

off the fence.

Zambezi Crescent

8 x 30'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1.

Mark and Amanda show Lyndal and Bruce around the new building site, they explain their plans for the lodge building while admiring the wildlife and views. Mark pays the Zimbabwe National Park Authorities a visit to explain how the lodge site will work and where the different buildings will be. Lyndal gives a little more background on the plans for the new lodge. Whilst on a trip to town, Lyndal and Amanda come across some elephants walking through town, after they've made sure some tourists and locals are out of harms way, they head over to the local market to have a look at some things for the lodge. Building on the lodge site has started and seems to be progressing smoothly. Bruce and Mark take a trip down memory lane and catch up with an old friend of Bruce's from a previous visit. Bruce shows Mark the house he stayed in and introduces him to his friend's son Nimrod. A container that has the wood for the building of the lodge seems to be missing and causing a standstill at the site, which is delaying the process. Bruce visits the local fresh produce market and finds some new and interesting ingredients. Lyndal heads into town to pick up Amanda after a quick trip to South Africa and lets her know about the lodge issues that have cropped up. Whilst this is happening, Mark goes to fetch a piece of wood up the river, hoping that Amanda can use it for something in the lodge, this trip turns into a mini-fishing trip. The missing container arrives and Ant goes to collect the wood, accompanied by a ZIMRA official, who needs to make sure the container contains just wood and no firearms. To celebrate the arrival of the wood, Amanda and Lyndal enjoy sundowners near the river. Kenny transports the wood back to the building site and offloads it, everyone is happy about the delivery, with lots of singing and dancing. Lyndal takes a quiet walk through the Falls and admires its beauty.

2.

Lyndal and Bruce discuss the Lodge's special dishes and menu. Lyndal and Amanda meet some baboons and their babies alongside the road on the way to see the famous Baobab tree, once there they see and buy some local wood statues / carvings. Bruce visits the local butcher to see what meats are on offer for the lodge and ends up buying a local delicatessen...a cow's head to go in his stew. Amanda is back at the building site, hoping to see if a bathroom design that she wants would work in the rooms. Lyndal visits a different kind of restaurant – a vulture restaurant, there she sees how they feed the vultures the old bones and leftovers from the kitchen and chats about the vulture rehabilitation initiative. Bruce and the locals start preparing the cow's head for the stew.

3.

Bruce is still working on the meat from the cow's head meat, making biltong from pieces and hanging it up and the rest gets put into the stew. Lyndal climbs up a platform that was built near the lodge, which gives a beautiful view over the site, the river and surrounding areas, will be a great viewpoint to see animals walking past. Back on the building site, the builders are starting to put the thatch on. Lyndal spots some baboons up in the trees near the lodge, they busy eating the fruits on the trees and dropping some down for the baboons on the ground to eat some too. Bruce's stew is done and that means its time for everyone to taste it, the locals seems to like it but Bruce doesn't look to sure about it. All of it is eaten and a few bones left behind. Most important was the unity and togetherness that the meal created amongst the men during the cooking process and enjoying the meal together. Ant picks up a problem with the leadwood tree, it has been cemented in the wrong place and brings it to Amanda's attention. They discuss if it will work in its current position or if it needs to be moved. Mark and Bruce get to enjoy some high pumping adrenalin activities and whitewater raft through the Zambezi and its tough rapids. It is decided the the leadwood tree must be moved, preparation for the move begins...

4.

Moving the leadwood tree is proving to be nerve wrecking for Amanda, it isn't the heaviest trees for nothing. Lyndal finds a tree full of mud and explains that this comes from the elephants that have been rolling in mud and why this is an effective way for them to get rid of ticks. Ant, Lyndal and Amanda enjoy a high tea at the Victoria Falls Lodge, which becomes a meeting to clear a few things up and Amanda thanks Ant for all his help. Back at the building site, the thatch is too heavy for the wooden frames and as a result its bending the door frames, the door frames get removed and more support beams are to be installed to hold the frame work in place and prevent it warping in the weather conditions. Amanda's kids are in Zimbabwe for the school holidays and they are enjoying a day out on the town, looking for lodge interiors and finding a reliable butcher...much to Bruce's relief! Lyndal has a look at her personal project – the Spa. Although the stunning view and luxurious layout is looking good, Lyndal is not happy about the location of the spa, especially since it is in an open area and the animals walk way. On their way back from town, Amanda and Bruce come across some elephants near the building site, and one of them get spooked, so Amanda has to make a speedy exit. Ant goes through the happenings of the day with the building. Amanda and Mark's kids get to feed elephants, an unforgettable experience for them. Just when everyone thought everything was sorted out...another problem crops up. The sanding paper that was bought with the new sander is the incorrect size. Amanda tries to sort the problem out with the supplier in SA.

5.

Ant is now living on site and explains why it is easier and safer for him to be there, he starts his day by walking around the building site and checking that everything is ok. New sandpaper has arrived and Amanda is getting stuck in and doing some sanding herself. Bruce visits Victoria Falls Safari Lodge, to check out the competition as well as see what is on their menu, while he is there, the Lodge chef shows him how to make their signature Mopane worm dish. Lyndal drives around with the local APU unit, while they drive around they get a call about an elephant that got poached a few days earlier, Lyndal goes with to investigate the carcass. At the house in town, they have a new unwanted visitor, a Mozambican Spitting Cobra, luckily James a friendly neighbor is willing to help relocate the visitor far away from the house. On the building site, the thatch is still too heavy for the frame and causing the structure to warp, so Mark and Ant are putting in more support beams and hoping this will help. Amanda treats Lyndal to a pamper session at the local outdoor hairdresser, its an different experience to what Lyndal is used to. To say thank you for the

hairdresser treat, Lyndal surprises Amanda with a helicopter flight over the Falls and while Amanda's flying high, Lyndal joined hairdresser Desmore to watch the local Victoria Falls Childrens Band Tin Can Kids perform. Ant finds out that the wrong nails have been sent from SA.

6.

The incorrect floor nails are sent from SA, Ant goes to town to get some, but finds out the small bag comes at quite a price! Own their way to the local market, Lyndal and Amanda run into some tourists out on a bike ride, who have stopped to look at elephants on the side of the road, Lyndal suggest they give them and all their bicycles a lift past the elephants as it's the much safer option. Bruce visits the local spots to get some local food ideas. He comes across a local tavern making chicken and goat stew and he sticks around to learn a few tricks. Meanwhile back at the building site, Mark discussed what must still be done before the lodge site is complete. Lyndal and Amanda are at a local market buying some wooden tables for the lodge as well as a few wood statues. Joe arrives at the building site from SA to help Mark by sorting the canvassing. Lyndal watches as elephants pass through the building site Joe collects the custom made canvasses and heads back to the lodge to install it, didn't take long before he realizes that they the incorrect size and must be redone. Amanda heads back to the market to collect the one table and order more for later in the year, but soon finds out the shop owner had gone ahead and made her all twelve tables already. Canvas maker comes out to the building site to take his measurements and says he has to make new canvasses but they will be ready the next day. Lyndal takes a quiet time out and goes to visit the Vic Falls, talks about them and their beauty. Joe has been informed that the elephants have done some damage to the Spa's thatch roof and once the elephants do it once, they will continue doing it, so Joe has come up with a plan to stop them. Amanda, Bruce and Mark head into town for a farewell dinner for Bruce before he heads back to the US. It is an interesting dinner for all and a few firsts for Amanda. While they together they also discuss the layout of the kitchen and what would suit Bruce. Back at the building site, Joe checks on the new canvasses that have arrived and been put up, and finds that it fits perfectly.

7.

Bruce arrives back from the US and Amanda shows him around the lodge and the progress that has been made...and then the rains come, so everyone hurriedly gets everything under the thatch roof and starts nailing in plastic barriers to keep the rain off the newly laid floors. Too stay out the rain, Lyndal visits artist Larry Norton at the Victoria Falls Hotel and he shows Lyndal all his paintings in the hotel. He then takes her to his studio to show her his current work and gives a mini lesson on painting. On the building site, Mark is doing some minor interior decorating in the bathrooms and the men put up the glass sides before the rains hit. Mark, Amanda, Bruce and Lyndal take a walk around the lodge site and look at the lodge and rooms and its progress. Lyndal and Amanda interview possible lodge staff, George a possible candidate takes them on a game drive and impresses them with his vast knowledge, which lands him the job. Amanda and her kids and Bruce, head back to the market to collect the goods for the lodge, however the prices keep going up, so Amanda has a plan up her sleeve, which is to pay the locals with clothes... It seems to do the trick. In a rush to get the room done, Mark and Amanda start re-arranging the furniture in the room. Meanwhile Bruce is in the kitchen trying to make his version of the South African dish called bobotie, with the help of Amanda and the kids. Lyndal goes on a boat ride with George to clear her head and check out the wildlife and is lucky enough to see elephant bulls crossing the Zambezi river at sunset. Back to Bruce in the kitchen, making some adjustments and turning the

dish into a “Brubotie” by adding his own ingredients. When done, he serves it to the Bosch family all sitting at the table.

The next day, Amanda is trying to get one room finished so that she can take photos before her trip to London for the WTM, she recruits everyone to help her which doesn't come without its moans.

8.

Amanda runs around and fixes the last few odds and ends of the rooms, before finally showing it to family and friends at the site, everyone likes what they see and Amanda thanks everyone for their help. Bruce is adding the finishing touches to the menu he has been working on while he has been in Zimbabwe before heading back to the city life in New York City, its full of different local dishes, he has tweaked and named to suit the safari lodge look. Time for the big reveal and the lodge, pool area and rooms all look beautiful and everyone is happy. Amanda offers permanent positions to two special people who went above and beyond what was required of them during the building time. Bruce has left behind a stunning equipped kitchen and a good menu, now Amanda just needs to spend some time with the kitchen staff making sure that they deliver the 5 star quality food. While everyone is busy sorting the lodge, Lyndal takes the boat for a test drive, with skipper Trevor, they go up the river to and come across a pod of hippo chilling in the water. Lyndal spends the night in the room ready for guests, just to make sure that everything is perfect and in working order. The noisy guests in the middle of the night were welcome. Finally it is the time to welcome to the first guests to the lodge, one of them being an agent from America, Chrisny. The lodge staff all get introduced and take it from there... After spending the night and enjoying the luxury of her room, Chrisny gives feedback to Amanda, every attention to detail didn't go unmissed and all the treats were enjoyed, from the bath, to the outside shower. Christny loves the colour scheme and spaciousness of the rooms and the different furniture that was used to put it all together. A small segment of “looking back” over the past few months.