



Evans Clinchy, Steve Pellinen



12/16/19, 4:22 AM

Steve created the group.

Steve Pellinen

I don't want to get in the middle of something I know nothing about, and I would appreciate your not mentioning that I contacted you (at least at this point), but I heard some things from Dave Koenig this weekend that disturbed me. I don't know why he opened up to me (I hardly know him, have never had a face-to-face conversation with him before). Anyway, he said he is about at the point of going public about his estrangement with you (I knew nothing of this), telling the truth (his truth) about what happened and what is going on behind the scenes. All this if you don't make an effort to repair your relationship with him. I assume this is disturbing to you, but I didn't want you to be blindsided by something that may be preventable. I only know what he said about the situation, which wasn't much but hinted at harassment and misunderstanding. Given his relative prominence in the Collins community, this seems like a potentially problematic situation with what you are trying to do. If this is nothing new to you and if you have it all under control, my apologies for sticking my nose where it doesn't belong.



12/16/19, 9:07 AM

Evans Clinchy

Thanks for the heads up, Steve. We'll deal with it.



Name This Conversation

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Steve Pellinen

Admin

Evans Clinchy



Jennifer Clinchy

### PRIVACY & SUPPORT



Type a message, @name...



# ATTACHMENT B

Dear Jennifer,

I have been avoiding talking to you because so much of what happened to me is about you. I can't explain the threat to the Word Cup directors or anyone else without bringing you into it, and I can't bear to have you hear it second hand. I am filled with dread at having to be the bearer of this news, but he's been trying to get at me through Woogles and I'm out of time to at least explain it to them, so I must now explain it to you.

I don't know how unstable Koenig was while you were dating, but by the time I did, he was very not okay. I had known him online for about 10 years, assuming all of the mutual friends he listed were actually friends of his while he hovered, and we'd met once in person, at a trivia night with my boyfriend and other friends when he moved to Seattle. When my relationship ended, he asked if he could come visit me in Utah. I thought that sounded uncomfortable and we made plans to go to San Juan instead, get a suite with separate rooms for the beginning and figure it out from there.

We arrived on March 12, 2020. This seemed really safe at the time. I wasn't counting on: a global pandemic, him being an actual psychopath, or how I would react to that. I was abused pretty severely as a young child by a similar type of person, and that very first day in Puerto Rico I went immediately into freeze and fawn to try to play nice and not become his target. If you don't have experience with this kind of thing, I'm not sure I can explain myself, other than disassociating and trying to get on his good news is the way my brain learned to keep me alive as a child.

I'm certain you've seen the anger. I can't imagine that part is new. He flew into a rage late that night about how you and Evans have ruined his life telling lies about him, and

he told me he was writing a “book” to prove it in hopes that you would be so humiliated you’d kill yourself.

The trip was strange and punctuated by the world shutting down. I assumed this would be the end of it all. When we get home to our respective apartments and a sudden unending lockdown, he continues to call me to cry and whine and rant and we decide he should drive down to SLC so we can bubble together.

We lived together for 8 horrific weeks. Every night when he got tired he would turn into a whole other person and I’d have to lie there listening for hours and hours while he shouted about how much you and Evans deserved to die and how he would want to carry that out. Sometimes the people who needed to die were the people who must have told lies about him last time he noticed that people don’t like him, in DC. Sometimes it was his mother. Once it was a whole random tournament of Scrabblers he wanted to shoot down, because they didn’t stop you from lying about him or excluding him. At one point, every single person who voted for Trump deserved death. He was never in control of himself during any of this, and would even yell this way at himself in the shower. It’s incredibly delusional, and there’s no arguing with any of it, but I kept hoping I could make him see where the gaps were in his logic.

I have listened to at least a hundred hours of insane murder fantasies, and I am not okay.

In the very last argument, he was insisting with absolute certainty that his moral judgment is infallible, which seals his place as the scariest person I’ve ever met. He also declares at the end of this that he’s not in love with me.

This seemed like I could just go, he could assume I was heartbroken, and he would just gradually forget I exist. I'm pretty sure he's going to kill someone someday, and all I could do was make sure it wasn't me. I was still looking at the whole thing as a story about this bad guy, Dave, and his victim, Jennifer. Like I was a bystander that, at best, had just witnessed something horrible, or at worst, was responsible for not stopping him.

It's been 2 years of me telling him to leave me alone, and that I do not want to be friends with him. He tries again every couple months.

In New Orleans, I was pretty anxious, particularly because only two Scrabblers understood any of this: Conrad wouldn't be on site, and Jesse Day had to cancel last minute. On the first day, I started to relax when I realized he wasn't acknowledging my existence at all. I was coming back into the hotel after lunch and held the door open for someone coming up the stairs behind me. Dave says "Oh! I didn't recognize you with that hair."

After that he hovered wherever I was talking to friends, like we were friends and he was waiting for me. On Sunday, I finished a game too fast and headed out to the hallway to watch the Twitch stream. He followed me out, made a little small talk, and then launched into a rant, accusing me of all kinds of things, shaking with rage but keeping his volume low.

I am now responsible for the way people treat him, for playing CoCo tournaments, for spreading the lies that this other girl after/during me that he was stalking was supposedly spreading [as always, no clues are provided for what the lies could possibly

be], for turning Conrad against him when they were great friends after he posted his blog about you, for Woogles allowing CoCo club to exist and to prevent him for playing.

I told him that I think he's an actual psychopath, that I'm terrified of him, that I owe him absolutely nothing, and I ask him again to leave me alone.

At this point, he relaxed, sat back, and said "So you know. I feel more betrayed by you than by anything Jennifer and Evans did." Which is the most terrifying thing he could possibly say to me. This is the threat. And I know it doesn't sound like a threat out of context. And so does he. He looks ecstatic on the Twitch vod, returning to the games. I realized that I've been afraid for my life for 2 years, and have been dissociating.

As I told you, I am seeing a trauma counselor. I am still filled with guilt and shame: that I shouldn't have been stupid enough to go out with him in the first place, that I should have been able to talk him out of publishing his blog, that I should have been able to talk some sense into him, that I should have been able to figure out how to get out of that faster.

I talked to César about this after I got home, so he could understand why I was taking a break from Woogles and didn't feel safe there because of their friendship, to try to give him a chance to be a friend to me. Somehow two weeks later, César tried to add him as a volunteer to all of our Discord channels and such. Conrad got extremely pissed, and César backed off, claiming he hadn't understood me, but it isn't really resolved yet, in my mind. I don't think trusting Jesse to keep making César do the right thing is quite good enough safety-wise, and I still don't think César sees my point of view at all.

Woogles is extremely important to me, and I need them all to understand I absolutely cannot have ANY interaction with him, so I need to tell them all this whole story, but I knew I needed you to be informed of everything first. I will walk away if they don't understand, what I've built and done cannot be undone.

I now believe that, like when I was a little girl, I'm only safe when I stop keeping the bad guy's secrets. I believe people like this get away with tormenting others because they know they believe they can frame everything to make the victims look hysterical, and they do a pretty good job of convincing the victims of that. I'm remarkably okay with looking crazy. I'm not okay with being afraid forever.

I am so sorry for any pain this is causing you,

Lola

## ATTACHMENT C



Active Now

**Dave Koenig** **Darrell Day** starts the conversation: "Sometimes it stops me in my tracks that a bartender with an IQ of 30 can get elected to office in the United States. What a great country!"

Later says: "that's exactly the intelligent and thoughtful reply that I expected from you."

And: "is this is what liberals do? They call people names? Bravo."

Yes, you king of fucking civility. Great to hear you lecture people on having intelligent conversation and criticize them for name calling when you started out doing all the things you're criticizing, you moronic troglodyte.

After I bash your skull in and leave you bleeding on the ground, I'm gonna diarrhea in your fucking mouth and chop your balls off and stuff them in there too for good measure. And then take pictures and send them to your kids.

You don't get any fucking civility when you start the conversation the way you do. Please tell us how all your conservative friends are doing volunteer work. It's a fucking shame you're not a good enough person to go do it with them and you spend your time starting flame wars here instead.

Get off your fucking high horse and let it fuck you in the ass like it does every Saturday.

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**Dave Koenig**  
5d

For the last three and a half years, I've been dealing with ostracism, anger, pain, and trauma. Writing about it has been the hardest thing I have done in my life. Putting the writing out there might be the craziest thing I have done in my life.

This will probably primarily be of interest to my friends in the Scrabble community, as many of them know many of the people in this story and sensed that something was happening behind the scenes that they did not understand. They are its intended audience.

However, anyone who knows me and wants to understand what I've been dealing with might find it a good read too. It's not about Scrabble. It's about Scrabble players. It's about the human condition.

It's not for everybody. It's long and intensely personal. I don't shy away from sharing many things that would make many people squirm. You might like it. You might hate it. You might be somewhere in between. No matter what your feelings are, if you read all of it, thank you.

It's a two-parter. This is part 1. Part 2 will be published in 24 hours from now.

<http://splenetic.net/the-crucible/>

Mina Le, Sandy Nang and 33 others

48 Comments

Like

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**Russell Honeybun** Hi mate, I really want to thank you for sharing this perspective: as Homer simpson would say: The dizzying highs, the terrifying lows, the creamy middles: I want it all

Like Reply 5d

5



**Calum Patrick Kirby Edwards** There isn't an emoji for "Brave" and "Respect" or "Identify" but I'd have done that instead of "like" if there was. When I say "Identify", I'm not referring to anything recent but something that happened years ago pre-Scrabble.

Like Reply 5d

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**Shelley Stevens** Whoa. That is a lot of really unfair crap you have had to deal with. I'm so sorry that you felt you had to air it to the community, but I totally understand why you did. I can't say I wouldn't do the same thing in your position.

I hope that people who were harshly judging you unfairly will read this with an open mind and try to understand your perspective.

Like Reply 5d Edited

10



**Mina Le** Dave, I'm in awe of your courage. It takes such guts to be this open and vulnerable. I'm praying that those Scrabblers who have distanced themselves from you will read this and take steps to heal the damage that they've done by buying into a certain narrative about you.

Like Reply 5d

14



**Emily J. Wood** The present unavailability of part 2 of this story is seriously interfering with my procrastination game this morning.

Like Reply 5d

5



**Dave Koenig** Emily J. Wood I had to wait three and a half years to get the story out of me. You can wait 24 hours. Thanks for reading, Emily.

Like Reply 5d

2



**Dave Koenig** Emily J. Wood was it worth waiting for?

Like Reply 3d



**Emily J. Wood** Dave Koenig it was indeed - thanks for sharing!

Like Reply 2d

Write a reply...



**Marsha Gillis** Looking forward (and dreading) reading the second part of this story. It is so easy to be oblivious to the pain of others or to misunderstand the significance of events about which one has inaccurate or incomplete information.

, Dave. This took courage.

Like Reply 5d

4



**Winter** More people than you realise have your back--stay strong.

Like Reply 5d

0

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Like Reply 5d 5

Shelley Stevens replied 4 Replies

Lisa Kolbuss Dave I'm deeply sorry that you've been going through such personal hell. This is brutal.

Like Reply 4d 4

Cecilia Le Dave. You don't get to control someone's profile pic, regardless of where they were looking when they took it. Publishing her texts is a dick move. I'm sorry for your troubles, and you may not like how your relationship ended, but you're not entitled to demand someone talk to you or take certain actions you imagine will bring you closure. Your own account of your complete disregard for boundaries and the campaign of harassment you waged doesn't make me sympathetic.

Like Reply 4d 20

Hide 16 Replies

Dave Koenig I respect your opinion and am grateful for your feedback, Cecilia.

Like Reply 4d 2

Shelley Stevens Cecilia Le have you ever been ghosted or heartbroken? Have you ever been in an uncomfortable situation with another person in your community that you KNOW FOR A FACT is badmouthing you to mutual friends and making things awkward?

I have.

It sucks and at least he is owning up to his own part in all of it. Emotions sometimes drive people to do unstable things, but I can tell you that even as a tangential member of this community, I am personally sympathetic to what he's going through, mainly because I barely know Jevans and I have heard them badmouth him and I knew there was some sort of issue after having like one dinner with them once. (I didn't pry and can't remember specifics because I try to avoid drama)

So, clearly if they are going to get to sway everyone's opinion of him, surely at some point he is allowed to get off the high road and prove his case?

In my case, I have things other than scrabble so I'm not overly concerned, and feel like true friends will reveal themselves.

If Scrabble and the community is your sanctuary and someone is violating that sanctuary by spreading interpretations of your behaviour without even allowing you the chance to address it...

I don't know, I think it's pretty brave to just lay it all out there and let people decide whether or not they want to read or support it.

Some breakups are indeed worse than others, but the ongoing disparaging and ostracizing of someone in the community who does or doesn't deserve it based upon anyone's own opinion, still gives me pause about what the hell is happening to our little community.

I don't know why I felt the need to chime in here. I guess I feel like there were dick moves on both sides here and since it's open for discussion, why not chime in.

I've always liked Dave, and Evans well enough, though I haven't spent too much time with him and I don't know Jennifer save for that one dinner so I don't really have a personal opinion of her.

It just hurts me to see friends in pain. t reminds me of another Scrabble friend I have who was unceremoniously dumped after nearly a decade with zero explanation or closure, and while I agree, you don't get to demand closure from another, it sure seems like not causing someone you once cared about undue stress and hardship in your own limited community (ESPECIALLY when you know you will see them again) just seems like the decent thing to do.

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before I realized he was permanently gone and not just in a huff. If he were ever to turn around and call my behavior harassment, I'd say wtf. There are much kinder ways to break up.

Dave isn't perfect or a saint. I love him as a friend, in large part because of the resonances I see between him and myself. One of those similarities is that we're both honest to the bone. I would hope that Dave's posts, part I and part II, at least have the effect of humanizing him to some.

Like Reply 4d Edited 1

**Cecilia Le** Why I perceive it as harassment is that he made his requests and then became increasingly hostile and escalating when she didn't grant them. It's not a request if you're not allowed to refuse.

Like Reply 3d 2

**Dave Koenig** Cecilia Le, the worst text I sent was the one on December 20th. I'll grant you calling that harassment. I even said in the text of Part I "I see that that could come across as petulant or harassing to her or to other people reading this, but I was just desperate."

I don't think any of my other messages relating to the picture fit into that category.

It was a total of two emails and two text messages that I sent in a three week period when I was under extreme mental duress.

I'm fine with you having more sympathy for Jennifer than for me regarding the events of that particular time period. But it wasn't a campaign of harassment. By the time I had gotten to the New Orleans tournament, I was already in a much calmer place.

Like Reply 3d

**Cecilia Le** Dave, I don't want to pile on or become overly entangled in this, but I feel that you're making light of what was truly disturbing behavior.

By your own admission, your goal was to make her cry and see the tears on her face, and you tried to coerce her into meeting privately by forecasting to threaten and humiliate her in front of everyone.

You'd also texted her on Christmas that you were full of hatred.

All because she didn't give in to your inappropriate obsession with controlling her social media photo and your demands that she deliver you closure.

I would be terrified if this were happening to me.

Like Reply 3d 7

**Dave Koenig** Cecilia, I'm not making light of it. I don't deny that I handled things poorly and scared Jennifer. It would be best for the Scrabble world if she ever gave me the opportunity to make peace, but that's her choice ultimately.

I really do value your feedback, and I'm glad you said these things.

Like Reply 3d

**Kate Fukawa-Connolly** No, you think it would be best for the Scrabble world, and perhaps it would be best for you if she gave you the opportunity to make peace. But if she chooses not to, and thinks that that's what's best for her, then that's her choice, and the rest of the Scrabble world will continue to function.

I didn't know 95% of what you had posted, but seeing it written out, it reads as if Jen was trying to set boundaries that you were consistently not respecting and perhaps in retrospect that you did not think were fair, and then seeing yourself as a victim when you didn't get what you wanted.

This is just another example of you setting the rules on "what is best" and setting it up so that it's clearly someone else's fault if that doesn't come to fruition.

Like Reply 3d 7

**Dave Koenig** I think it's best for the Scrabble world if I can make peace with Jennifer and Evans. I do not need that for my own mental peace. I have no idea what they need. But I'm willing to make peace anyway, just because it's good for Scrabble.

Like Reply 3d 3

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disregarded. I'm seeing that she simply ghosted. Setting boundaries would be saying "Hey Dave, I don't want to be involved with you anymore and I'm going to ask that you not text or write me." That would be a boundary that he would then be either respecting or violating with his subsequent actions. But she didn't use any such words. She just disappeared. How was he to know she never wanted to communicate with him again?

Like Reply 3d

4

**Kate Fukawa-Connelly** i was referring to the part where she did not want to be in an official relationship with him and then he came back later saying that she was being selfish. that boundary. i don't think it's possible to ghost someone when you're stuck in scrabble with them since you're going to have to see them eventually.

Like Reply 3d



**Dave Koenig** I don't want to diminish the concerns from Jennifer's point of view at all, but my best intuitive guess is that the biggest obstacle to us healing right now is Evans's hatred, not Jennifer's fear.

I think that KFC and Cecilia have had great feedback, and I'm very open to it.

Like Reply 3d

2



**Avijit Ghosh** Dave Koenig its been a really long time since we've hung out - and clearly I do not know any of these folks at all - but I will say I've known you to be one of the crazy smartest folks I've ever known in anything you've ever managed to put your mind to. To be honest I kind of feel like you randomly picked up a scrabble book and became a top world ranked player a week later and that is actually more simply symbolic of how your mind works more than anything.

Now that said I had two really opposite reactions to your two parts. With regards to part 1, I actually am in agreement with your friend Cecilia Le - to be honest one takes away far more sympathy for Jennifer than for you in that reading, because by your admission you keep violating an asked for boundary. There is no rationalization - regardless of how bad one is treated - that makes that okay.

The issue is in spite of the fact you kept arguing you've moved on- the fact you've written this down in such detail - it actually simply doesn't feel like it. Further [and importantly] I could argue when one party wants to simply just move on - you've - with a slew of really private historical information, immortalized your connection to the person who has moved on, on the internet effectively gluing you two together when its clearly unwanted.

If I (or anyone) were on the other side of that emotion, I'd be pretty awkward and simply want to cut it off as well. And this level of detail on a public forum to strangers actually provides credence to said anxieties.

Now that said (and at the risk of contradicting myself) w/ part two its clear that couple has gone overboard and you are in the right there.

My anxiety about that is, someone is going to use the level of private, personal information you've divulged to make the point that you are unhealthy obsessed to the point of making people uncomfortable.

Perhaps succinctly, these posts make it sound like that you have not moved on and in effect provide the ammunition these two are looking for to point this out [so that argument is literally true in the story and the "act of writing the story" makes it true on another level as well].

At a high level I'd say I think everyone here is acting badly and no one seems to know how to deescalate things to the point of vague normalcy as one can have with people they may have had relationships with.

My gut instinct though on your side is it probably shouldn't really involve this degree of personal information, but rather the professional interaction and transparency that a club forum should have, particularly at the level of professional players. Otherwise there is a good chance this is going to go really wrong.

Like Reply 3d Edited

3



**Avijit Ghosh** I think its also worth pointing out that sprinkled throughout the story, you've expressed a positive attribute to getting under people's skin - getting under Evan's skin for instance - so you can beat him in games (etc). It simply feels like banal, emotional manipulation, without being recognized as that.

As total aside - fuck scrabble - (and all this nonsense) - your crazy mind is being wasted here - come help me find a cure for COV D-19

Like Reply 3d

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**Avijit Ghosh** I do get that in games like this - but in the context of this entire discussion - its going to be read in a different light I fear.

Like Reply 3d

3



**Martin Gold** "You might like it. You might hate it. You might be somewhere in between. No matter what your feelings are, if you read all of it, thank you." Well, I've been sitting here for 10 minutes trying to figure out something meaningful to say. I did read all of it; my interest is definitely piqued for Part II. I'm friends with everyone involved, and I'd like for things to stay that way. I am inclined to agree with Cecilia on the points that she made. It sucks to go through painful ordeals where long-time friendships get called into question (been there), it sucks to have health and family problems (been there), and it sucks to have situations in which anything you say to defend yourself will be turned on its head (been there, actually going through something like that right now). I'm sorry you've had such a shitty last few years (been there too, but for very unrelated reasons). Anyway, I don't like to put a lot in writing, but I'm happy to listen and and lend any perspective I can anytime.

Like Reply 4d

1

**Dave Koenig** I have my own thoughts about the issues that Cecilia and you have brought up, but I don't want to get in a dialog about them in this space. I have to accept that people are going to interpret my writing and the events described in different ways, and I consider the act of publishing the story letting go of it. So it's no longer mine; it's now yours to interpret or debate about as you want.

If either of you or anyone else wants to discuss things about this with me and get my further opinions, I think that private communication is a better way to do it.

Like Reply 4d

5

**Dave Koenig** That said, you're welcome to give feedback either positive or negative in this space, just don't expect me to address the issues in the piece myself on the comments of this post.

Like Reply 4d

1

**Martin Gold** Sounds good.

Like Reply 4d

1

**Dave Koenig** Copied from the part 2 post to address the concerns about text messages voiced by Cecilia:

Several people have given feedback about me including text messages with Jennifer in the appendices. I have heard this feedback, and I thought about this deeply before I did it. You may feel differently, but let me say a few things about why I felt it was necessary.

The text messages corroborate many things in my story, including my mother's surgery, my flu and mouth sore outbreak, my inability to get games with anyone but Vince. The email exchange with Jennifer also corroborates my sexual dysfunction. I felt it was necessary to give contemporaneous evidence to show that I was not exaggerating any of this for sympathy. November 2016 was truly the worst month of my life, independently from anything happening with Jennifer.

In comparison, there is very little personal detail about her contained in those messages.

The text messages also corroborate that Jennifer and I had quite a bit of communication in November, as awkward as it was. I felt it necessary to show that my attempts to reach out to her around the California Open and New Orleans tournaments were not out of the blue. Since other people perceived that we hadn't been dating since early 2016, I was concerned that people would think my attempts to reach out to her to get closure were inappropriate because of the amount of time that had passed. We still had some kind of relationship right up to the end of November, even though we weren't dating.

Part of what was so painful for me about the 2017 New Orleans tournament is that it was the time when I most needed support from my friends in Scrabble. Not just about Jennifer. I wanted to talk to them about what was happening with my mother, and about my sexual dysfunction. But everyone turned on me at that tournament, and no one wanted to have a sympathetic conversation with me.

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I am dismayed to learn that any part of the founding of CoCo had to do with excluding certain players from participation in tournaments. This had already been dealt with by NASPA and reasonable guidelines had been put in place. "If you refuse to answer my email, I'm going to be forced to communicate with you in person, at a tournament, possibly being overheard, and you may find that embarrassing," isn't the kind of "threat" that was meant to be addressed in the NASPA decision.

Secondly, the exclusion of Joey Krafchick from any tournament over his political beliefs is outrageous. Joey and I fell out over politics and much unpleasantness between the two of us ensued. Personally, I never would have crossed my mind that Joey should have been excluded from Scrabble tournaments. What ridiculous nonsense.

I have supported CoCo both online and financially and will not do so in the future unless I receive a satisfactory explanation for Dave and Joey's exclusion from their tournaments. A "public" organization can never pick and choose its membership based on personal feelings and market itself as inclusive and welcoming.

Like Reply 4d 7

**Dave Koenig** Not only that but Joey stopped playing CSW soon afterward, perhaps discouraged by his lack of opportunities to play. If the Cluquish and Dickish crowd wants to grow CSW in America, they should stop doing the opposite.

Like Reply 4d

**Conrad Bassett-Bouchard** [this comment is solely focused to the accusations about Joey - it does not address anything about Dave and his conflict with Jenn and Evans. It also reflects my personal opinion, and not that of CoCo - an organization I love and support, but with which I do not hold any official position].

I chatted with Marsha yesterday because the "banning Joey from CoCo events" anecdote is untrue. To the best of my knowledge, Evans and Joey don't speak, though I don't think it's my place to speculate why.

I also don't personally believe in posting private text messages in public fora without permission, but I do feel comfortable saying Joey specifically reached out to me asking about his attendance at Hood River events. It seemed weird to me that Evans would have any issue with that, but since he and Joey weren't on speaking terms, I went ahead and asked Evans. Evans confirmed that of course he had no issues with Joey playing, and I relayed that info to Joey. So far as I know he was planning to play CoCo events this year, prior to COVID.

But to say Joey has been banned from CoCo tournaments due political beliefs is patently false. I do, in fact, have the text messages to prove that he is welcomed.

I do not and cannot formally speak for CoCo, but I do believe it points to a positive future for Scrabble. I personally agree refusing Joey (or anybody) entry to a tournament solely due to their political views would be ridiculous nonsense. And he is welcomed at CoCo tournaments.

Like Reply 3d

**Mina Le** That may be true, but the specific allegation was that Joey was shut out of the Nashville eclipse tournament, something you don't address here. And it doesn't change the egregious fact that Dave was excluded a priori from playing in the Virtual World Cup, even though it has been touted as a replacement for Alchemist Cup and Dave would've qualified to represent the U.S. at Alchemist Cup. Or the fact (based on their statement to me during a Google Hangout as reported in Dave's writing) that Dave is excluded a priori from playing in "any" tournaments that Jenn and Evans are organizing or directing, even though they can't credibly be frightened by his presence or feel threatened with any plausible future harassment at this time.

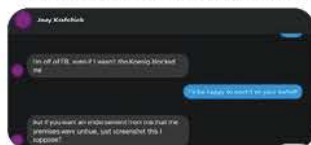
Like Reply 3d Edited 1

**Conrad Bassett-Bouchard** **Mina Le** In the post he in fact calls out multiple Joey vs Jenn Evans incidents, so I addressed a specific one. My post both caveats and explains that

[edited part of this post because I have Joey's permission to post here]

Like Reply 3d Edited

**Conrad Bassett-Bouchard** **Mina Le** and **Marsha Gillis**, I hope this finds you both well. With permission from Joey:



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Conrad Bassette-Bouchard and a follow up comment



Like Reply 2d 3

Write a reply...

**Eric Tran** You may never get closure from E/J, and you have to be ok with that. That's just how life goes.

Like Reply 3d 4

**Dave Koenig** It's a great point, Eric. I knew that there was a good chance things would never get better with them when I put this out there, but things have already gotten better between me and a bunch of other people as a result of putting this out. I know I did the right thing for me.

Like Reply 3d 8

Write a reply...

**Marsha Gillis** As I told you privately, Dave, if this is the extent of the relevant texts and emails (and, I believe that to be the case), I see no harassment here that would require an apology (but, good for you for offering one anyway.)

I am very glad that you included the texts and emails in your posts. It allowed me to clearly see that there was zero malevolence or intimidation involved - merely the normal unattractive detritus of the dissolution of a longstanding relationship. I tremendously respect your efforts to resolve this out of the public eye. That option, sadly, appears to have been removed from your toolbox.

I sincerely hope that those who have judged you without hearing your side of the story will reach out to repair the harm that has been done here.

Like Reply 3d Edited 3

Write a comment...

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**Dave Koenig**  
4d

As promised, here is the second and final part of my story.

Thank you again for reading.

<http://splenetic.net/the-fallout/>

Mina Le, Sandy Nang and 30 others

62 Comments

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Comment

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**Brian Bowman** I hope that some WESPA members have a look at this if they are considering sanctioning CoCo tournaments. The word that comes to mind when I think of CoCo is "boutique"-- small tournaments played amongst friends, with a premium on unique experience. That didn't really bother me, because as a Collins player in North America, my experience has always been kind of boutique. But reading this, the downside of that model comes through. There are a small number of tournament organizers who mostly belong to the same social circle, and as someone who has been on the outs with that circle for some time, that worries me a bit. A small number of people wield a great deal of influence, and have the potential to use it in an exclusionary fashion.

Like Reply 4d

6



**Mina Le** Yes! Strongly agree, Brian. It's fine for CoCo to exist on the sidelines for the enjoyment of its members, but it wouldn't be appropriate for these types of personalities to be at the helm of a sanctioned mainstream Scrabble organization.

Like Reply 4d Edited

6



**Dave Koenig** Boutique is a good description, but I like my nickname for it better.

Like Reply 4d

2



**Shelley Stevens** 100%

Like Reply 4d

Write a reply...



**Matt Bernardina** I'm sorry about your experience in Asheville 2017. I enjoyed our time at the board game cafe playing Tsuru and Jaipur. That Saturday, I RC based on the CSW division list, Katie and I went out with the Prices, the four of us, just because they are our closest friends in Scrabble, and getting a reservation for 4 in Asheville is just easier than planning a larger get-together for us.

I was happy to have you at my home in February 2017 for the HKonJ march, and to room with you at the Charlottesville tournament in March 2017. I'm sorry I didn't feel close enough of a friend at the time to offer little more than an ear, since it seems that's what you really needed at the time.

Thank you for sharing your story. I'm not going to agree with every editorial decision you made (such as reproducing private messages publicly), but I know it's very difficult to make yourself this vulnerable within a community as tight-knit as competitive Scrabble is.

Like Reply 4d

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heard this feedback, and I thought about this deeply before I did it. You may feel differently, but let me say a few things about why I felt it was necessary.

The text messages corroborate many things in my story, including my mother's surgery, my flu and mouth sore outbreak, my inability to get games with anyone but Vince. The email exchange with Jennifer also corroborates my sexual dysfunction. I felt it was necessary to give contemporaneous evidence to show that I was not exaggerating any of this for sympathy. November 2016 was truly the worst month of my life, independently from anything happening with Jennifer.

In comparison, there is very little personal detail about her contained in those messages.

The text messages also corroborate that Jennifer and I had quite a bit of communication in November, as awkward as it was. I felt it necessary to show that my attempts to reach out to her around the California Open and New Orleans tournaments were not out of the blue. Since other people perceived that we hadn't been dating since early 2016, I was concerned that people would think my attempts to reach out to her to get closure were inappropriate because of the amount of time that had passed. We still had some kind of relationship right up to the end of November, even though we weren't dating.

Part of what was so painful for me about the 2017 New Orleans tournament is that it was the time when I most needed support from my friends in Scrabble. Not just about Jennifer. I wanted to talk to them about what was happening with my mother, and about my sexual dysfunction. But everyone turned on me at that tournament, and no one wanted to have a sympathetic conversation with me.

Like Reply 4d Edited



**Phil Robertshaw** I offer no comment on the rights and wrongs and have already messaged Dave privately as I don't know all the people involved well enough to judge anyone. However. There will be people reading who for their own reasons still don't like Dave's choices, processes or actions. Whatever your view, whoever you are friends or not friends with, realise that Dave is a person who (for a number of reasons) has been through a great deal of suffering. Anyone with a shred of humanity in them should know that nobody deserves to go through this, whoever is to blame and in what proportion. I hope that people will accept that life is too short to hold grudges.

Exclusion is awful, and in his way, Dave is reaching out here. Be kind.

Like Reply 4d Edited 20



**Dave Koenig** Thank you, Phil. There are a lot more political implications of Part II than there were of Part I, so it's natural that a lot of Scrabble players reading this will focus on that. But this is at its heart a personal story. As I said in the piece, I would have written this even if Evans and Jennifer hadn't started a renegade association.

Like Reply 4d 1



**Adam Guglicciello** I have no useful comments on this. I instead invite you to play RPGs with the old crew, we could probably raise Abram and Martin and Ray Rob for some zoomup fun; Paranoia?

Like Reply 4d 2



**Adam Guglicciello** I'd get Sonnichsen too but he shunned me over his now wife's reaction at a D&D game I was running 15 years ago and we have never spoken again. which remains a bummer.

Like Reply 4d Edited 1



**Judy Cole** Minor point of clarification - Directors have always had the ability to deny entry to a player (who has the right to appeal). Directors were reminded of the policy via an email to Directors from the AB in November, 2018, and again in an email from the EC in September, 2019. There was heightened interest in the policy.

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friends with both groups of people. We already have enough splits in the community, CSW is already a small enough subset (in North America), but now we have two different warring CSW factions. I urge there to be some sort of peace made before this continues any further.

As to the events at hand, I obviously am neither of the involved parties. I can certainly see how the original email that set it off looked like a threat, but I disagree that it is a campaign of harassment. As a few people have said many of us have been in the position of jilted lover who blows up their target's emails / messengers / phones trying to figure out what's happening, and to a large part believing that perhaps they're just not receiving the messages, particularly if it's a person that's been kind to you recently. I myself have been in this situation in the distant past. It sucks.

I think it has gone on too long. I also myself have felt somewhat excluded from the other group. I know it's not in my head. At the 2019 NOLA tournament I made a crazy, ill-advised (because I didn't prepare and did poorly!) decision to play Collins, because I felt at the time that this was where Scrabble was headed. (I still feel this, and even more strongly now actually). However, I also was not invited to any fun after hours hangouts, and more than one person called me a fake CSW player and told me I needed to play more Collins only bingos and words. I know that this was said mostly in jest, but the few times that I've been included in gatherings of CSW players people have joked about me not really belonging there. For the Nashville tourney, I was actually IN the discussion thread, and there was even some jokes about calling it the Solar tournament or whatever, but many jokey comments about me being banned from going because I'm not part of the group. My personality type tends to take a lot of those things in stride, and I know that they are mostly meant to be taken in stride, but I'd be lying if I said a part of me did not feel a bit hurt by all of it. I only bring this up to mention that other more sensitive players might feel more left out than I do in what is already a tiny community. I'd also be lying if I said a part of me didn't really pursue CSW seriously after the NOLA tournament because of these perceptions. Although, I am lately realizing that I need to make the switch fully.

Back to the point at hand, the directors of CoCo had made it clear that Dave wouldn't be allowed to play a tournament they direct. He ended up qualifying for Alchemist, which is now not happening, and its replacement event, which has been awesome so far (I've been following on Twitch), would very likely have excluded him I'm pretty sure. Is this really fair? I haven't talked to anyone about this and have no idea if he even wanted to play in the Virtual Word Cup, but the whole thing makes me uneasy.

Like Reply 4d Edited 15

Hide 11 Replies

**Dave Koenig** My WESPA rating is higher than Dave Wiegand's. By their qualification criterion, I should have qualified for the Virtual World Cup. I did not know it was happening. Evans blocked me on Facebook a long time ago. I don't know whether I would have participated even if he had invited me.

Like Reply 4d 2

**Mina Le** Thanks so much for bringing these things up, bun. I didn't want to bring it up if you hadn't wanted to, but I definitely felt excluded and hurt by the discussion thread for the Nashville solar eclipse tournament. In that thread, Evans and his cronies told César that he wouldn't be welcome and literally threatened to break both of his kneecaps "to make him crawl to the challenge computer." I found this shockingly violent and hostile but was unable to extract an apology when I objected. There have been other instances of friction between me and the CoCo crowd: for example when I supported the Green Party (this is before Jill Stein went crazy with her pandering), several of them got very nasty with me on Facebook.

Yes, I do want people to see that Dave was excluded a priori from the Virtual World Cup (whether he wanted to play or not), purely on the basis of personal resentment. So how can such a tournament lay a moral claim to legitimacy? How can it be allowed to replace the Alchemist Cup in spirit?

Like Reply 4d Edited 5

**César Del Solar** I feel it's important to say that I've had a relationship with that group where I saw the "kneecap breaking" comments to not be offensive myself, I really just laughed it off, but I can totally see that for Mina who I had just started dating a few months before, that she would immediately leap to my defense, which is certainly sweet. Indeed, one of those commenters would play a very important role in our lives a couple of years later. It's really all water under the bridge. I brought up the "feeling excluded" comments mostly as helpful feedback for whenever this whole post and thread inevitably finds its way to staunch CoCoers, that being inclusive is always something that has to be worked constantly on.

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things were so hardcore!

Like Reply 4d 4

**Eric Tran** Nashville was never organized to be a tournament. It was a get together of friends to see the solar eclipse. We all shared an Airbnb. Space was limited. Evans then had the grand idea to turn it into a naspa csw tournament.

Like Reply 3d

**Brian Bowman** it's very disappointing to hear that the qualification for the World Cup was compromised. It feels less meaningful as a result, and I won't be following it anymore on ethical grounds.

I'm also disappointed because I think North American Scrabble desperately needs a better organization, one more dynamic than either NASPA and WGPO. I have no confidence at all that those groups can change at this point.

Like Reply 3d 2

**Dave Koenig** **Brian Bowman** that's very kind of you, but I don't have any bitterness about the Virtual World Cup. I'd still like to go to Alchemist if it ever happens.

Like Reply 3d

**Dave Koenig** The "top 5 US players not named Dave Koenig" is still a pretty good team our country can be proud of.

Like Reply 3d 3

**Brian Bowman**



Like Reply 3d 2

**Dave Koenig** I mean, if I had played, it would have been in Wiegand's place. Dave for a Dave.

Like Reply 3d Edited

**César Del Solar** to be fair, I've also been told numerous times I can be kind of a troll, and I admit that's true. It's mostly for my own amusement. I have been an outrageous OWL troll mostly in the past, even though I have lately been enjoying playing and watching CSW much more. So it may cause some staunch CSW players to react in a bit of a different way to me. Maybe it's a bit of a feedback loop and I should aim to be less trollish in general, and continue trying to do good things for the community; I'll work on it.

Like Reply 3d 1

**Calum Patrick Kirby Edwards** hmm, think I might not have played in the World Cup event (even if it was only for one match) if I'd have known this sort of stuff was going on. That's nothing personal on my part, but qualification criteria for such an event should be fair and not exclude anyone on personal grounds.

Like Reply 4d 9

**Roxanne Ramsey-Ebert** Bullies, regardless of age, or rank, are juvenile. I'm sorry, Dave.

Like Reply 4d Edited 1

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Hey listen, I'm not usually invited to the clique things either, but whenever you and I are at the same gathering, you'll always have a seat at my table.

This is some next level childishness and seemingly so very unnecessary.

I took especial note of your pro-confrontation stance. I've been called "too loud and argumentative" myself in the past and have had several incident reports filed against me for STICKING UP to bullies.

I am a very nice person, but if you come at me, I will fight back. Had enough of that crap as a kid, not gonna take it as an adult.

As argumentative as you have sometimes gotten over the years, it comes from a place of passion for your desire to see unity... and that's admirable.

Could you be more tactful at times? Yes. Do you own that? Yes.

I think that's what I like most about you. You stand in your truth and are contrite when you feel it's warranted. That's something that took me more than four decades to accomplish as well.

I left tournament play years ago because of the assholes and politics and drama, and that's why you've seen me work events, or just come to hang out with the people worth my time.

That's a luxury I have, but someone in your position, for whom this has been such a massive chunk of his life, absolutely does NOT deserve to be backhandedly pushed out of a place he has always belonged just because a couple of people are unable to communicate like people their age should be able to.

I am really proud of you for sharing your story, in case you can't tell.

Eff those effing effs.

Now, for some levity, some variations on coco:

- KoKo: Koenig Kontroversy (juju came up with that one)

- CoWKO: Collins without Koenig (my contribution)

But cliquish and dickish is pretty apropos.

I got your back, bud. It's in my pocket with all these esses from that Volost game that one time.

Undoubtedly, someone on your friends list will take it upon themselves to share this with the two of them, so fingers and toes are crossed for you that the fallout puts all of this to bed and you can all just tolerate one another in peace. That's really not a lot to ask.

Like Reply 4d 7



**Bill Rexhausen** Hey Dave, as a relatively disinterested party (I've never met Jennifer or Evans and have only met you once), I'll just say that this sounds horrifying, and I hope this brings some closure and that people stop giving you the cold shoulder and Scrabble becomes a sanctuary for you again. I'll also say, in case it would comfort you to know that this hasn't spread to every outpost of the Scrabble world, that I've never heard anything about any of this, nor have I heard anything negative about you other than that you can be argumentative.

Like Reply 4d 1



**Dave Koenig** Thank you, Bill. Comments like yours make me feel like I did the right thing in sharing this with the world. I appreciate what you said a lot.

Like Reply 4d 2



**Winter** Hi Dave, I support the rawness of your story, the level of transparency, and most definitely your decision to include the text messages and emails, because without records, a he-said/she-said situation puts bystanders in the impossible situation of having to judge who is telling the truth, and when bystanders get it wrong, as they often do, then they do an injustice to the person who was unfairly accused.

HOWEVER, I do encourage you to abandon this Cliquish and Dickish name. In my opinion, it is not going to help you gain sympathy or support.

Trust me on this one—just stick with the name "CoCo" and let their actions speak for themselves.

Like Reply 4d 9



**Phil Robertshaw** Winter is on the money I think. t won't help future smoothing of the ways to keep that nickname. No idea what the likelihood is of that of course.

Like Reply 4d

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to know that your story has definitely piqued my interest and empathy and if you can find the courage to add a part III at some point (perhaps in a year or two when things have died down) about the continued aftermath of all this, it would be appreciated by someone who is not involved but always interested in stories about human connections and studying the human condition. Of course, you must do what you believe is best for your condition, and if that is not in the cards, so it goes.

I will also say that in my experience it is nigh impossible for any of this to resolve itself in any conclusive manner (and everyone should strive to accept this general fact about life), but I hope things turns out as well as possible for the people involved.

Like Reply 3d 1

**Stephen Ko** TL;DR - I love me some drama

Like Reply 3d 1

Write a reply...



**Lukeman Omo-Owolabi** I admire your courage to come out in the open with your story. I can only hope you have found peace within yourself after these outpourings, regardless.

I have always thought you're one of the more sociable American players when I have seen you at tournaments even though we never hung out. I remember we played at the Bordeaux event and I have nothing but admiration for your personality.

Be good and take care of yourself.

Like Reply 3d 1



**Steve Crampton** Dave Koenig, I'm so glad this is having the reaction you hoped. However, as I said the last time we met, I think it would be awesome if you wrote something else (based on this) that is not intended to be historically accurate, but just an entertaining tale: "Fleabag, but with Scrabble Players"

Like Reply 3d Edited 1



**Mitch McConeghey** I have absolutely no investment in or knowledge of the Scrabble scene whatsoever, but as someone who has a strong interest in growing the community and tournament scene for another board game (Diplomacy), I wanted to say that I really appreciate your openness and insight about the ways that personal problems and miscommunications can have repercussions far beyond the personal relationship. It wasn't an easy read, but I'm glad I read it, and it makes me like and respect you even more than I already did.

Like Reply 3d 1



**Chris Lipe** I'm sorry, Dave. It kills me that the situation is at this point because I care for both you and Evans. Out of respect for you I'll be brutally honest.

I agree with Cecilia. Your behavior in Dec/Jan 2016/17 was entirely inappropriate. Jen ghosting you was itself setting a boundary which you failed to respect. I get that human communication is messy and sometimes it's hard to understand a message that's conveyed with silence, but that doesn't lessen the impact of your behavior on her.

I honestly don't believe that you were a motivation in founding CoCo. Evans has been clear, and you admit in the OP, that he's wearing two hats. As a tournament organizer he excludes you due to your threats against Jen in 2016/7. As the head of the organization there is nothing preventing you from participating. I think your characterization of his organization is unfair.

Was their response to you non-proportional? Sure. But Evans is fiercely protective, and sometimes in life, you don't get forgiven. Somehow, against all that, you have to persevere and struggle to heal, heal yourself, heal relationships, all of it. Maybe time can heal. Maybe someday we'll all be in a home, waving our fists and toothlessly shouting at each other about injustices fifty years prior. I don't know. Healing a wound is hard, but after it's festered is harder. Sometimes impossible.

I have to say after reading this, I'm a bit horrified. Not at the story, but that you posted it like this. It's a classic pattern of abusers to claim victimhood after consequences of their abuse come back on them. I know that's not you, but the pattern is so common that I find this missive very problematic. I also think it makes it harder for everyone in Scrabble, you included, to find a peaceful path forward from this. I get that you feel a need to defend yourself and you find this cathartic, but ultimately it reflects poorly upon you as a person. I urge you to withdraw this essay and find a better path forward.

I realize this isn't the reaction you want. I feel terrible for you having gone through all this. Be well, friend.

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encourage you quite strongly to respect Chris' viewpoint and RESIST, RESIST, RESIST any notion you might have of trying to defend yourself.

That will reflect poorly upon you.

In life, it is important to know when to let another's opinion simply sit their, without feeling the need to criticise, correct, defend, etc.

In my opinion, simply by getting this off your chest, you might be on the path to healing yourself--don't ruin it by feeling the need to continue to defend.

You've said what you needed to say, and I think it is now best to leave it at that.

Like Reply 3d 1

**Dave Koenig** Chris and I are talking privately. I'm very glad that he opened up the conversation, but it's not going to happen here.

Like Reply 3d 4

**Valerie Smith** Why not? We're all invested now. I need closure. Sincerely, I don't play Scrabble, and this was a hell of a ride.

Like Reply 3d 2

**Brian Bowman** I had to laugh when I saw this, because Chris, Evans, and a number of people who liked this are or were members of a secret Facebook group where people shared hurtful gossip about the affairs of Scrabble players, including Dave. [Edit: since a couple of people have tried to 'set the record straight' for me, this group is not Twizted, which is relatively accessible, but a more vicious offshot of that group] The deck was stacked against Dave well before any of the events in question occurred.

Reading Dave's posts, it broke my heart a bit to see him confiding in people who I knew were going to immediately report to Evans, probably in a slanted way. [Edit: And this would be done before an audience of well-connected NASPA members who were also unsympathetic to Dave before any of the events of this story] And it pissed me off a little to see Jennifer claim that Dave was "actively disparaging" her and hurting her reputation when I knew that Evans at least had been doing that to Dave for years.

Like Reply 3d Edited 6

**Winter** I admit that I have long-since been regretful that I created that group, and I'm glad that I left early on.

Like Reply 3d 3

Write a reply...

**Melissa Routzahn** I've had many chats over the last couple years with Jennifer about very personal things like our divorces, new relationships, and family issues, as well as Scrabble topics, especially the Sam K. situation. Not only has she never said anything bad about you to me, she has never even talked about you at all. I was also included in much of the communication when CoCo was first being formed. The idea for the organization sprang from a disillusionment with NASPA leadership. Not once was there a mention of excluding anyone specific, though there was certainly an understanding that the organization would strive to provide a safe and harassment-free space for players. Your perception that people were being turned against you and that the organization was formed to exclude you (or anyone else) does not at all match what I have seen. I hope that no one is reconsidering their support of CoCo based on what you've written.

Like Reply 3d 7

**Martin DeMello** for what it's worth that has been my experience too; in all the years that I've known Jen and Evans I have not heard them say a single thing against or even about Dave. and likewise I was around for the starting of coco and my perceptions align with Melissa's.

Like Reply 3d 1

**Conrad Bassett-Bouchard** +1 to everything Melissa is saying and everything Martin is echoing. I would add that I previously conveyed a similar message while chatting offline with Dave.

Like Reply 3d Edited 1

**Winter** I know for a fact (because I was in the room where it happened) that Martin is mistaken (not in his experience, but his level of knowledge), and I have posted what happened on my own timeline earlier this year, so I'm not going to rehash it here.

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Jeremy Cahnmann You have aired this very publicly so I am going to respond in public but it is long so Facebook is going to make me break it up and you most likely won't like what I say but here goes...

Wow just wow, I mean you've got a lot of rage inside of you and I am sorry for that and I wish that you hadn't felt so much pain, however unlike it seems most of the people that have read your manifesto, diatribe, ranting (whatever you want to call it) I do not find myself feeling sympathetic and sorry for you. Instead, I find myself feeling angry at you. I find myself disgusted by you and now where I once saw a friend who was hurt and felt alone I know see a petty and vindictive man who is emotionally immature and manipulative and who has completely besmirched two people who have done very little to deserve such ire. Yes, I don't see you as a victim here, I don't see you as being bullied rather I see you as the aggressor and the one who is doing the bullying.

You start your rant by saying the reader isn't on your side "yet," but why does the reader have to be on anybody's side here? You and Jennifer had a relatively dysfunctional relationship for what amounts to a short period of time and it ended. That sucks and I realize it caused you some pain but relationships end and let's face it by your own admission the relationship you and Jen had wasn't much of a relationship. I mean you start out calling it a de facto relationship which tells me right away it wasn't a meaningful relationship, you admit she NEVER wanted to call it a committed relationship which makes it sound like she was being pretty upfront with you about her feelings and you didn't want to hear it. Listen, regardless of what happened between you two if she wasn't willing to call it a committed relationship and you were aware of that then she owes you NOTHING. Absolutely nothing. You reading into her text messages or even her physical or mental attention to you is your own mistake not hers.

You say she sent you a birthday gift in the mail in October of 2016, great you know what that means? She is a kind and thoughtful person who acknowledged your birthday because you were somebody with some significance in her life. She also mailed you the gift even though you lived in the same city which tells me while she acknowledged your birthday she wasn't sending any sort of overt signal that hey I want to be with you. Newsflash if she isn't with you, then when and how she got together with Evans is absolutely irrelevant and none of your business. She owed you nothing. No explanations about her personal life, no offers to play Scrabble, NOTHING.

You say she was enthusiastic about the chance to play Scrabble with you in November 2016 but based on what? She had just paid off her student loans— that might be more a reason for the enthusiasm than playing Scrabble. Maybe you aren't as intuitive as you think because you don't seem to have picked up on a lot of obvious signs that were being thrown your way. You go back and talk about Australia and the fact you caught Jen looking at a FB page? Really? Is that supposed to be the smoking gun? You know how many times I look at people's Facebook pages? You could tell from her body language that she was uncomfortable? Really maybe you were uncomfortable and projecting onto her. You and Cecilia exchanged a look and you just knew she saw what you saw? Did you talk to Cecilia about what you thought she saw? Or did you just create it as another figment of your imagination? For a guy who likes to confront things head-on, you sure seemed to shy away from asking about what was going on with a woman you weren't in a committed relationship with anyway.....

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traveled to and whoever she spent time with was none of your business. You have no right to butt into a personal life that DIDN'T INVOLVE you and your texts and emails to her come off as emotionally manipulative. You wanted to have a breakup talk well again YOU WERE NOT IN A COMMITTED RELATIONSH P which means NO BREAKUP!!!

Can we talk about the email you sent her before New Orleans where you GIVE HER PERMISSION TO HAVE SEX WITH WHOEVER SHE WANTS!!! Seriously dude how did you even write that line? How dare you even presume she needs your permission to do anything? And then you oh so casually slip in a veiled threat about making a scene at the tournament in front of others? I mean that is straight up psychopathic behavior. BE A BETTER MAN!!! Oh and her damn profile picture can be anything she wants it to be and you have NO MORE RIGHT to dictate that than to dictate who she is in a relationship with. Then you follow up with another email this time with no veiled threats but full on threats. At this point Jen should have been afraid you were coming off as unstable and possessive.

The speech you wrote and showed to Jason was fine if you were writing for your own catharsis but my god if you actually said those words to her I would've encouraged her to get a restraining order against you immediately. You just spent the entire first half of your post talking about how you were never in a committed relationship and then your note starts out with she was the only woman you loved since your ex-wife? I mean is that even fair? I know it sucks to have feelings and not have them reciprocated, I've been there but guess what you have to move on.

Your descriptions of the games are really disturbing. You were in their heads; Evans won the game but you won the war. You wanted her to be tortured. You were hurt, I get it, but you were also an asshole and while Evans may not have been cordial over the board he played the game and went on his way. He didn't make any snide comments, he didn't threaten you, he just played Scrabble and in that setting that is all he needed to do.

You started to feel ostracized at the tournament by other players at the tournament and you saw Jen and Evans as having turned them against you. Guess what I wasn't at the tournament and I have NEVER talked to Jen or Evans about what happened and have heard only your version of events and based on everything you have told me I would have ostracized the fuck out of you. Your words were out of line and they were hurtful and threatening. Jennifer didn't paint an image in people's heads that you were an angry harasser, no you WERE AN ANGRY HARASSER and people saw it for what it was.

The Nashville tournament which I was actually at and is the only tournament I have played in years was not all that exclusive. You know how I know that? BECAUSE I WAS THERE. I had met Jen I think one time prior to that tournament. I knew Evans casually but not that well. I considered them both friends or friendly acquaintances but when they first started talking about doing Nashville I thought it sounded fun and even though I wasn't playing tournaments I asked them to let me know if they decided to do it as I would be interested. They welcomed me with open arms and besides my atrocious Scrabble play it was a fantastic weekend and it made me miss playing.

You then played Asheville and felt ostracized again, well guess what it sounds like people were judging you based on some very creepy behavior. Speaking of creepy behavior you were right to call out Sam K for his but many people were talking about that at the time but you made it seem like your post is what caused him to drop out of tournaments, I think it is more honest to say yours was one of a number of posts that pressured him into laying low at least for a while and for somebody so bothered by men who act creepy towards women you sure don't practice what you preach. At one point in your manifesto you mention how you liked having Jennifer as a pretty girl on your arm at Scrabble tournaments, as if she is a trophy or possession you can own? Come on she is a grown woman who is perfectly capable of making her own decisions.

Like Reply 3d

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community to hear all the details of what had gone on but later on you mentioned telling the story to others like the Raus and you state

"Two and a half years after all of this started, I finally had the experience of telling the story to other Scrabble players and finding the recipients of it completely on my side."

Well, let's stop right there because your memory is faulty. I very distinctly remember discussing this with you in the car on our road trip and telling you to your face that I thought you WERE WRONG and that I could easily see how your actions were perceived as threatening. You took that better than I thought but maybe you didn't hear it because while I considered myself your friend I was NOT ON YOUR SIDE in this matter. When you emailed me your letter I right away said don't send it and when I told you to fall on your sword it wasn't meant to be a fake apology but a sincere and heartfelt one that I felt you owed Jennifer and Evans. You rewrote that email twice and after the first rewrite, I thought you were still not contrite enough and flat out told you it was wrong. The third draft was by far the best, but it was likely a case of too little too late. Jennifer and Evans are married now, and it is perfectly understandable why given the past behavior they wouldn't want you playing in a tournament where all the players are also cohabitating. It is also totally understandable why Evans would not like you and not want to have any social interaction with you beyond what is necessary.

You are a smart man and a great Scrabble player, but you have been a lousy human being from beginning to end in this situation. It pains me to say this, but I don't want to be friends with somebody who can be that cruel. For all your marching at the women's march and campaigning for Elizabeth Warren, you have been petty and chauvinistic in this matter and I expect better of you. Perhaps you will grow from this and perhaps one day our friendship will resume but for now, I think you made your bed and you will lie in it. I do not think you are deserving of any sympathy and I think your actions up to and including the posting of this so publicly are completely wrong.

Like Reply 3d 1

**Winter** Jeremy, in my opinion, which you are free to disagree with and disregard, you should be having this discussion directly with David on the phone.

I'd delete this comment and reach out to David directly.

Like Reply 3d

**Avijit Ghosh** Actually to be honest (and I only know Dave here) given the "posts" are in public I think Jeremy Cahnmann response is worth keeping in public as well. I was a bit more diplomatic about it but Jeremy's visceral reaction was exactly the same thought process that went through my mind as well to be honest [in all the same parts of the story] - and this is just from reading Dave's posts (and again only knowing Dave).

Two last minor points

(1) if someone wrote this about my SO, I'd definitely be super weirded out in exactly the way Jeremy has articulated, so I kinda get the woman's husband's Evan's lack of lets say enthusiasm for interacting

(2) It sounds like you are in a relationship now (someone named Emily?) but if my SO was writing this much about a random ex (really even an ex??) I'd pretty much consider that a warning sign, conversely I could imagine if one was not currently dating any future partners who would stumble on this would read this similarly pretty negatively to be honest: really for the reasons Jeremy has articulated.

As I mentioned earlier, ironically, if anything the entire text belies the second post - because one ends up wondering if the posts themselves in fact simply make the case all spelled out in visceral sordid personal detail.

I can't tell is this really cathartic or a weird slow motion public self-immolation?

Like Reply 3d Edited 1

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that it should stay public. Thank goodness I am not the only one who felt this way.

I only know Dave, I do not play scrabble, I do not know any of these people and I couldn't read all two parts of this. I was on his side when I started reading. He is a friend of mine. I was completely prepared to be 100% sympathetic to him for going through a hard time. But I read enough of part 1 to be very disturbed because instead I learned that Dave had been harassing an ex girlfriend of his.

Even if they had been in more than a "de facto" relationship, it was clearly over. There was an email exchange where she said she thinks of him as a friend. He has absolutely no say in who she dates after that. Thank you so much Jeremy ( a person I also don't know) for putting it so clearly- she owes him nothing!

And honestly even if they were still actively dating he would have no right to tell her what her fb profile picture should be. That is beyond controlling to be filled with hatred because she wouldn't change it.

Dave, we live in a patriarchal society and those messages are everywhere and are absorbed by all of us into unconscious biases and patterns of behavior. It's a lot of work to undo their effects but I hope you will give real thought to this. Please think in a broader context about how women are treated by men and see your actions in that context. Please reread what you have written in part 1 with a lens of looking for how much control you tried to exert over this woman. You can not demand that she talk to you. She owes you no explanation over who she dates after you. You can not demand she change her profile picture!!

I hope you will come to a place where you have a lot more clarity and remorse about those things. It's easy to dig in when we are hurting and I see how much pain you've been through and I'm sorry but please try not to dig in. Your actions in part one were wrong and scary. The text about being filled with hatred because she didn't obey you is scary. None of us are perfect. This does not make you a bad person but it is a place where you could grow.

Like Reply 3d 10

**Puneet Sharma** Winter I disagree completely. I think Jeremy Cahnmann's post describes closely the reaction I had while reading Dave's account, and like Megan above I am relieved that others feel the same way. If Dave would have shared these messages in a private conversation with Jeremy, or anyone else and sought feedback, I think it would have been appropriate for Jeremy to respond in private. However, since he decided to do so in public, I believe it's appropriate for Jeremy's response to be in public as well. I also find it quite hypocritical of you to ask him to delete these comments given your continued campaign regarding keeping things in public vs. private to drive more transparency.

Like Reply 3d Edited 7

**Winter** Puneet Sharma, your comment introduces a really important point, but for a few years I've tried to refrain from hijacking other people's threads with my own personal viewpoints, so I will clarify over on my on timeline if you give me a few minutes.

I'll need to quote you for context.

Like Reply 3d

**Peter Armstrong** Winter I definitely respect your opinions, but I feel this goes exactly against what you would usually say in advocating for transparency.

I really don't understand why so many people are praising Dave for writing this letter, when the evidence of harassment and other inexcusable behaviors are contained in the letter itself.

Like Reply 2d 3

**Winter** Peter, just so we're clear, I do not support many of the actions that he himself admits to, but maybe keeping all this inside was harming his mental health, and he needed to do this.

Regardless, this shouldn't have gotten to this point, and if all parties concerned had been more transparent and direct from the start, the issue could have been settled long ago.

Problems don't go away because you ignore them, and while you can say that someone in person B's shoes should just recognise person A's desires and move on, that's just not how all people perceive the world.

We, as a society, need to make it a societal expectation that if you enter into a relationship and then wish to end it definitely, YOU MUST be direct about that, regardless of how uncomfortable that might be.

No more ghosting!

2

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winter on, and room I mean to single you out, but you're in the PNW, and I really do think that the best way to resolve this would be for all parties, plus some third parties, to sit down at some outdoor café (COV D-19), start with a round of apologies and acknowledgements, and then resolve the problem.

In my opinion, everyone needs to apologise to everyone else, touch elbows, and put an end to this.

Like Reply 2d 3

**Peter Armstrong** And BTW, I find all the talk about cliquish behavior, etc. to be completely and utterly ridiculous. Are people all still in middle school?

Because Dave didn't get invited to some after hours Scrabble event, I'm supposed to feel bad? Seriously!

I have always identified as a loner (which is pretty normal for the Scrabble scene). There are countless times when I've been sitting in a room by myself at a Scrabble event while other people were out having fun and didn't think to invite me (yes, some of the same people complaining about or empathizing with Dave's perceived exclusion).

Like Reply 2d Edited 1

**BriAnna McKissen** **Peter Armstrong** I feel like you've missed a lot of the consequences for his behavior in however you read Dave's post. He isn't allowed to play in any tournaments they organize (and has had his entry fees returned to him when he's tried), and they organize the only tournaments in his area. He isn't allowed to be invited to any of the club like playing opportunities in his area, and playing is his whole world. I presume you haven't been blacklisted from playing where you live?

He behaved like many people do when wounded, for a couple of months, stopped behaving that way, and has been paying vastly disproportionate consequences for 3 years. He tried to apologize. He tried to move on and just assume they'd let him play.

He's now faced with the possibility that COCO becomes the primary Collins opportunity in North America, and it's their organization. I know if it were me, I'd be terrified that the only thing I care about is now gone, because I was a dick for a few months when I was feeling heartbroken.

I don't know Jennifer or Evans. Dave knows I disagree with his belief that he had a right to make her listen to what he had to say. It doesn't matter.

The fallout has been incredibly unjust and while he's certainly pissing people off by putting his story out there, I don't know what else he can do. Being publicly excluded is better than being secretly excluded.

This, with him exposing the full extent of his behavior and flaws seems like the best path to "yeah, you're a jerk sometimes. You're not a monster. Let's play the game."

Like Reply 2d 8

**Peter Armstrong** **BriAnna McKissen** I think you brought up a lot of good points. My point about perceived exclusion, is that people often think it's unjust when it happens to them, but are fine if it happens to someone else. Not referring specifically to CoCo touneys, many events described in Dave's writings describe his alleged wrongful exclusion from certain social events.

I live in the Pacific NW and know all the people involved. I was in Australia, but I don't remember how much I socialized there.

I do not speak for CoCo, but I picked up several concrete examples from Dave's writings (tone and content) that indicate he is not apologetic or empathetic in this situation. I'm also pretty sure I read concrete examples of harassment, which is now documented. The story is also full of examples of overconfidence in wrong-headed thinking (which includes the decision to make all of this public).

Like Reply 2d 7

**Dave Koenig** **Peter Armstrong**, I did not feel that document was the place for me to speak about Jennifer's experience and my empathy for it. I am very empathetic. However, when she cuts off all communication and does not want to be around me, she makes her reactions to my actions her business and not mine. I did not want to speak for her experience in that writing. It's not my business to do so.

If she ever wants to reestablish contact with me and communicate what her experience was, I am very happy to listen, empathize, and apologize. Until she does so, I'll stick to my experience.

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you wrote (tone and content). You did also include Jennifer's e-mail explaining why your money for a tournament was refunded, and it seemed like she was pretty direct in this e-mail. So yes, I may have inferred something about her experience from this e-mail.

Like Reply 2d

1



**Lukeman Omo-Owolabi** BriAnna McKissen I want to give you a kiss right now but I'm afraid it could be considered a sexual harassment . So, I would just say "Well said".

Like Reply 2d Edited

1



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**Dave Koenig**  
3d

I've been stunned by the reactions to my writing. It's everything I hoped for. Many people have been supportive and totally gotten my message. I've loved the negative feedback too. There were a lot of people who just wouldn't talk to me about these things before, and now they are. You don't have to be on my side, but we can only make progress by talking.

I am 100% sure that writing this and putting it out there was the right decision for me.

I'm also flabbergasted by how many people are reading. Part I had 500 hits in the first 24 hours. Part II has had 330 in the first 12 hours. Thank you.

I'm sure there will be more positive and negative effects of putting this out there down the road, and I'm more than okay with that. I was stuck dealing with the same insoluble problems for the last two years. Now at least I will have different problems.

One of my earliest readers of Part II was David Eldar, who unblocked me on Facebook and apologized to me.

Mina Le, Sandy Nang and 31 others 10 Comments

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**Fred Simonton** It's on my list  
Like Reply 3d 1



**Martin Gold** I'm just a little disappointed that I didn't even get a cameo. I know I'm kind of on the periphery of all of these groups of people, and I don't attend many tournaments, and I don't really do drama, but come on man, we were practically neighbors in Virginia. I came to your very first Northern Virginia Collins meet-up, (thank you for getting the excellent Peruvian chicken by the way), and I was a main character's first contact in the competitive Scrabble world. I mean, jeez, not even a passing reference. I'll just sit here and lick my wounds.

Like Reply 3d 9



**Elizabeth Sanchez** David, you were right but that's not the same thing as doing what's right. Perhaps her refusal to talk to you is not what escalated the drama and drove a wedge thru your scrabble community. Maybe it was your refusal to accept that fact. And when she didn't do what you wanted you threatened to air it all out in front of everyone. It was the threat right there that brought in the whole community. You insisted that she could have ended this by just talking with you. But you could have ended it by accepting that she didn't want to talk and finding closure in another way. Reveling in the fact that you were in their heads just means they were in yours. It seems that writing this was cathartic for you and I hope you also see the opportunity for personal growth.

Like Reply 3d 12



**Lisa Odom** Hi Dave--this is what I wished you had said to Jennifer, compliments of an old Dionne Warwick song:

Goodbye, no use leading with our chins  
This is where our story ends  
Never lovers, ever friends  
Goodbye, let our hearts call it a day  
But before you walk away  
I sincerely want to say  
I wish you bluebirds in the spring  
To give your heart a song to sing  
And then a kiss, but more than this  
I wish you love  
And in July a lemonade  
To cool you in some leafy glade  
I wish you health  
But more than wealth  
I wish you love  
My breaking heart and i agree  
That you and i could never be  
So with my best  
My very best  
I set you free  
I wish you shelter from the storm  
A cozy fire to keep you warm  
But most of all when snowflakes fall  
I wish you love

Maybe, someday, when you have truly let go. Peace to you.

Like Reply 3d 4

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destructive. Publishing all of this is a bad act. You seem to have no idea of the havoc you are causing and genuine emotional harm you are adding to the community. That is the only reason I'm commenting, to note this harm.

I absolutely do not want to have a private discussion about any of this with you.

Like Reply 2d

1



**Dave Koenig** Marsh Richards, I cannot have an idea of the impact on people who block off all communication. In that situation I have to work with what I know.

Like Reply 2d



**Dave Koenig** Marsh Richards I will say that if they want me to take the stories down or to publish an addendum correcting the record and taking into account their point of view, it's negotiable. I don't know exactly what kind of peace we'd have to negotiate to get to that point, but I would be willing to talk about it with them. Not with anyone else representing them.

Like Reply 2d Edited



**Marsh Richards** I really don't want to go back and forth, but to clarify, I am talking solely about the greater community.

Like Reply 2d

1



**Dave Koenig** I was respecting your wishes not to be contacted privately.

Like Reply 2d



**Marsh Richards** Thanks (and that is why I responded here.)

Like Reply 2d

1



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**Dave Koenig**  
3d

There was one sentence in Part II that I regret writing. It came up in several conversations with close friends and one of my sisters.

In the part where I was discussing the revised apology letter, starting with "I hate it," I said "I am truly not sorry." This really doesn't correspond to how I feel. The point of the paragraph was that the statement "I was wrong" was dishonest, not the feeling of sorrow.

I removed the sentence, "I am truly not sorry." I believe that the way the paragraph reads now better captures my true feelings.

I recognize that damage has already been done from the inclusion of that sentence. That's something I will have to live with.

Mina Le, Marsha Gillis and 6 others

7 Comments

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**Adam Guglicciello** NOW you're sorry.

Like Reply 3d

1



**Winter** I think that every time you are willing to recognise and own up to past mistakes, you grow as a person.

Keep it up.

Like Reply 3d

4



**Brian Bowman** This seems like a good moment for self-reflection for many members of our community. I know I have done some soul-searching.

Like Reply 3d

3



**Steve Pellinen** Make peace, not war. Or just because you "can" write it, doesn't mean you "should" write it, at least not for others. And most certainly, you should never make public, without permission, letters, emails or messages that were never intended for others. Violating trust is one of the greatest obstacles in relationships.

This treatise of yours lacks at least two essential ingredients – empathy and compassion. Given what you've gone through that may be too much to expect, but given the subject matter those elements would have gone a long way in making reconciliation possible, and put Jenn and Evans in the position of making the next move, if they so chose. Now, I'm afraid you've made that nearly impossible and the next several moves must be yours, if you even want reconciliation. I urge you to do that, for the sake of all those who now feel that they must choose sides, for the sake of our tiny community, and for your sake. What you've written so far is a beginning, not an end.

Of course, I could be wrong. And don't stop writing about baseball. That I do enjoy.

Like Reply 2d

3



**Dave Koenig** Thanks for reading, Steve.

Like Reply 2d



**Elizabeth Sanchez** Always listen to your sisters.

Like Reply 2d

2



**Moni Pheels** If you are your own editor then give your self a break dude. And even if u are not your own editor don't forget there r such things as "second editions".

Like Reply 2d

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Dave Koenig

2d

If you've read my stories at <http://splenetic.net/the-crucible/> and <http://splenetic.net/the-fallout/>, you know that I've been dealing with ostracism and blacklisting within my Scrabble community for the last several years.

My story has resonated with significant parts of my community, and the upswell of support I have received has been a boon to both my mental health and my chances of regaining standing within the community. I am so grateful for that.

At the same time, I recognize that I am incredibly privileged. I had the financial resources to take a year off of work and better than average writing skill to help me tell my story effectively.

Many people who battle ostracism are not blessed with the kinds of tools that I have been to dig themselves out of these things. I feel for them deeply.

Winter, Marsha Gillis and 13 others

5 Comments

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Ben Benoy Megan let me know about this, and I read your blog (splenetic, indeed) and some of your other Scrabble related posts.

There's a lot of talk in your blog and here about wanting to improve the overall quality of the Scrabble community and the competitive scene in particular. The assumption that underlies those comments is that, because you're a good player, having you around makes the community better and improves the average quality of play. Put another way, that your skill marginally increases the quality of tournament competition on the only axis that matters.

This assumes that you are one of the Indispensable Men. But you're not, because no one is. If you quit Scrabble tomorrow someone would fill the void you left and life would go on and somebody else would join the Top 10.

You can mourn your squandered potential, and the fact that you're not welcome in (some parts of) the Scrabble scene. But when you do that, you're discounting the potential of all the people who are driven away by you and your behavior. When communities tolerate hostility and harassment like this, it is toxic and those communities are diminished. The standard you walk past is the standard you accept, right? It's clear that there are many people who accept your behavior, but you're chafing because there are some who won't.

And I want to be clear that I'm not distinguishing between what you did years ago and what you're doing now. It looks like a consistent pattern of abuse, entitlement, and emotional manipulation.

You talk about your privilege. Another form of privilege on display here is that you wrote 20k words laying out in minute detail how you harassed and threatened your "ex" and her new partner; made it explicit that threats and harassment were exactly what you were aiming at; and now you're receiving praise and support for your "bravery".

I appreciate that you so thoroughly documented your own anger, attempts to dominate, and overweening entitlement. At least it's been promoted from subtext to text, and you helpfully provided receipts.

Like Reply 2d

3



Dave Koenig Ben Benoy I'm a work in progress. The CSW Scrabble scene in America is very small. Evans and I are both among the top 10 players. We both have toxic traits and anger issues. We are both indispensable to the scene, and I believe we can work out our problems if we talk.

I'm not diminishing the fear I inadvertently put in Jennifer's head. It was temporary. I am contrite. We were both okay when we crossed paths a couple months later. The rest was mostly driven by Evans's hatred.

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that's not something that's in your control. Whatever he's said or done is unrelated to how you respond.

As for "not diminishing the fear" you're literally doing it right now. By your own account there was nothing inadvertent about it. But the middle sentences ("It was temporary. I am contrite. We were both okay months later.") are explicitly diminishing it. You don't get to decide how somebody else feels about something or when someone is ok with your actions and that it was all no big deal.

This conviction that you can work things out if only people would talk to you is another kind of entitlement. Nobody owes you a conversation. You don't have a right to have your problems worked out. You can offer to talk to him and come to some reconciliation, but if he doesn't want it (and I would not blame him in the slightest) then, sorry, you don't get a reconciliation. Your actions have consequences.

You seem to be under the impression that you're just misunderstood. Based on what you wrote, it seems like people understand you just fine. They just don't like what they see.

Like Reply 2d

1



**Dave Koenig** I'm learning the best I can, Ben. And I'm listening to you.

Like Reply 2d



**Steve Olinger** I am an extremely private person. I would never, ever make such personal details of my life, and of the lives of others, public. To me, personal relationships are just that - personal. Writing this history violates the privacy of parties other than yourself, and thus seems to be an aggressive act (in the same sense as the plan to air your grievances in public before a tournament game). Perhaps you consider this tit for tat, since the other parties screwed up your Scrabble life. But I don't see your essay as a way to reconciliation, apology, and forgiveness.

IMO, your \*false\* assumption was that you had the right to a face to face talk to end your relationship so you would have closure. Often it does not work that way. In a perfect world people would have the courage and wisdom to have that conversation. In actuality, it is common for the disinterested party to more or less sink away. I do not know why she chose to do this. I could speculate that she was selfish or afraid of your temper or lazy or simply had reasoned that enough had been said already. Her not honoring your FB picture request could have been spite or it could have been simply that she was so over the relationship that she didn't even read the requests. In any case, when one party indicates by words, by actions, or by inactions that the relationship is over, it is usually considered harassment when the other party continues to make unwanted contact. That is what you did.

OTOH, neither do I condone the responses to your inappropriate behavior. Escalating the problem by forming cliques, banning players you do not like, and further splitting the small Scrabble community are unfortunate and inexcusable. So I see bad behavior on both sides. I would suggest apologies all around, and an agreement that though you will never be friends it is in everybody's best interest to bury the hatchet and move on!

Like Reply 1d

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Dave Koenig

2d

I've been getting some great critical feedback about the Splenetic essays. I mean critical about me as a person, not about the writing.

I do have toxic aspects of my personality and anger issues. And the primary purpose that started the entire writing project was dealing with those. I knew that I could never shed the anger until I told the story.

It has worked. I'm not saying I've fixed all of my problems, but I'm already a lot less angry than I was before.

It's also been the case not just in response to this piece but most of the times in my life when people have been willing to talk to me in a reasonable way about the toxic aspects of my personality that I've been very open to feedback about it. I do want to keep learning and improving myself.

At the same time, I recognize that my desire for feedback can overstep the bounds into entitlement at having a conversation. Nobody has to give me feedback if they don't want to.

However, if I am inadvertently hurting you and you need me to stop, you need to let me know. I can't fix it if you hide the effect of my actions from me. I think a lot of people are surprised to find that if they just ask me to stop, I will do so.

I exposed to the world the worst emails and text messages I sent at the worst moment in my life. I'm willing to be held accountable for them. I hope you'll also recognize the bravery and the desire for self-improvement that was inherent in putting them out there.

Mina Le, César Del Solar and 16 others 1 Comment

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Avijit Ghosh I feel like multiple people have articulated this but you've rationalized away the indefensible coached in soft-handed self-critiques that don't address the issue at hand. Take this statement:

"At the same time, I recognize that my desire for feedback can overstep the bounds into entitlement at having a conversation. Nobody has to give me feedback if they don't want to."

The issue here is not "can" but rather "has".

The act of making public intimate details of a married couple (and your personal intimate relationship with them) including private emails and texts oversteps that bounds to such a degree of entitlement you have pretty explicitly

"thoroughly documented your own anger, attempts to dominate, and overweening entitlement. At least it's been promoted from subtext to text, and you helpfully provided receipts."

(to quote your friend)

Its simply not acceptable to do this to people. So it feels like not only did you historically overstep your bound you are continuing to do so w/out seemingly (again) to realize what you are doing.

Given that your "story" is public. I actually forwarded it folks and simply asked "what are your thoughts here" (as given some positive feedback I was wondering I was misreading).

And (speaking clearly to my own failings) a response that I was not expecting was not only was this negatively received but it went further to "I (and friends) have dated people like this and I am glad it did not escalate to this degree [insert adjectives like "creepy" etc ]".

And the thing is, I get that. Quite honestly given that the only person on this thread I know is one David Koenig (still one of the smartest folks I've ever met), if I wasn't just forthright about this - I'd be the hypocrite because I feel like I'd be silently acquiescing that any of this is acceptable. t is not. Every time I see another post patting yourself on the back for being "brave" I am dumbfounded.

I get that your goal is to open up a dialogue and/or your ability to play - but (and I've said this before) in reality is you just need one or maybe even a minority of folks to print these posts out and say "this completely creeps me out and violates our basic sense of trust" and I have no idea what your recourse would be.

Given that I can only marvel that you must mean this:

"At the same time, I recognize that I am incredibly privileged. I had the financial resources to take a year off of work and better than average writing skill to help me tell my story effectively.

Many people who battle ostracism are not blessed with the kinds of tools that I have been to dig themselves out of these things. I feel for them deeply."

with a fascinating sense of irony.

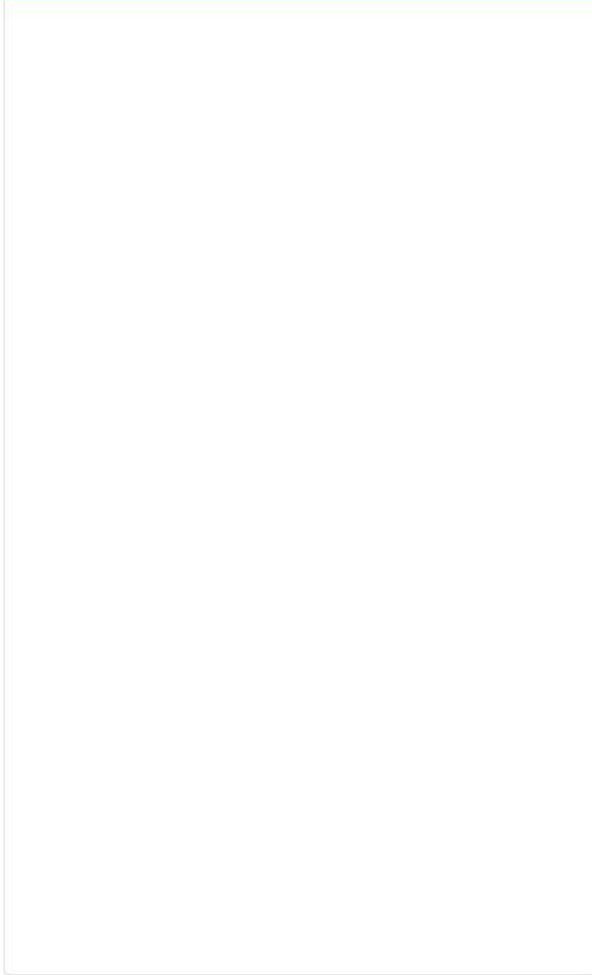
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## ATTACHMENT E

# Part I: The Crucible

JULY 14, 2020 / SPLENETIC

## Prologue

Throughout the last three years, a lot of rumors have been circulating about my behavior toward Jennifer Clinchy (formerly Jennifer Lee) and Evans Clinchy. They have painted a false picture in the minds of many Scrabble players that I harassed Jennifer, causing my ostracism from much of our mutual Scrabble community. Jennifer and Evans misunderstood and reacted poorly to my attempts to make closure between me and Jennifer, so that we ended up in exactly the kind of awkward social situation I had sought to avoid.

I've been over this entire story so many times. I have reflected on my behavior, Jennifer's, and Evans's, and on what might have/could have/should have happened. I have been over this in my own private