

'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!

Former 'Bachelor' and 'Bachelorettes' Pick Chantal O'Brien Over Emily Maynard For Brad Womack





Cupid Exclusive!

With *The Bachelor* final rose ceremony less than a week away, single women are placing their bets on who they think ABC's two-time *Bachelor*, Brad Womack, will give that final rose to on March 14.

It's down to this season's two fan favorites: soft-spoken southern mother Emily Maynard and sassy, slaphappy divorcee Chantal O'Brien. Based on Womack's infamous dumping of both DeAnna Papas and Jenni Croft in season 11, many fans wonder if he'll leave his final two picks heartbroken as well.

While everyone has an opinion, nobody can be sure what will happen. Even *Bachelor* reality TV spoiler sites like Reality Steve have reported different endings before next week's season finale. That's why Cupid's Pulse took this question to the experts: six rose-loving revelers from past seasons – David Good, Natalie Getz, Tenley Molzahn, Kiptyn Locke, Jesse Kovacs and Elizabeth Kitt.

After all, who better to ask than former *Bachelor* and *Bachelorette* contestants who appeared not once, but twice (just like Womack) on the *Bachelor* franchise? Each of them competed last summer for a chance to win \$250,000 on ABC's *Bachelor* spin-off show, *Bachelor Pad* – which Chris Harrison officially announced will return this year for a second season during last night's *The Women Tell All* episode.

The verdict: None of the former reality stars chose fan favorite Emily Maynard, who **83 percent*** of Cupid's Pulse readers picked as their favorite for Brad in this week's poll.

Here's who the former contestants chose and what they had to say about it:

1. Elizabeth Kitt (*The Bachelor*, season 14): Brad should choose Chantal O'Brien. They really seem to have a connection. Chantal seems really down to earth and open to falling in love. It looks like he feels natural and comfortable with her.

2. David Good (*The Bachelorette*, season 5): Chantal O'Brien has a great family and a beautiful mother. Her father seemed legit like someone I could hang out with and that's huge, so I go with her.

As we saw in the hometown episode, Brad met Chantal's dad, Mike, and the two bonded over past issues with their own father's and the fact that they're both self-made men. Compatibility with your partner's family is a strong sign that your relationship has staying power. Given that Emily's daughter took a while to warm up to Brad, Chantal scores higher in this category.

However, Cupid believes the most important aspect in a relationship is the compatibility that you have with one another, which is what Kiptyn Locke and Tenley Molzahn found at the end of *Bachelor Pad*. In fact, they both agreed with Elizabeth and David and said Chantal would be a good pick for Brad.

3. Kiptyn Locke (*The Bachelorette*, season 5): Who Brad will choose is on him; it's all about compatibility. Judging by what I've seen on TV, I'm liking Chantal O'Brien for him.

4. Tenley Molzahn (*The Bachelor*, season 14): I adore Emily, like everyone. But I don't see Brad and Emily together. I

see him with a more bold personality like Chantal O'Brien.

Tenley also mentioned that Shawntel N. could have been a possible choice.

5. The next person to pick Chantal was **Jesse Kovacs** (*The Bachelorette*, season 5), but Chantal wasn't Jesse's only pick; he also favored Michelle Money. "I seem to like the ones who are a little tilted. I just think that would be some entertaining TV," he said. This was definitely true while Michelle's reign on the show lasted, but Brad sent Ms. Money packing before hometown dates.

6. Only one person didn't mention Chantal at all: **Natalie Getz** (*The Bachelor*, season 13). She thought Shawntel N. would have been the right choice because she is so "sweet and simple." Unfortunately, Shawntel's hometown tour of her family's funeral parlor wasn't the type of romantic introduction Brad had in mind when he committed to meeting her family.

What's more interesting than who they chose is who they *didn't* – early front runner Emily! Elizabeth summed this up by saying, "Emily is beautiful and sweet, but she seems very guarded, and I think that scares Brad."

While Cupid has made it no secret that we are also "Team Emily," we tend to agree with the others – Chantal is Brad's best pick. From what we've seen on the show, it seems like Brad is never going to be himself with Emily – how can you be comfortable with someone who constantly makes you sweat and stutter?

However, during last night's Women Tell All episode, Michelle said that after watching this season, she thinks that Brad needs someone like Emily. "She's soft," she said. "She's not me."

So – is Michelle on the "Money" with this one? Did Brad propose to southern belle Emily in South Africa or did he

choose sassy and confident Chantal? Be sure to watch ABC on **Monday, March 14 at 8PM/7PM Central Time** for season 15's finale of *The Bachelor* to find out!

Visit us daily for more in-depth interviews with these six former contestants as they dish about dating, relationships and love after reality TV! We'll have something Bachelor-related every day until the final rose ceremony!

*Percentage as of post publication on March 8, 2011**

'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 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 6: Hot and Heavy in The Springs



By Krissy Dolor

The vacation destination theme continued on week six of ABC's

The Bachelor as Brad Womack and the remaining eight bachelorettes took another trip – this time, to Costa Rica. With the lush green landscape, a waterfall and a volcano view from The Springs Resort and Spa, what's *not* to like about week six?

Simple: Michelle, who, despite all her complaining and minor physical assault on Brad, is *still* in the running to be his wife. But we'll get to her later.

Chantal O. got the first one-on-one date with Brad, and after last week's Las Vegas meltdown, this date is crucial to her future. Michelle is less than thrilled, telling the camera, "All I can do is be myself, be patient and hope that Chantal gets attacked by monkeys. Or apes." That's funny, Michelle – we say the same exact thing about you!

Anyway, Brad is all about his "electric connection" with the Seattle native, and wanted to see the strong, confident woman he first met – you know, the one that gave him a slap across the face in the season premiere. What's a better adrenaline rush than zip-lining through the Costa Rica trees? Despite the rain, Chantal didn't hesitate to get herself ready for the half-mile zip-line track, which she completed with ease. "This is a girl that I could definitely hang out with every single day for the rest of my life," said Brad.

The rain made another appearance at dinner, forcing the two indoors. Brad was happy that the weather didn't faze Chantal – but since she's from *Seattle*, I'm pretty sure rain is the least of her problems. In fact, Chantal took the opportunity to change into one of Brad's button downs, since you obviously can't hang out in wet clothes all night. Smart move. As the two shared dessert, Chantal said, "I would take being rained in with you any day." Romance ensues, Chantal gets a rose, and she boldly asserts to the camera, "I did fall in love with Brad tonight." Bold!

But nothing's as bold as Michelle, who is still behooved over Brad's attraction to Chantal. Some of the words Michelle used to describe her were aggressive, overly confident and egotistical. Is she talking about herself? After the group date, which included Jackie, Emily, Shawntel, Britt and Ashley H., those are the words anyone would use to describe her, as she threw a fit over the fact that Brad was taking everyone rappelling down a waterfall. If you recall, Michelle and Brad did this in episode four, where they promised that they wouldn't go rappelling without each other.

Technically, Brad kept up his end of the deal. After all the women went down (even Jackie, who is deathly afraid of heights), Brad told Michelle, after much pouting and a few punches from her, that he was saving her for last so they could rappel together. Duh! When the two made their trek (wearing matching jackets, no less), the other women wondered if they called each other beforehand to plan their outfits.

However, the rest of the group date didn't go as smoothly. Some women (like Jackie) were clearly jealous that Brad had given Michelle extra attention, and Brad felt guilty. Emily told Brad that she has a tendency to sabotage her relationships, and that's no good, as Brad really likes Emily. And Michelle flat out tells Brad that she doesn't see him with any of the women (besides herself). Brad, overwhelmed and flabbergasted by everything, tells the women he can't give anyone a rose tonight. Smart decision.

But of course, there is one last one-on-one date with Brad, and Alli is the lucky lady left. This is her first one-on-one, and with a card that reads, "Meet me at the altar," she is more than confused. The date starts off with horseback riding and ends in a bat cave – yes, a bat cave. How unromantic. Brad leads her through the 40 million year old cave to an "altar," a set of natural stairs made of stone that lead up to a flat surface, where Brad has set a candlelit picnic. OK, that's much better.

But at dinner, Brad comes to the realization that he can't see himself with Alli in the long run, as they are straining to make small talk despite the intimate setting. Where are the tears? The depressing stories? The conversation is going nowhere. To make it even *more* awkward is that Alli brought up her last serious relationship, where she couldn't see herself marrying the guy. "I couldn't see him at the end of the aisle," she said. The light bulb goes off in Brad's head and he broke the news to her: "I can't give you this rose. I think you're an amazing woman but we both know we have a strong friendship, and I think that's where it ends."

Ouch. But not all is lost. In the depressing ride away from the resort, Alli said that Brad has given her a much higher standard for the next time she starts dating. Good for you!

Back at the house, the women see Alli's luggage taken being away and rush outside to gape and gawk. Michelle simply sat there, plotting her next move. Guess where she ends up? Brad's bedroom – would you expect anything less? So instead of a weekly therapy session we see more of Michelle (who will be in a movie later this year), who pounces on Brad and gives him more grief about Chantal and the rest of the bachelorettes.

But it doesn't make a difference. Brad keeps the crazy. He even keeps Britt, who still hasn't had a one-on-one date. In fact, Brad says goodbye to Jackie (who got that awesome serenade from Train in episode two). Will Brad ever say goodbye to Michelle? Check back next week for our recap of episode 7 of *The Bachelor*, where the vacation continues – in Anguilla!

'The Bachelor' Season 15, Episode 5: Tears and Loathing in Las Vegas



By Krissy Dolor

As we mentioned earlier today, we got a chance to watch last night's episode of ABC's *The Bachelor* with *Bachelor Pad* winner and author of *The Man Code*, David L. Good. The event was at the Village Pourhouse in downtown New York City, and many ladies (and a few gents) came out to talk to David, take pictures, check out his book and watch the fifth episode with him. I have to admit, it was both cool and weird to watch the show with a former contestant – as you guys remember, David was on season 5 of *The Bachelorette* with Jillian Harris. Hearing David's take definitely added a unique perspective. Read on for our recap of last night's episode and his advice for season 15 contestant Brad Womack:

ABC took Brad and the gang to Sin City, where they stayed at the Aria hotel. The first date was a one-on-one with Shawntel

(one of David's favorites). Her card read, "Let's end tonight with a bang," – how scandalous! The day started off with a shopping spree in "one of the nicest malls in the world," where this lucky bachelorette was able to buy anything – and I mean *anything* – she wanted. The two ran from store to store, picking out what seemed like everything in sight. Luckily, Shawntel was wearing casual clothes that made it easy for her to try stuff on. "It was so much fun shopping with Shawntel!" exclaimed Brad. Since it was on ABC's budget, I'm sure it was.

Their night ended with a rooftop dinner, where they were finally able to get alone time. But was it romantic? "I have waited so long to talk to Shawntel," Brad said. "And she's telling me that she embalms deceased bodies." Awkward. At least tears weren't shed, like Brad's past one-on-one dates. He gave her a rose and their night ended up with fireworks (get it?).

The group date was next. Brad took Jackie, Emily, Lisa, Marissa, Alli, Chantal O., Britt and Michelle to the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. But wait – isn't there a conflict somewhere? It's reality TV, of course there is! Not only was Emily's fiancé Ricky a NASCAR driver, he even crashed at this very racetrack. Brad, who didn't know about Ricky's racing past, tried to to makes amends and asked Emily if she wanted to leave. "I feel like a jerk," he said. No kidding.

But since Emily is the most gracious of this season's bachelorettes, she opted to stay and face her past. "Ricky will always be a huge part of my life," she said. "I will always love him." And with that, the southern belle hopped into the car and drove her three laps. "While I'm driving, I'm not thinking about going the fastest – I'm just driving around thinking the first few laps are for Ricky, and the last lap is for me." Cue the tears!

Later, everyone heads to – you guessed it – another rooftop.

Alli was upset that Emily dominated Brad's time. Chantal slipped up and mentioned the L-word, which Brad tried not to notice. And Michelle? She's over the tears that the other women are throwing at Brad, and said, "Brad is a man babysitting little girls." Michelle uses her dominatrix power and shows Brad exactly how she feels with a little tongue action behind closed doors. At this part, David laughed and said, "You have to give her credit!" I (grudgingly) agree – she knows what she wants and she's not scared to fight for it.

But despite Michelle's manhandling, Emily received the second rose of the episode, which was no surprise to anyone on the show (or at the bar).

And then it was time for the dreaded two-on-one date, where Brad would have to send one of the two girls home immediately afterward. Crazy eyes Ashley H. and New York nanny Ashley S. battled it out at a rehearsal for Cirque du Soleil's "Viva Elvis" show. Luck would have it that the Ashleys are best friends in the house – they even got matching tattoos in Vegas! After the rehearsal was over, Brad broke the news: "I think you'll make an extraordinary wife," he said to Ashley S. "I don't think you'll make an extraordinary wife for me." Ouch. Despite Michelle's hope that Brad would send *both* Ashleys home, he decided to hang onto dentist-Ashley for a little while longer. Turns out that first one-on-one date trumps first impression rose.

We also said goodbye to Lisa and Marissa – just when I was hoping to get to know them better. Next week, it looks like Brad and the eight remaining women take another trip – this time, to the Costa Rica rain forest. While I tried to pry David for some *Bachelor* secrets (and got no luck – sorry guys!), he *did* offer up some great advice for Brad: "Don't give into what everybody else wants you to do," he said. "Stick with your heart like you did the first time. Obviously it worked out – both those other girls are engaged ... I think he's a little older, a little wiser – I think he's there for

love.” David continued, “At the end of the day, as soon as you’re off that show, in two weeks you’re back to real life, and everybody’s got to deal with that. Everybody was upset; ‘he owes us – he owes us to get married, he was on the show.’ ... He doesn’t owe anybody anything just because he’s on TV.”

Hear, hear! You can see more clips from our interview with David on Vimeo and YouTube. Don’t forget to visit us next week our recap of next week’s episode!

Video: David Good Says Brad is a ‘Man Code’ Man and Talks About His Favorite Bachelorettes



By Krissy Dolor

Bachelor Pad winner David L. Good has been in New York City since Thursday promoting his book, *The Man Code: A Woman's Guide to Cracking the Tough Guy*. Monday night's event took place at the Village Pourhouse, which included a book signing and a viewing of ABC's *The Bachelor* with David himself! Cupid's Pulse spoke with the former *Bachelor* contestant about his book tour, this season of *The Bachelor*, and of course, Brad Womack. In fact, David says that Brad is a 'man code' man, just like himself:

David also talked about his favorite bachelorettes of season 15:

Cupid thanks David for his time! Check back later for a full recap of last night's episode and more from our interview with David Good.

'The Bachelor' Season 15 Heads to Las Vegas!





By Krissy Dolor

There's nothing like a trip to Sin City to amp up the drama on [ABC's *The Bachelor*](#)! From the looks of the preview below, [Michelle](#) digs her claws even further (if possible) into Brad Womack, everyone is crying (what else is new) and – surprise, surprise – someone wants to go home. But this time, it's Chantal! I wonder if she'll stay, or if she'll follow in Madison's footsteps and leave Brad in the dust. Don't forget to watch *The Bachelor* with us **next Monday, Jan. 31 at 8 PM/7 PM Central Time** to find out what happens, and follow us on Twitter: @cupidspulse. Word on the street is that Cupid has a little something up his sleeve for next week. Stay tuned!

**'The Bachelor' Season 15,
Episode 4: One Black Eye, Two
Nutty Women and Three More**

Say Goodbye



By Krissy Dolor

This week's episode of ABC's *The Bachelor* began with Michelle and her mysterious black eye. "Who wakes up with a black eye?" she asked. An attention-hoarder, that's who. And because of this, Michelle's automatically entitled to a one-on-one date with Brad Womack, right?

Yes, apparently. But we'll get to her later.

"How deep is your love?" read the first solo date card, which went to none other than Chantal O., Michelle's in-house rival. Brad, who likes Chantal's confident vibe, picked her up in a helicopter and flew her to Catalina Island. With its European-esque backdrop, the setting was the perfect place for a romantic dip – or a stroll along the sea floor – in the Pacific Ocean. Chantal overcame her deep (pun intended) fear of being underwater, showing Brad how much she trusted him.

Later, the two shared a candlelit dinner on the beach. While I initially questioned their chemistry, as I couldn't see an immediate spark between them, like with Emily or Ashley S.,

Brad explained their connection: "It feels like I've been with someone I've known for years." With his comfort levels high and her playfulness putting him at ease, Brad offered her the first rose of the week.

The next day, nine bachelorettes spent some time with radio hosts Mike and Dr. Drew on their love and dating talk show, "The Loveline." They started off with easy questions ("Are you guys all physically attracted to Brad?") and eventually moved onto the tough ones, like, "Who's cheated?" Of course, this was right after Brad revealed that he's never cheated on anyone, and all 12 sets of eyes darted around the room to see who would be the first to admit infidelity. Stacey raised her hand (she was a college cheater) and Brad later told her that he appreciated her honesty (better to get it out of the way, right?). Brad hoped this group date would get these women to open to up to him, as his mantra, "give me a chance," was echoed repeatedly during their session. Well – he got what he asked for.

Later that night, everyone clawed at each other, hoping to get a piece of Brad. And one by one, each woman interrupted each other. Ashley H.'s crazy began to show as she cursed and and cried herself into hysteria in the hot tub over everyone's connection with Brad. So what does she do? She crept over to Britt and Brad during their make-out session – Michelle-style – and stole him for herself. Ashley H. then pulls a Madison (miss you, girl!), explaining her doubts and said she was pulling away. "Don't second guess this," Brad told her, as we all know he just wants everyone to give him a chance. And just as Brad's about to give out the second rose, presumably to Ashley, she freaked out in front of everyone, causing him to change his mind right on the spot. And the rose went to Britt.

The Ashley H. drama even carried on into the next morning, as Brad pulled her away from the group right before his date with Michelle – not that I was complaining. Needless to say,

Michelle was pissed. Her pissy mood finally lifted when she saw that Brad took her to his home, where there was (another) helicopter waiting for them. They flew to downtown L.A. and landed on a very tall (and extremely scary-looking) skyscraper, and Michelle learned the details of the most daunting *Bachelor* date yet – rappelling off the side of that building. But Michelle wasn't the only nervous one. Brad wanted to face both his and her fear together. "This is definitely, definitely, a leap of faith for love," said Michelle. And while I didn't think Michelle would be able to pull through, she did – it must be her ballsy attitude!

While I'd like to think that Michelle's days are numbered, her alone time with Brad shows that he's clearly under her spell. He asked about her divorce, and even goes as far as to ask if he could meet her daughter Brielle, a huge step in any man's book. At that point, it's clear she's getting the third rose of the night, which according to Brad, was "an easy one." Well, *anything* compared to scaling down the side of a huge building is easy.

But last night's true scene-stealer was Emily. In fact, since she was dateless that week, Brad pulled her away during the cocktail party with a basket of pillows, blankets and wine, hoping to recreate their vineyard night. Um, swoon much? His move solidified the other bachelorette's beliefs that Emily is the top contender, and most of the women, including Chantal, whose own spot was already secured, got upset.

And so we said goodbye to three more – Lindsay, Stacey (the cheater) and Meghan, who I was really pulling for after last night. I'm not entirely sure why Lisa and Marissa are still in the running as we haven't seen enough of them yet, and I hope they get one-on-one dates next week. And it looks like Emily will have to face the worst thing ever, as next week's preview showed Brad and the remaining bachelorettes at a NASCAR race track. ABC might be pushing it too far with this one, but I'm probably just be biased.

Until next week, let's keep speculating on who gave Michelle that black eye. My guess? She did it to herself. Let me know what you think in your comments below!

'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.

‘The Bachelor’ Season Premiere Recap: Brad Womack is Back!



By Krissy Dolor

This season of ABC's *The Bachelor* has officially begun, and after last night's episode we can already tell it's going to be a doozy. Brad Womack has spent the past three years soul searching, trying to get his life back on track after his infamous decision to say goodbye to both Jenni Croft and DeAnna Pappas.

"I hit rock bottom," said Brad last night. "I was a broken man."

Brad opened up about his experience in therapy, and found the root of his phobias of commitment – his father's abandonment. And because of this, he said, "I don't know if I've let someone know the real me." Realizing that he's been a closed off-person, Brad has learned that in order for him to truly fall in love is to be vulnerable. And he to wants to prove to America – and most importantly, himself – that he can be a better person.

Regardless of what America thought about Brad before tonight's episode, it's apparent that he's back on *The Bachelor* for the right reasons. He sounded earnest whenever he spoke about trying to prove himself and teared up each time he mentioned his father. When he talked to *Bachelor* host Chris Harrison, Brad often tripped over his words, and seemed genuinely nervous to be back at the mansion again. Fidgety, playing with the back of his head, Brad looked visibly uncomfortable – and even more so when Jenni and DeAnna were brought out to meet him.

This was the moment everyone was waiting for. To see Brad sweating, adjusting the collar of his suit as he stood up to greet those women must have been gratifying for them – and everyone at home. "Now I feel even more like an idiot," Brad muttered as they walked out. In a word, the entire situation was awkward.

"It means the world that you made – that you *both* made the

attempt to come back here," Brad told them. "I failed miserably, and I'm so profoundly sorry."

But he got through it. And so did Jenni and DeAnna (who both look fantastic!). While Jenni was hopeful for Brad, DeAnna was skeptical of the whole thing, and these two women encompassed the thoughts that everyone must be thinking: *Is Brad really ready for this?*

And that was exactly what the 30 bachelorettes were thinking as soon as they walked out of the limo to meet him. In fact, Chantal, who was the first woman out, said, "I have something for you," and proceeded to slap Brad across the face. "This is for every woman in America!" Brad took it well, and Chantal's bold move actually landed her the last rose of the night (kudos!).

While a few girls admitted to Brad that they really didn't know anything about them (and Brad exhaled a sigh of relief each time he heard that), many of the women instantly had their guard up. Lacey looked stricken to see Brad (so no surprise that she didn't receive a rose), but many, including Ashley S., simply wanted Brad to move forward with his life. In fact, Ashley S. received the first impression rose of the night, because she told Brad that she would be his friend no matter what, and friendship is the what he's looking for in a wife. Will this be the love story that she's hoping for? I'm not sure yet ... something about Ashley S. seems contrived.

There was a little cattiness between Renee (no rose) and Alli (rose), after Renee got a little crazy-eyed and repeatedly took Brad away from the other contestants, just to have him stolen back from her (the irony!). And Madison – this one was just plain weird with her fangs and seductive eyes, and I still can't get over the fact that Brad gave her the fourth rose of the night. But for the most part, the girls were gracious – at least, for now.

Southern belle Emily and Rockette Keltie are two of my favorites. And Michelle, as a mother and one of the older women on the show, is a definite contender. Based on the 20 women he picked, Brad is going for a mix of country charm with comforting accents, mature and assertive women who know what they want, and bright-eyed and giddy girls who ooze cute. But I have a feeling Brad will pick a southern gal who is closest to his upbringing as his wife. Not sure which category Madison and those fangs fall into, but I'm hoping she gets off the *Bachelor* train soon.

And there you have it! The scenes from the rest of the season look intense, and we can't wait to see next week's episode. Remember to visit us next week for more *Bachelor* coverage. Want more? Visit PopEater, but we're warning you – possible spoiler alert!