

The Worst 'Bachelor' and 'Bachelorette' Breakups





Jake Pavelka and Vienna Girardi

Jake Pavelka thought Vienna Girardi would be his best chance at love when he knelt in front of her on 'The Bachelor' season 14 finale. But after a short engagement, the pilot decided it was over and broke the news to his fiancée over the phone! On a TV special, Pavelka accused her of cheating, while Girardi said he was obsessed with fame. Ouch! Photo: Bob Charlotte / PR Photos

Broken Engagements: Celebrity Couples That Never Made It Down the Aisle





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Liam Hemsworth and Miley Cyrus

This young couple met on the 2010 set of their movie 'The Last

Song' and announced their engagement in August 2012. Unfortunately, the pair called things off about a year later. While the pop star has said, "It was so fun wearing a fat rock for a few years," she's remained single since the split. Photo: Andrew Evans / PR Photos

Celebrity Couple: AshLee Frazier and Brad Womack Are Dating!



By Meghan Fitzgerald

UsMagazine.com confirms that former *Bachelor* contestants AshLee Frazier and Brad Womack are now dating. Womack split from fiancée Emily Maynard a few weeks after proposing in March of 2011. “Now, Womack, 39, and Frazier, 32, are together after initially meeting at an event in Texas,” reports NYDailyNews. Frazier left the past season of *The Bachelor* with barely a word to Lowe, and Womack stated that he “dodged a bullet” with his past relationship. Hopefully, this one is better for the couple!

What are some ways to keep past relationships from affecting your current one?

Cupid’s Advice:

Keeping your past relationships from your current one is a skill you should acquire if you don’t have it already. Many problems can arise if you let your past baggage interfere with your current relationship. Of course this is challenging to do, but it is necessary. Cupid has some more advice on this:

1. Comparisons: You do not, and I repeat, do not want to compare your ex to your current mate. You will get inside your head and think of all the things your ex was better than your current partner at. You should not compare your ex to anyone, especially your partner now. This is a main way to keep your past relationship from affecting your current relationship.

2. Live in the now: It is not healthy nor acceptable to look back on your past and attempt to live in it. It is over ladies and gentleman, and now time to move on and get going with your life. Live in the now, live with your current partner and ignore any temptations to think about the past relationships. The more you live in the now, the less you are to think about all your past relationships.

3. Leave baggage: Leave your baggage from the past to the side of the road as you continue on with your current relationship.

Yes, it happened. However, it does not matter anymore because you are with someone new. Someone you should spend all your time on. Not spending your time on thinking “what ifs” and how things could of been different. The past is the past, and so is your baggage. Move on.

Have you kept past relationships apart for your current one? Explain below.

Emily Maynard Says Brad Womack's Recent Comments 'Really Hurt'





The much anticipated, season-eight *Bachelorette* star, Emily Maynard, decided to be the bigger person when responding to her ex, Brad Womack's, recent nasty remarks. He said that "dodged a bullet" when their engagement ended, according to UsMagazine.com. The single mom faced the smack-talk on *Access Hollywood Live* on Wednesday, making a point to avoid confrontation. The 26-year-old told hosts, "At first, my feelings were really hurt, because we left everything very civil and I've never said a bad word about him. But knowing Brad, he didn't mean it that way." Neither half of the former couple have seen one another since filming for the new season of ABC's *The Bachelorette* started, which is probably for the best. Still on her quest for love, Maynard knew better than to fall for the petty 'he said, she said nonsense, showing not only her maturity, but also demonstrating that you can't believe everything you hear.

How do you deal with a vengeful ex?

Cupid's Advice:

Moving on from a breakup is difficult no matter what terms the

relationship ends on. If you find your ex saying mean things that he knows will get your attention, it's usually a sign that he isn't as over you, or the split, as you thought:

1.No response is the best response: Don't give your ex the satisfaction of dropping to his or her level. If your ex is reaching out to you, it's obviously for a reason, so if you want to keep that relationship in the past, don't let them get a rise out of you – which was likely their goal in the first place.

2.Take it as a compliment: If a past partner is taking time out of their day to say things about you, it's because you're on that person's mind. Smile that they still care enough about you, as they took time out of their day to vicariously reach out to you.

3. Use it as fuel: If your ex is going to say cruel things about or towards you, just remember how much better off you are without that person. You deserve someone who is going to make you happy and your ex's immaturity can be used as a push in the right direction towards the one.

What are some other ways to deal with a vengeful ex? Share your thoughts below.

Emily Maynard is 'Scared to Death' to Date on TV Again





When Emily Maynard and *The Bachelor*'s, Brad Womack, ended their engagement, she had absolutely no intention of being the the star of the next season of *The Bachelorette*. But, next month, that's exactly what she'll be doing. "I had no intentions of ever being the next Bachelorette. I genuinely meant that," said Maynard. "I feel like the biggest hypocrite because I said that, and now I'm doing it." According to [People](#), though she knows dating on TV can work, she admits to being scared about diving into the reality TV dating pool once again. The blonde beauty also admits that it's difficult to date as a single mom. The show will be filmed in Charlotte, North Carolina, where Maynard is raising her 6-year-old daughter as well as in other locations.

How do you get over the fear to date again after a failed relationship?

Cupid's Advice:

After a failed relationship, it's okay to take some time off dating. But, when you fall down, you need to get back up again. Cupid has some advice:

1. Go out with friends: You don't need to actually go on a date to put yourself out there in a social situation. Go out on the town and socialize.

2. Try online dating: With so many relationships beginning online these days, it never hurts to look. Plus, there's no doubt that it's convenient. You can filter by the qualities you do and don't like before the first date!

3. Reward yourself: Give yourself small rewards for taking steps to get back into the dating scene. It can certainly be easier said than done.

What are some ways to put yourself out there in order to get back into the dating scene? Share your thoughts below.

'Bachelor Pad 2' Recap Episode 1: Jake Pavelka Gives Vienna Girardi a Rose





By [Lori Bizzoco](#)

Broken engagements, boyfriend stealing and love triangles galore. Welcome to this summer's most anticipated show, *Bachelor Pad 2*. ABC pulled out all the stops when collecting the current list of castoffs from seasons past. We watched like animals in heat tonight, glued to the television witnessing one of the most talked about and controversial casts this summer. Is it a coincidence that all the references noted above point back to one person: Vienna Girardi? Hmmm, it leaves us wondering if the show would even be worth the three hours it premiered if it wasn't for her and Jake Pavelka's drama-induced past.

For those of you who aren't familiar with Vienna and Jake, it's safe to say that they'll probably go down in *The Bachelor* history as the most remembered (not in a good way) contestants. She won the love and proposal of Bachelor, Jake Pavelka, Season 14 and broke his heart when she sold their break-up story for \$90,000, according to reports. Then, they trashed one another on Primetime television when the relationship ended, and it was so brutal that Vienna stormed out of the interview. They haven't talked since that fight

took place a year ago. Now, they're both back in the house, under the same roof, competing for the \$250,000 grand prize.

Last night we witnessed the first challenge of the season which included each of the 18 contestants partnering up with someone in the house. The men were ousted into the air by harness with the women hanging on to them wherever and however they could. The prize for the couple who lasted longest was full immunity and a rose. With those stakes on the line, it's no surprise that the challenge came down to Jake and Vienna being the remaining two. Partnering up with Vienna was her new beau and "guard and protect" tattoo-man from Ali Fedotowsky's season, Kasey Kahl. While Jake partnered with understated Jackie Gordon from Brad Womack's season.

It came down to the final four and after thirty minutes, Kasey couldn't hold on to Vienna any longer. She begged him to hold on so that Jake wouldn't get immunity, but he couldn't. Jake and Jackie not only win a rose, but they also have a one-on-one date and get an additional rose to save one other person in the house. Guess who gets the rose and a free ride? Surprise, surprise! Jake convinces Jackie (although it looks like her idea) that he must give the rose to Vienna as a truce; to put closure on his wound that obviously hasn't healed. Strategic or stupid? It's most likely stupid, as Vienna laughs about it behind-the-scenes.

One person who clearly states the stupidity of Jake's rose decision is Vienna's ex-best friend, and the only two-time *Bachelor Pad* contestant, Gia Allemand. Gia can't stand Vienna after finding out that she hooked up with her ex-boyfriend, Wes Hayden. Gia (also on Jake's season) is good friends with Jake and feels betrayed by his decision to give the rose to Vienna instead of protecting her. Worried that she may now be eliminated, she confronts Kasey in a one-on-one scheme and talks him into an alliance with her. As she's doing that, Blake is trying to get Jackie to vote off Kasey.

All of this makes for good television, but we can't forget the other contestants in the house who also have interesting stories:

First, there's Michael Stagliano and ex-fiancee, Holly Durst. We didn't see too much of their relationship drama tonight, which leads us to believe that producers are saving the best for last. We can't wait to watch how that plays out. We would love to see them back together, but Holly has admitted to being a commitment-phobe and from the first evening in the house she's had her eyes on last season's resident dentist, Blake Julian. It's a shame for Holly, because the promos clearly highlight that Blake is also caught hooking up in the house with former Brad Womack contestant, Melissa Schreibner. There will be tears.

It also looks like last season's boxing champ (joke) and nice boy, Ames Brown, has already formed an alliance (and possibly a relationship) with lonely heart, spider-hater (she called Michelle Money a spider), Jackie Gordon. Both Jackie and Ames are New Yorkers, and you can hear them mumbling on last night's episode about spending time together when they get back to the city. "We should go to Central Park," Jackie says to Ames. Being the Ivy League-educated gent that Ames is, he's probably wondering why she couldn't have thought of anything more unique and original to do.

Then, there's one of our fan favorites, Utah hairstylist and accredited crazy lady, Michelle Money. For the record, we don't think Michelle is crazy. We think she's a witty, smartass, and we love it (yes, we're a bit biased). We also hear that southern philanthropist, Graham Belle hooks up with Money (that's Michelle Money, not the greenback kind, if you know what we mean).

Other contestants that haven't raised the drama meter too high yet are Erica Rose from Lorenzo Borghese's season who creates her own fanfare by wearing a tiara and claiming she's a

princess. Kirk DeWindt from Ali Fedotowsky's season and the too-truthful comedian, William, from Ashley Hebert's season are both under the radar right now, as well.

Then there's Ella Nolan, the Tennessee mom who was dumped by Jake Pavelka. Talk about a back story- her own mother was murdered by her stepfather right in front of her when she was three-years old. She's doing this all for her son so that she can give him the life she never had when she was young. I feel like I am watching *Lifetime Television*.

Lastly, we have Justin "Rated R" Rego (should be 'ego'). He's the professional wrestler who appeared on Ali Fedotowsky's season and bragged to the men about having a girlfriend back home. Interestingly, he's like a G-rated version of what Bentley did to Ashley Hebert this past season. And last, but not least, we have apparel buyer, Alli Travis from Brad Womack's season.

In a nutshell, the rest of the night was based on forming alliances, with both Gia and Kasey coming to a close call on being eliminated. They'd probably be gone if Justin didn't betray his alliance by telling Alli that Graham is going to "work on her," meaning he is going to get her to come to their side. Alli confronted Graham, which made Justin look two-faced. No time to waste. He's Gone.

Alli also seems to be playing two sides and not making a decision where her alliance is resting. The other contestants are in it to win it. Alli's eliminated, too.

There you have it. Two down and 16 people to go. This should be an interesting summer.

Our early predictions: Michelle Money, Michael Stagliano, with close calls to Ella Nolan and Ames Brown.

Stay tune for next week's recap. In the meantime, if you have questions about the *Bachelor Pad 2*, send them in. We will have

former winners, Natalie Getz and David Good with us all season to answer them.

Exclusive Interview: Celebrity Former 'Bachelorette' Winner Jesse Csincsak Gives His Take on Ashley Hebert's Taiwan Dates



Last night on *The Bachelorette*, [Ashley Hebert](#) said goodbye to

Lucas Daniels and Ryan Park, and their journeys ended in Taiwan. In addition to finding out who the final four are – [J.P. Rosenbaum](#), Ben Flajnik, Constantine Tzortzis, and Ames Brown – Emily Maynard returned to the *Bachelor* mansion to speak about her celebrity break-up with Brad Womack. In our [exclusive celebrity interview](#), find out what *Bachelorette* expert Jesse Csincsak had to say about the episode!

Exclusive Celebrity Interview with Former *Bachelorette* Winner Jesse Csincsak

The mood this week was certainly different: Ashley seemed much more serious and focused as she evaluated her relationship and love with the guys. Based on your experience, is it the upcoming hometown dates that cause people to get more serious? For you, was it difficult to introduce a woman to your family that you had only known for a couple of weeks?

At this point in the show, you have been there for over a month so your feelings are definitely growing fast. When hometowns start production, it seems like they let you two be alone a lot without butting in. There are still tons of cameras there, but no producers ever pull you away to talk to you or her – they just let things be as organic as possible. Intros to the family are huge – it's a make or break time for both parties at that point.

Related Link: [‘The Bachelor’ Winner Courtney Robertson Says Her ‘Reality TV Days Are Over’](#)

They didn't show any hint of what happened when Ben didn't come home until the next morning. Do you have any thoughts on why?

I think Ben will be one of the final two. I am assuming they probably fell asleep snuggling, but they can't show that to

the audience because it would seem like not all the guys are getting the same amount of time with her.

Please discuss Ames' fashion choices. It seems like the producers are going out of their way to embarrass him this season – from the pink boxing shorts to his wedding attire this week. Why would they intentionally do this?

First off, Ames is a ROCKET SCIENTIST, not a fashion guru. Secondly, the show has a stylist, Karry Fetman, who outfits all the guys. So he is doing it on purpose for good TV.

Related Link: [Rumor Alert: Are Kris Jenner and 'The Bachelor' Ben Flajnik Dating?](#)

Did either of the departures this week – Ryan or Lucas – surprise you? Why or why not?

I have a friend who is a body language expert, Stacy Kaiser. Check out her weekly column in USA TODAY! She has been explaining things to me, and I saw the Lucas and Ryan exit coming. Ryan was kept around for good TV.

Any theories on whose hometown date idea will be the wackiest?

In the previews, it looks like Constantine's family is throwing money in the air – sounds like a party to me!

What's your best guess at this point of the two men that will be standing at the final rose ceremony?

J.P. and BEN.

Do you think there was re-edit mid-season because they made Ashley look emotionally weak over the Bentley saga?

Nope. I think Ashley is trying to please producers. When she realizes how it will look on TV, she kind of backs off. So it appears that way when we watch the show, but in reality, she is just trying to please production.

Why do you think Emily came on the show to speak? Ratings? Producers' influence? Is she the next *Bachelorette*?

Emily came on for 15 minutes, crying the whole time and saying absolutely nothing. This tells me production did all of this, and they are trying to make her the next *Bachelorette*. I am sure she will be paid well!

Given the romance with Emily is over, do you think *The Bachelor* fans have seen the last of Brad Womack? Do you think there is any chance we'll see him sit down with Chris Harrison to tell his side of the story any time soon?

I think Brad is sick of the press, but I am sure he would return if he was paid the right amount of money.

Want more The Bachelorette insider insights? Check out the [Bachelorette Beatdown](#) this evening. The Beatdown is hosted by Jesse himself, and he is always joined by notable show alums!

'The Bachelorette' Season 7, Episode 7 Recap: Looking for the Total Package in Taiwan





By Jennifer Harrington

Last night's episode of *The Bachelorette* left us with the final six men! [Ashley Hebert's](#) game face was on as she committed to finding the total package in a guy – an emotional and physical connection – before she would grant a rose for hometown dates. The episode featured [J.P. Rosenbaum](#) whining about the fact that Ben Flajnik had an overnight date and Ryan Park looking like he was on the brink of a nervous breakdown if he didn't get a solo date with the bachelorette. However, the highlight of the evening was when Emily Maynard came back on the show to chat with Chris Harrison about her relationship and love with Brad Womack – or lack thereof. If you missed last night's episode of the [reality TV](#) show, here's how it all went down:

Recap of *The Bachelorette* Season 7, Episode 7

There were four dates this week: three one-on-one dates and one group date. The first solo date went to Georgia-based restaurateur, Constantine Tzortzis. He and Herbert's

relationship and love had been moving slower than the others, so this was her opportunity to see if there was a connection. The date began with a train ride to a nearby village and concluded with both of them releasing a big balloon-like, paper lantern into the sky, which had included their “love” wishes on it. Hebert said it was “the most romantic date ever.” Cliché as it is, love was in the air!

Related Link: [Famous Couple Sean Lowe and Catherine Giudici Speak Out Against the New ‘Bachelorette’ Twist](#)

The next alone date was given to Sonoma winemaker, Ben Flajnik. It’s tough to ignore the obvious chemistry between this duo, as they explored Taiwan on mopeds. Flajnik revealed to the cameras that he was falling in love with the bachelorette but wasn’t ready to tell her yet. Hebert revealed to the cameras (not to him) that it felt like he was her boyfriend. The next development was truly shocking: We learned that Flajnik didn’t come home from this date until the next morning! Is that a *Bachelor/Bachelorette* first? It really pissed off some of the other guys in the house.

While the activities of the overnight date remained mysterious, there was no secret about the fact that Rosenbaum was annoyed by the sleepover. His crankiness carried over into the group date, where he was accompanied by Ames Brown and Lucas Daniels to try on traditional Taiwanese wedding attire and take wedding photographs. Rosenbaum now sulked about the fact that the other guys were taking kissing photos with his lady. It all paid off for him though: When he shared his feelings with Hebert, she rewarded the construction manager from Long Island with the only guaranteed hometown rose.

Related Link: [Can You Really Find Love on ‘The Bachelor’?](#)

Last but not least, we have Park: the last man standing for a one-on-one date. After a day of checking out local Taiwanese culture, the conversation turned to water heaters, energy

preservation, and the environment – certainly not a way to get “in the mood” or build romantic chemistry. At this point, Hebert knew that her first-impression-guy was not going to be her husband, and she tearfully told him goodbye. Park, the eternal optimist (and the “top contender,” according to Brown), left in tears too.

Aside from Rosenbaum, the final three roses went to Tzortzis, Flajnik, and Brown. Daniels was out and graciously said goodbye. With the hometown dates decided, it was time to shift focus to Chris Harrison’s interview with Emily Maynard.

Past Winner of *The Bachelor* Speaks Out About Relationship and Love

Maynard returned to *The Bachelor* mansion to speak about her celebrity break-up with Brad Womack, who declined to appear on the segment. The devastated blonde confessed that she had been hunted by the paparazzi, that she didn’t know who to trust, and that she ultimately didn’t have the reassurance that her fiancé would stand by her side forever. She came on the show to try and end the rumors. Always the devoted mother to little Ricki, Maynard declared she would always love Womack but revealed that the engagement is over. Her focus is now to be the best mom she can be. Are we being set-up for her return?

Check back later today to read *Bachelorette* expert Jesse Csincsak’s thoughts on the episode (and Emily’s interview). Until then, let us know: after seeing Emily detail her break-up with Brad, do you think there is any truth to the rumors that she will be the next *Bachelorette*?

Bachelor Pad 2: Breakups, Makeups and Crazy People



By Kari Arneson

Hang on to your roses! The new season of *Bachelor Pad* is starting up this summer and we have all the juicy details and predictions for a season that's sure to be full of feuds, flirtations and lots of fun. Here's what you need to know before *Bachelor Pad 2* premieres on August 8:

Jake and Vienna together again! Jake Pavelka and Vienna Girardi, who got engaged at the end of *The Bachelor* season 14, broke up shortly afterwards – and it wasn't pretty. These two had a very public falling out, including a hard-to-watch interview on *The Bachelorette* season 6 that included plenty of

crying, yelling and finger-pointing. Expect a lot more bickering and bawling as both bitter exes are confirmed to appear on *Bachelor Pad 2*. Add Kasey Kahl, Vienna's new boyfriend and the famous "tattoo guy" from Ali Fedotowsky's *Bachelorette* season, to make things even more awkward (if possible).

Couple alert? Holly Durst and Michael Stagliano are also confirmed to be on the show, although it remains to be seen whether or not they will appear as a couple. Durst, from Matt Grant's season of *The Bachelor*, and Stagliano, from Jillian Harris' season of *The Bachelorette*, were once engaged and planning a double wedding with DeAnna Pappas and Stephen Stagliano. However, the couple broke up, then got back together, then broke up, then...who knows. The twosome's uncertain relationship status is yet another reason to tune in.

Dun dun dun... Some famous villains/crazy people from past seasons are back to cause more trouble. Justin "Rated R" Rego and Michelle Money can be counted on among the eccentrics. Justin tried to woo Ali Fedotowsky while promoting his professional wrestling career while Michelle earned the ire of the ladies on Brad's season just by being her odd self. Jackie Gordon, one of Michelle's biggest critics, will also compete on *Bachelor Pad 2*, so watch out for some more catfights!

Other contestants include Graham Bunn, Kirk DeWindt and Tanner Pope on the men's side and Gia Allemand, Ashleigh Hunt, Ella Nolan, Erica Rose, Melissa Schreiber and Alli Travis on the women's side. However, EW.com reports there will be not one, not two, but **three** mystery men from Ashley Hebert's season of *The Bachelorette*, so don't be surprised if super villain Bentley or Jeff "The Mask" show up to stir the pot.

Tune in to *Bachelor Pad 2* when it premieres on August 8 on ABC. And stay right here for all the latest on *The*

‘Bachelor’ Alum Emily Maynard Is Spotted Without Engagement Ring



The rocky relationship between *The Bachelor*'s Brad Womack and Emily Maynard may have finally reached an impasse. [People](#) reports that last weekend, Maynard, 25, was spotted without the engagement ring Womack, 38, presented to her in the show's finale. The two released a statement in March, saying: "It has been a bumpy couple of months for us, and our priority

right now is to focus on our relationship.”

How do you know what engagement ring to choose for your partner?

Cupid’s Advice:

If you want her to say “yes,” start out by getting her the right ring! Cupid has some tips on how to know what engagement ring is right for your partner:

- 1. Ask for help:** Poll her friends and family (swearing them to secrecy, of course) about what kind of ring she’d want. They can at least steer you in the right direction.
- 2. Think about her taste:** What kind of jewelry does she like to wear? Pay attention to whether she likes gold or silver and over-the-top or understated pieces.
- 3. Go with your gut:** Buy the ring that feels right, the one you can see yourself proposing with and see her wearing for the rest of her life.

What’s your idea of the perfect engagement ring? Share your comments below.

**‘Bachelor’ Brad Womack Drunk
Dials Emily Maynard After
Breakup**



There appears to be some debate as to what the deal is between Brad Womack and fiancée Emily Maynard. Three sources confirmed in the most recent UsMagazine.com that the couple broke up two weeks ago and that the star of *The Bachelor* has been drunk dialing Maynard. “Brad and Emily are over, and Brad keeps drunk-dialing her,” one insider said. “Brad is such a loser.” A friend close to the couple, on the other hand, says that the couple is still together and engaged.

“They are on and off, but there is a lot of love there. This is just a rough patch,” the friend said. A third source said that the 25-year old single mother couldn’t handle the long distance relationship and ended things after heading to Texas to smooth things over.

What are some ways to handle an obsessed ex-partner?

Cupid’s Advice:

For some people, it's really hard to let go of past relationships, especially if they feel responsible for the breakup. Here are some pointers to dealing with your ex:

1. Keep it to yourself: You're going to have to do your best to avoid your ex's calls and attempts to talk to you. Even if you plan on staying friends, it might be a good idea to defriend him or her on Facebook ... at least for now.

2. 'To the Left': One way to make things easier for both you and your former lover is to give your personal property back to one another. That way you won't have to be reminded of each other.

3. Restrain yourself: In the most extreme cases, you might need to get outside help to keep your former lover away from you. You don't always have to get a legal restraining order, but perhaps just a close friend calmly talking to your ex may do the trick.

Have any stories of exes who wouldn't leave you alone? Leave a comment below.

Exclusive Giveaway: Jesse Csincsak Chats About 'The Bachelorette's Ashley Hebert, 'Bachelor' Reunions and Life as a New Dad



This post is sponsored by Lubriderm, Powerbar, Gilchrist and Soams, Beauty Society, "Skinny on Willpower" by Jim Randel, Popchips, Panda Licorice, Alterna Haircare, Cheek'd, Buddah Balm, Eight O'Clock Coffee, Eat Whatever Breath Mints and Pajama City!

By Jennifer Harrington

As we anxiously wait for the new season of ABC's *The Bachelorette* to begin, several of the former contestants are spending the hiatus having fun mingling and mating up. One of the most talked about events was in Breckenridge, Colorado last month at the semi-annual *Bachelor* and *Bachelorette* reunion. Hosting the shenanigans as always was former contestant, Jesse Csincsak, who received the final rose in Season 4 from DeAnna Pappas. Although Jesse and DeAnna's relationship didn't result in a lifelong romance, Jesse *did* find love through *The Bachelor* and married Season 13 contestant, Ann Lueders.

A cold sore ruins
romance.

One dab, eruption
prevented!



We had the chance to speak with Jesse and he shared his thoughts on life as a new husband and dad, *The Bachelor* reunion parties and of course, this season's *Bachelorette*, Ashley Hebert! Check out what he had to say:

First of all, congratulations on being a new dad! How has your life changed since being on *The Bachelorette*?

After coming off *The Bachelorette*, life took a huge turn. I wanted to fall in love. I knew it was possible after I came off the show, so I started hosting reunions with *Bachelor* alums. I wanted to bring people together, and in turn, I met my wife. I met her at a reunion. Next thing I knew we were getting married and having a little bambino. My son Noah is the light of my life and I couldn't ask for more. The show brought me to everything I wanted in life – it's amazing!

You coordinate such great reunion weekends for the former contestants. The buzz during last month's party centered around Vienna Girardi and Kasey Kahl. What can you tell us about them as a couple?

They have been dating for a little while. I think the reason their relationship works is they are both happy-go-lucky, carefree people who want to have fun. I think they'd both also be a great fit for the *Bachelor Pad*, I'd love to see them on that show.

We're getting excited for next week's premiere of *The Bachelorette*. Recently, show creator Mike Fleiss was quoted saying Ashley will be a "different kind of bachelorette" because of her career ambitions. What do you think?

Ashley is very young-hearted. She's still in school. She will need a guy who is comfortable enough in his own skin to

know she is her own person and she'll be going to class with lots of young, hot guys, but she will come home to him. If they can find a guy who is confident in his own skin and knows she has a lot going on, she will have herself one heck of a relationship. She is one of the youngest bachelorettes they've ever had, and I think that will make for an interesting season.

Do you think the new contestants will be scared off by Ashley's independence?

The announcement that Ashley would be the bachelorette came very early, so the guys know who she is. It's not tough these days to Google someone to figure out about their past. What is tough is that a lot of people come on the show with ulterior motives. You have to be careful of the knuckleheads to find the diamonds in the rough.

What tips would you give the men this season?

You don't realize the demographic the show reaches – it's syndicated in Europe, and even when you go overseas, people recognize you from the show. I didn't realize that it would affect everyone in my family with my surname. Don't go on the show because you want people to know who you are; go on the show for the right reasons. Be yourself. Don't let anyone convince you to do something you wouldn't otherwise do. That way, when you're off the show and your life has moved on, people say "you're just like you were on the show." I was lucky – I was me no matter what, and it worked out for the best.

The time period between when the show wraps and when it airs for the public, seems to be the most trying time for the *Bachelor/Bachelorette* couple. Given your experience, what advice can you give Ashley and her new guy to keep their relationship alive during these months?

Go into hiding and get to know each other. Do as many get-

togethers as the production company will let you and really take the time to get to know the other person. Do things out of the ordinary that will test your patience with one another. In my relationship experience, that's how you really start to understand how someone is going to be down the road. Another thing to observe is how the other person talks to their parents. If they are respectful when they speak to their parents, that's likely how they will talk to you.

Are you planning for the next *Bachelor* reunion yet? When and where will it take place?

There will be a reunion this summer. I can't tell you the location yet, but it will be in the warm weather and plans are underway. And we're in talks to do an online competition so one lucky fan would be able to join the reunion with the *Bachelor* alums for a weekend. I can promise you, this will be the biggest reunion of all-time!

Thanks Jesse, we can't wait! And, thanks for taking the time to speak with us. To read more about Jesse's take on the upcoming season of *The Bachelorette*, check out his website at www.jessecsincsak.com or visit him on Facebook.

~~GIVEAWAY ALERT:~~ ~~CupidsPulse.com has teamed up with Jesse to give away One Swag Bag from the last 'Bachelor' Reunion Weekend. To enter for your chance to win, tell us where you think the next *Bachelor* reunion should take place and why in a comment below. One winner will be randomly selected. Please be sure to use your real email address so we have a way of contacting you if you've won. This giveaway will run until 11:59 PM EST on Monday, May 23. Good luck!~~

Have Brad Womack and Emily Maynard Broken Up For Good?



Rumors are swirling that *Bachelor* stars Brad Womack and Emily Maynard have called it quits for good this time. A source close to Maynard says, "It happened about a week and a half ago," according to HollywoodLife.com. The apparent reason for the breakup centers around Maynard having remaining feelings for her ex-boyfriend, automotive executive David Smith. "She's got something with David," says the same source. "And David totally digs Emily." The duo dated before *The Bachelor* and were said to be a good couple, although Maynard seemed "reserved" around Smith. Either way, it looks as if a match made in reality heaven is sputtering to an end.

How do you determine if your relationship is toxic?

Cupid's Advice:

It was long speculated that Brad Womack would not be able to fully open up his heart to a woman after his first stint on *The Bachelor* ended in heartbreak. Is Womack simply toxic in a relationship? Cupid has a few tell-tale signs for a toxic relationship:

1. You can't be yourself: If you find yourself skirting around your partner at times and find it difficult to be yourself, the relationship is probably toxic. Your mate should understand you better than anyone, so what's the point of being a part of the couple when you can't be fully happy?

2. You do things you normally wouldn't: Chances are that your relationship is toxic if you find yourself partaking in activities you used to be against just because your partner suggested it. It's important to retain your morals and values when you enter into a new relationship.

3. You fight all the time: Arguing periodically is normal in a relationship, but if you find that all you do is right and you can't point to anything positive in your relationship, it may be time to get out.

How did you know your past relationship was toxic? Share a comment below.

New 'Bachelorette' Ashley Hebert Meets 25 Suitors



Ashley will show Brad that two can play at his game. After previously being rejected *The Bachelor* by Brad Womack, Ashley Hebert will return to ABC as *The Bachelorette* on May 23. We hear from UsMagazine.com that this soulmate searcher already knows one of her 25 bachelors, Bentley. Unfortunately, a former cast mate revealed he may have hidden reasons for appearing on the show. “Do you promise, on national television, to date 25 men simultaneously without complaining?” Jimmy Kimmel asked Hebert humorously on his show. “Do you promise to make sure the hot tubs are clean and have enough chlorine and their bacteria levels are low?” *The Bachelorette* responded with, “I’ll do my best with that!” Could the second time be the charm?

What are the perks of dating around?

Cupid’s Advice:

Even Cupid needs to let loose now and again. Serious relationships get boring, so why not change it up? Here are some reasons that dating around can be great:

1. No strings attached: You never need to check in, and you can do whatever you want. Sometimes that just the kind of relationship you need!

2. Full benefits included: If you're single, you can have it all. Bored with one? Onto the next. There's no massive heartbreak involved. As one wise single said, "It's like a buffet table."

3. Self-esteem makeover: So, you have options. How does that make you feel? Probably pretty good. Casually dating can enhance your self-esteem, and we all need that little boost once and awhile. Embrace it, feel pretty and keep doing your thing.

Are there more perks to dating around that you can think of? Share your thoughts below.

'Bachelor' Star Emily Maynard's Mom Speaks Out On Brad Womack





For those of you who thought Brad Womack had finally found true love his second time around, think again. According to [HollywoodLife](#), Emily Maynard's mom, Susan Maynard, commented that their relationship is a bit rocky. Maynard told *People*, "They have not officially broken up. It's still kind of on and off, I hear nothing but good things about Brad. They are still just trying to get to know each other." Although it doesn't seem as though Susan Maynard has much confidence in the couple making it in the long run, we will just have to wait and see.

Do your parents know best when it comes to your relationships?

Cupid's Advice:

As frustrating as our parents can be sometimes, they are the people that have known us the longest. Cupid has some advice on why our parents may know what's best when it comes to our relationships:

1. Your best interests in mind: As much as we all love our friends, the only people who we can be positive only want what's best for us are our parents.

2. They've been there: It may be strange to think of your parents as young and dating, but they were in your shoes once before. So, don't be quick to rule out their advice. It comes from a place of experience.

3. They know you the best: The only people who know us better than we know ourselves are the people who have known us the longest – our parents. This means that they probably also know what you need in a relationship.

Do you think your parents know you better than you know yourself when it comes to relationships? Share your experiences below.

Cupid's Bow Aimed on Love for Season 7 of 'The Bachelorette' With Ashley Hebert!





By Jennifer Harrington

It's been a few months since Brad Womack bid Ashley Hebert farewell, as she left South Africa brokenhearted and in tears, but starting May 23, the season 15 contestant will be back on ABC – and this time, *she'll* be handing out the roses! The spunky 26-year-old dental student from Maine will be the seventh lucky lady featured on *The Bachelorette*, with 25 eligible bachelors vying to be her husband. We had such a great time watching Brad and Emily Maynard's love story on *The Bachelor*, and we can hardly wait to see what's in store for the newly brunette Ashley!

In a recent article from [People](#), Ashley proclaimed her excitement for the upcoming season and said, "I'm open hearted and interested in meeting the guys," and added that hopefully, she'll "fall in love." Cupid's Pulse shares her enthusiasm for her upcoming journey to find love, and we'll be right there with Ashley every step of the way through each rose ceremony!

Before the season starts, check back for more information

about Ashley and the 25 bachelors. We'll also explore why, after several beautiful, accomplished past bachelorettes (Trista Rehn, Meredith Phillips, Jen Schefft, DeAnna Pappas, Jillian Harris and Ali Fedotowsky) *Bachelor* creator Mike Fleiss believes Ashley "will be a different kind of bachelorette."

On May 23, make sure your DVR is set and mark *The Bachelorette* on your calendar for Monday evenings! And of course, check in with Cupid every Tuesday morning to read our recap of the episode, some insights into her decisions, and our predictions on who we think will get the final rose. Along the way, we want to hear from you about Ashley's dates, men and choices, so please comment and tweet us ([@CupidsPulse](https://twitter.com/CupidsPulse))!

In the meantime, stay tuned for an exclusive interview with a past *Bachelorette* winner! Until then, guess who it is in a comment below!

'The Bachelor' Season 15 Finale: Brad Womack's Lucky Lady and After the Final Rose





By Krissy Dolor

After two long seasons and more than fifty women, Austin native Brad Womack has finally chosen his bride-to-be: blonde bombshell Emily Maynard! But before we get to the details of their final week in South Africa (and the shocking announcement during the *After the Final Rose* special), let's take a look back at *The Bachelor* season 15 finale:

Before the final dates, Chantal O. and Emily must meet the family: mom Pam, brothers Wes and Chad (Brad's twin), and their wives, Prima and Dylan (who resembles Emily in the looks department – maybe it's a twin thing?). After a tearful reunion and Brad revealing a definite proposal, the interrogation began.

Chantal met the Womacks first, and said she fell in love in Costa Rica. Her upbeat personality easily won her points. "She immediately clicked with the family," said Wes. Pam, however, was skeptical of Chantal's devotion and asked how she fell in love so quickly. "It made it easy to fall in love because Brad was that person," Chantal said. Pam couldn't

argue with that, and said she saw her fitting in with Brad's world. "You're precious," said Pam.

Though Brad thought Chantal won his family over, he was clearly more excited to see Emily and was nervous about their day. "I just hope she's herself with my family," he said. The meeting started off stiff, as Brad acted as a shield between Emily and his clan. It wasn't until Wes asked about Ricki's father that the tension broke, as Emily graciously told them the story and brought everyone to tears.

"Hearing Emily...it completely blew me out of the water," said Wes. "For her to be able to triumph over that and be the strong woman that she seems is amazing." Since both of Brad's brothers are fathers, they wanted to make sure Brad knew what he would be getting into if he chose Emily. "I would welcome the opportunity to be a father, I would," Brad said. Pam thanked Emily for trusting her son enough to let him meet Ricki, and Emily one-upped her, saying, "I am so grateful to have met your son...he's been such an angel in my life." As tears of joy streamed down Pam's face while she talked to the camera, it was easy to see who her pick would be.

Though everyone liked Chantal, they unanimously agreed that Emily was the one. "I feel like Emily really knew our worlds," said Prima, since Emily is a mother. "I certainly see chemistry here. I think Emily is the whole package," Pam told Brad. And mother knows best!

But first, the final dates. Brad took Chantal swimming with the sharks. "The fact that I'm doing this for Brad speaks volumes," she said. As a testament to "traveling the world for him" (as opposed to being on a reality show), she made Brad a map of everywhere they've been and wrote him a sentimental letter that declared her love even more. "I know it takes a lot to write that, thanks so much," said Brad. But there just wasn't enough emotion in Brad's eyes and you could tell he wasn't in love with her.

Emily's date started smoothly enough, with a helicopter ride (yawn) and picnic (double-yawn). But her insecurity brought the mood down, despite Brad telling Emily how much he family loved her. Later that night, he said he wanted to be a "real" father to Ricki, and not just a step-father. Emily (rightfully so) questioned Brad and wanted to know what he thought that meant. He was obviously hurt and left in a sour mood. "This particular date is making me question everything," said Brad, and at that moment it was obvious who he choice would be.

The next day, Chantal was brought out first, wearing black, which set the tone of her impending breakup. After the obligatory niceties, Brad dropped the bomb: "I don't know how else to say it but I have stronger feelings for someone else." Chantal was floored, and it was clear she didn't suspect anything. While she was speechless for most of his monologue, she finally mustered, "You're an amazing person and Emily's very lucky."

Soon after, Emily arrived, and looked bride-like in a pale pink gown. After a long introduction, the moment we've been waiting for: "I'm asking you to give me your forever. I love you." Brad then got down on one knee and took out the Neil Lane ring he picked earlier that day. Emily said yes and Train's "Marry Me" played over a montage of their most romantic moments – the perfect fairytale ending!

But was it?

Turns out the couple had broken up for a bit after the show's ending. In fact, the After the Final Rose special was supposed to be Brad and Emily's wedding night – in Anguilla! But the two reassured the stunned in-studio audience (and everyone at home) that they are still together and just need to figure out how to communicate better – seems like Brad isn't the only one with a temper! In addition, Emily had to watch Brad with the other women on the show and has struggled

to figure out what reality is, even though it's been clear to everyone else that Brad only had eyes for her.

To help them out, Chris brought out Trista and Ryan, Jason and Molly, and Ali and Roberto, as these three couples have proved the tabloids and the *Bachelor*-franchise statistics wrong by finding true love. Trista, who has been married to Ryan for seven years, said it best: "We met on the show, but it's what we did after that show in real life that matters."

And after Brad and Emily watched their engagement for the first time, it was clear that they really *do* care for each other. But where was Emily's blinged-out ring? Don't worry about that, either: Brad pulled it out at the end of the night, and this time, it was sized. "You are my forever, babe. Here's your ring." Phew! Cupid wishes the engaged couple all the best!

But what about Chantal? Don't worry, romance rumors of her and a new beau are true. "He's definitely everything I've been looking for," she said. "He let me know I could love again." We wish Chantal and her new man the best of luck!


Well that's it folks! It's been a pleasure watching season 15 of ABC's *The Bachelor* with you, and I hope you've enjoyed reading the recaps as much as I've loved writing them! Until our next recaps of whichever show we choose (*The Bachelorette*, perhaps?), here are my favorites – including an introduction to the next Bachelorette (who we totally called): Ashley H.!

'The Bachelor' Season 15

Finale Preview: A Look Back at South Africa



By Krissy Dolor

There's only a few days left until the season finale of ABC's *The Bachelor*! In honor of next week's episode, take a look at Brad Womack's travel guide for South Africa. Reminisce about his safari ride with Chantal O., elephant adventure with Emily and helicopter view with Ashley H. – even take a sneak peak at what's still to come! Don't forget to watch the final rose ceremony with us on **Monday, March 14 at 8 PM/7 PM Central Time**  to see whether Brad chooses Ms. O'Brien or Ms. Maynard in Cape Town.

We also hope you've been enjoying our exclusive interviews with former *Bachelor Pad* stars! Check back on Monday for our

final interview: with Natalie Getz and David Good!

'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’ and His Hometown Honeys





By Krissy Dolor

During week eight, Brad Womack must go on the most important dates of this season – in each of the remaining bachelorettes' hometowns! Emily, Chantal, Ashley and Shawntel are the four women left standing, and Brad must see how his potential other halves live. While Brad's meeting with Ricky, Emily's daughter, is sure to be one of the night's highlights, Shawntel asking Brad to lie down on the embalming table (which normally holds dead people) should be a fun watch. Will Brad be able to handle it? Don't forget to watch [ABC's *The Bachelor*](#) with us on **Monday, Feb. 21 at 8 PM/7 PM Central Time** to find out what happens. See you at next week's recap!