Insert collective gasp here. "I'm not looking for a perfect person," he said. "I'm just looking for a situation perfect for two people." Silence followed, as Brad did his awkward eye dart thing, while Ashley's eyes teared and she picked at her food. Hoping to

salvage what was left of the night, Brad offered her the fantasy suite card, which she accepted. "I just want my Ashley back," he told the camera. "The one I fell for."

Regardless, whatever happened that night wasn't enough, as Brad went into his heart-to-heart with Chris Harrison knowing he was going to say goodbye to Ashley. In fact, Brad decided to pull her away before the rose ceremony began so he could tell her how he felt. "I don't know how we have such bad miscommunication," he said. But Ashley, who sensed what was coming, had already given up. "I feel like we could have had something so good," she told him. "There's really nothing I can do now." And with that, Brad said goodbye.

While Brad expected more of a reaction, Ashley (again) put up her defenses: "I'm not going to beg you to change your mind." In the car, she told the camera, "I wish I could have smiled and been myself...but when you have a heavy heart it's hard to find the strength." Though Brad knew he made the right decision, he said, "I always thought Ashley would meet my family; I always thought she would be one of the last two standing." Personally, I don't think Ashley stood a chance. Her guard was up too high throughout the season and they always seemed to be "taking steps back," and "trying to reconnect," with each other. Spark simply wasn't enough to keep these two together.

And then there were two. Brad told Emily and Chantal that he said goodbye to Ashley, but insisted that the rose ceremony take place, as he is first and foremost a gentleman and wanted their permission to continue on to the last week. Afterward, the women find out that yes, they will meet Brad's family – but they are staying in South Africa and going to Cape Town! Looking forward to another week where America's audiences at home can continue to be jealous.

Do you guys think Brad made the right decision? Let's chat in the comments below.

‘The Bachelor’ Season 15 Sneak Peak: Who Gets the Fantasy Suite Card in South Africa?

By Krissy Dolor

It's week nine. Brad Womack and the remaining three bachelorettes (Chantal, Ashley H. and Emily) are in South Africa. But who gets the fantasy suite card? If it takes you more than one guess you clearly haven't been watching this season very well, but take a look at the sneak peak clip below to find out (hint: Brad enjoys taking this woman on picnics!). Don't forget to watch [ABC's The Bachelor](#) with us on **Monday, Feb. 28 at 8 PM/7 PM Central Time** to find out what happens. See you at next week's recap!

‘The Bachelor’ Season 15, Episode 8: Brad Womack Gets

Cozy on Hometown Dates

By Krissy Dolor

It's the best week during any season of [ABC's *The Bachelor*](#) – hometown dates! This is when America (and Brad Womack, of course) finally see where the crazy (or normal) in the final four bachelorettes come from, helping Brad figure out who he wants to spend the rest of his life with: Chantal O., Ashley H. Shawntel N. or Emily. Let's get started:

Brad's journey began in Chantal's hometown, Seattle, Wash. While we know Chantal is in love with Brad, her parents' opinions can make or break this relationship. After meeting her three pets (including her minuscule Pomeranian, Boca), the two went to the O'Brien house – er, mansion. Brad turned on the southern boy charm and won them over easily. He bonded with Chantal's dad, Mike, over being "self-made men," and discovered that their families share a background in masonry. Brad even opened up about his father issues – turns out that Mike has problems in that department, too. "I respected and admired how Chantal's dad opened up," said Brad, and added that Mike "gets" him.

But this wasn't the only heart to heart in Washington. Chantal told her mom that she put herself out there with Brad and is scared to get hurt. "You should trust your heart, and that's what you're doing," said Billie Jo, who either ages extremely well or enjoys a little fine tuning now and then. At the end of the night, Mike gave Brad his total blessing if he were to propose to his daughter. Score one for Brad.

The next date took place across the country in Madawaska, Maine, where Ashley H. calls home. Turns out this dentist speaks a little French, which she demonstrated at lunch when they ordered one of Ashley's favorite dishes: *poutine* (french fries, cheese and gravy). When Brad picked up his fork, she

screamed, "You can't eat with a fork!" Sounds like my kind of dish!

At dinner we see where Ashley gets her bubbly attitude from. The Herbert family was all hugs and screams as soon as the two walked through the door. "Such a happy family, my God!" exclaimed Brad. This might be your future, so you better get used to it! Brad and Ashley's dad hung out in their matching lumberjack shirts, and Ashley's mother and sister, Chrystie, seemed quite taken by his presence – Ashley's mom even invited Brad to sleep over. However, Ashley confided to her family that she's still unsure of her feelings for Brad, and Brad, hearing about how driven Ashley is, doesn't want to hold her back from her dreams. Will Ashley make the cut?

Brad's third date is in Shawntel's hometown, Chico, Texas, where she partakes in the family business and embalms people. As she is the least dramatic of the final bachelorettes, ABC managed to make her look like a psycho with creepy organ music playing in the background. Brad is clearly uncomfortable and doesn't know if he would be able to handle conversations around death. After lying down on an embalming table, Shawntel took Brad to where she speaks with the families and explained why she loves her job. "I have a lot of passion for people," she said. "If you think about it, there's so much love in here."

Later, Shawntel and Brad head to her parents' home. After hearing that Brad was put on the table, Shawntel's dad said, "No rose for you." We like this guy already! However, Mr. Newton *didn't* like that his daughter was willing to give up the family business to move to Austin, where Brad is from. After a very awkward conversation, he gave the couple the family's blessings – "if it's meant to be." Score half a point for Brad; despite the approval, there was obvious hesitation and tension.

And last but not least, there was Brad's much-anticipated date

with Emily in Charlotte, N.C. As Brad is the first man Emily is introducing to Ricky, the stakes are high, and Rickie is not easily impressed. Brad even brought a peace offering – a butterfly kite, which Rickie flew after some prodding by her mother and Brad, who did a good job of not being overbearing. “I would welcome and cherish the opportunity to be a father figure to little Rickie,” he said. Notice that he said father *figure*, and not just ‘father’ – smart man!

The night ended in Emily’s home, which was filled with toys, games and a lot of pink. After they played Candy Land (how precious!), Brad and Emily tucked Rickie into bed. Brad told Emily that their day was “perfect,” and Emily told Brad that she could see herself falling in love with him. Cue kiss...or not. Brad said that he respects Emily and her daughter enough to *not* kiss her with her daughter upstairs – which upset Emily. But after she walked him to the door (and told the camera she simply won’t let Brad leave her home without a kiss) she went in for the kill, which was completed by a crescendo of sweeping romantic music. Swoon.

In the end, Brad said goodbye to Shawntel, whose hometown date simply didn’t compare to the other three women’s. However, it wasn’t the family tension or her job that set him off – it was that Brad didn’t feel the way he thought he should have felt when she told him she was falling in love. And the brutal honesty continues. While Shawntel’s a great girl (and has become one of my favorites this season), this didn’t come as a surprise. Wishing you all the best of luck!

And luck goes out to the remaining three women who continue their journey with Brad next week in South Africa. Thanks for reading!

'The Bachelor' Season 15, Episode 7: Sand, Skin and Broken Rules

By Krissy Dolor

On this week's "most dramatic episode of ABC's *The Bachelor* yet", Brad Womack and the remaining six bachelorettes head to the beaches of Anguilla. As this is the week before hometown dates, when Brad gets to explore/invade four women's home lives, he must make the ultimate decision – who does he see himself being with at the end of the day?

One obvious answer: Emily, who snagged the first one-on-one. We know there will be at least one helicopter in each episode, and Brad used it to take the demure blonde to her own private Caribbean island. Brad really wants to tell Emily how he feels (since surprising her with picnics during cocktail parties just isn't enough), but can't seem to get over how nervous she makes him feel. "I care more for you than I should probably say right now," he told Emily on their picnic lunch. But is he setting himself up for heartbreak?

"I definitely want to bring Brad home, but I'm still on the fence about him meeting my daughter," said Emily. When Brad asked if he could meet Ricky, she sighed (which he noticed) and said she's never introduced Ricky to someone she's dated. "I never want to confuse her in any way – you know?" Brad knows, but doesn't care – he wants to meet the kid. Desperate to make this work, he tells Emily he will definitely give her a rose at the next ceremony, breaking *Bachelor* protocol. "I don't care about the rules," he said. "I care about Emily." Granted, ABC broke protocol by bringing Brad back, so I guess one slip up is OK.

Date number two went to Shawntel, who Brad wanted to see in an “everyday environment” (since hanging out in picturesque Anguilla is totally normal). The two rode bikes and ended up at a farmer’s market. “This is like, my perfect date, and he had no idea,” gushed Shawntel. Other activities included drinking coconut milk straight from the coconut (how exotic!) and jump rope (yes...jump rope). Shawntel’s drama-free attitude makes it easy to see why Brad enjoys being with her. At dinner, the two talked about what next week would bring. “Chico – you’ll fall in love,” Shawntel said of her hometown. His cheeky response? “Maybe I already am.” Cue the rain and passionate kiss.

But the next one-on-one was anything but passionate, as Britt *finally* gets some alone time with Brad. He surprised her with a yacht, which made everyone jealous. Insert nasty Michelle comment here: “Seems like a waste of a one-on-one if you ask me.” I’m sure Britt is a nice girl, but in reality, it really *was* a waste. Brad chose (of all things to do with Britt) to go rock jumping. “I’m terrified – as usual,” Britt said. “It’s my normal, go-to feeling.” She eventually took the plunge and impressed Brad – but it wasn’t enough. “There’s no romance,” he said. “I can’t force it. It’s just not there.”

At dinner, Brad (just like he did with Alli) broke the bad news. “I don’t see a future with you and I.” But the wheels aren’t churning fast enough and Britt just thinks they need more time. But that’s not the case. “I know – I *know* – we’re not meant to be together.” One down, one more to go. Will one of the girls from the group date leave next?

Yes (but you’ll have to wait to find out who). This group date started out with Brad waking up Chantal O., Ashley H. and Michelle at 2 a.m. For what, you ask? A *Sport Illustrated* photo shoot, that’s what. Ashley is first to be shot – and the first to go topless, with shells covering up her bits. Up next is Chantal, who, despite feeling like a “fat lard,” sexes it up with wet sand and provocative poses – oh, and topless

shots as well. Michelle, who can't be outdone, laid on top of Brad and made out with him – all for the camera, of course. At the end of the shoot, Brad realized that yet again, he has gotten caught up in Michelle's tactics/sexual prowess. "I put myself in hot water here," he said, seeing everyone's glum faces. No kidding!

Needless to say, the rest of the date bombs. But one woman had to get a rose at the end of this date, and he chose Ashley – which royally pissed off Chantal and Michelle, who both looked murderous. "If you can't choose me over one of three girls, then just send me home," Chantal whimpered. And it's back to a whiny and insecure Chantal. Can someone tell her to relax already?

Later that night, Brad decided to break another rule (what a rebel!) and not hold the obligatory cocktail party before the rose ceremony. Chris Harrison, the voice of reason, asked Brad if he was sure. "I'm very clear in this decision," he replied. So let's get to it!

The order of the women who received roses (after Ashley) are: Emily (a given), Shawntel, and...Chantal! Michelle finally got the ax. I thought I'd be more happy about this, but I've enjoyed watching Michelle piss everyone off for the past seven weeks and now need a new woman to hate. Brad's walk with her to the goodbye limo is awkward as Michelle was completely mute. Brad called his decision bittersweet: "There is intense physical attraction, but that would eventually wear off," and added that they would have probably had a volatile relationship. Finally! See you later, crazy!

But Michelle, though defeated, looked calm as she laid across the back seat. No words were said to the camera – no outpouring of emotion, no tears or hiccups. Ms. Money went out just as she came in – strong. At the end of the day, this whole experience was something to add to her resume (and something to pass the time until her movie comes out). It's a

win-win!

Are you guys as thrilled as I am? Let's talk about it in the comments below. And check back next week for our recap of episode 8 of *The Bachelor* when the final four bring Brad to meet the family.

'The Bachelor' Season 15, Episode 3 Recap: Fang Girl Walks, Emily Talks and Michelle Continues to Whine

By Krissy Dolor

Looks like I spoke too soon in judging Madison, *The Bachelor's* resident fang girl. It turns out that yes, one of Brad Womack's 17 remaining bachelorettes left the mansion for good, and I must admit that after last night's episode, I wish that Madison had given herself a chance and stayed. But more on that later.

The first date card, which said, "Let's find our love song," went to Ashley S.. This date was crucial as Ashley S. received the first impression rose during the season premiere. Brad took her to Studio A of Capital Records, where they sang a terrible rendition of Seal's "Kiss From A Rose." And when I say terrible, I mean *God-awful*. However, the couple looked like they were having a blast and were completely relaxed in each other's company, despite the ear-splitting noise that was coming out of their mouths. "I picked the perfect girl to do this date with," said Brad.

But we all know that Brad (and the producers of ABC) always have a little trick up their sleeves, so phase two of Ashley's date was a serenade from Seal himself. Lucky! The couple canoodled in the corner while Seal reminded us why we're jealous of Heidi Klum. The date ended with a romantic dinner on the rooftop of Capital Records, where (surprise, surprise) Ashley S. opened up to Brad about her father, who died of a brain aneurysm. Ashley told Brad that she "felt like he was here tonight." With Brad being a new man and all, he loved that Ashley opened up to him and gave her the first rose of the night. In fact, he said afterward, "Ashley has far exceeded my expectations...she's the whole package." Is this a possible wife alert?

Ehhh, not so fast. The second solo date recipient was Emily, my personal top-runner, who hadn't yet told Brad about her situation (first love died in a plane crash, found out she was pregnant and has a 5-year-old daughter). Brad took her by private plane (really?) to Santa Marie, Calif. – wine country. Brad hoped this date would open Emily up, but Emily deflected Brad's questions back onto him, which made him upset (and made me feel awkward just watching them). But during dinner – which took place in a candlelit barn – Emily *finally* told Brad everything. She said that her reason for withholding the past was because she wanted Brad to like her as a person and not as someone with "all this stuff." Without the "elephant in the room," as Emily put it, sparks flew, and Brad and Emily shared their first kiss. "The way I feel right now is the way people feel when they begin a future with somebody," said Brad. "I can see Emily being the woman I want to spend my life with," (!!!). One point for Team Emily.

And it seemed that Madison was rooting for Emily, too. Emily told her story to the girls who didn't go on the group date, which deeply touched Madison, who said she came into the *Bachelor* experience hoping to meet someone and fall in love, but she believed that some girls on the show *needed* to fall in

love. At the cocktail party, Madison brought up Emily's story to Brad and said that she was having second thoughts – and then walked off during the rose ceremony. "I would have a really hard time taking a rose from one of these girls, she told Brad. "I'd rather go home tonight." Brad was upset by her decision, but let her go.

"I really like this Madison so much more," he said. "I think I'm missing out on a hell of a girl." I wonder if Madison regrets her decision. I'm almost hoping she'll make an appearance later in the season, since I dismissed her so early in the game. Also, I think that I am relieved that her fangs are fake.

But the one person I *do* wish would walk off the show (though she won't) is Michelle. Again, I judged too quickly and thought that she'd be good for Brad as an 'older' bachelorette. This couldn't be further from the truth. She's manipulative, catty and loathes the other women. She steals Brad away every chance she gets, lurking in the shadows, vying for his attention while the other women are trying to talk to him. The girl also has a huge problem with either Chantal or Shawntel (or maybe both). Again – while you have to admire someone who knows exactly what she wants, her psycho-eyes are starting to show through and I'm not-so-patiently waiting for Brad to wake up to all of this. Too bad Brad's a nice guy, because he's easily won over by affection or breakdowns, and "likes that she's direct." Sorry Brad, 'direct' and 'obnoxious' are two different things, and Michelle is one step away from the crazy train.

Sorry I didn't talk more about the group date, but you can read more about it on *The Wall Street Journal's* Speakeasy blog. Also, so you can keep track at home, Brad said goodbye to Kimberly and Sarah P. And next week, it looks like Michelle will dig her claws even further in Brad, while Ashley H., who needed some reassurance from Brad this week, starts to lose it. Can't wait until week four! Remember to visit us next

week for more *Bachelor* coverage.