

The Bachelorette

Season Finale that Shocked the Nation

Season 21 Recap: A Call to Action for
Women's Protection and Advocacy on
Reality Television Sets



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A recap of *The Bachelorette's* 21st Season finale and why Jenn's season took an unexpected turn.

by Olivia Klimek



Jenn Tran's Instagram

For the last two decades, ABC's *The Bachelor* franchise has dominated the Reality TV industry. With its twenty-three Bachelor Seasons, twenty-one Bachelorette Seasons, and variety of spin off shows, fans tune in every year to engage with Bachelor Nation favorites as they begin their journey of finding love.

In this season of *The Bachelorette*, Jenn Tran (featured as a Bachelor 23 contestant) starred as the spunky lead in search of her "ferocious love". While an inspiring season slogan, the season left Bachelor fans unimpressed and disappointed with the male contestants performance and chemistry with Jenn. With the explosive and shocking season finale, fans began questioning production's short comings while filming and casting this season.

To recap the once-in-a-life-time Bachelor season finale, Jenn makes a difficult choice between an indecisive Marcus Shoberg and a dedicated Devin Strader after six weeks of narrowing down a group of twenty-five men vying for her love. She makes the choice to send Marcus home in favor of the unconditional love that Devin had preached and shown her throughout the seasons run. Jenn's journey concludes with a beautiful proposal where she proposes to Devin, symbolically taking her love life into her own hands. It's a beautiful and powerful moment— had it not been ruined with the reality of the current situation.

We are brought back to the live audience to discover that while the new season was airing, Devin was not holding true to his vows. According to Jenn, Devin's "all-in" attitude completely changed when filming concluded and quickly turned dismissive towards her and their engagement, claiming he was having a difficult time dealing with the expectations Jenn set for him. We then watch as a heartbroken Jenn recounts the events of the last few months with her now ex-fiancé sitting beside her, leaving viewers shocked and angry for how producers let this happen. Something to mention is that Devin has notably had many altercations with the other casted men throughout the filming process. He is portrayed as the "villain" of the season and is generally disliked among the other contestants and viewers. In fact, there seems to be a theme with viewers disliking a lot of the men casted for Jenn's season, leaving Bachelor Nation feeling like something was going on behind the scenes of production.

Many Bachelor Nation fans began suspecting that the men casted for Jenn's season were under the impression that Maria or Daisy (two fan favorite contestants from season 23 of *The Bachelor*) would be the bachelorette this season. Rumors have been circulating since Maria went on the *Call Her Daddy* podcast in April declaring that she declined the position after initially agreeing. Fans suspect that because of this last-minute re-casting, the men auditioning were there for Maria or Daisy, not Jenn. This is additionally mentioned many times throughout the season with contestants like Sam M. announcing to Jenn live on iHeart radio that he suspected the bachelorette would be Maria or Daisy, both women that fit his "type". Obviously, this has set Jenn up for failure and is completely unfair to her journey, seeing as she is the first Vietnamese Bachelorette in ABC history, and this constant reminder that these men were not there for her, but instead possibly for other non-POC women is emotionally distressing. Many Bachelor Nation fans agree, taking to Twitter in support of Jenn.

 zacharyreality @zacharyreality · 9/4/24 ...
It's actually insane that almost every single guy on this season (not Jonathan) has disrespected Jenn in one way or another

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Before he was cast on season 21 of *The Bachelorette*, Marcus Shoberg was hoping for a different leading lady than Jenn Tran, a source exclusively tells *Life & Style*.

"He thought Maria [Georgas] would win the show and was hoping that Daisy [Kent] would be the next Bachelorette," the insider reveals. "He liked both of them, but he seems to be most interested in blondes."

58 204 4.2K 175K

@zacharyreality on Twitter

"I want to acknowledge the heartbreak felt from around the world as it's such a universal experience. To all the lover girls and boys out there, our greatest gift in life is how big our hearts are."

-Jenn Tran

The Bachelorette Season Finale that Shocked the Nation

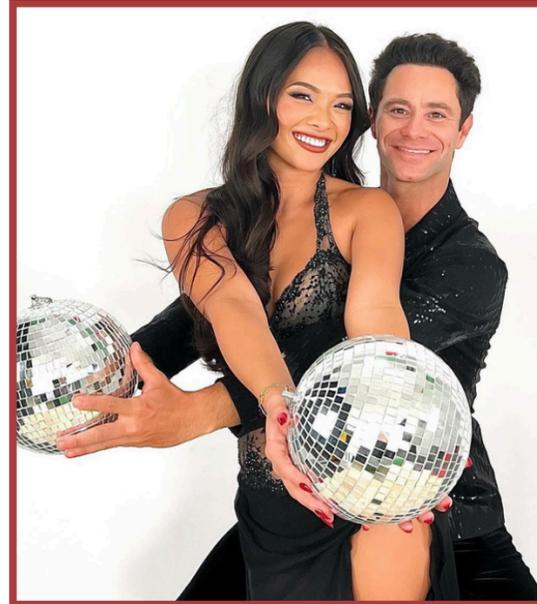
Advocating for Women on Reality TV Sets

The outrage from fans sparked many conversations on how women are often victimized by producers of reality TV for the sole purpose of garnering media success. Essentially profiting off women's emotional trauma. It's important to remember that while we deem reality TV as "fake" and "staged", these are still real people who can be affected by the consequences of the actions of producers. In the Finale episode, Jenn was forced to watch her proposal to Devin while sitting right next to him. Judging by her choked sobs, she was visibly upset to be a part of that narrative. When Bachelorette host Jesse Palmer prompts her with, "Jenn, are you ready?", Jenn responds with "Do I have a choice?" his question is heartbreaking as it is clear no one should have to bear the shame, heartbreak, and humiliation of rewatching the proposal of a failed engagement next to their emotionally abusive partner while America watches. This being said, we need to prioritize the safety and emotional security of women in environments like reality TV sets, where too often they are the targets of this inappropriate exploitation.

Jenn Tran's Instagram

A secondary example of this being the lack of background checks for the male contestants this season. Many of which, have had serious allegations against them. These men including not just Marcus, who has had multiple domestic violence allegations against him, but also Devin whose racist past was brought to light on Reddit. These men of course, being the two final men of Jenn's season. As disturbing as this is, we need to take this as a lesson for future seasons. The safety of leads should be considered one of the most important aspects of on-set culture, especially on relationship focused reality TV. We can start with the casting departments including an in-depth background check for potential stars *and* crew, as well as emotional advocacy protocols and programs put in place for cast members on set while filming is in progress. There are many steps we can take to prevent further problems or controversy from occurring.

We need to take these steps and not forget that there are people's real lives on the line. We have the opportunity to protect women in these spaces, and it starts with recognizing the problem. **ABC: we need to do better.**



Jenn's journey continues as she is set to star on the 33rd season of *Dancing with the Stars* with her dancing partner Sasha Farber.

“When one door closes... the next door suddenly has dancing shoes behind them. So incredible excited and grateful for this opportunity to do something I've always dreamed of doing!”

-Jenn Tran

What's Next For Jenn?

Jenn Tran is set to continue her journey with ABC, starring on the 33rd season of the iconic show *Dancing with the Stars*. Jenn professes in a recent Instagram post that this new chapter gives her the opportunity to explore a talent she has always dreamed of pursuing. Her dancing partner is confirmed to be Sasha Farber—a fan favorite professional dancer who has been a cast member on *Dancing with the Stars* since 2012, when season 17 aired.

Jenn seems to be taking a step in the right direction and we wish her healing and happiness on her *Dancing with the Stars* journey. As she so wisely stated, “When one door closes... the next door suddenly has dancing shoes behind them.”

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