

'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!

Bachelor Alum Melissa Rycroft Strickland Delivers a Girl





It'

s a girl for *Bachelor* alum Melissa Rycroft Strickland, reports [People](#). She and husband Tye Strickland welcomed daughter Ava Grace Strickland on Wednesday afternoon. Rycroft, who dumped Jason Mesnick after accepting a proposal on the *Bachelor*, married Strickland in December 2009. Ava Grace, the first child for both, weighed in at 6 lbs. 13 oz. and was born in Dallas, Texas. Rycroft's reaction? "Everything is wonderful and life is exactly as it should be."

How do you keep hope after a relationship ends badly?

Cupid's Advice:

There can be few things more mind boggling than believing your relationship is fine one day and then finding yourself single the next. This little doozey makes us all a bit crazy. Even if you think you're ready for a new relationship, it can be hard to approach it with a clean slate:

1. Time heals all: This may be true, but so does moving forward. Don't hold yourself back and swear off relationships just because one didn't work out. Each relationship is different and should be treated as such.

2. Learn from your mistakes: Your relationship may be over,

but it's not all bad. Treat it as an opportunity to learn from the past and move on to a happier place in a new relationship.

3. Look for the silver lining: If all else fails and skies look gray ahead, keep it simple. If you were meant to be together, you would be. Keep the faith that there's someone out there for you.

'The Bachelor' and His Hometown Honeys



By

Krissy Dolor

During week eight, Brad Pitt 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!

'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.

Brad Womack's Ex Says He Proposed to Her Numerous Times





Brad Womack is no rookie when it comes to proposing. This season's eligible bachelor has, according to ex-girlfriend Laurel Kagay in an UsMagazine.com article, proposed to her countless times. Kagay said the most recent proposal was just weeks before he left to film this season's show. "Even when we weren't together, he would say how much he loved me and was going to marry me," she said. While filming, Kagay said Womack would send her emails. "I'm sure the girl he picked would want to know that he was proposing to another woman right before he started taping the show," she said. "I would want to know."

How do you know when your partner's heart is in the right place?

Cupid's Advice:

Probably one of the most frustrating parts of a relationship is when you and your partner have different ideas about where you're heading as a couple. Cupid has some ways to tell if you and your partner are on the same page:

1. There's intimacy: It's not all about sex. Ask yourself if you do things such as cuddle up to each other after a long day

of work or hold hands in public. If not, you may want to look into why.

2. You say 'I love you' often: This is important to keep in mind, because if those words are rarely exchanged, there may be some distance between you and your partner.

3. They don't act distant: Pay attention to how your partner acts around you. If he or she tends to be caught up in problems or less attentive to what you say, you may want to do something about it before it takes a toll on your relationship and love.

Sexy 'Bachelor' Photo Shoot for 'Sports Illustrated'





By

Krissy Dolor

White sand beaches, crystal blue water and skimpy bathing suits? This isn't your ordinary vacation, as Brad Womack and a few bachelorettes do a photo shoot for *Sports Illustrated* in Anguilla. While Ashley H. has the 'girl next door' look going, Chantal can't help but want to up the sexy ante, and even takes her top off. Don't believe us? Look at Brad's face at the end of the clip below. Don't forget to watch ABC's [The Bachelor](#) with us **next Monday, Feb. 14 at 8 PM/7 PM Central Time** to find out what happens – especially if you have Valentine's Day date night plans! See you next week!

'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!

A Costa Rica Paradise for 'The Bachelor'





By

Krissy Dolor

What involves horseback riding, rock climbing and zip-lining through lush green trees? Another *Bachelor* trip, of course – this time, to Costa Rica! With the beautiful scenery at his disposal, Brad can't help that he's falling for each of the eight women that are left to compete. But who can he see being his wife? Well, Michelle tells Brad (again) that she doesn't see him with any of the other contestants: "Jackie needs to go home, Alli needs to go home – they all need to go home, I don't know what to say." Why don't you tell us how you *really* feel? But it looks like Michelle digs herself into a hole when she confronts Brad about his feelings for Chantal, her in-house rival. Will Brad continue to keep the crazy or will he send her packing for good? Don't forget to watch ABC's [The Bachelor](#) with us **next Monday, Feb. 7 at 8 PM/7 PM Central Time** to find out what happens!

'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 make 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: And Then There's MICHELLE!





By

Krissy Dolor

Normally I try to come up with more original titles, but the one from ABC's preview of tonight's episode of *The Bachelor* is perfect. Michelle's crazy eyes are all aglow and she's got Brad Womack in her grasp, but the remaining 13 bachelorettes are banding together to show the bachelor her true colors. But who gave Michelle that black eye? A part of me thinks that Michelle did it to herself so she can continue playing the victim card. Guess we have to wait until tonight at **8 PM/7 PM Central Time** to find out! Happy watching, and don't forget to stop by tomorrow for our recap of the episode!

Jennifer Aniston Doesn't Understand Girls on 'The

Bachelor'



America's sweetheart Jennifer Aniston reveals that she doesn't understand the ABC show that took our nation full of hopeless romantics by storm. According to *People*, Aniston tells *Allure*, "You know what I find fascinating? *The Bachelor*. I was mesmerized by how these girls, they meet this guy, they have three dates together or something, and they're weeping as though they've just lost the love of their life. I don't understand that." While Aniston may not believe in leaving her love life up to a rose ceremony, one thing the star does say she believes in is "friendship and fun."

Is it possible to fall in love quickly?

Cupid's Advice:

There's no concrete answer as far as "love at first sight" is concerned. Cupid tends to think it takes more than three

dates to truly fall in love, and here's why:

1. You need to want it for the right reasons: Sometimes when we're sick of being single, we just settle for the next person who comes along. It's easy to mistake your comfort level being in a relationship versus single for love.

2. It's probably lust: Whether it's the stars, the wine or the intense physical attraction, most of the time the feelings you have after the first few encounters with a person can be misconstrued as love. In fact, it's probably lust, infatuation or a desire for companionship.

3. People are complicated: The fact is, it's not easy to truly get to know someone. People have many layers, and it takes time to break through those layers. The fact is, you can't love someone fully unless you completely know them.

'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.

Who Will Walk Out on 'The Bachelor'?



By

Krissy Dolor

After last week's crazy-fest, who knows what tonight's episode will bring – perhaps a possible walk-off? Someone's life story is just as intense as the *Bachelor* movie that Brad Womack and crew are filming. In fact, it's dramatic enough to "break everyone's heart." Tears are flowing (including streams from vamp girl) and someone will walk out. But will this bachelorette leave the mansion for good? We can't wait for tonight's answer! Here's to hoping it's not one of our favorites. Don't forget to watch *The Bachelor* tonight, **Monday, 1/17 at 8 PM/7 PM Central Time**, and stop by tomorrow

for our recap of the episode! Happy watching!

'The Bachelor' Season 15, Episode 2: The Claws Are Out!



By

Krissy Dolor

We knew the niceties would only last so long.

Last night's second episode of ABC's *The Bachelor* brought all the makings of good reality TV: drama, tears and of course, a few make-out sessions. But what *really* stole the show was the on-going fight between Melissa and Raichel. But let's get to that later.

Bubbly Ashley H. was the lucky girl who snagged Brad Womack's first solo date – and the first rose. He took her to a brightly-lit carnival filled with fun rides, games and mmm, cotton candy. "I feel like I'm a kid again," she exclaimed.

Despite the playful and casual setting, something about Ashley H. got Brad to open up. Her difficult past is strikingly similar to Brad's (absent father, raised by their mothers, trust issues), which made it easy for him to confide in her. "Three years ago, I would not have answered these questions," he said. "I feel like I can breathe."

The date included the obligatory Ferris wheel ride, where the two showed each other just how connected they felt with a few steamy kisses. Brad made a smart choice in picking Ashley H. as his first date. Their connection was obvious, and his ability to share something personal straight off the bat was a good sign.

However, Ashley H. wasn't the only one who got some alone time with the bachelor. Jackie, the artist from Rhode Island, received the best date ever known to mankind (guys, are you listening?): an entire day with Brad, which started off with a trip to the spa (complete with white, plushy robes); a full makeover, including a brand new sparkly dress, shoes – oh, and hair and makeup, too; and dinner at a completely empty Hollywood Bowl, with a sign at the entrance that said, "For Jackie, Love Brad."

I know what you're all thinking – isn't it a bit early to be throwing that word around? I thought that too, but let's not forget that this is reality TV and Brad pretty much *needs* to fall in love with someone this season (and says he already has – SPOILER ALERT!). But what really got to me (and made me jealous as hell) was when Train came out and serenaded them with a private concert. Swoon much? The couple slow danced to "Marry Me" under the dim, cool-blue lights of the stage. Could the song choice be a sign? Or is Train coming out with

a new single?

But the scene-stealers of last night's episode were drama-mamas Raichel, Melissa and Michelle. Melissa's scene-stealing kiss during the group date while filming the public service announcement for the American Red Cross, and her constant back-and-forth with Melissa, not only affected them, but the entire house as well. In addition, Melissa's declaration that she bought new clothes and quit her job to be on the show, while probably isn't uncommon in the grand scheme of *Bachelor* history, was a little unnerving to hear. And because the two women were being immature (which Brad, the whole house, and even Ali Fedotowsky and Roberto Martinez, who came back to help Brad, saw), they both failed to receive a rose.

However, the most annoying woman (even though she acted more like a whiny teen) of the night was Michelle. She turned 30 on the day of the group date with 14 other women, and she was *not* happy about it – and definitely wasn't afraid to let everyone know. Not only did she stalk off set during filming, causing Brad to chase after her, she *also* grabbed him for some one-on-one time before the rose ceremony – even though already got a rose. While you have to admire any woman who knows exactly what she wants, there's something about Michelle (who I admit, had liked initially) that's off-putting. The sad part is that Brad can't seem to see that (at least, not yet), and so she remains in the competition. Let's see how long it takes for Michelle's nastiness to make an appearance in front of Brad, who is still enamored by her silky hair and toned arms.

Last night we also said good-bye to an early favorite, Keltie, but Emily is still in the game, as is Madison (still waiting to see what the hype is about this one). Next week's episode looks even more dramatic than last night's, if possible – including a possible bachelorette walk-off. Needless to say, we can't wait! Remember to visit us each week for *Bachelor* coverage. Until next time, keep those claws in!

'The Bachelor' Star Brad Womack: "This is Not a Game to Me"



By

Krissy Dolor

This may be a reality TV show, but Brad Womack says that his quest to find love a second time around isn't a game. The second week of ABC's *The Bachelor* is filled with drama, tears – and a stolen kiss or two – as the remaining 20 bachelorette contestants duke it out in the race for Brad's heart. Check out this preview below to see some crazy scenes, including a black spandex-wearing Madison (and those infamous fangs). Don't forget to watch *The Bachelor* tonight, **Monday, 1/10 at 8**

PM/7 PM Central Time, and stop by tomorrow for our recap of the episode! Happy watching!

'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!

'The Bachelor' Season Premiere Tonight with Brad Womack!





By

Krissy Dolor

Your feet may be dragging at work today since it's the Monday after your New Years celebrations, but who cares? ABC's *The Bachelor* returns tonight with the man who has broken hearts before – Brad Womack. In tonight's season 15 premiere, Brad will select a group of 20 women from a pool of 30 bachelorette contestants. He'll even face DeAnna Pappas and Jenni Croft, the two women he rejected at the end of his first stint on the show. Whether you love Brad or hate his guts, you know you'll have to watch! It airs **Monday, 1/3 at 8 PM/7 PM Central Time**. And remember to stop by tomorrow for our recap of the episode! Happy watching!

Meet the 30 Contestants for

'The Bachelor' Season 15



By

Krissy Dolor

Now that you've read all about Brad Womack, we know you're dying to meet the ladies that will compete for his heart in this season of ABC's *The Bachelor*. Despite the intense backlash, Womack is back. And while there are no cheerleaders, like Jenni Croft, or real estate agents, like DeAnna Pappas, there *is* a Radio City Rockette and a real estate broker. Here's a brief rundown of the women in store for the season 11 heartbreaker:

Median age: 27

- 7 blondes
- 16 brunettes
- 6 brunettes posing as blondes
- 1 strawberry blonde bordering redhead

- 2 nannys
- 2 teachers
- 25 tattoos
- 3 tramp stamps
- 2 Ashleys
- 2 Lisas
- 2 Sarahs
- 1 "J" (does she think this is the *Jersey Shore*?)
- 1 manscaper (what a profession!)

Lots of the girls love the Fourth of July (fireworks, anyone?) and Halloween. A bunch like to drink Diet Coke (watching their figures?). More than half have pets. Four women are from California, three are from Washington and Florida, and two are from Colorado and Texas. These are your contestants from New York and New Jersey. And everyone swears they're a romantic.

But does this mean the public dumper will find love the second time around?

Many of them look like the beauty pageant variety, but who knows if their in-house demeanor will match their picture-perfect head shots – or be a fit for Womack's finicky heart. It's too early to call the shots on these ladies, but only a few more days until we get to see who makes the first cut!

Want more on these gals (or just want to nitpick)? Follow Cupid and check out ABC's in-depth look [here](#). Think 30 bachelorettes are too much to remember? Download ABC's Cheat Sheet (Cupid will, too!) and stay on top of your game. And be sure to come back next week for our first recap of this season's premiere on Monday, Jan. 3rd at 8 PM/7 PM Central Time.

5 Things You Need to Know About the New 'Bachelor' Brad Womack



By

Kari Arneson

The most controversial Bachelor ever is back Jan. 3! Whether you're new to the series or are already a devoted fan, here are some things you need to know about Brad Womack before tuning in:

1. He's a self-made man: Born in Atlanta, Brad was raised alongside his two brothers in a single-parent home. At the age of 28, he bought his first drinking establishment. He currently owns and operates several bars and restaurants in Austin, Texas.

2. He's not new: As the season 11 Bachelor in 2007, Brad Womack had a choice between Jenni Croft and DeAnna Pappas in the season finale. For the first time in *Bachelor* history, he chose neither woman and ended up where he started: single. In season 15, Brad is now back for a second chance at love.

3. He has to prove himself: Brad earned the ire of millions of women when he rejected DeAnna and Jenni during the finale. By choosing to return, he'll need to prove that he's ready to commit and win the trust of the bachelorettes on the show.

4. He's looking for a friend: When asked what kind of woman he's looking for, he said he's "been there and done that." He just wants a friend and someone he can be himself around.

5. He's wiser: Since he's already been the Bachelor, Brad has learned what to do – and what *not* to do – so he won't make the same mistakes again. He's also spent the last three years in intensive therapy that led him to personal revelations about his commitment issues.

Cupid Gears Up for the Next Season of ABC's 'The Bachelor' with Brad Womack!





By

Krissy Dolor

This week may be the end of 2010, but come next Monday, ABC will kick off 2011 with a brand new season of its hit reality series, *The Bachelor* – and Cupid will be right there watching with you!

For the entire season, Cupid's Pulse will recap each episode of *The Bachelor* the morning after the show airs, offering a brief summary for those who missed it, as well as some critique of Brad Womack, this season's contestant, and the women vying for his heart. Cupid normally remains unbiased in his advice, but since this is the first time a former star is returning for a second chance, we figure it's time for Cupid to spread his wings and take aim. And we want you all to be there for the ride.

So clear your Monday night schedules, set your DVR, or make sure you have a few hours of uninterrupted time to watch *The Bachelor* live when it airs. And be sure to check back the next morning for our take on each episode to see if your predictions match ours. Disagree? Feel free to comment or

tweet us – we'd love to hear your reactions!

In the meantime, get your *Bachelor* fix by checking out Cupid's past posts on *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette*, and also take a look at our interview with David Good, winner of *Bachelor Pad*, the spin-off to ABC's romance-filled reality series. And check back later this week for a brief bio on Brad and this year's 30 – count 'em, THIRTY! – Bachelorette contestants!