

'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' 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!