

Belated Bachelorette Recap: Bewitched, Bothered, and Bewildered

JULY 24, 2015 BY [AMBER FULLERTON](#) — [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

Back at it. As per the usual, there's no lube applied before we're shoved into a fairly uncomfortable place. This particular producer-led confrontation, I'll remind you, is between **Nick** the Ick and **Gosling** (the whiner). I have to say, if Nick's aim is to infuriate Baby Goose, he's doing a bang up job of it. Shawn's color turns from human to ham; they sling a few more insults back and forth and he ends up walking away. Nice try with the tease, producers, but I'm just glad it's over swiftly. Lest we forget, there's another man in the equation who **Kaitlyn** really wants bone (but not take home). **Ben** is the first fantasy date...well, after ole Snake Eyes, natch. And, oh dear. It's the obligatory horse riding date. I hate to get all serious, but it absolutely KILLS me to see novices sawing at these poor horse's mouths season after season. Just cow handed and needlessly rough. I know it's not their fault, as they should have been instructed better (or at all), but it is horrible to watch.

Moving on! Now feeding donkeys with "serious haircuts." ...now running from the donkeys, ...now Kaitlyn talking about how Ben is a calming presence for her, aaaaand now I know I was right. He's serving the role of best friend with benefits in this scenario, and I feel like this date is gearing her up for the more serious stuff with Shawn later.

Now, surprise! Except kind of not at all surprising - it's ANOTHER castle picnic. Ben pours his heart out, speaks eloquently about the situation and how he's feeling. She's clearly not going to choose him, but I think she's a fool. This guy has emotional intelligence coming out his ears, boyish good looks beaming out of his face and a tendency to fall back on the white man's overbite: he's pretty freaking adorable. Ben for Bachelor - I'm pushing it hard. To the twitter machine! Anyway, they're staying at the castle where Kaitlyn plays Juliet to his Romeo, all the way up to the fantasy suite. This time there is no morning after eggs and coffee, just a newborn lamb that symbolizes... something? There's a lot of fuzzy filter soft-focus, and a lot of confusions on Kaitlyn's part about where she goes from here.



So much soft-focus, you can't tell whether it's The Bachelorette or mid go's scrambled Cinemax.

Golfing with Shawn, apparently, while making him wear a shirt so shatteringly pink that it makes every day Wednesday. Seriously, it's blinding. He's still jazzed, though, since golf is "right up his alley." Golf metaphors prove to be more up his alley than golf, however, as he shanks it into the water again and again while Kaitlyn taps it in. He takes it good naturedly, and even goes so far as to choose dare in his loser's game of truth or dare. Our fair bachelorette then throws out a challenge right in line with her sense of fun. STREAK.



Yes. That kind of streaking.

This would be deliciously humiliating enough, but is made even better by full on long johns under his ocean blue pants. Snug ones. My drama llama bounces up and does a prancy little dance as he has to squirm around to peel his tights off torturously, trying to protect what he can. Kaitlyn avidly checks out his twig and giggleberries, looking into the deep, dark abyss that is the black modesty box. Thank you again, censors. You are unsung heroes, and I salute you. I also have to give props to both Kaitlyn and Shawn, Kaitlyn, for being a clothes stealing asshole, and Gosling, for being so cool with it.

After the laughing portion of the day comes the serious talking about Nick portion of the evening. Once again to Shawn's credit, he is not the one who brings up the sore subject. He is, however, more than willing to let the night move in this direction, unloading harshly (and at length) on "the other guy," and I can't disagree with most of his indictments. I can say that I doubt I would choose to showcase all that ugliness, even when asked. It should be between him and Nick. Not that that doucher would choose to be noble either, but don't become what you're describing, bro. Now Baby Goose may only be getting all night verbal wrangling, instead of nakkie wrassling.

The next day, Nick attempts an overly cheery convo with Shawn, but nothing doing. Gosling is at DEFCON 1, and pulls out a word soup Howitzer, mowing down every reply Nick tries to get in edgewise. Threats and aggression shoot out of Shawn over a mass of broken sentences from Nick before he boots him unceremoniously out of his room. Nick reacts by being completely tone deaf, calling Shawn out on not being classy, which is absolutely **rich** coming from someone who felt the need to put **Andi** on blast on national TV. I fully admit to being biased, but Nick's every move seems either calculated or petulant. More the former than the latter, though neither is appealing. Except to Kaitlyn, who is infatuated with the arrogant twit. He's the kind of guy that would turn stool pigeon for a free drink and a laugh. Uck.

We leave all that behind to eavesdrop on a girlfriend-to-girlfriend confab between **Chris Harrison** and Kaitlyn. To sum up, even though she professes to be affected negatively by the drama between Frick and Frack and doesn't have a bad word to say about Ben, it is more than evident that she is fascinated by the situation and those men. As she speaks of the painful decision that she has to make, freaking out at the rose ceremony, Ben is the only one who doesn't know what's about to hit him. She would not be this upset about sending either of the two warring factions home, as both have given her ample reason to hand them a thorny ride home in the rejection minivan. No, after more excruciatingly prolonged agonizing and talking about it, Nick gets the first rose, Shawn gets the second, and Ben gets his heart broken. Until he recovers to the tune of 25 women and the rose in the other hand, as it were (please, oh please make this happen, ABC). Kaitlyn is left with two guys who utterly loathe each other, and even she admits she can "feel the hate between them."



They are the dark side.

After the girl of the hours splits, we, as viewers, are subjected to an awkward look anywhere but each other silent standoff worthy of Sergio Leone. The silence is broken by the click of empty glasses set down rather than a hail of bullets, but if hatred were a lethal weapon, each man would be a bloody pulp on the floor. I crawl out from under the coffee table where I've been hiding my face like a mortified ostrich to discover that both dudes survived, and that it's time for the two hometown dates. Rather, vacation hotel dates in Deer Valley Utah. That's...random. Budget shrinkage, ABC? Little cold in Utah? Where are my exotic island locales, and four separate hometown dates?? Step it up. As is par for the course, Nick is first up. It follows the typical meet the parents Bachelor pattern card. The family has doubts, the happy couple gets there, the hard questions are asked, the family is charmed, the blessing is given, love is professed. Nick to Kaitlyn, and Kaitlyn to all of us in the confessional booth. Shawn's date is largely the same. It's kind of a thing. It's rare for a family to totally reject someone that they've taken the time to talk to. Whether it is sheer politeness or just pure charm, the hometown dates are almost indistinguishable from season to season, family to family. This similarity is tripping Kaitlyn up, too, and she's a puddle of tears at the thought of choosing between them. Those confused sobs are to echo in our ears for longer than is usual, as the next episode brings us the Men Tell All reunion show, so they can recap the story so far, and also give the men time to be catty to each other. Namaste, Clint, JJ, Ian, I'll be seeing you soon.



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