

September 9, 2022

As the statements that Steve included in his complaint were not written for this audience, I would like to take the opportunity to say that everything I said in my statement to Woogles and letter to Jennifer I believed to be true and correct at that time.

I will correct here where I have learned new information, where I think things are being misunderstood, possibly willfully, and where I now believe my writing could be clearer or I had omitted information I deemed irrelevant.

In responding to Dave's claim that my statement is almost all lies, I cannot be completely sure which parts he's arguing against, because his chain of events matches what I have shared, with just a few conflicts and many omissions and misrepresentations. I will attempt to highlight the omissions and lies in his version, and clarify where I think I could be being misunderstood.

### **My supportive and/or romantic texts**

The inclusion of romantic texts, kindness and compassion is very confusing to me here. He seems to be trying to present as proof that I did not feel the way I felt. César also says that I am misrepresenting the relationship.

I hope no one is reading what I wrote as if I'm saying there weren't good parts. Of course there were. If I hadn't dated him I wouldn't have gotten addicted to this game again, and that has worked out very well for everyone, in my opinion. I'd been able to express my

wishes for the game and its online presence, which led to him pointing out Cesar's Facebook group message looking for my skills. Puerto Rico was beautiful and delicious, and I loved Seattle and Capitol Hill.

It probably looked like a pretty happy normal relationship, given how hard I was working to keep Dave from getting upset or angry. I have never wanted my partner to be happy all the time more in my entire life. I feel like I explained this in my statement, but I'm willing to try again.

When you believe that the only way to keep yourself safe is to keep someone on your side, and when you believe that what's really wrong with this person is that they are in a lot of pain, and when you believe that having some friendship and love and compassion will heal them, that's what you offer. Wholeheartedly. And you don't get to just pretend to care. You care. And you don't get to stop caring when you realize it hasn't helped and can't help. I still care. I still do not wish to see him to suffer. He is a human being and he is in pain. This does not mean he gets to inflict the suffering on others.

You may not be able to imagine what this was like, and you may feel you'd have behaved differently. All I can tell you is how I felt and why I behaved as I did.

### **The Decision to Live Together**

His use of screenshots and mentions of the fact that I had talked to my family and friends about him driving to Salt Lake is also confusing. I don't quite understand how that's different from what I said, but I can say that those conversations were about my

concerns about whether letting him move in for a while was a really stupid thing to do. Particularly with Jordan, I was discussing Dave's violent rants and my hopes that he was just a good guy in a dark place, angry, isolated (in the social support system sense, as well as the pandemic sense), and in pain due to a horrible ex.

And at this point, none of his anger had been directed at me, other than a minor blowup about me choosing a frozen pizza from the convenience store when the restaurants closed down that made him sick. Maybe the rage I saw up to this point was temporary and being heightened by the pandemic stress and he just needed to have someone on his side. I believed this for a very long time.

### **Darrell Day**

In reference to the Darrell Day threat, I am attaching the emails that are referred to in his screenshot. As we both agree, I did not have access to the words of the threat. I am attaching the emails referenced by those screenshots. Later, Dave and I argued about this incident repeatedly. I continued to express concern that he would risk everything he cares about to intimidate a Trump supporter on the internet (while believing the extent of that threat was a quick "I'll smash your fucking skull" comment), that it was alarming that he couldn't see why he shouldn't, that it was concerning that he wished to inspire others to murder Trump supporters, and that it seemed like behavior he wouldn't logically arrive at. The original draft in the email shows his point of view. He yelled at me to stop bringing it up.

Many months later, when I saw the actual text I'd help to defend I was horrified, as already stated, in the emails Dave attached.

The email also shows that his wish for violence is not simply venting in anger. He hopes to inspire others to commit the violence.

*"I would consider the act of murdering him ... to be completely morally justified. More lives would be saved by eliminating those who would cast votes causing so much more death. That doesn't mean I'm going to do it myself. I'm not a murderer. I've never even hit another human being. But I believe it is justified. And I speak with the rhetorical intention of normalizing this attitude. I want more people to be enraged that this Republican administration is literally killing us. And that those who continue to support them are complicit in that violence. And if I can enrage enough other people that someone else kills people like Darrell Day, then I will consider that a good day."*

### **The Murder Fantasies**

Dave does not deny having murder fantasies. The difference between his account and mine is that he purports the revenge fantasies as being “off the cuff” and minor. It was every single night for hours in which he was in a terrifying, shouting rage, despite any of my protestations about my needing sleep. There are 52 nights from April 24th through June 15th. I can concede that the number of hours is an estimate. He has said many times to me and others that he wouldn't actually hurt anyone. However, he also said that

if he did kill the Clinchys and ended up in prison, it would be worth it because the world would be a better place.

I find it strange that he can both express sympathy for how this traumatized me, “I am highly sympathetic to Lola’s situation. I understand why she felt that she needed to lie. There was a period of time from early 2020 until mid-June when I exposed a lot of my inner trauma to her. I admitted many angry thoughts to her,” and then claim that I’m lying and that my state of mind was that I was fine.

In reality, I expressed my fear often. The psychopath jokes he includes in the screenshot originated from me trying to make light when I tried to tell him the impact the fits of rage had on me.

I even told him that I was afraid of what would happen if someday he became angry with me and decided I had betrayed him. He said he would never hurt me, because I could never do anything to him like what he believed they had done. This is seared in my memory, and part of why I reacted as I did when he said I had betrayed him.

New Orleans

The interaction in New Orleans is very, very different in my version.

1. My statement was shortened for brevity and that makes it slightly out of order. I lump all of the things I said to Dave into one sentence: “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.“ These statements were spread out more than that, as described below.

2. I also want to clarify that he was in a rage from a few sentences into speaking until he said I'd betrayed him, at which point he relaxed, as I stated to Jennifer and Woogles.
3. He talks about asking about the "hoax". What he said was, "Have you been spreading Chel's lies?" I reiterated that I don't care about that, and don't remember having mentioned it. Had it ever come up in conversation with Conrad, when I told him about the play reading group emails? Possible. I have no idea. In his statement, he then says that I said that things I told Conrad may have been the last straw. Those things are included in my statement: this is when I told him I had told Conrad I am afraid of him. I also told Dave I think he's a psychopath, and that I don't want anything to do with him.
4. Dave says, “She made clear that she still thought Evans and Jennifer were doing the wrong thing by excluding me, but when I pointed out that she was playing with their group and implicitly supporting them, she admitted a bit of hypocrisy. She wanted to get games and that’s where they were.” This is not the conversation and is false. I did not say they were in the wrong or admit any hypocrisy. I said I’d been playing the CoCo tournaments and would continue to as they were what was available in the area, upon which he said that the Clinchy's should be ineligible to be directors based on what they did. I said “From your perspective.” He said “What?” and I repeated. “From your perspective.” I told him I have never heard either of them even mention him, or heard anything about the lies he's sure they told.

5. This is when he relaxes and says “So you know. I feel more betrayed by you than by anything Jennifer and Evans did.”

After I delivered my statement to the Woogles team, César Del Solar messaged me on Slack and said that he had discussed the events I reported to him on January 20 with Dave, and that the part where Dave’s story seemed to differ from mine was on that sentence. Dave told Cesar he meant the opposite, that he did not feel as betrayed by me. I have tried to imagine how I could have misheard a sentence with that structure that meant the opposite, and having read his version, I now struggle to fit the words he says he used (“light betrayal”) into that sentence. I heard what I heard.

6. Dave's account says that I didn't respond at this point and he just sat there being sad.

It is completely false that I said nothing.

In the actual conversation, it's after he says I've betrayed him that I am exasperated and frightened and angry. I tell him that I don't owe him anything. That I have already paid so much for trying to help him. I tell him I've lost my ability to trust people or date, that I've lost my faith in humanity, that I don't trust my judgment in people, and that I feel completely destroyed. I tell him all I want is for him to leave me alone. I tell him he has my sympathies for his pain as always, that I think they're going to start clocks, and I walk into the playing room. He says behind me, “Thank you. I won't bring this up again” and I say, "Well, I would certainly appreciate that." with what I felt was very obvious anger.

I would also like to address Dave's declared perception that I was supportive about the blog. I was very supportive that he write down his perspective and get his feelings out, not to the publishing of it. I encouraged him to take some of his more unrelated parts about his childhood and family and write a memoir from that instead. He said it wouldn't stop them from what they're doing. I then encouraged him to write a separate thing, explaining instead why a third organization was bad for Scrabble, which he also said missed his point. I expressed concern that he might be sued, and he said that couldn't happen because it was all true and they're the ones who lied and this proved it.

Just as in what he has said about me in his response, his story left out all of the behavior that would lead the Clinchy's to exclude him from a tournament he wanted to play. He had been told he was banned from the other tournaments they direct. I had been expecting so much worse. His commitment to including irrelevant personal information that made him look really bad, even after I pointed out people would react, made me assume he was telling the truth and the whole story.

This is the same thing I tried to express in the message I posted on Facebook, that was included in Jennifer's evidence.





**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

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I still stand by most of that. He did not have the right to subject her to his anger. Being publicly excluded is better than being privately excluded, and that's what a ban is.

Having heard the other side of the story though, after I wrote my statement and talked to Jennifer about Dave for the first time, my belief is that his situation does not have an external cause. Dave's loneliness and ostracism are caused by Dave's continued use of intimidation, not just against women, but against many players. I wanted to believe then that the cause and effect were reversed, that his ostracism had caused his anger, and that if he could just play again it would go away.

## **Twitch**

Twitch randomly assigns subscription gifts to other viewers when you buy a pack, as I explained when he messaged me about the subscription.. I did not choose for the one Dave got to go to him.

## **Dave's Direct Treatment of Me**

I believed I was the only person who had seen the way Dave gets when he loses his temper and that he probably wouldn't get that way at a Scrabble tournament. His anger in New Orleans changed my mind.

It is untrue that his anger during the relationship was only at the Clinchys and never at me. During our relationship, he lost his temper at me about me quite often. As I'd mentioned, he yelled at me when I expressed concern about what had happened on Facebook about Darrel Day. Fairly consistently, me expressing my anxiety about the relationship caused him rage. After we left for Seattle this increased significantly. He yelled at me in the car on the way there about my health problems and needing to stop to move around. He flew into a rage about me trying to tell him about similar terrain when he'd wanted me to be focused on seeing the Columbia River Valley. He was also furious on that trip that I'd thought he'd like a band that he was certain he wouldn't like, because I described it as complex when what he liked these days was simple. After arriving, he yelled at me about where I'd moved the sharpie that belongs where he'd left it on the counter in front of the dish drainer, and about my anxiety when I grew concerned about a broken microphone on my work computer soon after we got to Seattle. The last argument I mention was triggered by him screaming at me on the street

because I had asked if we could stop and grab the things we needed when we walked by the grocery store, and he said we would on the way back. When I attempted to go in as we passed back on the way, he started shouting that he'd already said he didn't want to go and it should have been obvious he said that to appease me since it was ridiculous to run errands on a walk and I should have understood that. A few hours later, he yelled at me and called me stupid in front of people online playing Codenames, because I had guessed Octopus for Wet when it was obviously Fall he intended.

For many hours after, I tried to explain why that wasn't okay behavior and that I could not possibly read his mind.

He argued that this was the same point his family and the Clinchys were wrong about. He said that if someone makes him angry, they are required to face his anger and listen to him verbally abuse them. He said one of the main things wrong with the world is that men aren't allowed to get angry. I could not get him to see that feeling angry doesn't give you the moral right to take that out on others.

A few weeks after I came home and a few days after he had published his blog, he called to see if I still thought he did nothing wrong. I asked him, "based on just the eight weeks I was dating you, maybe she was just scared of you. Did you ever yell at her?" He said, yes, he "chewed her out all the time" but that she "appreciated it because she made horrible decisions about her personal life."

He often says, in his own writing which you've read, in the accounts of his friends, and in his response to NASPA in the Darrell Day complaint, that he wouldn't actually hurt anyone. I think maybe he believes this. I do not. I do not believe he has control of himself when he is in a rage, and in New Orleans, it seemed like the rage was still getting worse, as some of it was now attached to the girl from Maryland. I very much hope I'm wrong.

### **Summary**

I did not have a goal in writing down my trauma for strangers to try to get Dave Koenig banned from Scrabble. I just wanted a space that was important to me to be somewhere I could continue to be.

After writing it and talking to Jennifer about her experiences while dating him, many of which she's detailed, and seeing how similar they are to mine, I realize it's not just about my safety. While I'm still unsure that going on the record with this made me any safer, or whether actually banning him makes anyone safer, I believe this being out in the open makes it less likely that the next person will feel the fear I feel or the fear other members of the community feel.

Thank you for your time and attention,

BriAnna Lola McKissen