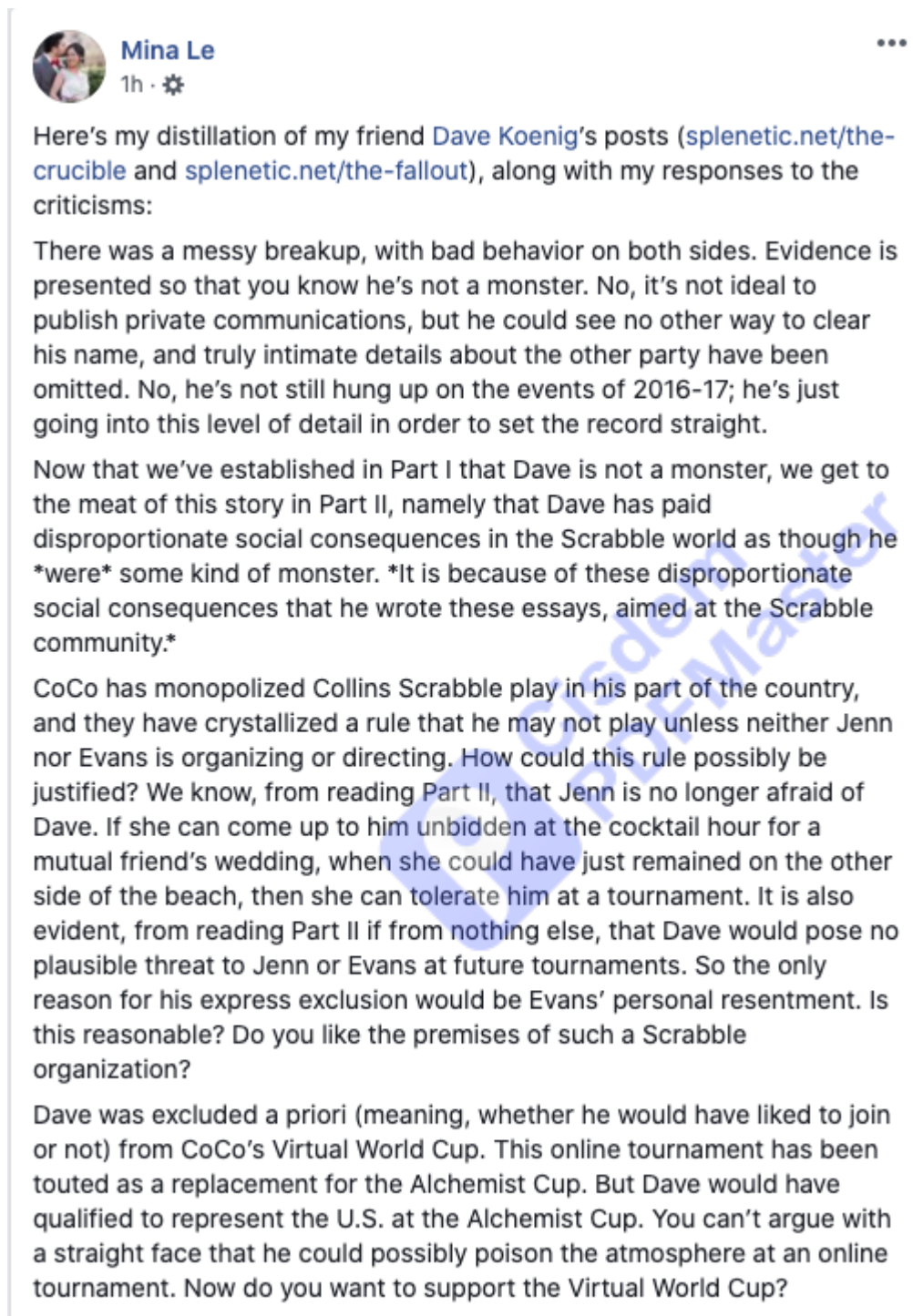


Figure 1: Facebook post by Mina Le on July 16, 2020 summarizing Evans's and Jennifer's unethical behavior while creating their renegade organization and organizing the Virtual World Cup.



The image shows a screenshot of a Facebook post by Mina Le. The post includes a profile picture, the name 'Mina Le', and a timestamp of '1h'. The text of the post discusses a messy breakup, Dave Koenig's posts, and the organization of the Virtual World Cup. A large, semi-transparent watermark 'Academaholic.com' is overlaid diagonally across the text.

Mina Le
1h · 🌐

Here's my distillation of my friend [Dave Koenig's posts \(splenetic.net/the-crucible](https://splenetic.net/the-crucible) and splenetic.net/the-fallout), along with my responses to the criticisms:





There was a messy breakup, with bad behavior on both sides. Evidence is presented so that you know he's not a monster. No, it's not ideal to publish private communications, but he could see no other way to clear his name, and truly intimate details about the other party have been omitted. No, he's not still hung up on the events of 2016-17; he's just going into this level of detail in order to set the record straight.





Now that we've established in Part I that Dave is not a monster, we get to the meat of this story in Part II, namely that Dave has paid disproportionate social consequences in the Scrabble world as though he *were* some kind of monster. *It is because of these disproportionate social consequences that he wrote these essays, aimed at the Scrabble community.*

CoCo has monopolized Collins Scrabble play in his part of the country, and they have crystallized a rule that he may not play unless neither Jenn nor Evans is organizing or directing. How could this rule possibly be justified? We know, from reading Part II, that Jenn is no longer afraid of Dave. If she can come up to him unbidden at the cocktail hour for a mutual friend's wedding, when she could have just remained on the other side of the beach, then she can tolerate him at a tournament. It is also evident, from reading Part II if from nothing else, that Dave would pose no plausible threat to Jenn or Evans at future tournaments. So the only reason for his express exclusion would be Evans' personal resentment. Is this reasonable? Do you like the premises of such a Scrabble organization?

Dave was excluded a priori (meaning, whether he would have liked to join or not) from CoCo's Virtual World Cup. This online tournament has been touted as a replacement for the Alchemist Cup. But Dave would have qualified to represent the U.S. at the Alchemist Cup. You can't argue with a straight face that he could possibly poison the atmosphere at an online tournament. Now do you want to support the Virtual World Cup?

Figure 2: Email banning me from playing in the online Woogles club run by Jennifer's and Evans's organization, and follow-up discussion with Cesar del Solar, Mina Le, and Brian Bowman. Included in this email chain is the entirety of an email that Becky Dyer sent to Mina Le in response to Mina questioning the ban.

CoCo club participation  Inbox x   

 **Collins Coalition** <info@cocoscrabble.org>
to me ▾ Feb 26, 2021, 9:30 AM   

February 26th, 2021

Dave,





We are sending this email on behalf of the CoCo online clubs. After discussion, it was unanimously decided that continuing to allow you to participate in CoCo online club play would not be consistent with our organization's commitment to providing our players a safe and harassment-free environment.

You will no longer be permitted to attend any CoCo online clubs, specifically the two occurring on Tuesday and Saturday. If you do attempt to attend any CoCo online clubs, the director will not enter you into the pairings. This goes into effect now, and is effective indefinitely.

One of the CoCo's founding principles is the importance of creating a welcoming and harassment-free environment. As stated in our mission, we are committed to fostering a safe community. That commitment means that we take action to protect members of our community from harassment and threats made by other players. See the CoCo website; specifically, sections titled "Who We Are" and "Policies."


Note that directors for the CoCo have discretion to consider all relevant information for decisions of this nature, not just events that happen during club sessions.

Sincerely,
Becky Dyer, Geoff Thevenot, and Peter Armstrong
Online club directors for the CoCo

 **Dave Koenig**
to Mina, cesar ▾ Feb 26, 2021, 9:37 AM   

Hi Cesar,

Do you have records of the club room chats and games from the CoCo clubs on Woogles to be able to see if anything untoward happened in the club sessions I attended? I'm not aware of anything I did to provoke this.

Sincerely,
Dave




Mina Le

to me, cesar ▾

Feb 26, 2021, 9:51 AM



This is completely batshit insane, Dave! I wonder if Woogles could inform CoCo that they are not allowed to use Woogles as a platform for discrimination against people they don't like. Will brainstorm other solutions...do you have ideas?

Mad on your behalf,

Mina



Dave Koenig

to Mina, cesar ▾

Feb 26, 2021, 10:13 AM



I think the only member of the club I've even had any private messages with was Becky, and in my memory they have been totally benign, as has my chat in the club room and the games (the latter of which has been very little.) In the club room, I've just talked about Scrabble games and I have never addressed Jennifer or Evans. I played in just one game on a Saturday session (against Cesar!) the first time, and then I went back to I think just one more Saturday session, and neither Jennifer or Evans were even in attendance at those two.

This Tuesday was my first time ever playing in a Tuesday session, and I played eight of the ten games but had to step out for a couple of games in the middle. When the directors were figuring out pairings in the beginning, they said something about missing a player. I clicked on the button to see who was in the room, and I didn't see Evans listed there, but someone had said something earlier in the chat suggesting that he was there. So I said, "I don't see Evans. is he blocking me?" That's literally the only thing I said about it. Someone else said that he was there. I didn't respond, never addressed it, and just played my games.

The group chats are public for anyone who goes to the club room anyway, though there's a limit to how far back you can scroll. I would be fine with openly publishing all of the CoCo club group chat during all of the time that I went to sessions as well as all of my chats with my opponents from every game I played in the club and all of my private chats with Becky (which I don't think included anything private or personal nor even anything about CoCo club) as well as the full contents of that email to the world.

As far as I can see, the case of me harassing anyone here is completely nonexistent, and I'd be happy to hold up a mirror so they and the rest of the world can see the full extent of their behavior.

Sincerely,

Dave



----- Forwarded messages -----

from: **Mina Le**
to: Becky Dyer
bcc: [david](#)
date: Feb 28, 2021, 11:33 AM
subject: Unjust exclusion

Dear Becky,

I was aggrieved to learn that Dave Koenig has been banned from CoCo club in perpetuity, presumably because he and Jennifer Clinchy had a bad breakup and Evans continues to hold a grudge about it.

The circumstances that led to Dave being deemed a "harasser" have been publicly published. What is clear to readers of the full story is that his actions -- those of an angry, desperate, spurned off-and-on lover -- did not meet the legal definition of harassment.

He does not deserve to be branded as one or treated as one.

I have trouble imagining how anyone could feel unsafe while sitting in the same online club room as Dave, where he could not so much as broach anyone's physical personal space or look at them askance. His behavior in CoCo club to date has also been spotless, and as his personal friend I can vouch for his character.

Won't it bring CoCo PR trouble, as well, when people learn that the directors are banning players simply because they personally dislike them?

Thank you for your consideration,

Mina

Hi Mina,

Thanks for your note. The discussion within our directors' group is considered confidential; therefore, I can't comment on it. It's interesting that you are taking it upon yourself to make assumptions about this matter. We understand that there are people who have already chosen to disparage our organization, and therefore are likely to continue to do so. I'm sorry that you feel that is a good use of your valuable time. I would respectfully ask you to consider whether there might be better activities to undertake.

Sincerely,

Becky

----- End forwarded messages -----

I have no desire to fight this, but I do think that what they did to me should be a matter of public record. I am still pondering how and when I am going to deal with it, but I wanted to loop you both in on the conversation sooner. I am just beginning to think about writing a part 3 of my Splenetic blog in which I address this, though I'm thinking that I might be able to approach this with a much more humorous tone than my previous blog entries.

Mina and I were also pondering the idea of starting a Monday evening Collins Scrabble club on Woogles, and I proposed the name "Don't be a Dictionary" for the name of the club.

I'm curious to get your thoughts and insights into this, and I'd welcome a phone or video chat from either of you if you think it's worth it, or even a group one if we could schedule it. I do not want to get into a pissing contest with them, but I do want to have a place to play with other Collins Scrabble players, and I want other people to have a place to go if they do not want to support CoCo.

Sincerely,

Dave



Dave Koenig
to Mina, cesar ▾

Feb 26, 2021, 10:17 AM ☆ ↶ ⋮

I might be miscounting the sessions. I definitely played only one game against Cesar the first time I went to their club, but that might have been on a weeknight, and then I might have gone to two Saturday sessions. But this week was definitely my first time at a Tuesday session beyond just a one-off game against Cesar, and I don't think I've attended more than four in total. Not that any of this is salient, but I just didn't want to say anything inaccurate.



César Del Solar
to me, Mina ▾

Feb 26, 2021, 1:25 PM ☆ ↶ ⋮

Hi Dave, we only have records of the last 100 chats in the club room (we can go further back a bit more in the backend but the chat is ephemeral) and game chats expire after a few days. I'm sure you have not done anything untoward at club, this whole thing is messed up - I really don't like this. In the email they specifically say "all relevant information" and not just events that happen during club, so I'm sure it's still from the grudge. I think we played one game on a Tuesday, yes, a few weeks ago, as part of the club, and it counted in the club standings (which are now scrubbed of your user id...). I'll bring up this situation to the team but I don't think we can force them to let you play in their club honestly. The large majority of people in that club are probably fine with playing you. I would honestly just try to start another club and continue playing in the other weekly clubs.

César



Dave Koenig
to César, Mina ▾

Feb 26, 2021, 1:28 PM ☆ ↶ ⋮

I don't want to force them to let me play in their club. I don't want to play in their club specifically because they have done this. I just want everyone to know what they have done.



César Del Solar
to me, Mina ▾

Feb 26, 2021, 1:31 PM ☆ ↶ ⋮

I agree - from my look at the chats there's nothing harassing you did.

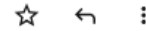




Dave Koenig

to me, Brian, cesar, Mina ▾

Mar 2, 2021, 7:55 PM



Dear Marsha, Brian, Cesar, and Mina,

I'm pulling both Marsha and Brian into a conversation that I've already been having with Mina and Cesar, so let me catch you up on the story.

I've been playing online on a few different clubs on Woogles, mostly on Wednesdays at the Valley Virtual club and Thursdays at the Channel 275 club. CoCo is running a Woogles club on Saturdays during the day and Tuesday evenings. I stopped by near the end of a Tuesday session several weeks ago and played one game against Cesar. I believe that at least one of Jennifer or Evans might have been in attendance at that time, but I had no interaction with them. I just spoke up in the chat room about getting paired and that was all. It was a bit of an after the fact pairing as we were originally odd and then Cesar joined in so I could get a game, but they did include it on the standings on their website.

I then played in a couple of Sunday sessions for what I think was the full session. Neither Evans nor Jennifer were in attendance for those Sunday sessions. Last Tuesday for the first time I played most of a Tuesday session, though I did have to depart for a couple of games in the middle. I was chattier in the club chat room on these occasions, but all of my talk was very pleasant and just about Scrabble games. I never addressed Evans or Jennifer in any way. The only exception to this was that at the beginning of the Tuesday session, the director said something about there not being enough players. I clicked on the list to see who was in the room, and I did not see Evans's name there, but someone else in the room had shortly before said something about him playing. So I said, "I don't see Evans, is he blocking me?" That was it. I never addressed it again. One of the directors even followed up by saying that they didn't see Evans there either, and then some other people said that he was there. He played during the evening, and I could see his games in progress in the list, but I couldn't ever see him in the chat room. Jennifer wasn't even there at that point, though I believe she showed up to the club later. I reiterate, I had no interaction with either of them, and my one question was the only time I said anything pertinent to them. The rest of my chatter was just about Scrabble games.

On Friday I received the email I have forwarded below, banning me from CoCo's Woogles club. I'm embedding that email here and will continue my narrative after it.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Collins Coalition** <info@cocoscrabble.org>

Date: Fri, Feb 26, 2021 at 9:30 AM

Subject: CoCo club participation

To: Dave Koenig



----- End Forwarded Message -----

After I received that email, I forwarded it to Mina and Cesar and had some conversation with them. Mina was incensed. At my request, Cesar looked back through all of the chat records he had from CoCo club, and he judged that I did absolutely nothing untoward or harassing in the club room.

Independently, Mina wrote an email to Becky Dyer, one of the Woogles tournament directors, and got a very nasty response. She has given me permission to share them with you.



Brian Bowman

to makadabo, cesar, Mina, me ▾

Mar 4, 2021, 12:11 PM



Very disappointing. I was hoping that the detente of "Dave can play CoCo events as long as Evans or Jen are not directing" would hold, and neither are listed as directors on the Coco page (you might want to screenshot that). If they are going to formally ban you they should just do it instead of leaning on their friends to informally blackball you.

I would be glad to join a Collins club on Mondays, though I would strongly prefer a more neutral name.

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 2, 2021, at 10:55 PM, Dave Koenig <[REDACTED]> wrote:

...



Figure 3: Text from Kenny threatening violence on me based on false accusations in December 2014.

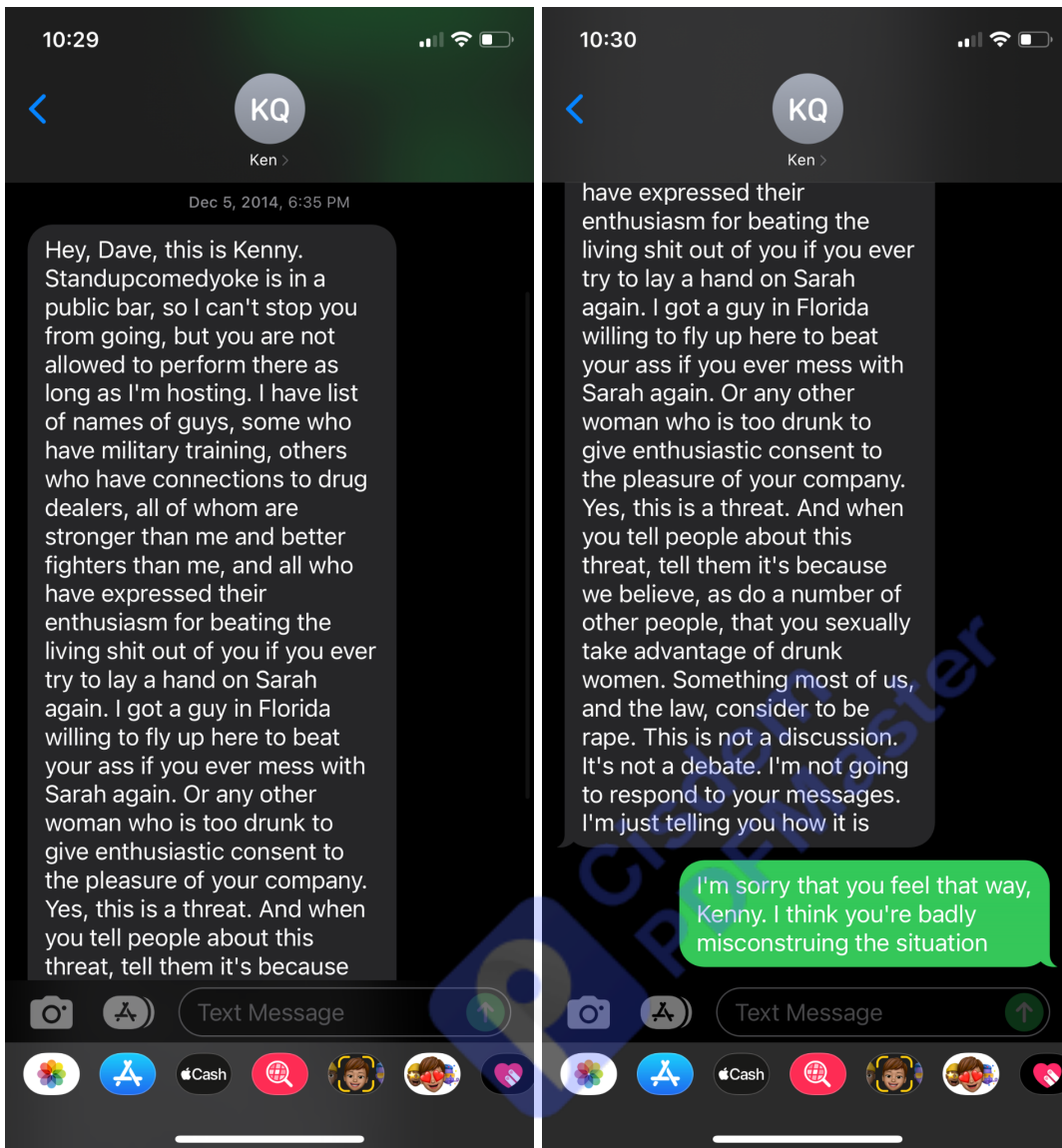


Figure 4: Immediately after receiving the text from Kenny, I forwarded it via email to Sarah, who wrote me this response. After this email, we followed up with a phone call in which she confirmed to me that she told Kenny that I did nothing to hurt her, but he said, "it didn't matter because he knew I did things to other women" though he never named another woman. He continued to spread false rumors in 2020, though I had no connection to him since 2014. These rumors were spread to Lola in late July or early August 2020, very shortly after she and I had agreed to "make distance."



Sarah [redacted]
to me ▾

Sat, Dec 6, 2014, 10:14 AM ☆ ↶ ⋮

Ah jeez.

Although I didn't complain to anyone about you I think I know how this happened. Your recent interaction with a friend of mine on Thursday rubbed him the wrong way and he must have talked to Kenny about it, who already doesn't favor you from some things he says he's heard about.

I'll try to smooth things over ...

Sarah [redacted]
Graphic Designer

C:

Please consider the environment before printing this email.



On Fri, Dec 5, 2014 at 9:41 PM, Dave Koenig [redacted] wrote:

Kenny just sent me this text:

Hey, Dave, this is Kenny. Standupcomedyoke is in a public bar, so I can't stop you from going, but you are not allowed to perform there as long as I'm hosting. I have list of names of guys, some who have military training, others who have connections to drug dealers, all of whom are stronger than me and better fighters than me, and all who have expressed their enthusiasm for beating the living shit out of you if you ever try to lay a hand on Sarah again. I got a guy in Florida willing to fly up here to beat your ass if you ever mess with Sarah again. Or any other woman who is too drunk to give enthusiastic consent to the pleasure of your company. Yes, this is a threat. And when you tell people about this threat, tell them it's because we believe, as do a number of other people, that you sexually take advantage of drunk women. Something most of us, and the law, consider to be rape. This is not a discussion. It's not a debate. I'm not going to respond to your messages. I'm just telling you how it is

Sent from my iPhone

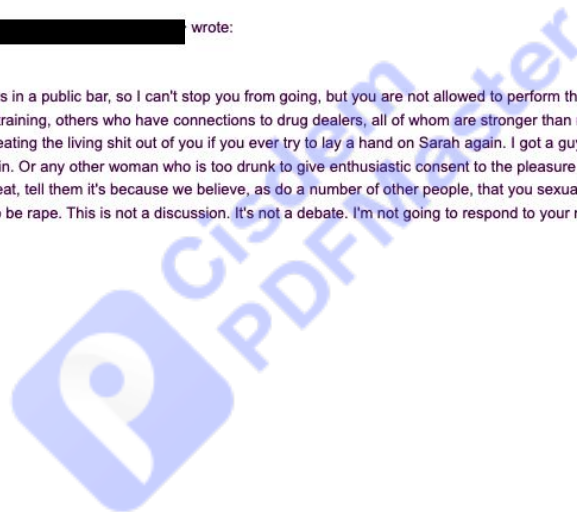
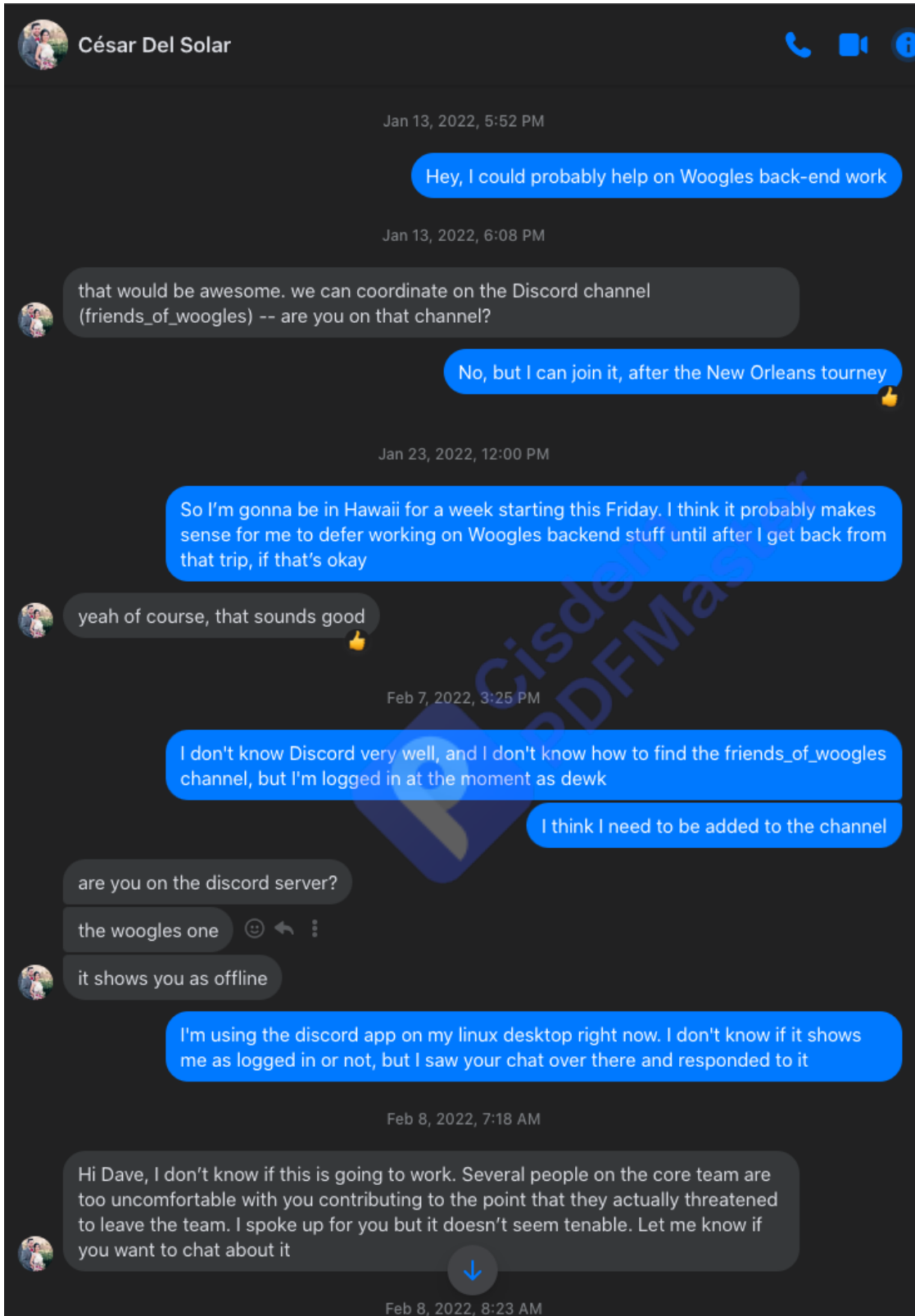


Figure 5: Facebook conversation with Cesar about doing Woogles development work, which started a few days before the 2022 New Orleans Scrabble tournament.





César Del Solar



Feb 8, 2022, 8:23 AM

I'm disgusted

Feb 8, 2022, 10:02 AM



Yeah I told them this is a community project. Maybe we can collaborate on other things

I'm guessing it was Lola and Conrad who told you they would quit? Or were there others?



Jesse



What the actual fuck is going on?

I'm not happy with this and lost a lot of sleep over it



We can chat about it later if you want

I do not understand what alternate reality these people are living in and what they believe about me, but in my opinion it is a huge insult to me to give any credence to it whatsoever.

Feb 8, 2022, 10:43 AM



As I said, I tried to speak up for you but I can't change their minds

I'm not asking you to change anyone's mind

Figure 6: Text from December 11, 2019, first mention of possibility of me visiting in January, more than a month before I made the trip.

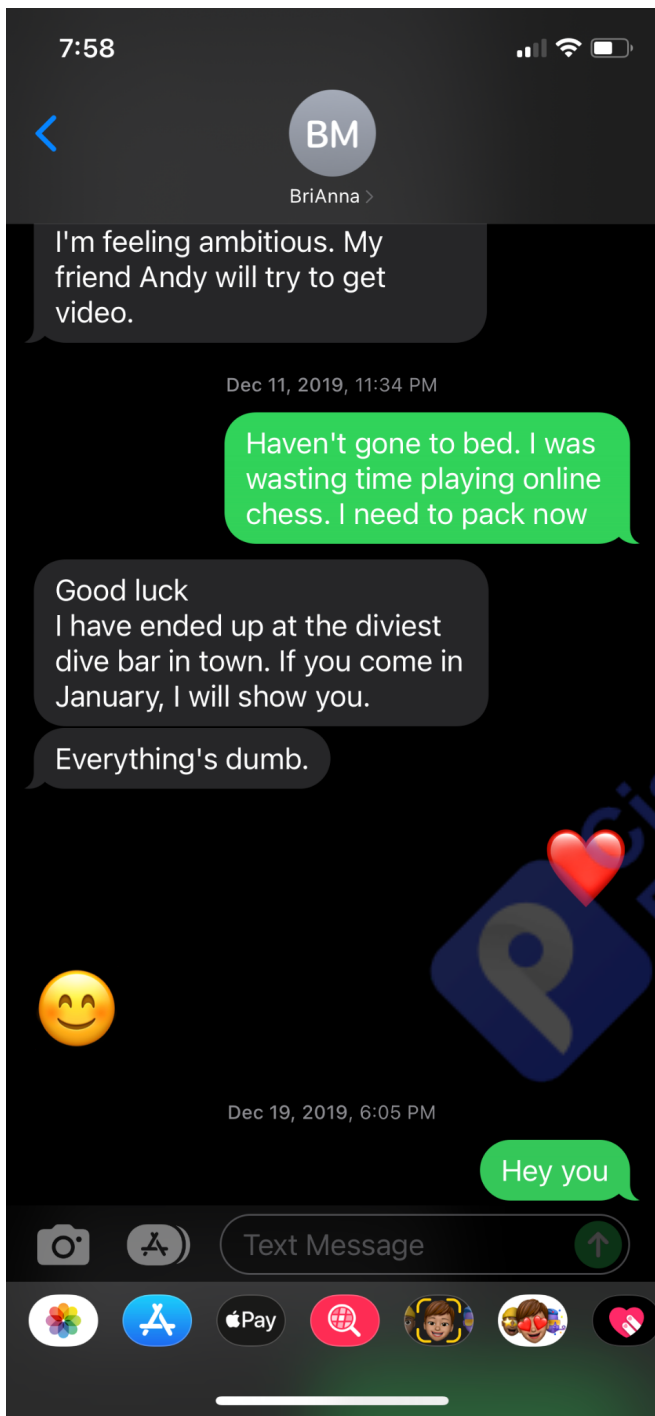
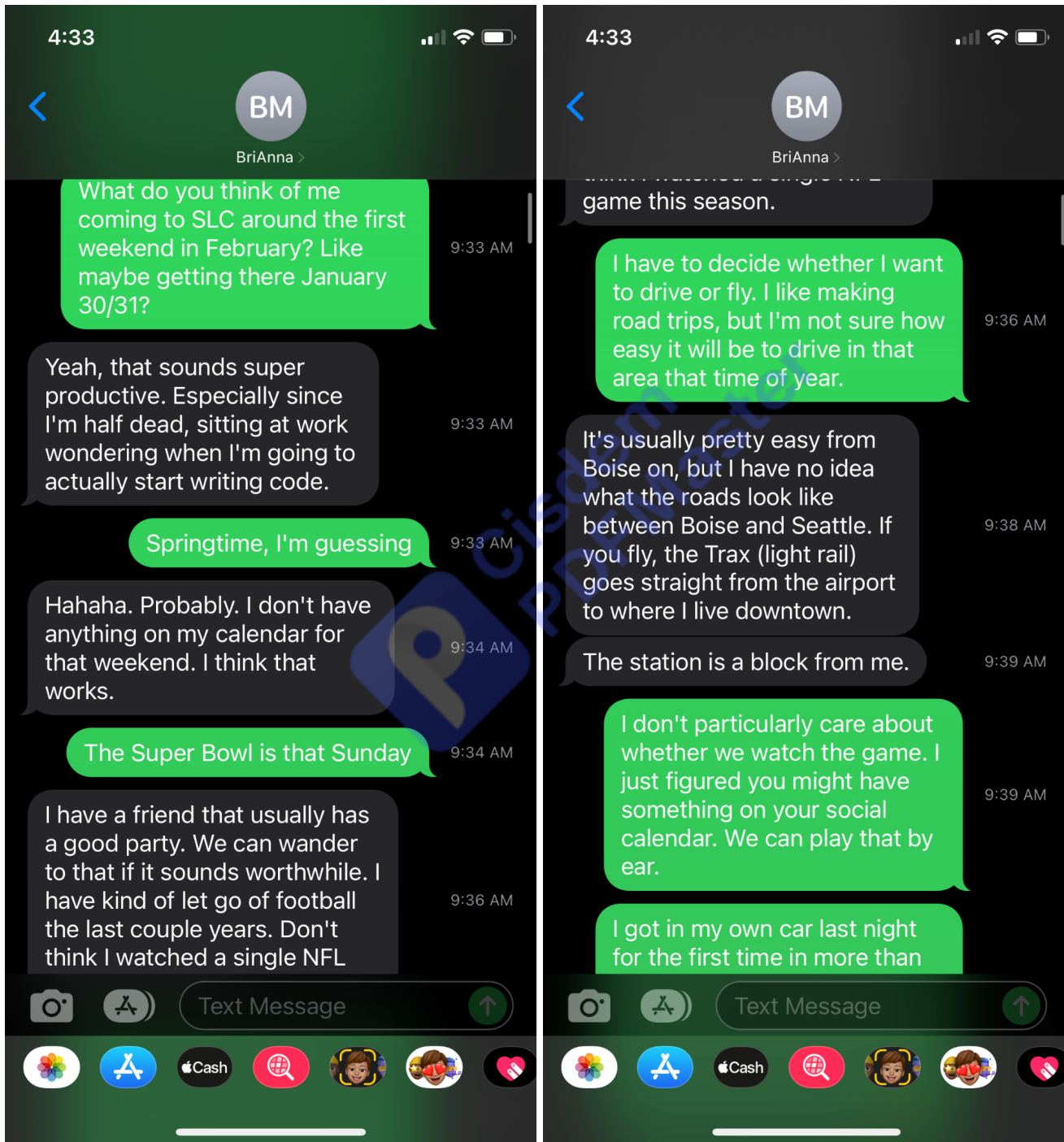


Figure 7: Texts from January 9th, 2020 showing planning of trip to SLC.

There was a bit of overlapping conversation because of rapid texting here. “Hahaha” is a response to my joke in the previous text, and “Probably. I don’t have...” is the response to my questions about visiting two texts earlier. (The text in the last couple of screenshots is not important, but including them was the only way I could get my phone to show the datestamp of these messages.)



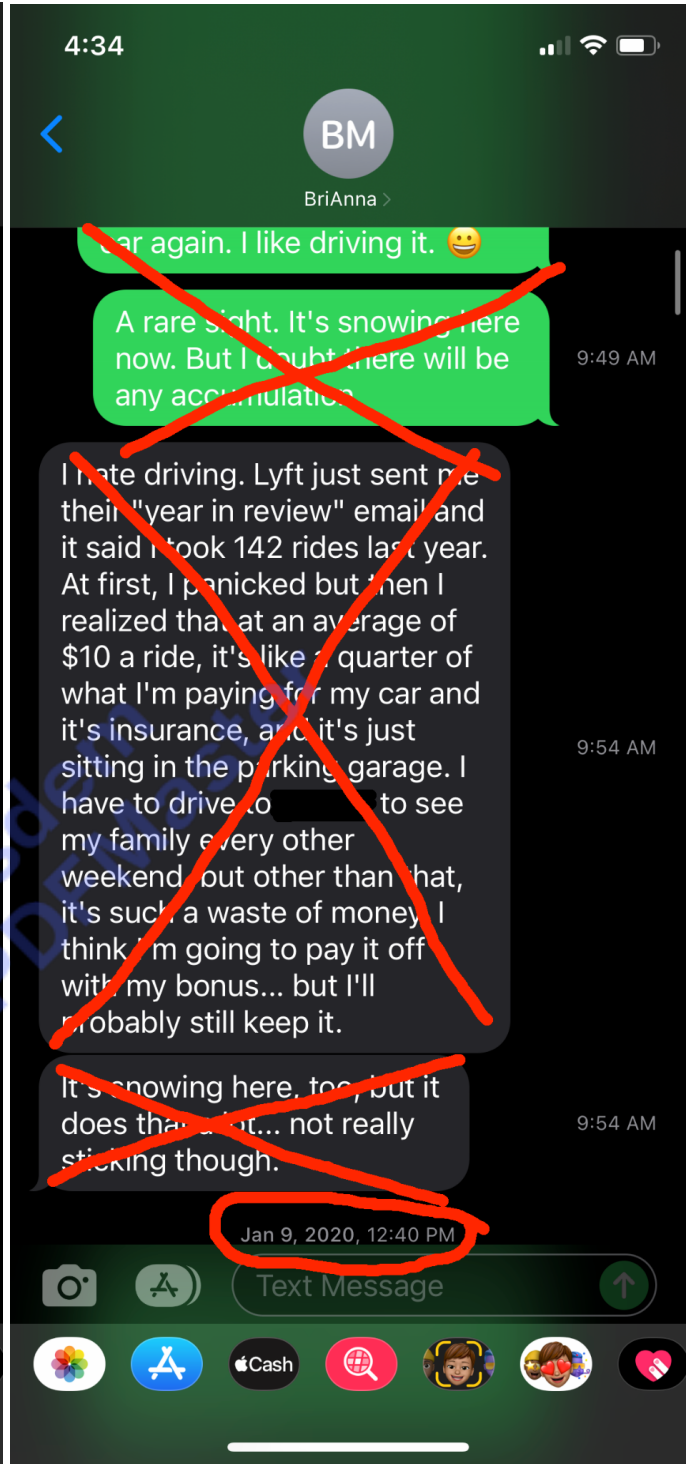
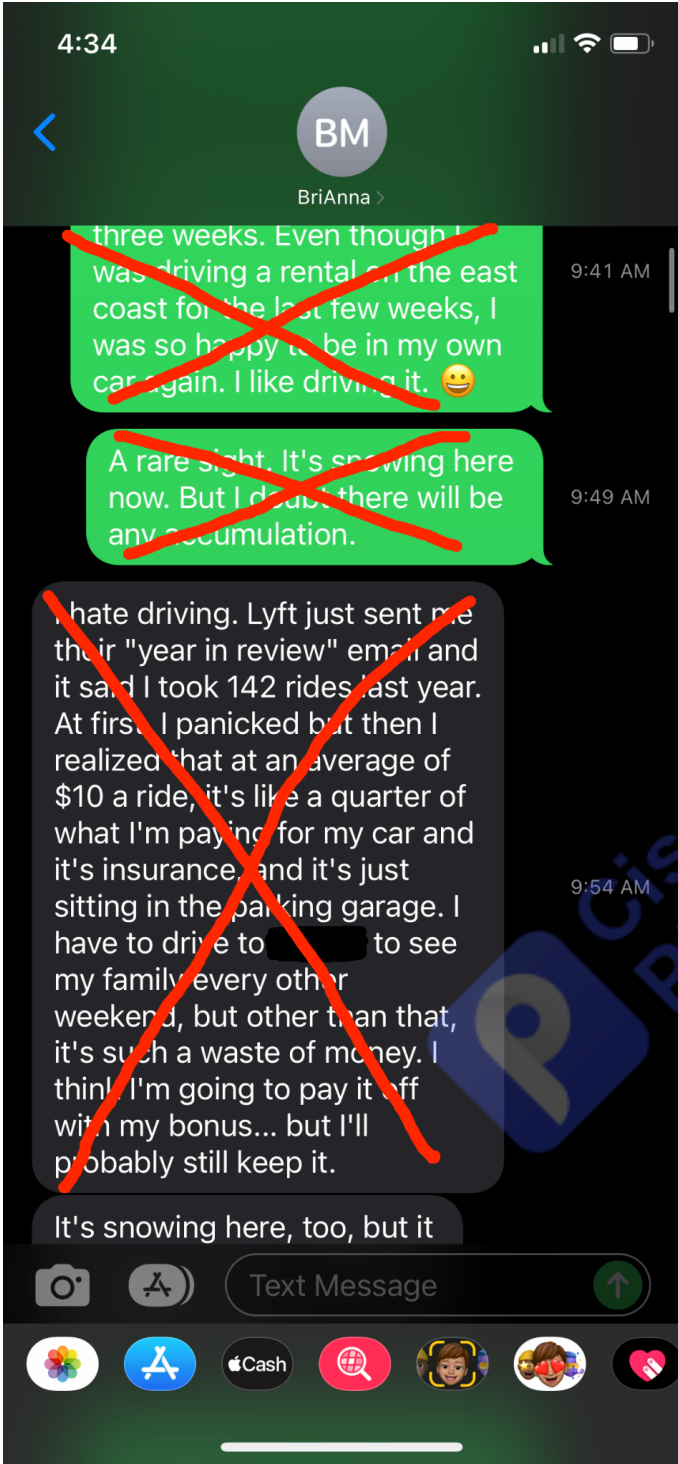


Figure 8: Texts from January 23rd & 27th showing planning of trip.

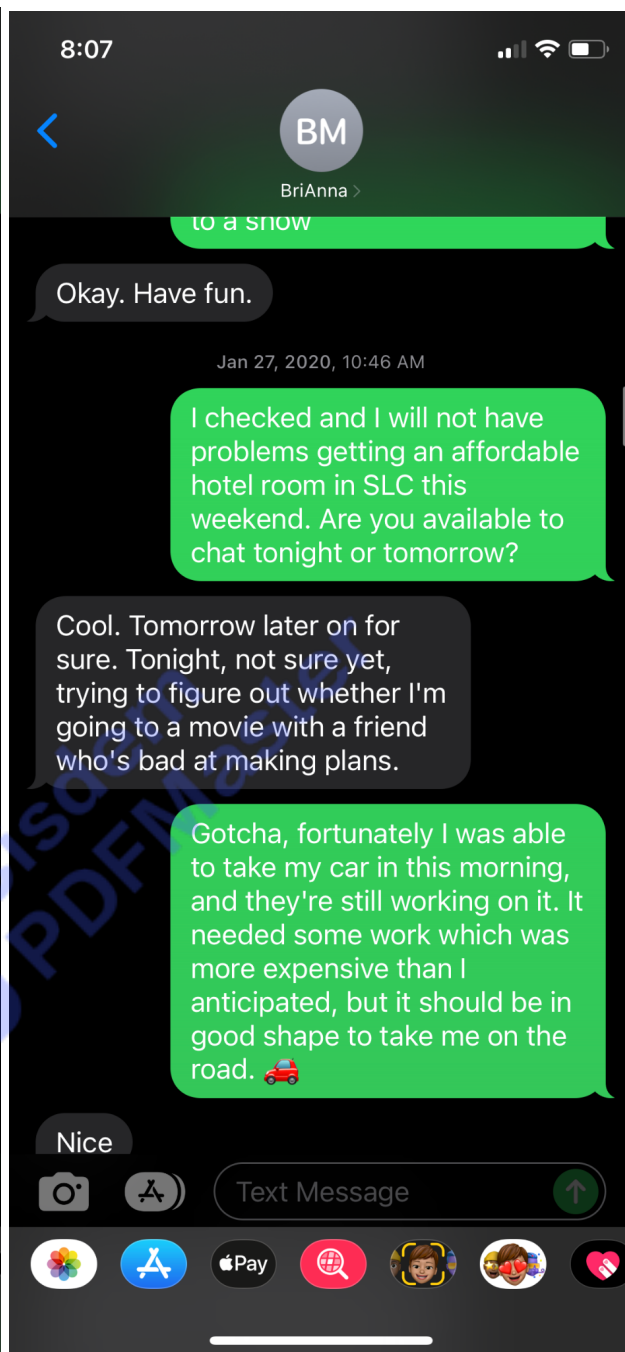
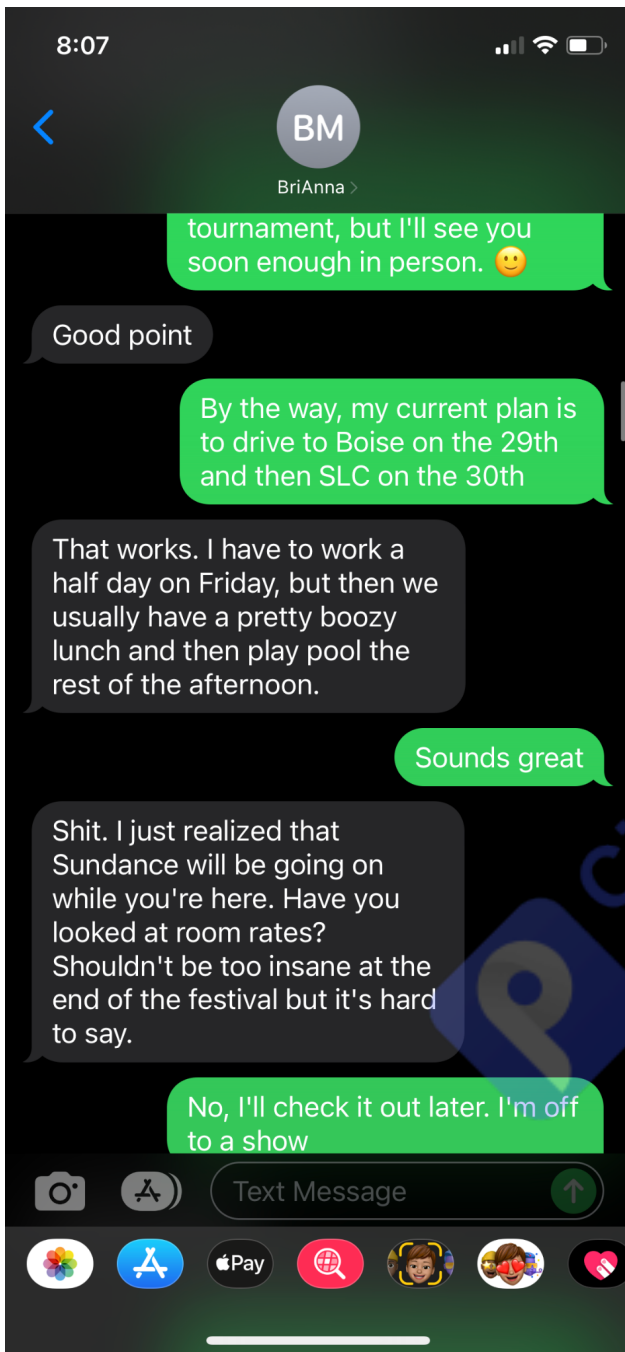


Figure 9: Texts from January 29th-January 30th showing her canceling trip for illness after I was already en route.

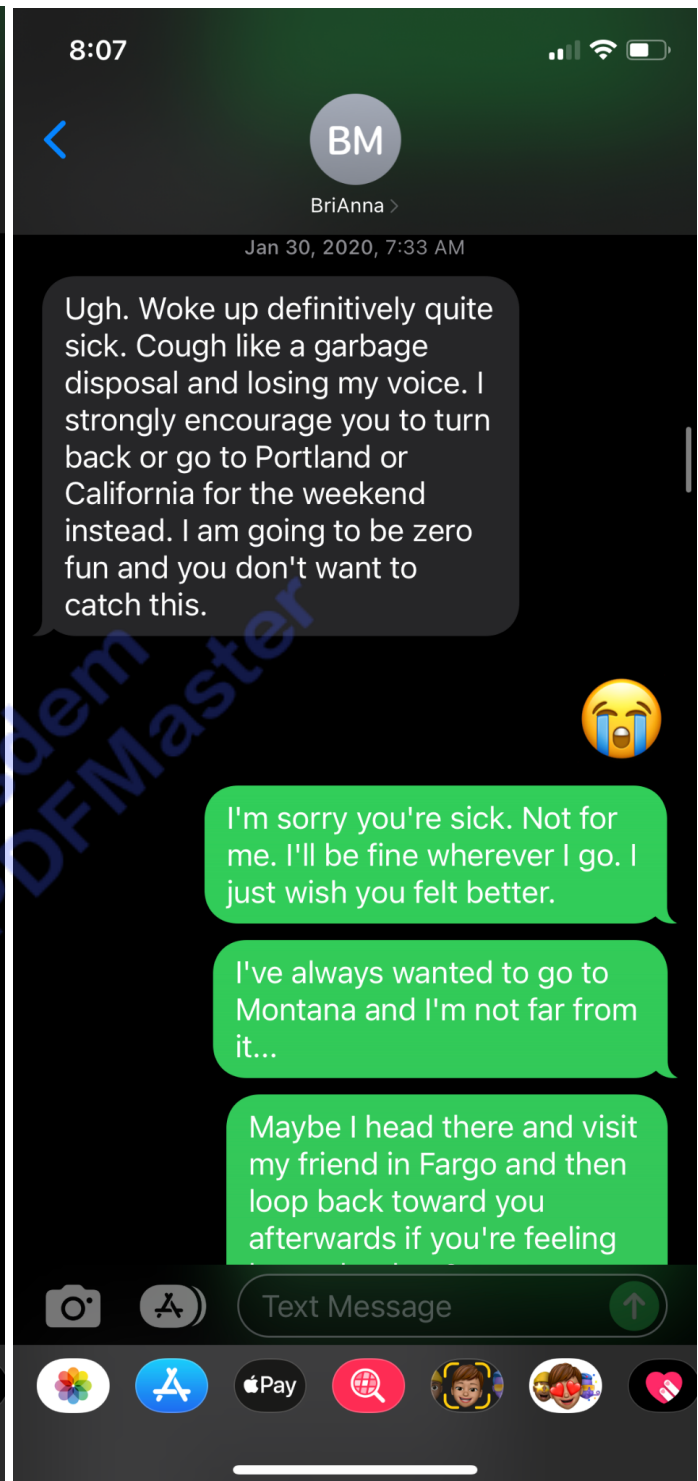
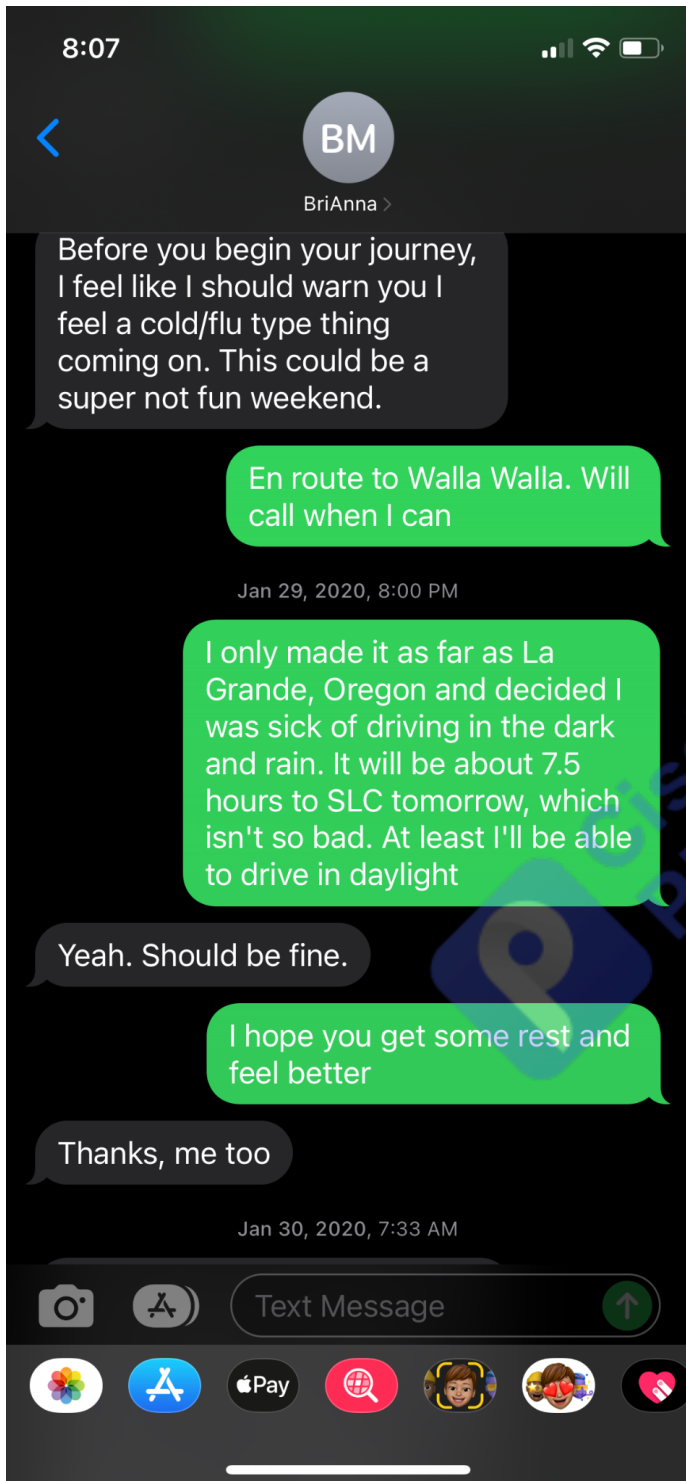


Figure 10: Texts from February 7th about making a trip elsewhere together after we had called off the January 30th SLC trip to illness.

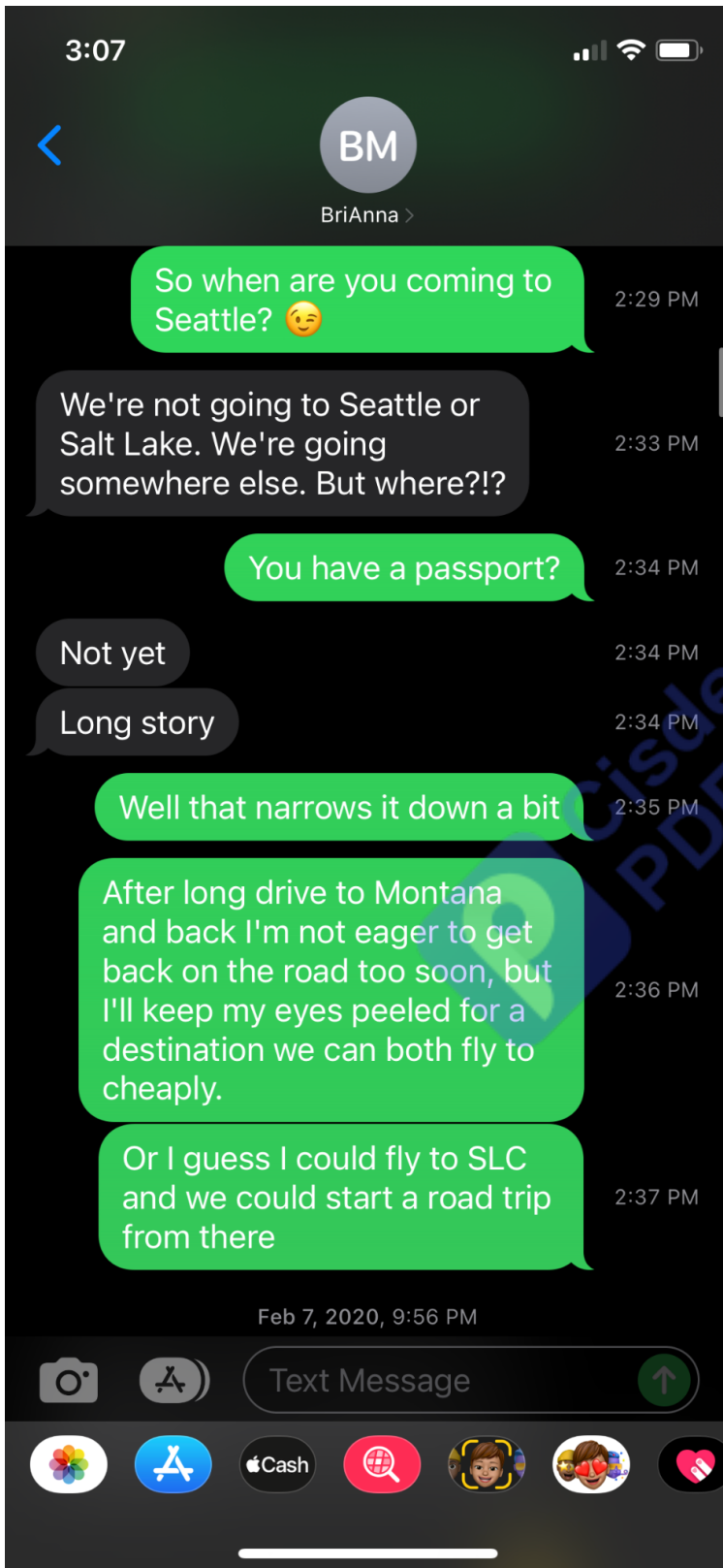


Figure 11: Texts from February 13, showing proposal of Puerto Rico trip.

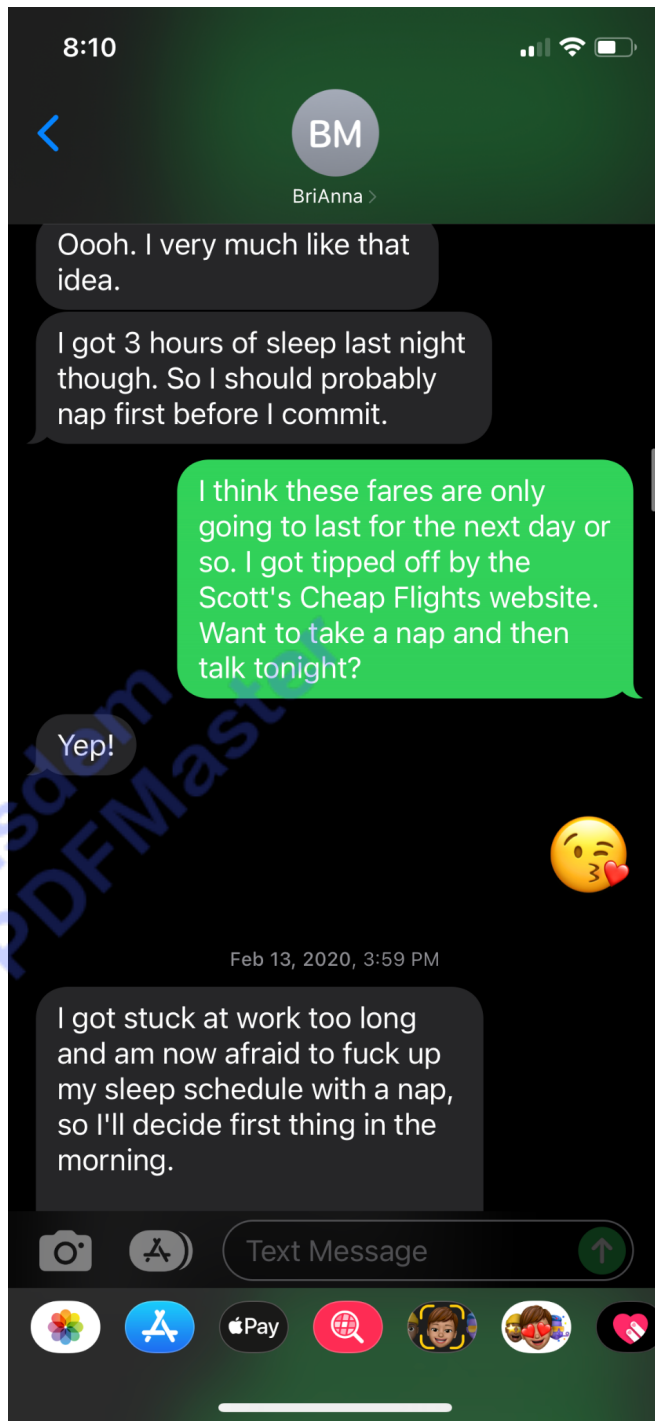
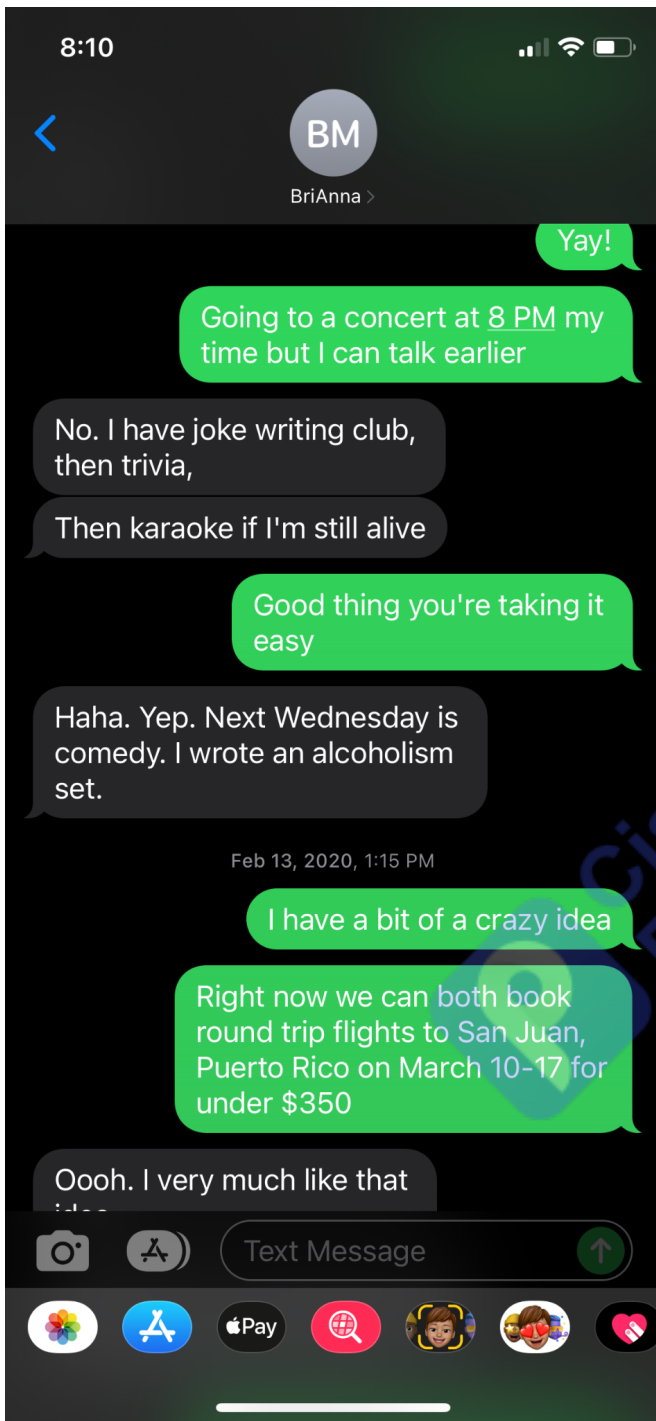


Figure 12: Texts from February 14th confirming Puerto Rico trip.



Figure 13: Texts from March 8th-9th, showing us planning our trip to Puerto Rico shortly before we left, which includes romantic emojis from both of us. She'd been using romantic emojis with me since February 20th.

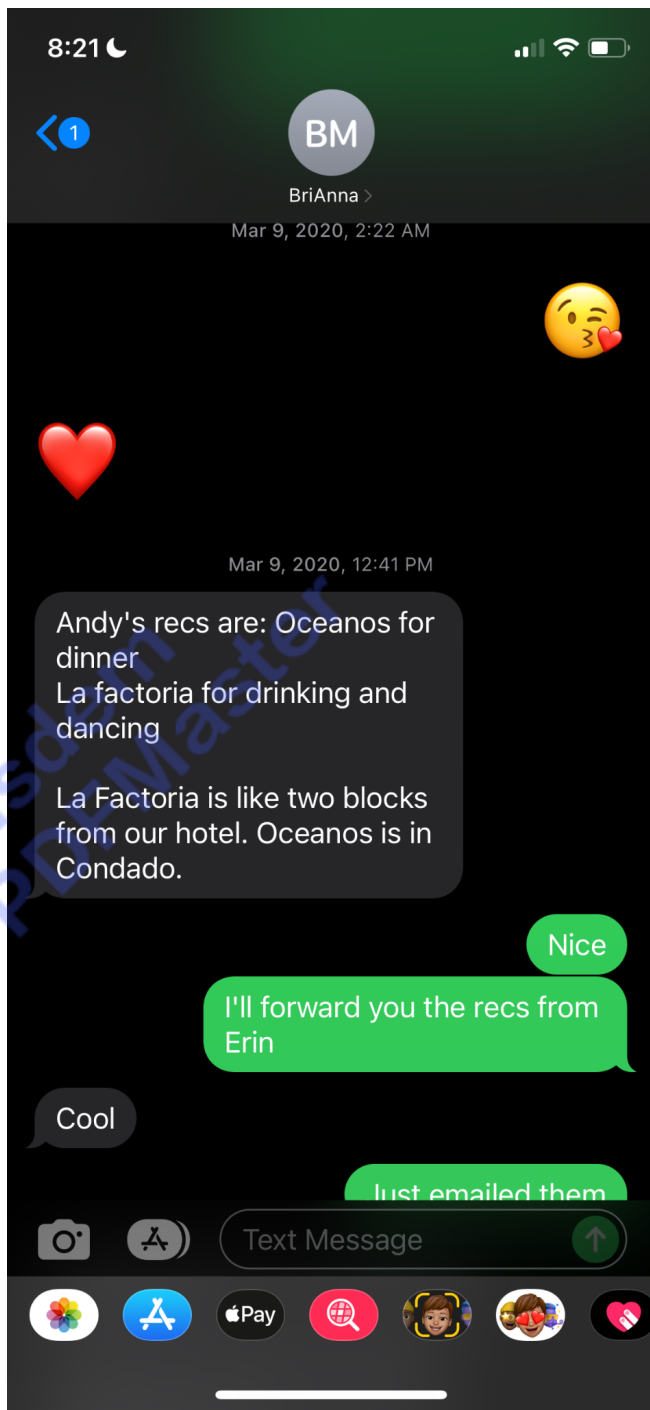
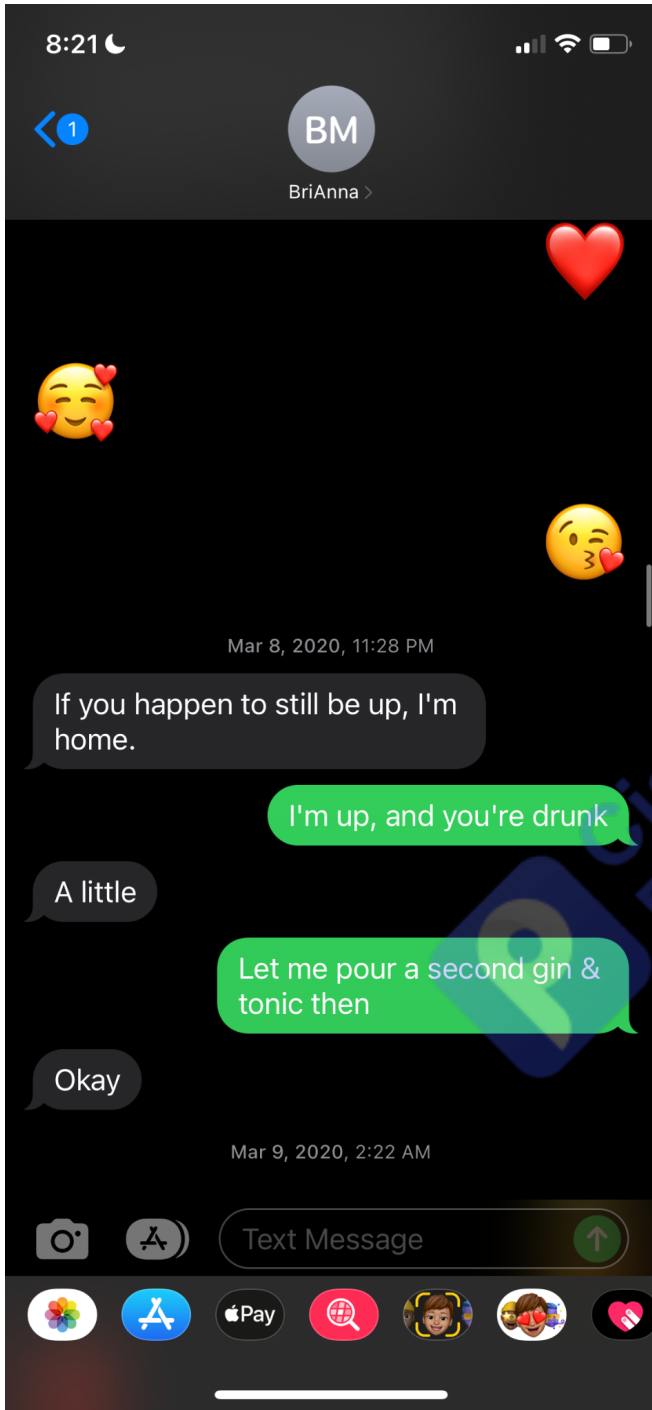


Figure 14: Texts from immediately after returning to our homes after Puerto Rico trip. The screenshot was about a COVID outbreak in her apartment building.

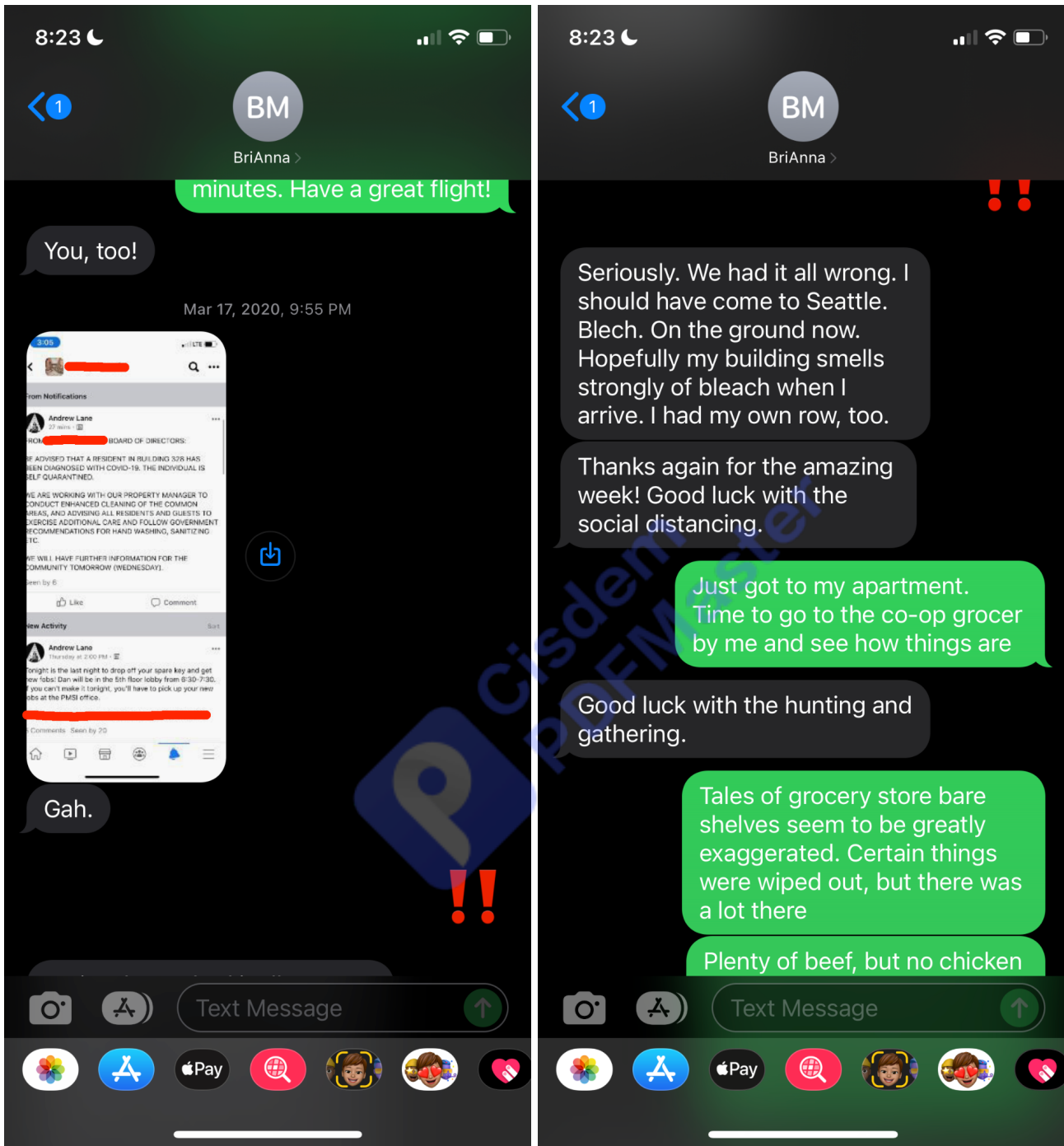


Figure 15: Texts from March 19th, two days after returning from Puerto Rico trip.

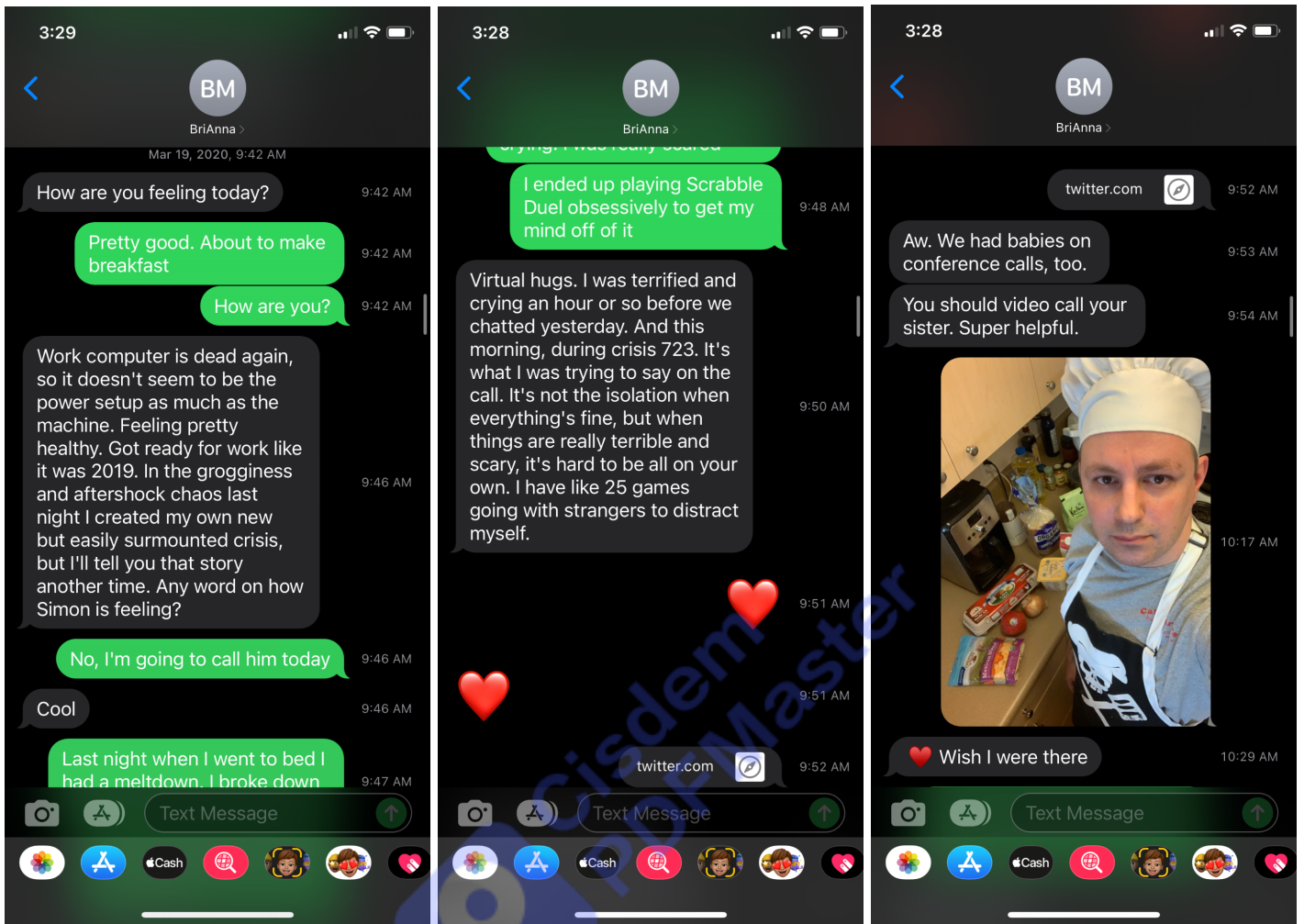


Figure 16: March 28th texts featuring us joking about my angry rants, while I was worried I had caught a cough that might have been COVID.

There is no context either in this screenshot nor in many pages before or afterward to indicate that I was talking about anyone specific when I said “somebody.” There is no discussion about Scrabble anywhere near this part of our text message history and only discussion about COVID and our stress from it. It’s clear from context both (a) that I am poking fun at the absurdity of things I have said in anger when I clearly value human life enough that I am taking social distancing measures very seriously and (b) that Lola saw the humor in my delivery.

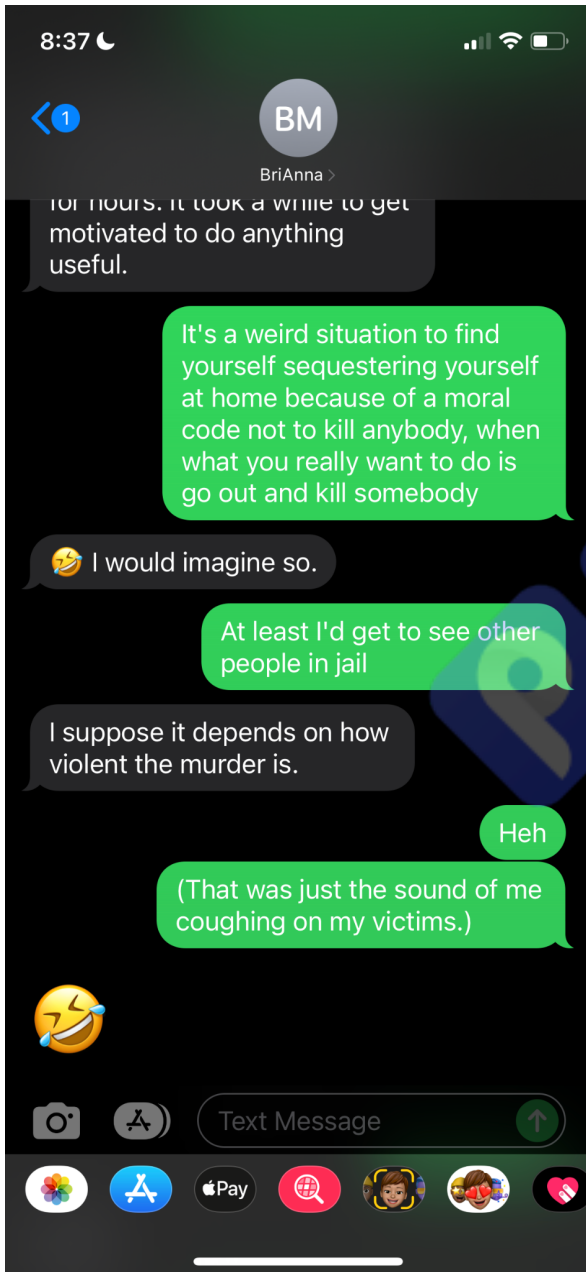


Figure 17: Texts from April 2nd indicating she wanted me to come to SLC.



Figure 18: Texts from April 9th, saying her friend Jordan supports us getting together.

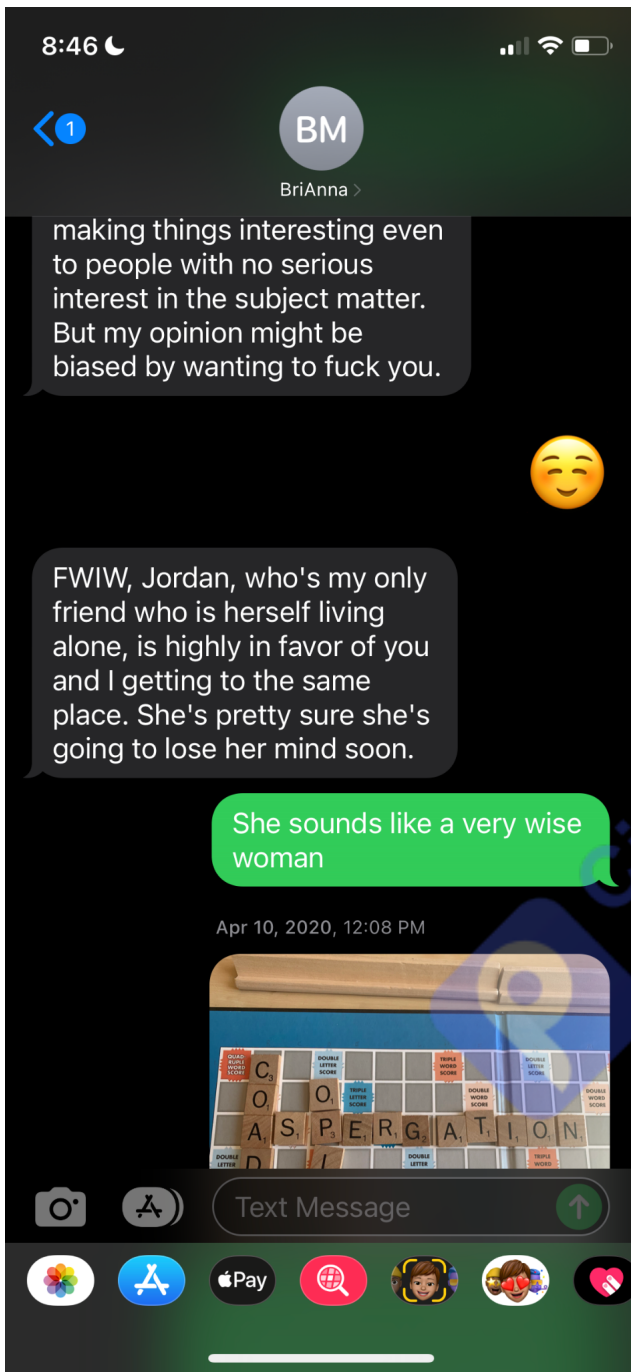


Figure 19: Text from April 10th indicating that her friend Joel also supports us getting together.

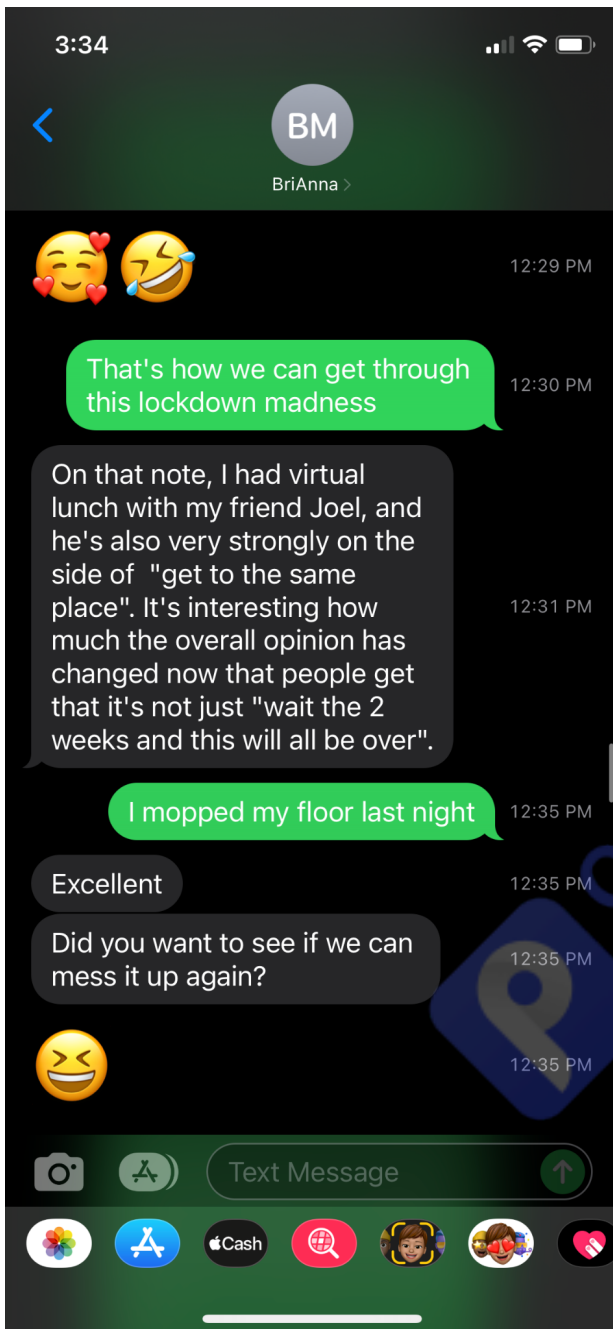


Figure 20: Texts from April 12th, telling me her family wants me to go to SLC to see her.

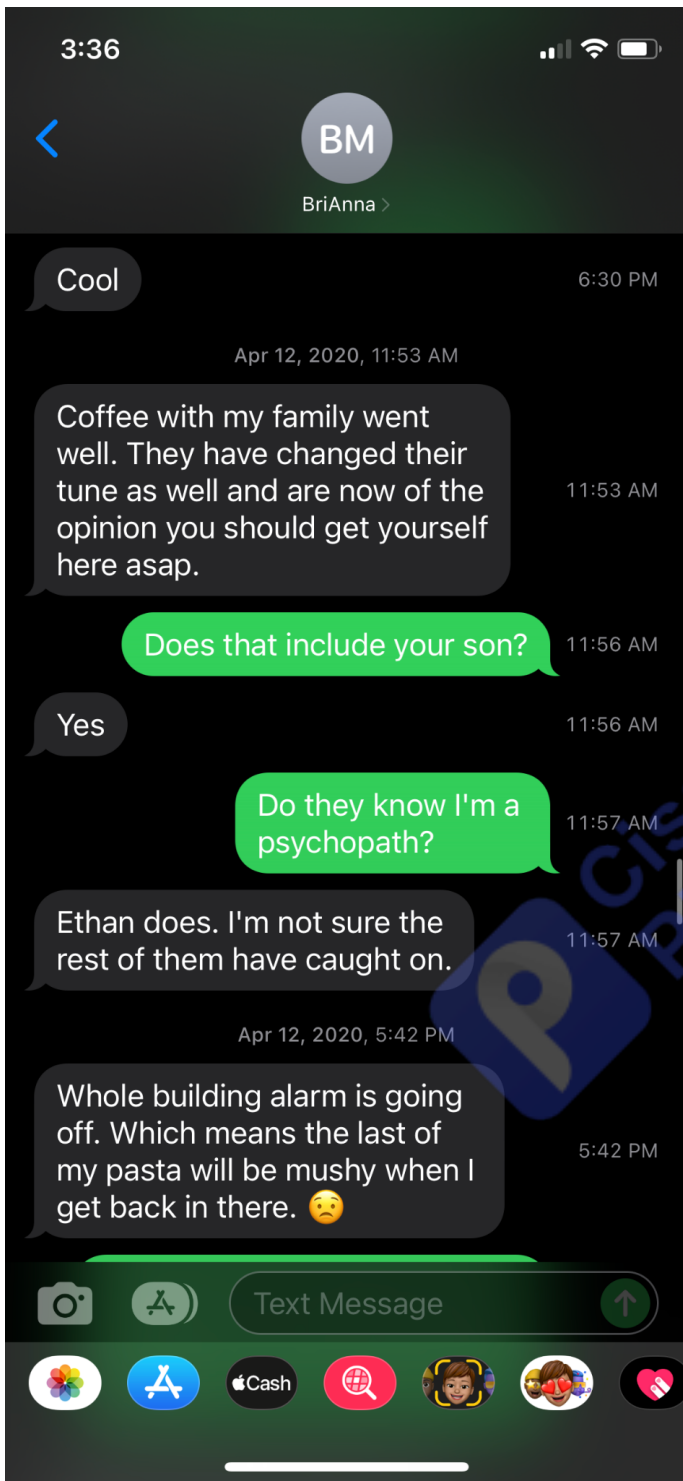


Figure 21: Long text from April 14th saying how much she cares about me.

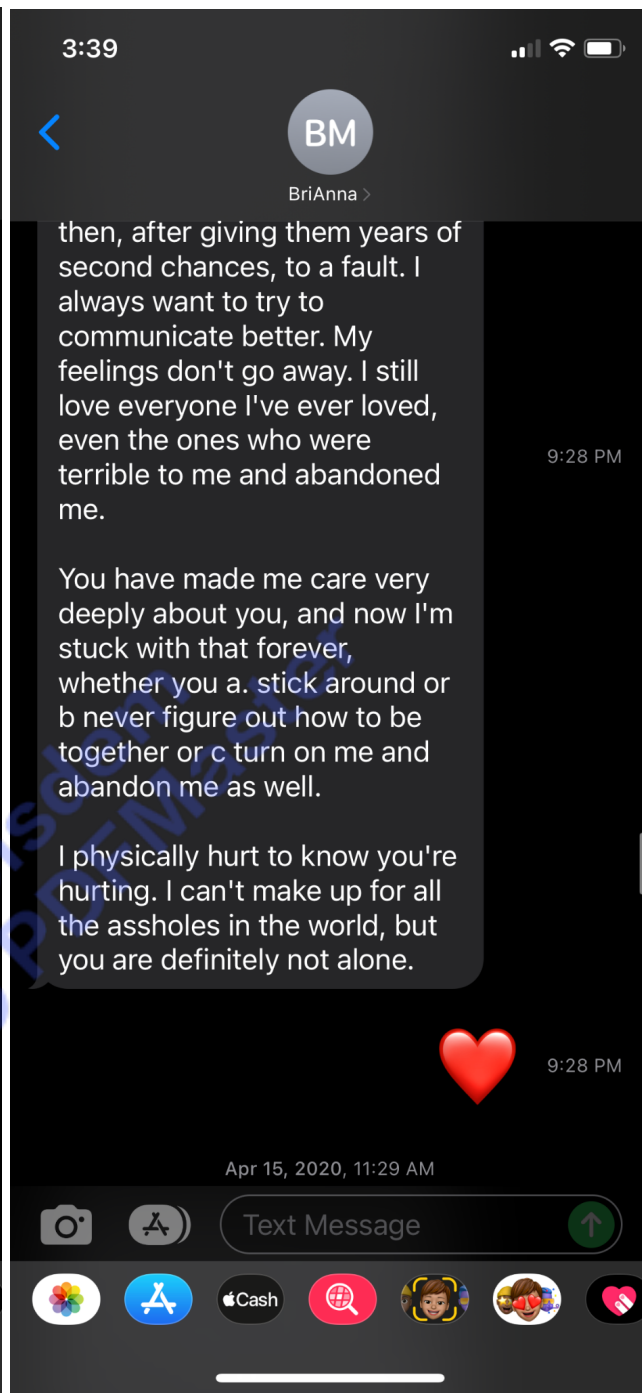
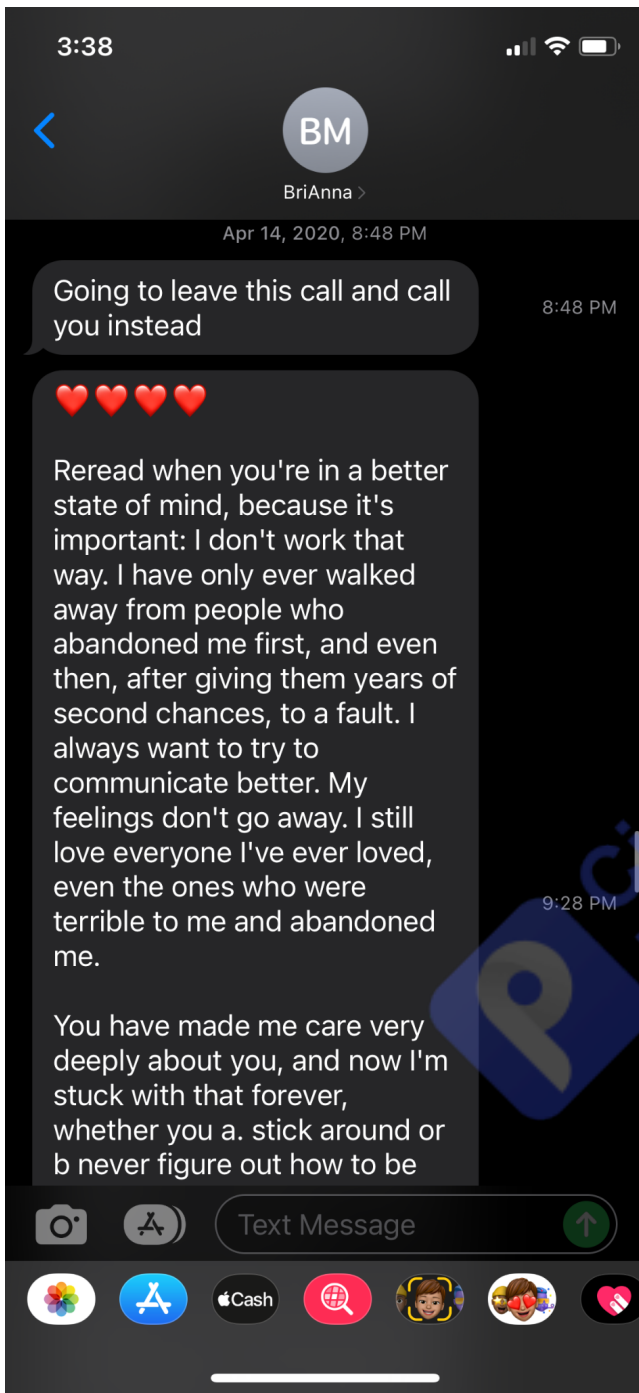
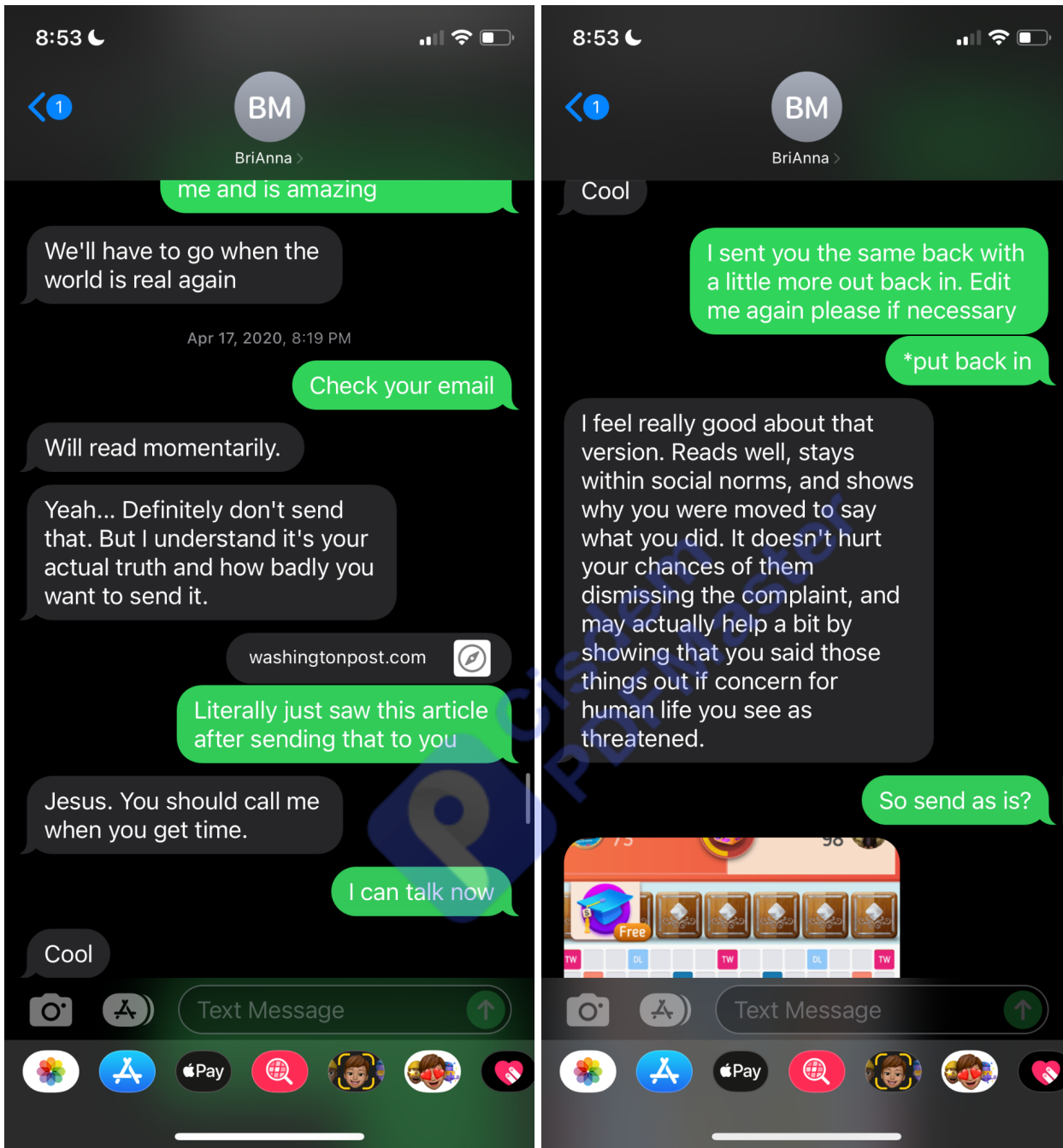


Figure 22: Text conversation on April 17 in which she helped me draft my response to the NASPA incident report about the Facebook conversation with Darrell Day.



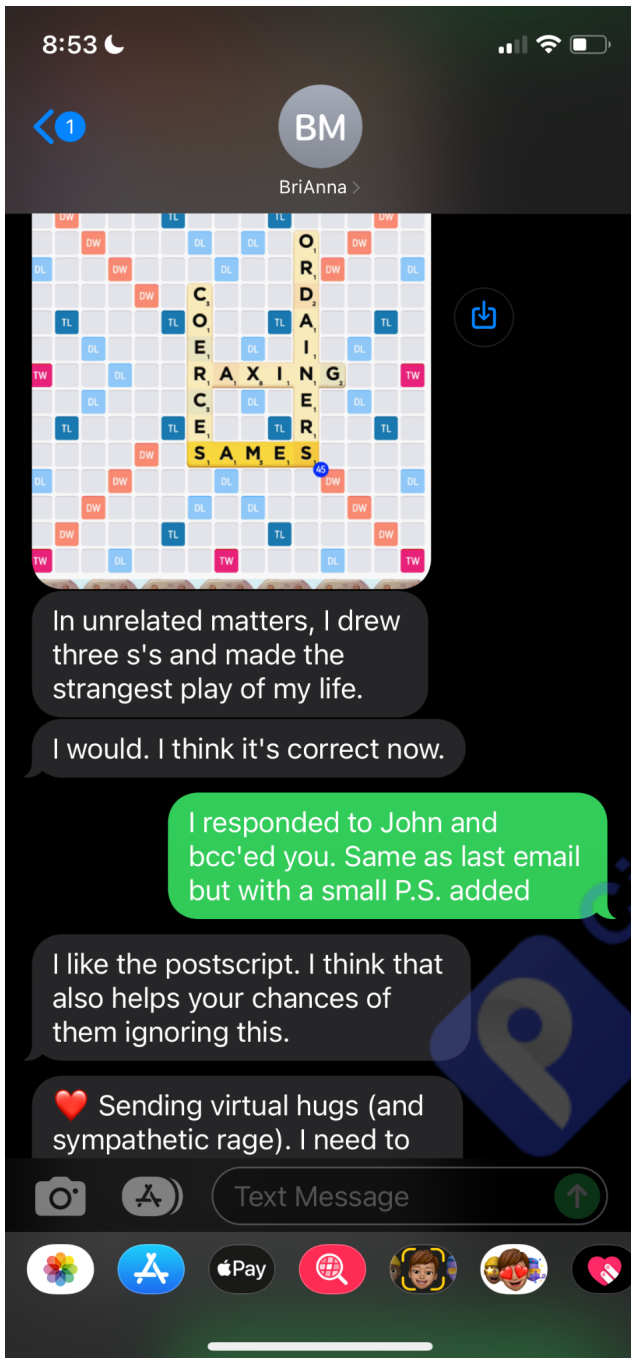


Figure 23: Texts from April 20th, talking about ordering a desk so that we would both have workspaces at her apartment and showing that she had emptied closet space for me.

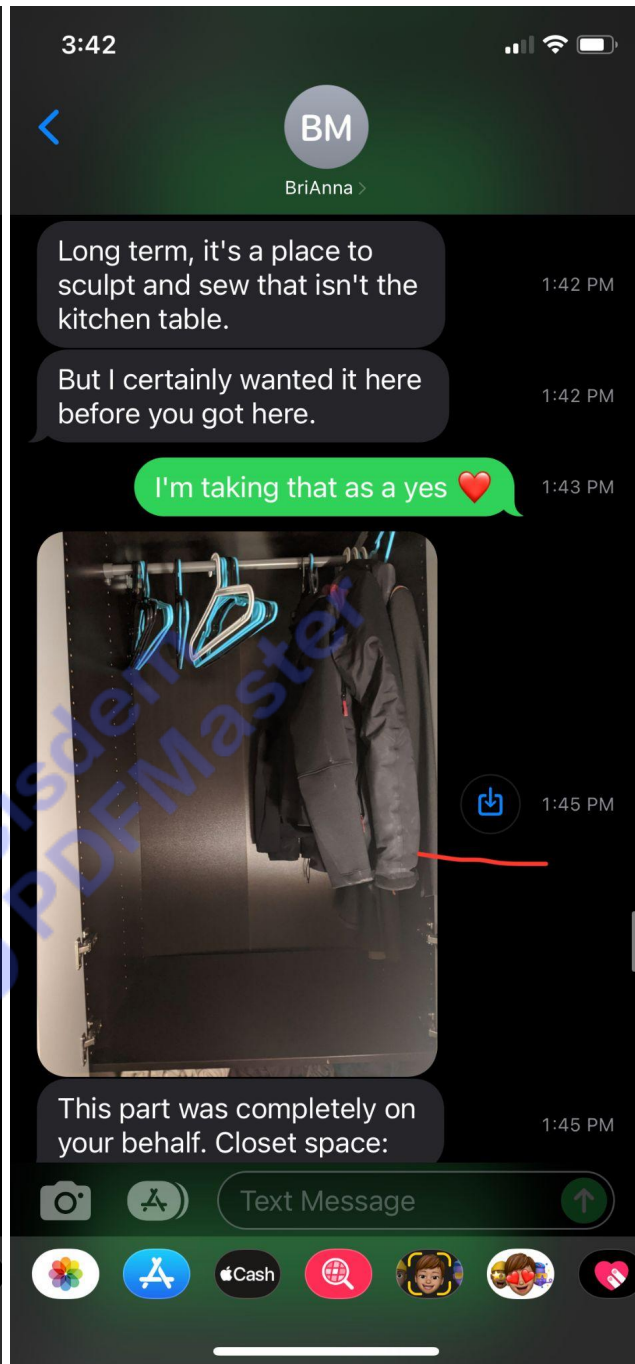
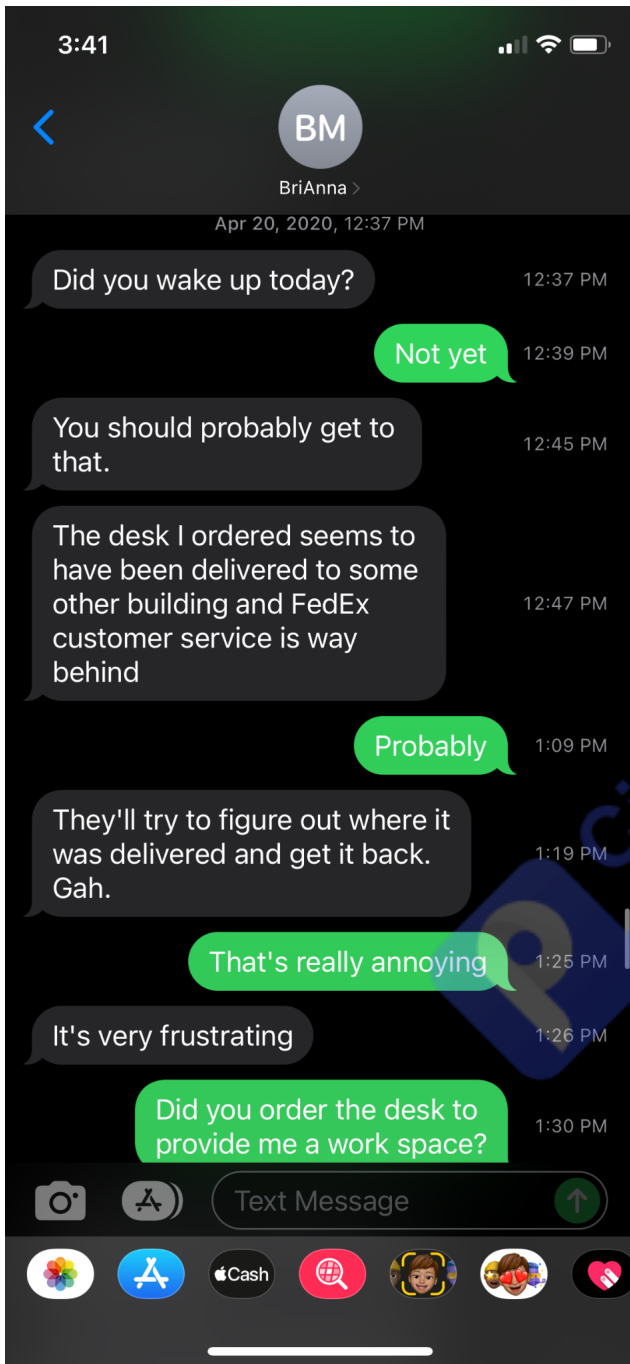


Figure 24: Texts from April 22nd, the day before I began the drive from Seattle to SLC.

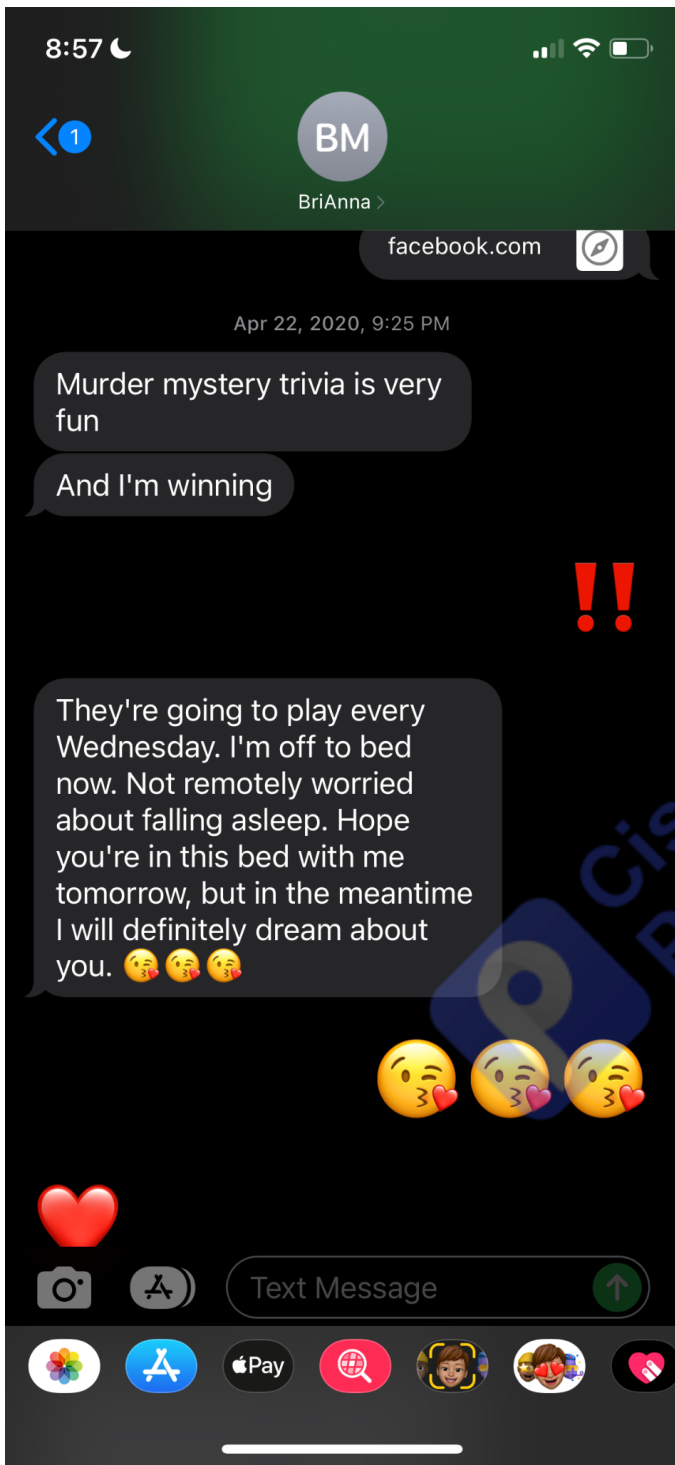


Figure 25: Texts from June 29th, two weeks after we had stopped dating and she had returned to SLC from Seattle. We were still on very good terms, and she is telling me about how she is using coffee beans that I had bought her as a gift while she was in Seattle.

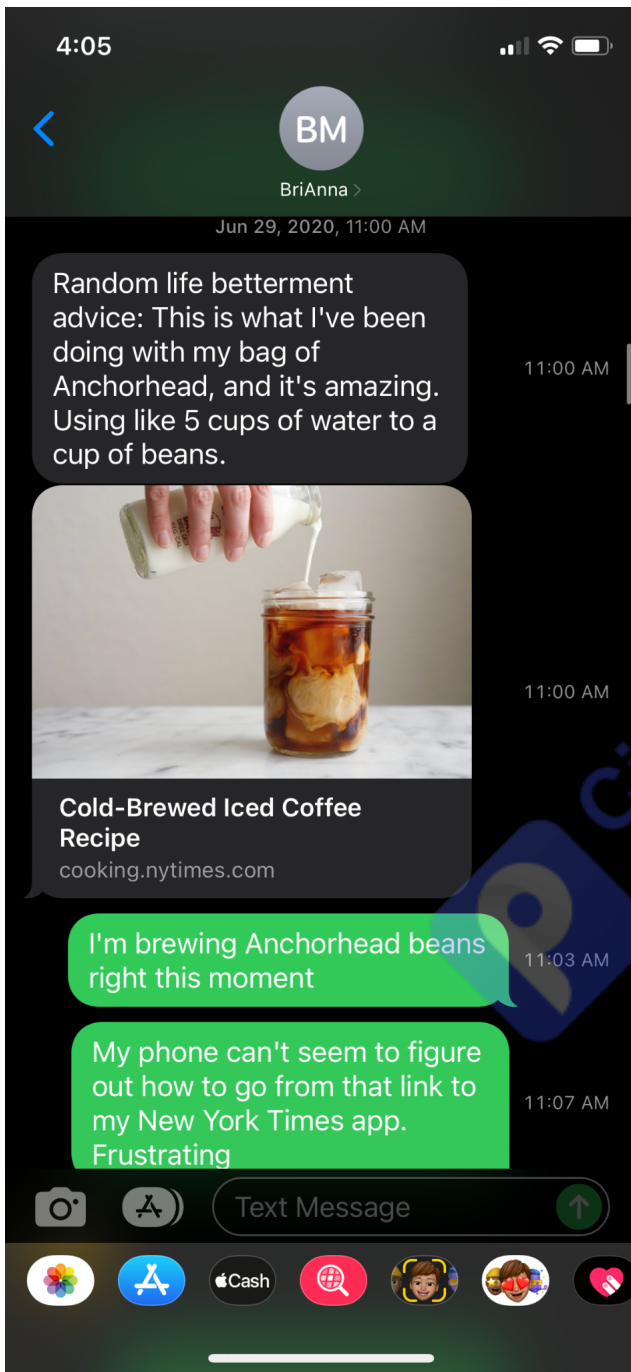


Figure 26: Texts from July 2nd where she compliments me on a Scrabble stream, three weeks after we had stopped dating.

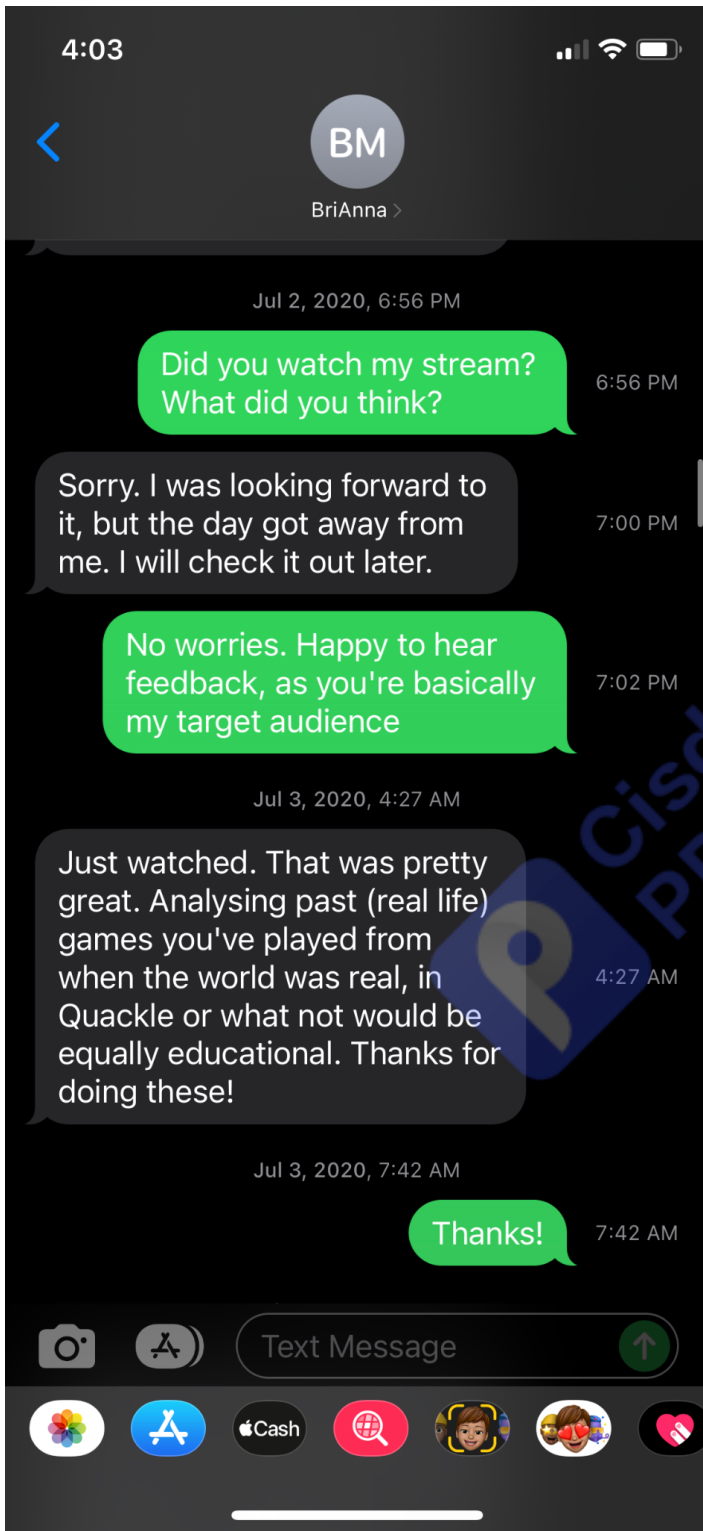


Figure 27: Our “making distance” email exchange on July 24th. We had been texting regularly up until and including July 23rd. We had a brief text exchange on July 27th just about whether she had accidentally taken a phone charger from my place. But after that, per her wishes I did not contact her again for five months, until Mina recommended that I did so.





Dave Koenig [redacted]

Jul 24, 2020, 6:12 AM ☆ ↶ ⋮

to BriAnna ▾

I'm sorry, BriAnna. I leaned on you too heavily and wasn't able to give your problems enough of my thought and attention. I am sorry that your sister is having such a bad time and that it is hurting you so much. I am starting with my old therapist again in a week, and I agree that I should be relying more on him than on my friends for things like that.

I'm very thankful that you helped me through a very dark time. And I hope that me bringing you into the Macondo/Woogles project is going to bring other good things into your life. I totally get you needing to make some distance from me right now, and I respect you telling me in a straightforward way.

I don't know how much better things can get with your sister. When I have heard you talk about it, it sounds like a pretty hopeless situation. But I hope you find a way to get peace with where things are at, even if you can't change it. And I hope you can find the friends you need to hear what you're going through in the ways you need where I have failed you.

With love,
Dave

On Jul 24, 2020, at 4:23 AM, BriAnna McKissen [redacted] wrote:

...



Figure 28: Email chain with Lola on December 11th, precipitated by Mina Le's play reading that we were both attending and Mina's recommendation that I contact Lola.



Dave Koenig

to BriAnna

Dec 11, 2020, 4:56 PM



Hi BriAnna,

It's difficult for me to know how to begin a conversation with you. The last time you wrote to me you said you didn't want to talk to me for a while, because as you rightly pointed out I was taking a lot more than I was giving, and it was exhausting you. I want to respect your desire for distance, and I wouldn't be contacting you now if I didn't think it was important that we talked.

I know that you blocked me on Facebook and Instagram a few months ago, and I'm fairly sure of what precipitated that. Chel had blocked me shortly before that and posted things on Facebook with heinous allegations that I was a rapist. I was aware that this happened shortly after Chel did this, and I've gotten some indications through other sources about some of what Chel said, but I still have never been able to see the full extent of what was alleged about me.

What pieces I know of what Chel alleged are categorically false. It's not even a question of gray area and different people's interpretations of ambiguous events. The story was a complete fabrication by a jealous ex-boyfriend of a woman with whom I had a consensual sexual relationship with over the course of several months in 2014. Furthermore, this man, who is very autistic and has lots of other personal issues, sent me a text message out of the blue making physical threats on me. The very first thing I did was to send his text message to the woman to let her know what he said. She told him that I did nothing to hurt her, and then he said that it didn't matter, claiming that I had done things to "other women" although who these other women were was never specified.

I still have the text message from him and email exchange with her that proves all of this beyond any shadow of a doubt. I am the only victim in this story. This man called me a rapist and threatened violence on me, and the only woman he named explicitly denied the charge. There literally is no female victim, alleged or otherwise. Unfortunately, this man was very connected with a lot of the karaoke community in DC, and I believed that there was no way to deal with this situation head-on that would not have made things worse. So I decided to be the bigger man and walk away. I stopped associating with that man, that woman, and virtually the entire karaoke scene that I had been hanging out with in DC for several years before that.

I believe that Chel knows this man through other karaoke circles, and he told her these heinous allegations about me, which she started blasting on social media. I had already decided a long time ago that I didn't need that particular community in my life, and I wasn't going to fight against or deal with their terrible misperceptions of me. However, because of the friendship I made with Chel and the way I connected her to other friends of mine in our online gaming group, she has started spreading these false allegations to other friends of mine beyond my old karaoke circles, which has been hurtful to me.

I've had extended conversations with Charley and with Mina and César explaining much more detail of the story I've outlined above. By far the most damage that Chel and this man have done in my life by spreading these false allegations about me is in my relationships with two people, you and Maya. I have felt distraught for the last few months that this hand grenade was thrown into my relationships with both of you, and that I have not known how to have a productive conversation to move things to a better place.

I still care about you deeply and consider you a beloved friend, even if you do not want to talk to me anymore. I want to respect whatever need for distance you have, but you have entered my circle of friends through your involvement with Woogles. Mina talked to me about the Arcadia event she is planning and told me that you had signed up for it too. We both thought it was a good idea for me to try to have a conversation with you ahead of time. She and Cesar know that you have blocked me on social media and that I am concerned about my relationship with you.

I would very much like to talk to you to sort this out, but in the end this is in your hands. I hope dearly that you are healthy and happy, and that your life and relationships with your family and everyone else around you are going well.

Sincerely,

Dave



BriAnna McKissen [redacted]
to me ▾

Dec 11, 2020, 5:24 PM ☆ ↶ ⋮

No, I blocked you because I saw a screenshot Seth Lipkin posted with the actual text of what you said to Darrell Day. It upset me more than I can describe, and I felt really bad about helping you defend it to NASPA, despite knowing they also didn't get the actual text.

This was on top of the realization we discussed before that: that our friendship is completely one sided, and does not benefit me. As a result, I chose to minimize your presence in my life. I do this because it adds stress to my life every time we interact, and I end up angry again that I put so much energy into trying to help someone who showed no interest in my well being -- not because of whatever anyone else thinks or says about you.

I know that I can not minimize it to zero. We have more overlapping friends now, and I have too much peer pressure to quit Scrabble again this time. Because Mina posted her "cast signups" I saw that you had also joined that group. I am okay with that.

I am not really interested in talking on the phone to you at this time. I will however unblock you as to minimize weird confusion in things like us both commenting on a friend's post. I am also okay with you emailing me when you feel it's necessary, like now.

We are not enemies, and you don't need to worry about things like the play reading group, or Woogles, or tournaments if that ever is a thing again. We are also not friends.

BriAnna



Dave Koenig [redacted]
to BriAnna ▾

Dec 11, 2020, 5:31 PM ☆ ↶ ⋮

Thank you, BriAnna,

I appreciate your response. I am sorry that reading my words to Darrell Day upset you. I don't understand what you said about NASPA. To my knowledge they did get complete screenshots of the discussion that Darrell and I had.

You're free to judge me however you want about my words to Darrell. But I do want you to know that I was not attempting to deceive you about what happened in any way.

I will continue to like you and be grateful for the ways in which you have been a positive force in my life, even if you don't want to be friends. I wish you the best.

Sincerely,
Dave

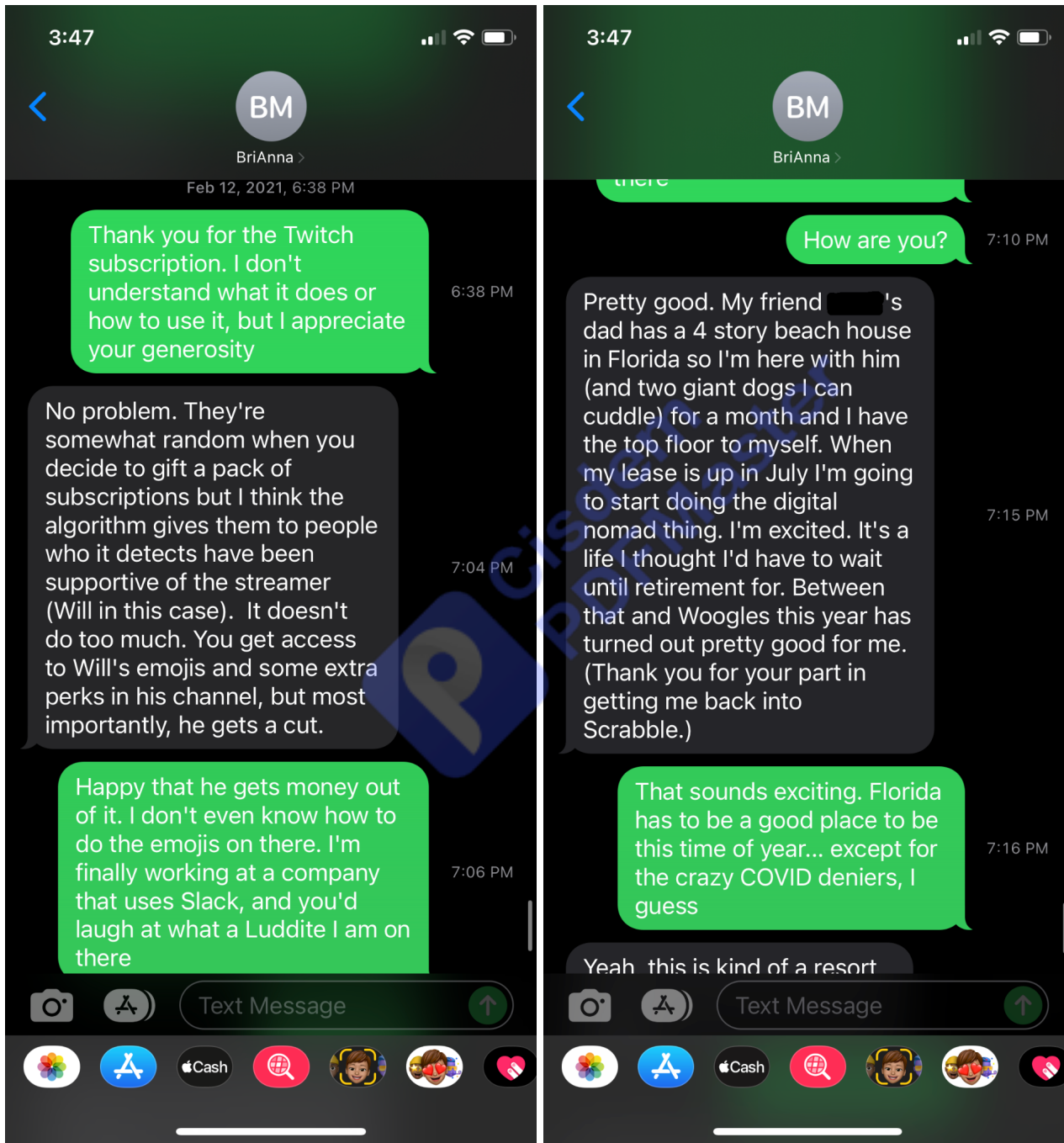


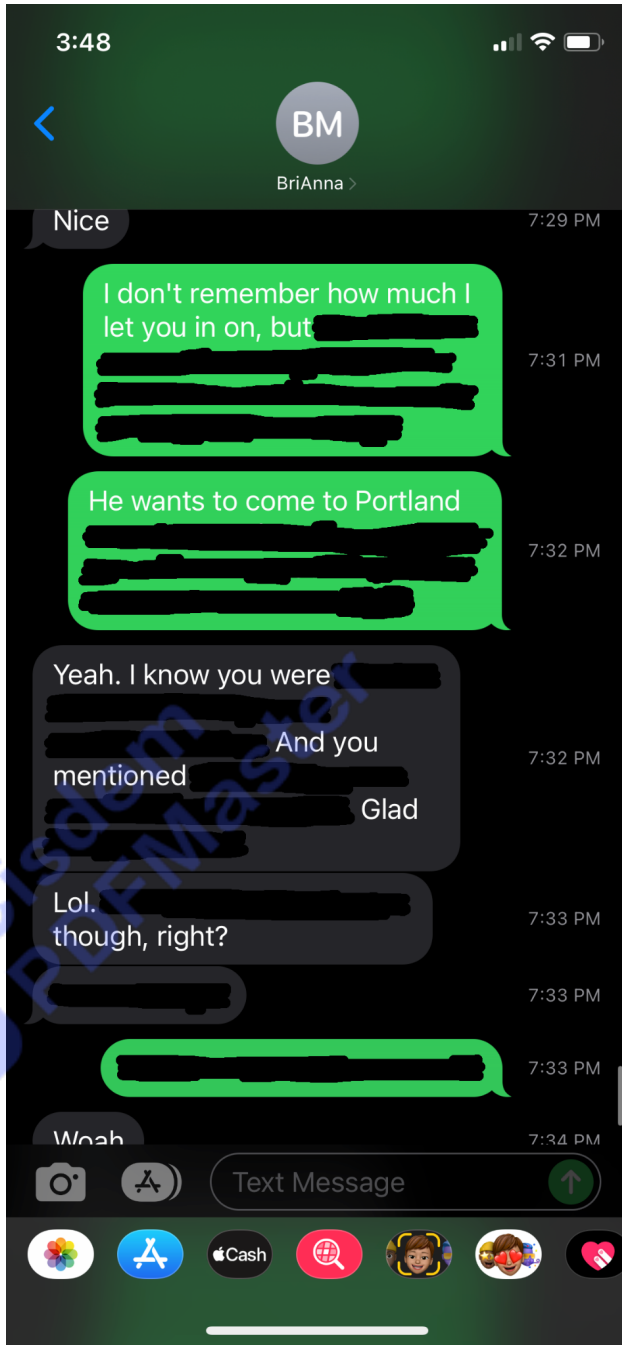
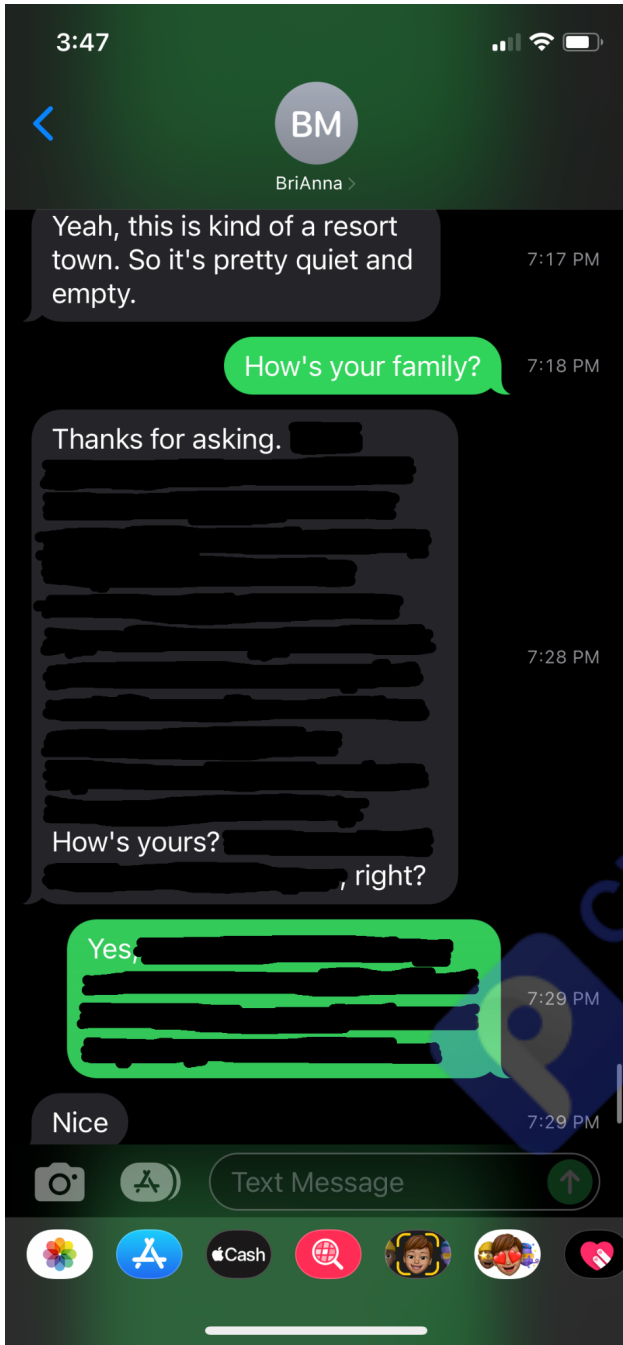
BriAnna McKissen [redacted]
to me ▾

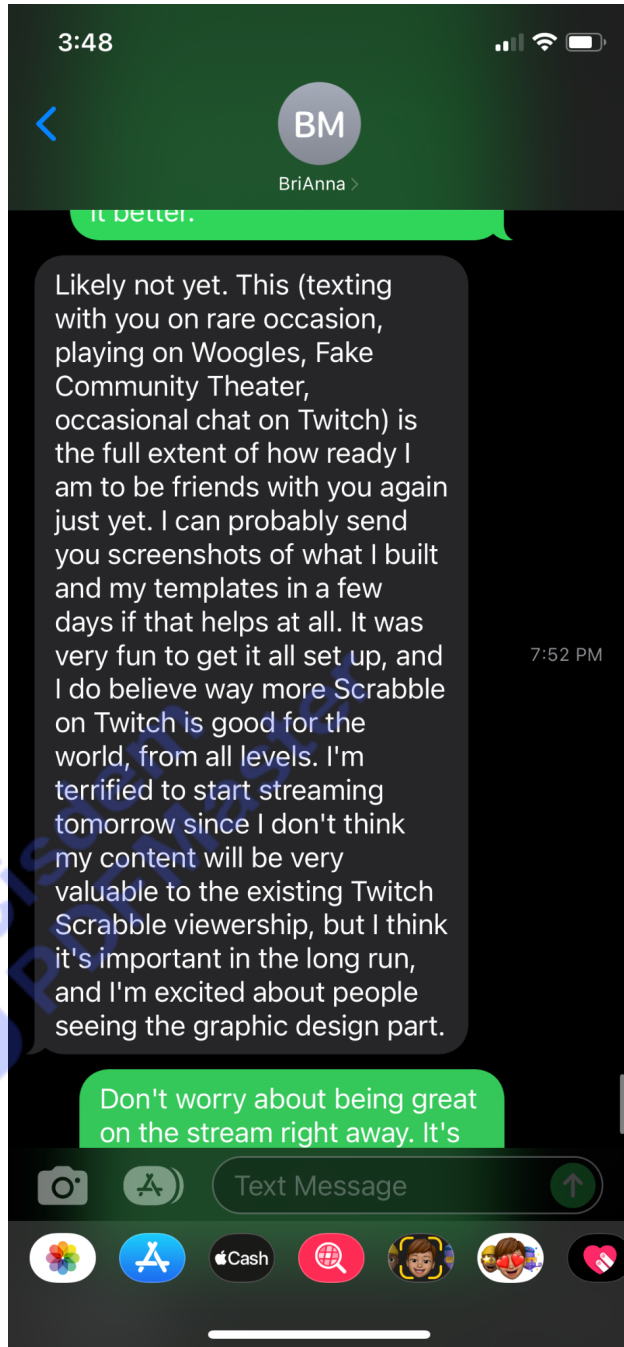
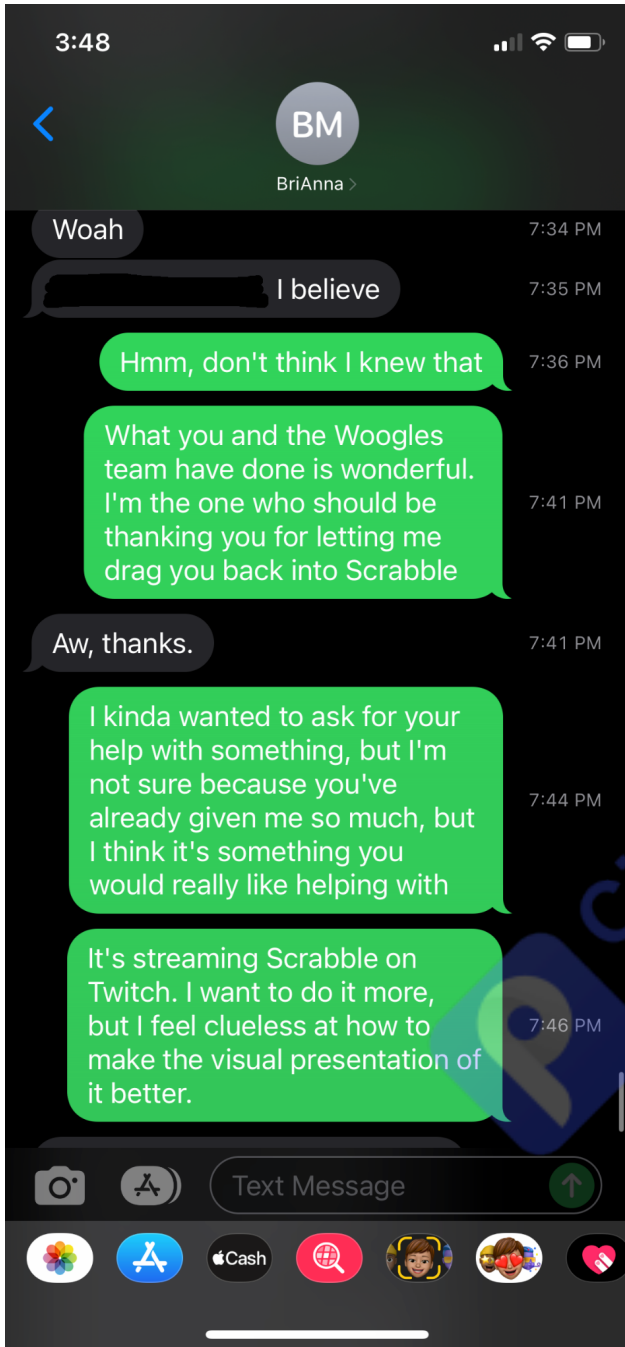
Dec 11, 2020, 5:38 PM ☆ ↶ ⋮

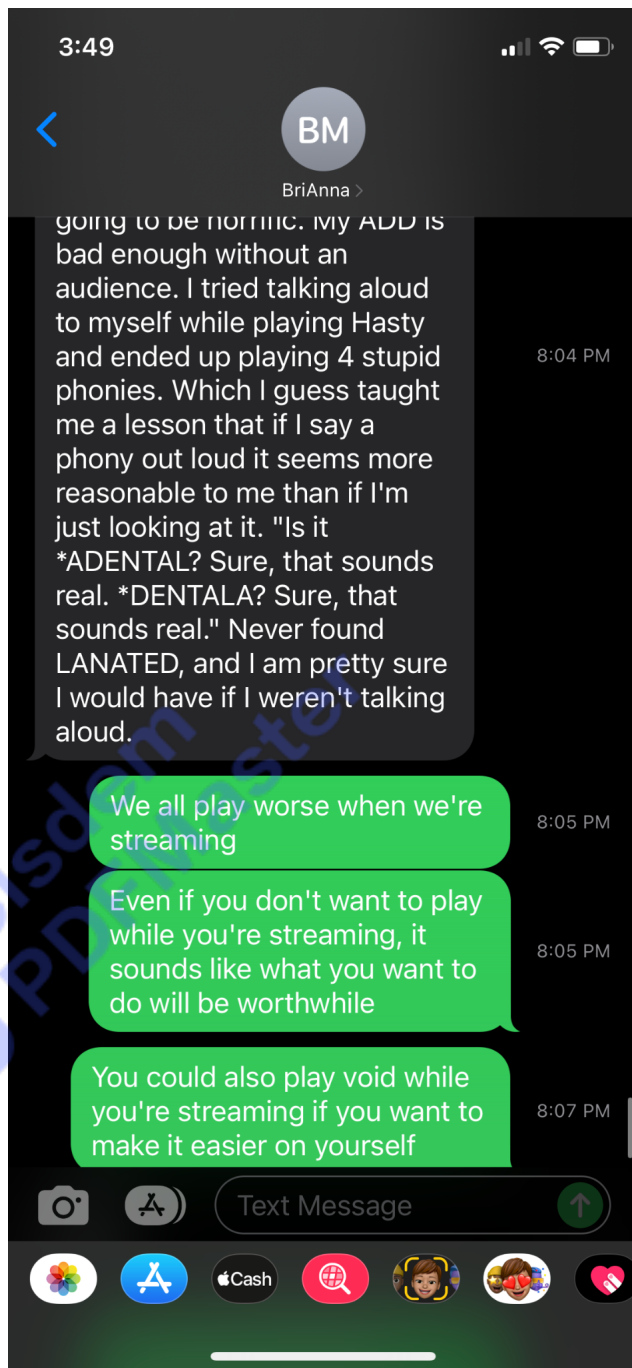
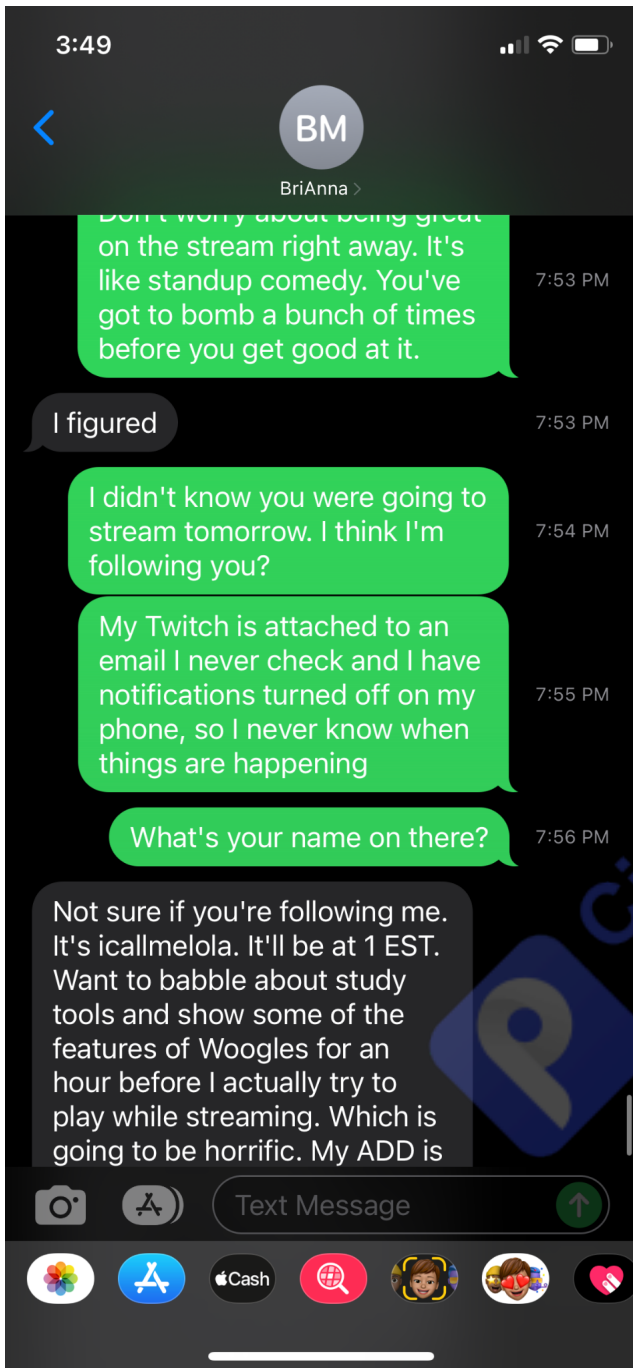
Thanks. I also wish you well. I forwarded back the email you sent me for your reference.

Figure 29: After no text conversation between us since July 2020, our only communication was the email conversation on December 11, 2020, until Lola initiated contact by gifting me a subscription on Twitch, which led to our February 12, 2021, conversation over the first eight and a half screenfuls here. (Of note, she revealed she was living in Florida, while I had already been living in Portland, Oregon for four months.) Then we exchanged compliments about our contributions to a play reading organized by Mina Le on February 27. This was the last dialogue we had over text message.









3:50



BriAnna >

I would have if I weren't talking aloud.

We all play worse when we're streaming

8:05 PM

Even if you don't want to play while you're streaming, it sounds like what you want to do will be worthwhile

8:05 PM

You could also play void while you're streaming if you want to make it easier on yourself

8:07 PM

Yeah

8:08 PM

Feb 27, 2021, 7:24 PM

You were an awesome Benedick. You stole the show, in my opinion

7:24 PM

Aw, thanks. Looking forward to watching the replay. Thanks for getting the twitch stream to work.

7:25 PM



Text Message



Figure 30: The last time I reached out to Lola via text message was on May 2nd, 2021, checking whether she wanted to meet in SLC during a business trip I might make. She did not respond, and I never texted her again.

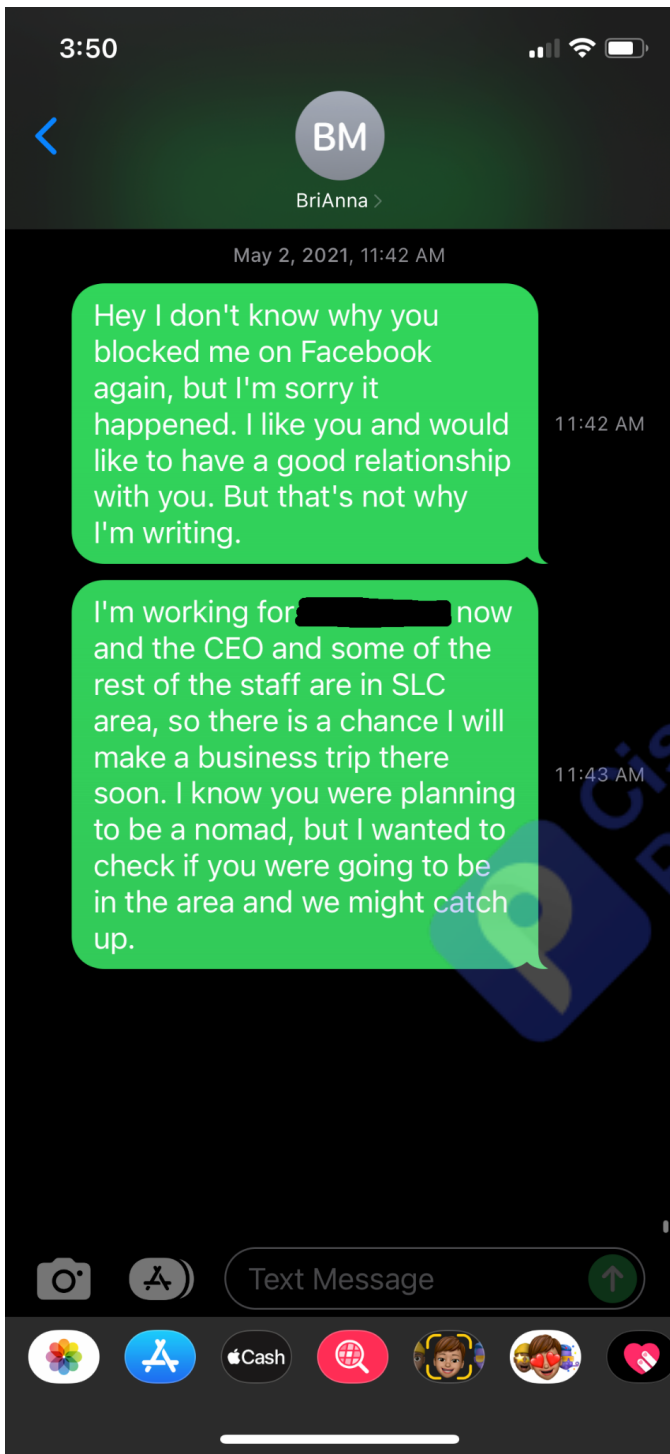


Figure 31: On August 4th, 2021, I accidentally came across this Instagram account which Lola made that showed she was living in Portland. The short conversation we had here is the last conversation we have ever had, except for our brief interactions in-person at the New Orleans Scrabble tournament in January 2022.

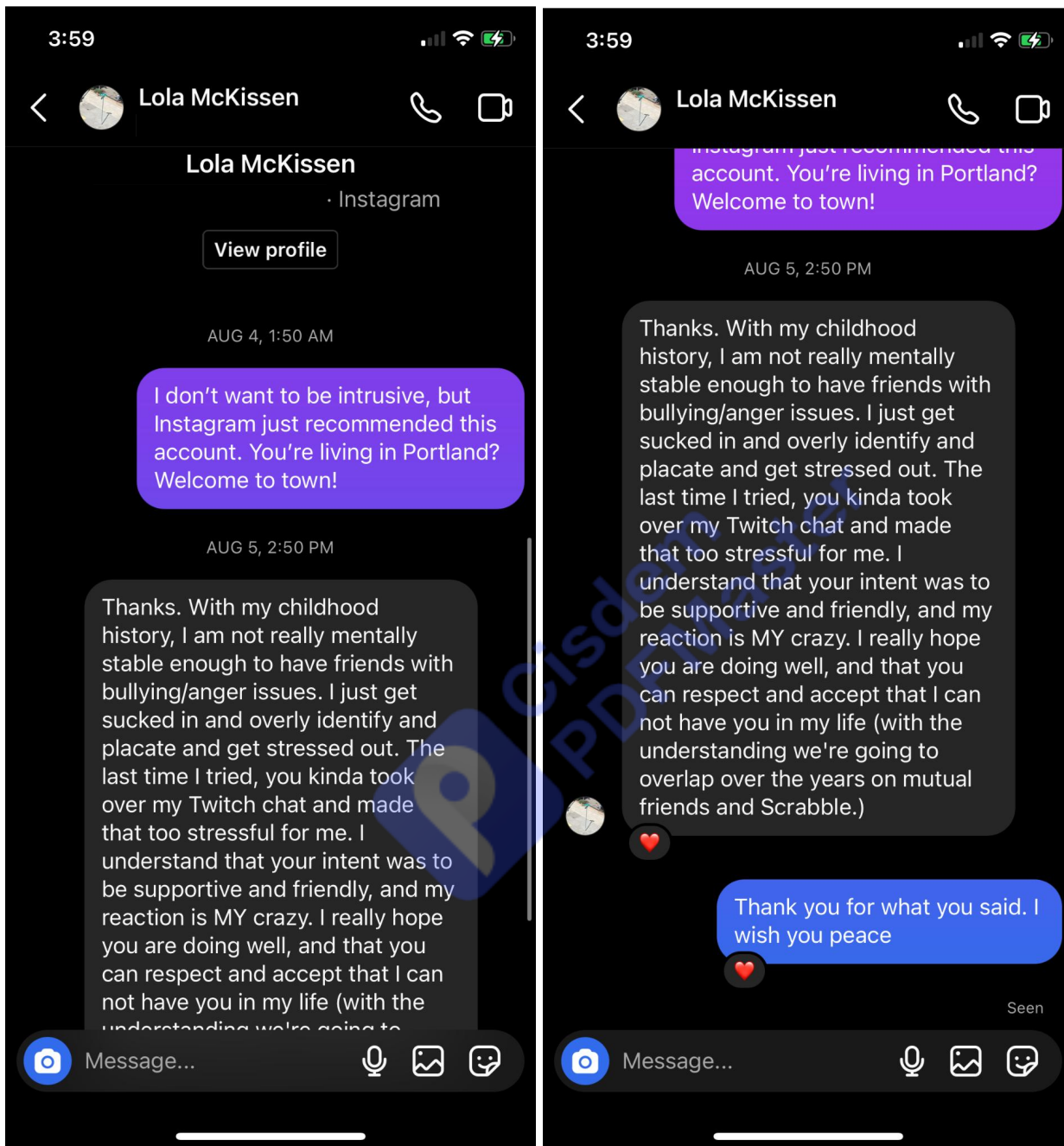


Figure 32: Snippet of email from Walker Willingham on June 17, 2018, revealing that Evans had publicly called me “an awful, awful human being.”



Walker Willingham

to me

Jun 17, 2018, 10:07 PM



Hi Dave,

I really appreciate your clarifications here, and thank you also for your acknowledgement that my taking this on was emotional labor for me. I hadn't thought of it in those terms exactly, but that's a very good descriptor.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

I had a similar internal reaction when I overheard Evans talking to someone else in a public setting that you were "an awful, awful human being." It was especially jarring because it seemed out of character for Evans, and it sticks the listener in the uncomfortable position of wondering "is there really something that bad?" Evans' comment was worse because it was stated so publicly. It may have made me wonder what it was about you, but it certainly redounded poorly on Evans in my eyes. Central to my terrible judgment of 45, known to me as "his heinousness" is his incessant bad mouthing of anyone who might throw him in a bad light, and he consistently inaccurately accuses people of terrible attributes of which HE is so obviously guilty. Anyway, you get it.

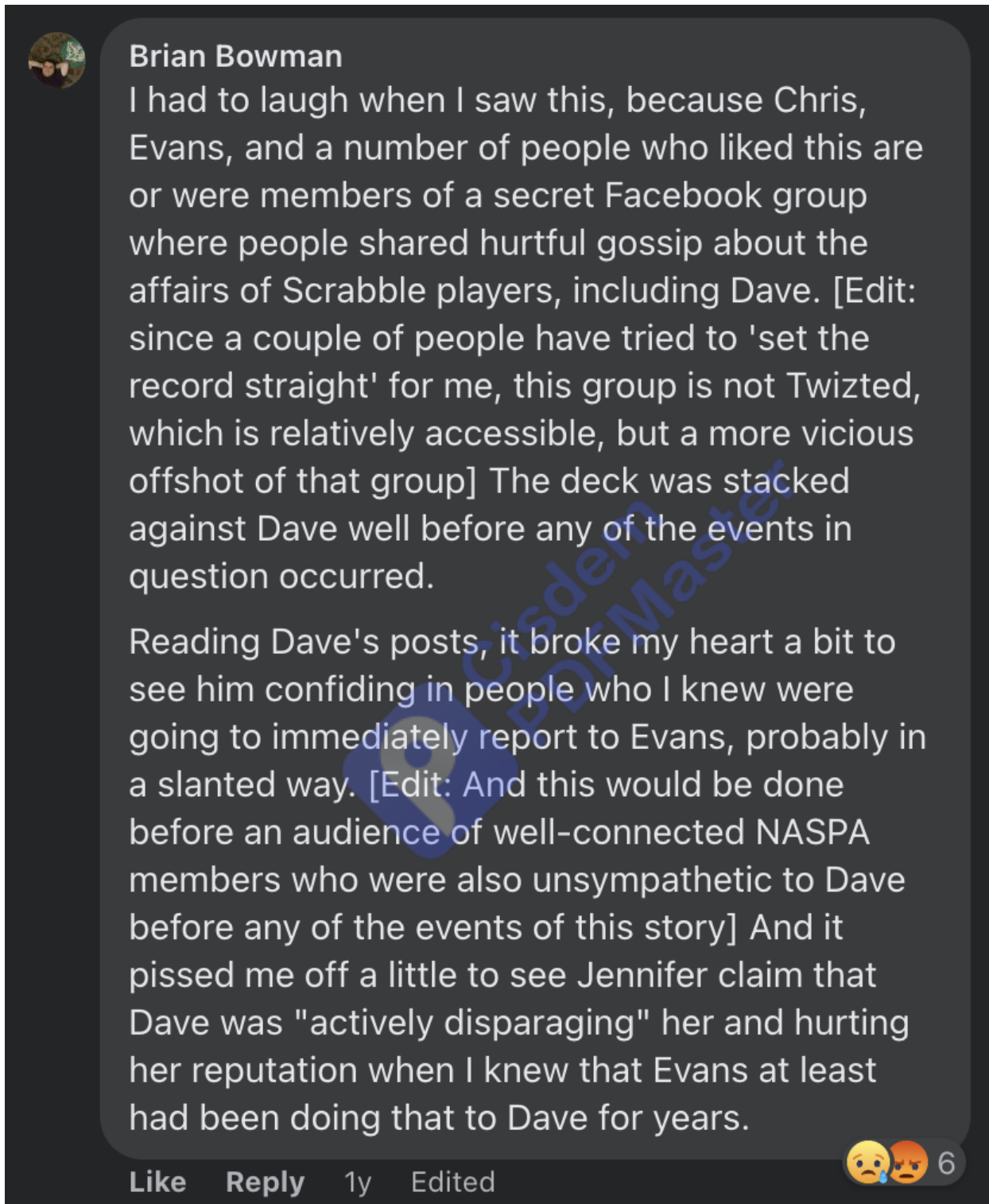
[Redacted]


[Redacted]

Your Scrabble friend,

Walker

Figure 33: Facebook comment from Brian Bowman on July 16, 2020, shortly after the publication of the splenetic.net blog, saying that he knew Evans had been disparaging me for years.



 **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.



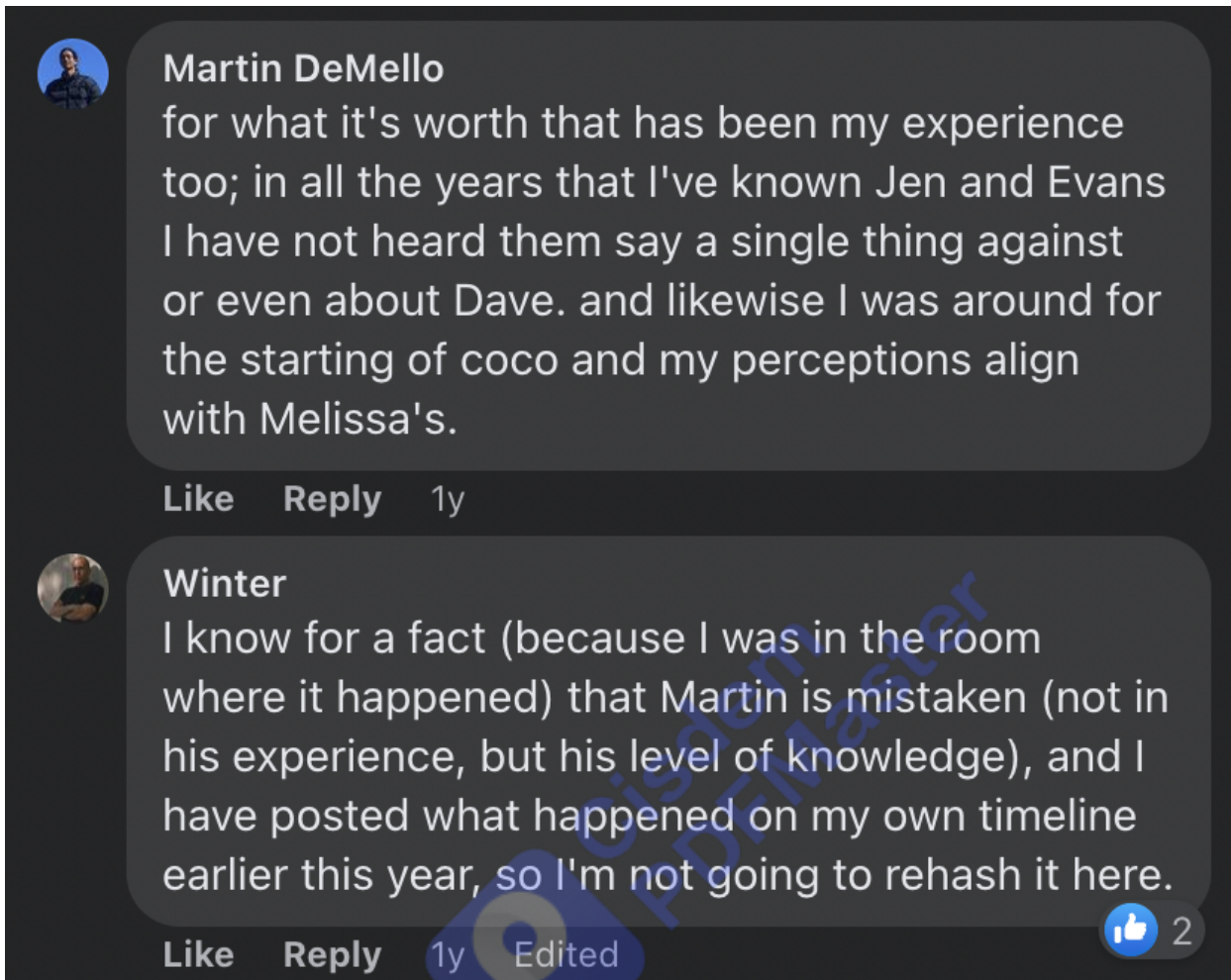
Like Reply 1y Edited   6

Figure 34: Facebook comment from Winter on July 16, 2020, shortly after the publication of the splenetic.net blog, saying that he also knew Jennifer and/or Evans were disparaging me.



The image shows a screenshot of a Facebook comment thread. The background is dark grey. The first comment is from Martin DeMello, with a circular profile picture of a man in a blue shirt. The text of the comment is in white. Below the text are the options 'Like', 'Reply', and '1y'. The second comment is from Winter, with a circular profile picture of a man in a dark shirt. The text of the comment is in white. Below the text are the options 'Like', 'Reply', '1y', and 'Edited'. To the right of these options is a blue thumbs-up icon with a white number '2' next to it. A large, semi-transparent blue watermark with the text 'Splenetic.net' is overlaid diagonally across the bottom half of the screenshot.

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 1y

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.


Like Reply 1y Edited  2

Figure 35: Facebook comment from Shelley Stevens on July 15, 2020, shortly after the publication of the splenetic.net blog, saying that she personally witnessed Jennifer and Evans badmouthing me at a dinner.



Shelley Stevens

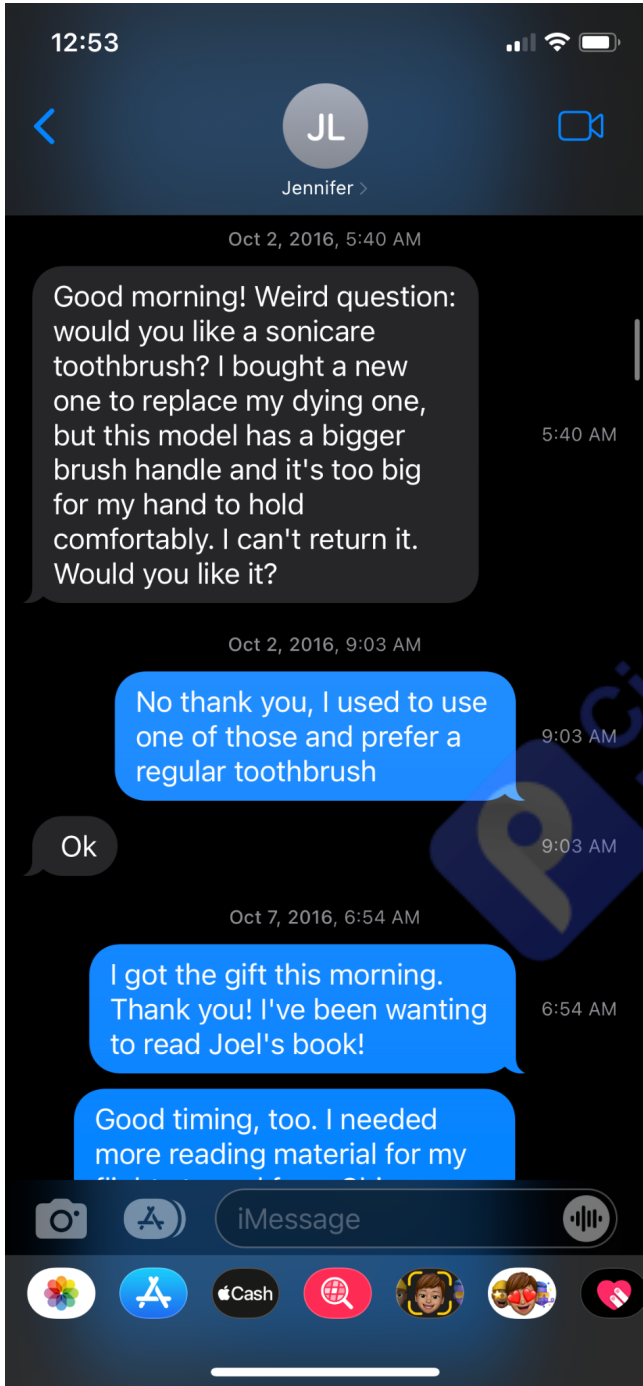
Cecilia Le have you ever been ghosted or heartbroken? Have you ever been in an uncomfortable situation with another person in your community that you KNOW FOR A FACT is badmouthing you to mutual friends and making things awkward?

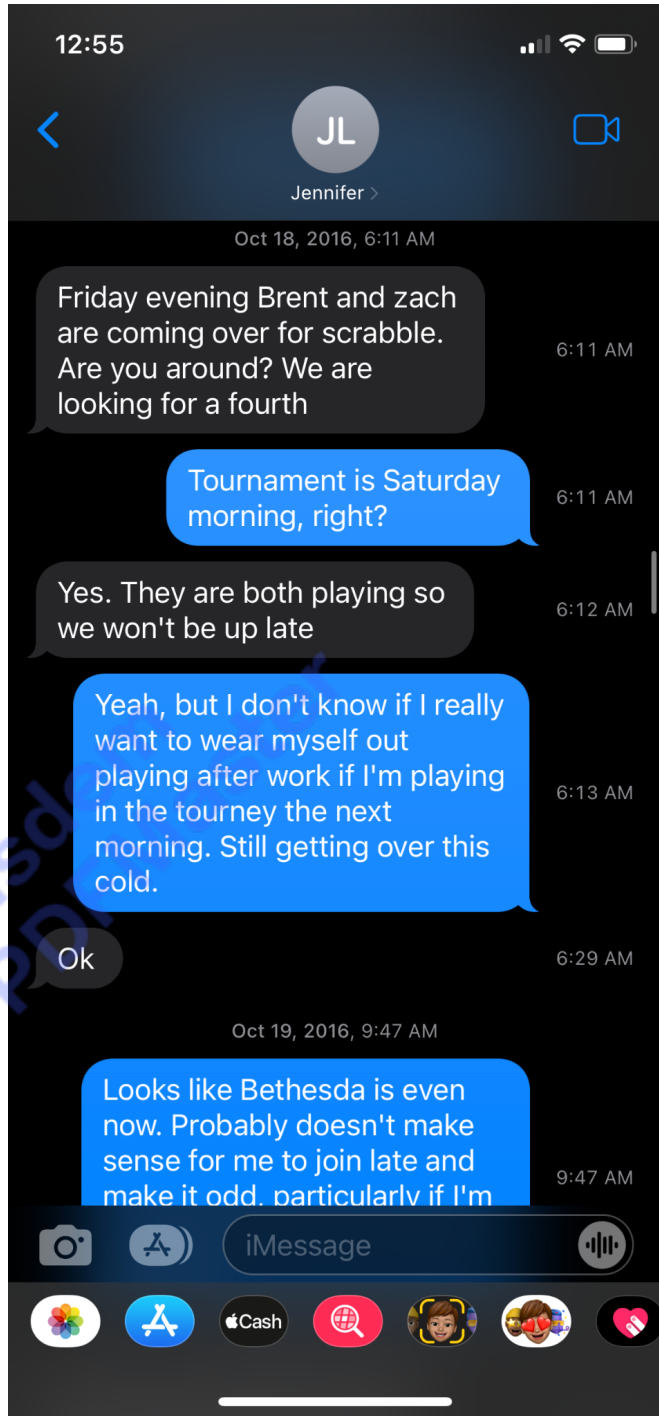
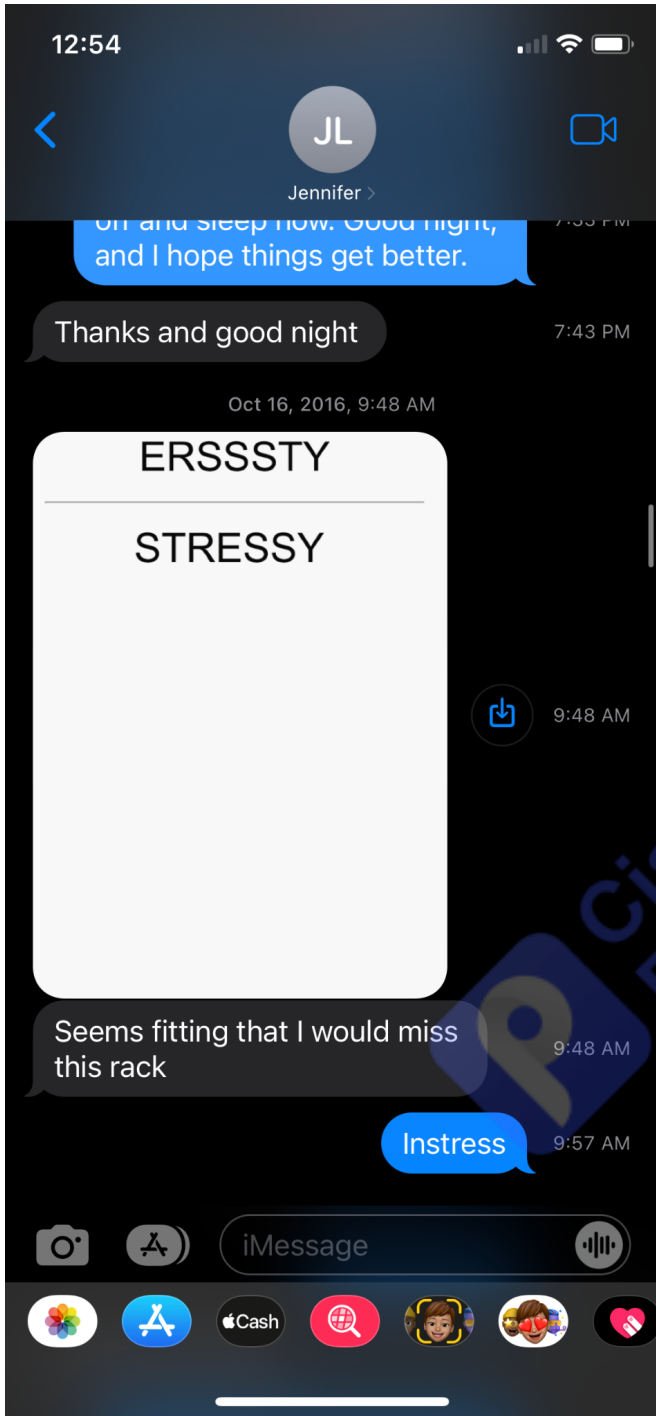
I have.

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?

Figure 36: Contradicting Jennifer's statement, "I attempted to end my informal relationship with Dave on at least five occasions, the last attempt being in person in September 2016," she eagerly kept up text communication with me throughout October 2016. Here are snippets of text conversations showing that she initiated the conversation on October 2nd, 8th, 15th, 16th, 18th, 29th, and 31st, including asking me to get together to play Scrabble on the 18th. This also corroborates that she sent me a birthday gift that month.





12:55



Jennifer >

Oct 29, 2016, 6:25 PM

I'm at Lego Land with my family. And it's reminding me of why I'm glad I don't have kids. How's your weekend?

6:25 PM

Oct 31, 2016, 1:00 PM



1:00 PM

I've now seen 2 of the 3 existing space shuttles. I really want to see the third one now so I can catch them all. Like Pokémon. I bought a really cool patch from this one's museum.

1:00 PM

Oct 31, 2016, 5:11 PM

Nice! This is in Seattle?

5:11 PM



iMessage



The remaining screenshots are from the splenetic.net blog. They are just here to save readers the time of searching through the blog for them.

Figure 37: My apology email to Jennifer on September 17, 2018, in response to her email banning me from the 2019 Hood River tournament, the only time I have made a personal communication to her since January 5th, 2017.

Dave Koenig

to Jennifer, Evans ▾

Sep 17, 2018, 5:49 PM



Jennifer,

Thank you for taking the time to write this out and give me this explanation. To put your mind at ease in one way immediately: I have no desire to escalate this to NASPA, and I respect your decision.

Let me get right to the heart of the matter.

I stepped over the line when I wrote the following two sentences: "So if you do not meet with me before New Orleans, I will say what I need to say to you directly to your face across the Scrabble board in the tournament room with all the other players able to hear. I am almost certain that if that happens you will regret not having had this conversation in private."

I was under a lot of emotional stress at the time that I sent that email, and as often happens in distressed situations, I was much more focused on my emotional needs than the impact of my words upon you. I know it may be hard to reconcile, but I did not intend to threaten you at the time that I wrote that. However, in retrospect it is obvious to me how those words come across as threatening. My mental state at the time seriously impaired my judgment. I am saying this not to defend my behavior at all, but only to explain that the words came out of a mental state that I was in a year and three quarters ago that is not at all where I am at now. I was wrong, and I am truly sorry.

Sincerely,
Dave

Figure 38: Snippet from previous draft of the September 17, 2018 apology letter. I never sent this to Jennifer, but only to Chris Lipe and Jeremy Cahnmann. It is contemporaneous evidence that my intention in submitting the entry fee for the 2019 Hood River tournament was only to give Evans and Jennifer an opportunity to express their grievances. (Relevant section highlighted. Full screenshot of email is at <https://splenetic.net/the-fallout/#figure10>)

Jennifer,

Thank you for taking the time to write this out and give me this explanation. I am not certain how much of what you wrote here you actually believe, and how much what you have written is just what you feel you have to say, to be consistent with the case you would make to NASPA if I were to challenge your decision on this. But let me put your mind at ease in one way immediately: I have no desire to escalate this to NASPA, and I respect your decision. **I don't even really care about whether I go to this tournament or not; what is much more important is resolving the tension in this situation.**

I do not have any problem with you or Evans. It is only the two of you who have a problem with me. I completely understand how the two of you have gotten to the point of having the interpretations and feelings that you do, but since neither of you has been willing to communicate with me for the last year and three quarters, you have given me no opportunity to correct the situation. As such, I have felt that the best I can do is just continuing living my life, playing Scrabble, and ignoring your behaviors and the fact that you have been afraid of me and Evans has visually and viscerally hated me ever since January of 2017.

I signed up for this tournament, not out of any desire to make life difficult for the two of you, but simply because it is what I would have done if you two were not behaving the way you were, and I thought it might provide an opportunity for you to actually address your problems with me. I am glad that you have done so.