

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION**

John Bartoletta
Plaintiff

Case No: 18-CA-011011

vs

Division: H

Tianna Tashelle Bartoletta ; CHARLES RYAN
Defendant

ORDER DISMISSING ACTION FOR LACK OF PROSECUTION

THIS ACTION was heard on this date on the Court's Notice of Lack of Prosecution served pursuant to Rule 1.420(e), Fla.R.Civ.P. The Court finds that: 1. The notice prescribed by Rule 1.420(e), Fla.R.Civ.P., was served on May 28, 2020. 2. There was no record activity during the 10 months immediately preceding service of the foregoing notice. 3. There was no record activity during the 60 days immediately following service of the foregoing notice. 4. No stay has been issued or approved by the Court. 5. No party has shown good cause why this action should remain pending. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that this action is dismissed for lack of prosecution and the Clerk of Court is directed to close the file.

Done and Ordered in Hillsborough County, Florida this 6th day of August, 2020.


18-CA-011011 8/6/2020 10:40:41 AM

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Emmett L. Battles, Judge

Copies Furnished To:

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Defendant

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**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE
STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION**

JOHN BARTOLETTA, an individual,

Plaintiff,

vs.

TIANNA TASHELLE BARTOLETTA,
an individual,

Defendant.

Case No.
Division:

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, JOHN BARTOLETTA, by and through his counsel, sues Defendant, TIANNA TASHELLE BARTOLETTA, in this civil action for damages. As grounds therefore, the Plaintiff alleges as follows:

I. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. The amount in controversy exceeds \$500,000, excluding interest, attorney's fees, and costs, which is within the jurisdiction of the court in accordance with Section 26.012 of the Florida Statutes.

2. The Plaintiff is an individual that maintains his principal place of residence in Hillsborough County, Florida, is an individual over the age of 18, and is sui juris.

3. The Defendant is a United States citizen who currently resides in Montgomery, Alabama, is an individual over the age of 18, and is sui juris.

4. Venue in Hillsborough County, Florida is proper in this action under Section 47.011 of the Florida Statutes because the Defendant's conduct giving rise to this cause of action occurred in this county.

5. The claim and the injuries were caused to the Plaintiff by the Defendant's defamation and other tortious conduct in this county, Florida in general, nationwide, and internationally.

6. In addition, some of the most recent commercial opportunities for the Plaintiff's work were contracts available with vendors and customers that have facilities in and/or are residents of the State of Florida.

7. The State of Florida is the third (3rd) largest state by population within the entire United States such that a huge and substantial portion of the nationwide harm has occurred in Florida.

8. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendant because numerous false and defamatory statements made by the Defendant were published worldwide on the internet, including in the State of Florida, the Defendant knew that the false and defamatory statements would be published in the State of Florida, that numerous telephonic, electronic, video, and/or written defamatory statements were intentionally directed to the State of Florida by the Defendant that were not random or isolated, and the Plaintiff is a resident of the State of Florida.

II. THE PARTIES

9. The Plaintiff is a natural person, an individual, and a citizen of the State of Florida. He conducts business in Florida, which as set forth above, is where much of the factual issues giving rise to the claims herein has taken place and will continue to take place. He is the owner of various companies that conduct business in the State of Florida, nationally, and world-wide. He is also a current Board Member on the United States Track and Field Foundation.

10. The Defendant is a natural person, an individual, and a non-resident. She was formerly a resident of the State of Florida and was married to the Plaintiff. The Defendant is an

Olympic champion in the women's track event 4 x 100 meter relay won during the 2012 London Olympics, which occurred during the time she was not married to the Plaintiff. Additionally, the Defendant is an Olympic champion in two additional woman's events; the 4 x 100 meter relay and the long jump during the 2016 Rio Olympic, which occurred during the time she was married to the Plaintiff. The Defendant left the State of Florida on May 1, 2017.

11. A divorce between the parties hereto is currently pending in Hillsborough County, Florida.

12. All of the allegations of this Complaint refer or relate to the tortious, illegal conduct of the Defendant to severely damage the Plaintiff and has tortuously interfered with his business relationships causing additional harm.

III. FACTS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS

13. The Plaintiff sues for harm and thus damages in this district, Florida in general, nationwide and internationally to himself as an individual, which damages include financial harm to his business reputation as an individual, and his business and professional opportunities as an individual and intentional infliction of emotional distress. The Plaintiff sues for harm to his financial interests as an individual owner, investor, partner, shareholder and/or employee of companies impacted by these events, which has resulted in financial harm to the Plaintiff as an individual through the loss of value of his ownership interests in those companies as a result of the Defendant's defamation and other tortious conduct, as well as other harm and thus damages to be uncovered during discovery.

John Bartoletta is Not a Public Figure

14. The Plaintiff is a private citizen and at all material times acted individually and in business.

15. The Plaintiff has not sought any form of publicity, public note or prominence outside of implementing his own business affairs in private transactions.

16. The Plaintiff has not sought or held any public office or Government position within the Government.

17. The Plaintiff thus is not a public figure based on facts.

18. The Plaintiff has not sought or acquired any position of public power or influence which would give him the ability to protect himself apart from the courts within the meaning of *New York Times v. Sullivan*, 376 U.S. 254 (1964).

19. The Plaintiff is not a public figure within the meaning of *New York Times v. Sullivan*, 376 U.S. 254 (1964) or its progeny.

Defamation of Bartoletta Worldwide

20. On May 1, 2017, the Defendant permanently left the marital residence she shared with the Plaintiff.

21. On May 1, 2017, the Defendant filed for divorce after she realized that her marriage had come to an end.

22. In an apparent attempt to gain leverage in the divorce and/or to disparage the good reputation of the Plaintiff, the Plaintiff then began a substantial “campaign” of making false and defamatory statements in many different forums, which include, but are not limited to, social media platforms, various news agencies, personal email communications, and personal interviews.

23. At this time, the exact number as to these false and defamatory statements that were made by the Defendant are unknown, but the following are some specific examples that the Plaintiff has discovered as of this date.

24. One of the earliest defamatory statements made by the Defendant was shortly after she abandoned the marriage, which occurred during email communications between the Defendant and Charles W. Ryan while the Defendant was in China competing in an international event on May 11, 2017. In an email attachment entitled “Note2Self”, the Defendant stated the following to Mr. Ryan:

Back to John though...Tee. I've gotta tell you. ... You'll have no way of knowing this when it happens but the price will be way too high to maintain this relationship. You will lose yourself, and your personality, but win medals and break records. You will hurt in ways you didn't think were possible but give amazing interviews about your “perfect life”. ***You will get into physical fights and then climb into the same bed*** and go to sleep. You will try to kill yourself by hanging on gym equipment, prescription drug overdoses, excess alcohol mixed with sleeping pills and Xanax, leaving the car running in the closed garage, drowning in the deep side of the pool, you'll even contemplate while on the platform taking that tiny step in front of a train in Europe, all because you will come to believe that ***the only rest you'd get from your misery would be in death***. You will start to believe that the world never needed you, that no one actually ever loved you, and no one would miss you if you were gone.

Note2Self p.3 (emphasis added), of which a true and correct copy of the email and related attachment are attached hereto as Exhibit “A.”

25. Essentially, the Defendant published to Mr. Ryan that she was in a physically abusive relationship with the Plaintiff for which she was driven to thoughts of suicide and death in order to escape the relationship, which are false and defamatory statements as to the Plaintiff.

26. Similar defamatory statements were made by the Defendant to Sandy Snow, who is the Director of International Teams for the USA Track and Field, which is a non-profit organization that serves as the national governing body for the sport of track and field that the Defendant was subject to.

27. On July 26, 2017, the Defendant published the following statement to Ms. Snow:

I apologize in advance for having to bring the contents of this email to your attention. But as I told you before, I filed for Divorce on May 1st. I had largely

kept the reasons to myself. However, for whatever reason John Bartoletta was offered a seat on the board of directors of the USATF Foundation shortly after Nationals. Additionally, he will now be attending London IAAF World Championships in that capacity. What I wanted to tell you is that I now have private security ... as ***the reason we are divorcing is because he was physically and emotionally abusive***. In his capacity as a Board Member and the access that grants him, I am no longer sure that I will be or feel safe anywhere! I just wanted to let you know that I probably will not be attending meetings, team events, or team photos alone because of ***this threat or the risk of confrontation*** and I need to know it's okay to have this person with me. Let me know your thoughts, and also if there's anything else I need to do.

Head's Up E-Mail dated July 26, 2017 (emphasis added), of which a true and correct copy is attached hereto as Exhibit "B."

28. These defamatory statements were published to Ms. Snow so as to harm the Plaintiff's reputation in and around the track and field community, which is a substantially large group of individuals for which the Plaintiff was a sitting board member of the United States Track and Field Foundation and where the Plaintiff had gained significant personal and professional relationships.

29. The Defendant's defamatory statements to representatives of the USA Track and Field governing body and community were not just limited to Ms. Snow.

30. In furtherance of her quest to completely destroy the reputation of the Plaintiff, the Defendant actually filed a formal complaint with the USA Track and Field in July 2017, which ultimately lead to the issuance of a Disciplinary Complaint against the Plaintiff in his capacity as a member and registered coach for that organization based on his conduct in relations to the Defendant, who is and/or was a member athlete at that time.

31. During the course of the investigation, the Defendant made the following false and defamatory statements regarding the conduct of the Plaintiff to investigators for the USA Track and Field organization that were then republished as:

6. For example, on or about 2012, in Ponce, Puerto Rico, Mr. Bartoletta made derogatory comments toward Ms. Bartoletta when she hugged a coach.
7. Prior to the 2012 Summer Olympics, Mr. Bartoletta demanded that Ms. Bartoletta choose between being with him or maintaining a relationship with her parents, claiming that her parents were “acting like niggers jumping on a bandwagon.”
8. Between 2012 and 2016, Mr. Bartoletta made further abusive statements like, “why would you want to look like a whore when competing” if she ever wore makeup, and then would be aggressive and confrontational with Ms. Bartoletta if she did not outwardly attribute her success on the track to him.
9. On or about late 2016 through 2017, with Ms. Bartoletta experiencing success on the track, Mr. Bartoletta would continue to push for outward praise of his efforts, and when he did not feel he received enough praise from Ms. Bartoletta, he would refer to her as a “cunt”, “spoiled” or “entitled bitch”, which bothered Ms. Bartoletta.
10. During the 2016 Olympic Games, Mr. Bartoletta even went so far as to make comments that Ms. Bartoletta “would have won 3 medals had she not been on her period”. This is not information Ms. Bartoletta wished to be shared publicly.

Amended Disciplinary Complaint dated March 23, 2018 ¶¶ 6-10, of which a true and correct copy is attached hereto as Exhibit “C.”

32. The Defendant’s statements in that proceeding portrayed the Plaintiff, among other things, as a bully, womanizer, a racist, and a self-interested egomaniac, which were false and defamatory and even lead to the Plaintiff having some of his rights as a coach being temporarily suspended during the course of the complaint proceeding and which remains pending as of this date.

33. While the above defamatory publications were limited in terms of the actual number of recipients, the Defendant made other defamatory statements that are widely available on the worldwide web at places like Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and other similar sites.

34. For example, on August 11, 2017, the Defendant made the following post on her personal Instagram account, which is as follows:

I knew defending my title would be difficult. And you may find it hard to believe

but this Bronze medal is THE most special medal I have ever won. Because just three short months ago I had to run away from my own home, I had to decide which of ALL my belongings were the most important, I had to leave my dogs, *I had little money, I still have no actual address*, all to give myself a chance at having a life and the love I deserved--one that didn't involve fear or fighting, threats, and abuse.

Instagram Post dated August 11, 2017 (“Instagram Post”) (emphasis added), which is available at <https://www.instagram.com/p/BXrYX8Rlwcz/> and a true and correct copy is attached hereto as Exhibit “D.”

35. From facts generally known but not included in the Instagram Post, it was clear that the Defendant was clearly referring to the Plaintiff, whose home she has left three months before.

36. Not only were those statements defamatory as to the Plaintiff, but much of the assertions therein were a complete fabrication of the actual events discussed in the Instagram Post.

37. The inuendo that the Defendant somehow fled her marital residence to avoid an abusive relationship and was homeless is completely contrary to her assertions to others as to her actual status, which was memorialized in a flight confirmation and other required reporting for drug screening tests.

38. Any suggestion that the Defendant has to “run away” from the marital residence in “fear” is completely contrary to the actual facts as she had long planned such activities, which are clearly shown on a trip reminder to Alabama from Delta Airlines well before the Defendant departed on May 1, 2017, of which a true and correct copy of said email confirmation dated April 24, 2017 is attached hereto as Exhibit “E.”

39. On that trip, the Defendant actually flew on May 1, 2017 to Montgomery, Alabama through Atlanta and then moved in with her “new” boyfriend, one Charles “Chucky”

Ryan.

40. As required by the United States Track & Field, the Defendant then updated her address for dope testing purposes for three days, being May 2, 2018 through May 4, 2018 that is set forth in the confirmation received by the Defendant after updating such information, of which a true and correct copy is attached hereto as Exhibit “F.”

41. The Defendant then changed her location status to Huntsville, Alabama so she could attend the SWAC Track and Field Championships with Mr. Ryan on May 5, 2018 through May 6, 2018, of which a true and correct copy of the confirmation of change in status is attached hereto as Exhibit “G.”

42. The Defendant then drove to the Four Seasons Hotel in Atlanta before leaving for Shanghai, China to compete in an international competition there.

43. At no time did the Defendant ever “escape” to a hotel after she decided to abandon the marriage because, in fact, she was transitioning to Mr. Ryan in secrecy under the guise of a series of defamatory statements related to the Plaintiff in order to hide the truth, which was her indiscretions with Mr. Ryan. Thus, her “address” was at his address.

44. The Instagram Post lead to other opportunities for the Defendant to publish further defamatory statements about the Instagram Post through other media publications.

45. One of the first to pick up on the Defendant’s defamatory post was the NationalPost.com, who reported on the Instagram Post on August 18, 2017, which is available at <https://nationalpost.com/sports/olympics/american-long-jumper-tianna-bartoletta-won-a-medal-at-worlds-despite-being-homeless-for-three-months> and a true and correct copy is attached hereto as Exhibit “H.” Therein, not only is the Instagram Post basically reposted, but then reveals additional claims that were characterized from her own statements as follows:

Tianna Bartoletta shocked her fans, revealing that *she's been homeless* for three months, while she escaped what she has alleged was an *abusive marriage to her husband of five years*.

46. As noted above, the Defendant was not “homeless” as she was living with Mr. Ryan and also staying at the Four Seasons.

47. Furthermore, the Parties hereto were never married for “five years” but only a little more than a year, which marriage occurred on March 9, 2016. A true and correct copy of the Parties’ marriage certificate from the State of California is attached hereto as Exhibit “I.”

48. The Defendant published these false and defamatory statements many times, including in an article titled “Moving Forward from Her Marriage, Bartoletta Values Bronze More than Gold” (“FLOTTRACK Article”) that was published on August 23, 2017, which is available on the internet at <https://www.flotrack.org/articles/5968095-moving-forward-from-her-marriage-bartoletta-values-bronze-more-than-gold> and of which a true and correct copy is attached hereto as Exhibit “J.”

49. Therein, the Defendant made the following false and defamatory statements in the FLOTTRACK article for republication therein:

For Bartoletta, the process was much like the build-up in her decision to leave what she has called *an abusive marriage to her husband of five years*, John Bartoletta.

...

On May 1, 2017, after two months of planning an escape, Bartoletta left the home they shared in Tampa, Florida. *She abandoned most of her possessions, including her three Olympic gold medals.*

...

Unable to sit still any longer, she walked up to the flight attendants and *asked to be put on a flight to Atlanta immediately*. With no questions asked, they put her on a plane in 20 minutes.

...

Once she arrived in Atlanta, *Bartoletta stayed in a hotel for a few days* before she flew to Shanghai for her first Diamond League competition of the year.

FLOTTRACK Article date August 23, 2017 at 2-4.

50. The above statements made by the Defendant regarding her separation from the Plaintiff and events before her departure to China thereafter are a complete fabrication in order to sensationalize and dramatize her unilateral decision to abandon her marriage to the Plaintiff in order to reconnect with an old flame from college, being Mr. Ryan.

51. Thus, she was clearly using the issue of spousal abuse as a platform to increase her notoriety and popularity at the expense of the Plaintiff's good reputation in the community through false and defamatory statements. This "story" was manufactured and published so as to avoid stating the truth about the Defendant's status, which was that she simply quit her marriage to have a relationship with another man.

52. Using claims of abuse in the current cultural climate would create the perfect environment for someone to not challenge her veracity but as shown herein they were just false and defamatory statements pertaining to the Plaintiff and nothing more.

53. What was even more telling in the article was the Defendant clear modus operandi for her continued public, defamatory statements of the Plaintiff, which is set out in the following quotation in the NationalPost.com article:

"This has been my therapy — sharing this story with you, sharing the Instagram post, blogging," she said. "It has kind of been my way of healing."

54. Another example of how the Instagram Post became incapacitated into the NationalPost.com story, which then got incorporated and expanded upon is the post titled "Tiana Bartoletta Inspires Others With Her Long Jump From Abuse", which can be seen on TheShadowleague.com at <https://www.theshadowleague.com/story/tianna-bartoletta-inspires-others-with-her-long-jump-from-abuse> and a true and correct copy is attached hereto as Exhibit "K."

55. By publishing the Instagram Post on the Internet as set out above, the Defendant

knew it would be republished and read by the general public throughout the United States and elsewhere. The statements were in fact republished and read by members of the general public throughout the United States and elsewhere as a direct, natural, probable, and foreseeable consequence of the Defendant's publication and subsequent republication.

56. More problematic is that the Defendant actually admitted that her "therapy" of sharing these false and defamatory statement were part a "healing" process by which she would undertake defamatory statements in order to make herself feel better because she knew how damaging such statements would be to the Plaintiff personally, in his business, in his civic activities, and his profession.

57. The Instagram Post, its repost, and the related news articles are available throughout this county, Florida in general, the United States as a whole, and internationally via the Internet. The number of mobile broadband subscribers in the United States with access to those websites is more than 120 million according to the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development ("OECD"). *BB-Portal Press release-February 2, 2017* available at <http://www.oecd.org/sti/broadband/broadband-statistics-update.htm> (last visited March 8, 2017). The number of mobile broadband subscribers in other English speaking nations with access to the News Posts, according to the OECD, is the following: UK 80 million, Canada 65 million, Australia 115 million, New Zealand 110 million, and Ireland 90 million. *Id.*

58. The Defendant's false and defamatory statements were not limited to just to Instagram, reposts, or news reporting sites but to other posts on the worldwide web.

59. On April 22, 2018, the Defendant posted a comment on her personal website for the entire world to view, which as title "The Audacity of Hope ... The Complexity of Compassion", which can be seen on Theycallmetb.com at

<https://www.theycallmetb.com/blog/2018/4/22/the-audacity-of-hopethe-complexity-of-compassion> and a true and correct copy is attached hereto as Exhibit “L.” Therein, the

Defendant made the following comments regarding the Plaintiff:

I didn't think it would ever happen.
Because I am not a forgiving person really.
Typically, by the time I've realized that I've been *irreparably hurt by a person...*
that relationship has passed the point of no return.
And in my mind, there is no point in offering up forgiveness to a person for which
I only have *heaps of ashes and burned bridges* to show for *my time with them.*
...
I've been there
razor on writ
noose on neck
overdraft bank
failed business ideas
disappointing track season
failed marriage
truculent divorce
insufficient income

The Audacity of Hope ... The Complexity of Compassion pps. 1, 7-8 (emphasis added).

60. In this post, the Defendant infers that she is the victim of an abusive relationship driven to the point of suicide that resulted in a failed marriage with the Plaintiff such that one commenter described the Plaintiff as an “oppressor” and “manipulator” without any further information being provided, which is false and defamatory.

61. On September 29, 2018 another such post was made by the Defendant, which was when the Defendant posted a comment on a website titled “Indelible,” which can be seen on Theycallmetb.com at <https://www.theycallmetb.com/blog/2018/9/29/indelible> and a true and correct copy is attached hereto as Exhibit “M.” Therein, the Defendant made the following comments regarding the Plaintiff:

But I didn't want to start a war.
I wanted to free us both from *the bondage of a toxic relationship.*
I don't want to go to war

Aligned on opposite sides *from a man I've loved.*

...

We don't leave abusive marriages and toxic relationships knowing for absolute certain that we'll get another chance at love...

We don't quit day jobs to pursue our passion because we know for sure it's going to work out.

No...

we do all of these things because we are called to.

Indelible pps. 6, 12 (emphasis added).

62. The only inference that can be made here is that the Plaintiff was the man she was in love with and the Defendant claims she was in an abusive and toxic relationship, for which she shared and currently shares the “bonds” of marriage that is then spun in terms of slavery with the choice of the word “bondage.” Such statements are false and defamatory as to the Plaintiff as they are substantially untrue in any respect.

63. By publishing the Instagram Post, making comments to Internet news publications sites orally and via video broadcast, and placing her own comments on the Internet as set out above, the Defendant knew it would be republished and read by the general public throughout the United States and elsewhere. The statements were in fact republished and read by members of the general public throughout the United States and elsewhere as a direct, natural, probable, and foreseeable consequence of the Defendant's publication and subsequent republication.

64. The Defendant's defamation that the Plaintiff was committing criminal acts of domestic violence on the Defendant during the marital relationship is false and misleading including, but not limited to, the fact that none of those circumstances ever occurred during the parties' relationship and are misleading as to the true nature of the relationship.

65. The Defendant's defamation was also that the Plaintiff was a bully, manipulator, and self-interested ego maniac whose conduct was directed to the Defendant in an effort to

personally advance his own ego through acts were wrought to bring public esteem to the Plaintiff and humiliation the Defendant are completely false and misleading in that none of that conduct ever existed.

66. The Defendant's defamation was also that the Plaintiff was a practicing racist based on alleged comments made about African American people that were false and misleading because no such statements ever occurred.

67. The Defendant's defamation of the Plaintiff is false and malicious, including but not limited to the fact that the Defendant was in possession of knowledge about the actual events at issue here in as well as documents in her possession that completely controverted such allegations, and yet she completely ignored such uncontroverted evidence to the contrary.

68. The Defendant have substantially misrepresented the truthful story of these events related to the marital relationship between the parties hereto and events surrounding same, and thus defamed the Plaintiff individually.

69. Despite having personal knowledge and documentary evidence establishing the true nature of the marital relationship and surrounding events that form the basis for the Defendant's defamatory statements, the Defendant made up the entirety of events set out in the defamatory publications about the Plaintiff for sensationalism, notoriety, as a publicity stunt, and to gain strategic advantage in the parties' divorce.

70. In the alternative, the Defendant simply manufactured the alleged facts set out in her various publications at issue in this proceeding.

COUNT I – DEFAMATION AND DEFAMATION PER SE

71. The Plaintiff repeat and re-allege each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 70 as if fully set forth herein.

72. The Defendant published false and defamatory statements concerning the Plaintiff without privilege to do so.

73. The false and defamatory statements included, but are not limited to, allegations that:

- a. The Defendant was in a criminally, physically abusive marital relationship with the Plaintiff inclusive of “physical fights” and that the reason why the parties were divorcing was because the Plaintiff was physically and emotionally abusive and she was in constant threat of physical confrontation with the Plaintiff.
- b. The Plaintiff used racial profanity when identifying African Americans by calling them “niggers”.
- c. The Plaintiff was basically an oppressive bully and egomaniac that drove the Defendant to the point of suicide.

The foregoing categorizing of the publications made by the Defendant are set out in more detail in the general allegations and the attached exhibits hereto.

74. The defamatory statements were published without privilege to third parties, including thousands or tens of thousands (or more) residents of Florida and even more persons worldwide on the internet.

75. The Plaintiff is not a public figure, nor is he a limited public figure for purposes of a defamation analysis.

76. The defamatory statements were made negligently; without reasonable care as to their truth or falsity; with knowledge of their falsity; and/or with reckless disregard for the truth.

77. The statements alleged that the Plaintiff committed crimes including, but not limited to, assault and battery, and domestic violence during the marital relationship.

78. The statements are of the kind that they would tend to prejudice the Plaintiff in the eyes of a substantial and respectable minority of their communities.

79. The statements have caused, and will continue to cause, the Plaintiff injury in his personal, social, and business relations.

80. The Plaintiff has suffered, and will continue to suffer, actual injury as a result of injury to his corporate reputation and affiliations. The Plaintiff has been suspended by the USA Track and Field as a result of the filing of a frivolous complaint by the Defendant.

81. The Plaintiff has suffered, and will continue to suffer, actual injury as a result of the injury to his personal reputation.

82. The defamatory statements tend to injure the Plaintiff in their business trade as the allegations call into question as to whether or not the Plaintiff follow and respect the criminal laws of many countries, and is a wife abuser, bully, and egomaniac who sought to drive the Defendant to a death by suicide. Additionally, the above statements subject the Plaintiff to distrust, scorn, ridicule, hatred, and contempt. As such, the defamatory statements constitute defamation per se.

83. In addition, as direct and proximate result of the defamatory statement made by the Defendant, the Plaintiff has suffered, and continue to suffer, substantial damages.

84. It is clear from the statements made by the Defendant that she had actual knowledge of the wrongfulness of her conduct and the statements were made with actual malice and wrongful and willful intent to injure the Plaintiff. The statements were made with reckless disregard for their truth or falsity or with knowledge of their falsity and with wanton and willful disregard of the reputation and rights of the Plaintiff.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, JOHN BARTOLETTA, pray for a judgement against Defendant, TIANNA TASHELLE BARTOLETTA, as follows:

1. For an award of general and special damages in excess of five hundred thousand

dollars (\$500,000.00) resulting from his financial, reputational, emotional and professional injury to the Plaintiff in accordance with proof at trial together with interest thereon at the maximum legal rate; and the Plaintiff reserves the right to seek leave of court to seek punitive damages against the Defendant in accordance with the facts and claims stated herein and established through discovery;

2. For costs of suit incurred herein; and
3. For such other and further relief as to this court may deem just and proper.

COUNT II -- TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS
(Damages)

85. This is an action by the Plaintiff against the Defendant for damages in excess of \$500,000 for tortious interference with a business relationship.

86. The Plaintiff incorporates the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1-70 above as if fully set forth herein.

87. The Plaintiff has business and contractual relationships with numerous individuals and companies in Florida and the United States of America.

88. The Defendant, as the former spouse and one who was personally coached in track and field events by the Plaintiff, knew of the existence of the Plaintiff's business relationships and had specific knowledge about the clients and business relationships of the Plaintiff.

89. The Defendant intentionally and unjustifiably interfered with the Plaintiff's existing business relationships by launching an oral, written, and Internet attack campaign against the Plaintiff after May 1, 2017, which is when she abandoned the marriage with the Plaintiff.

90. As set forth in more detail above in the incorporated paragraphs, the Defendant caused to be published on the Internet, on social media sites, statements made to media sites, emails to private individuals and certain entities various defamatory messages.

91. Additionally, Defendant has published numerous statements on the Internet containing disparaging and defamatory statements about the Plaintiff that were set out above.

92. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendant's tortious acts set forth above, the Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer damages in the form of lost business and customers.

93. Furthermore, as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's tortious acts as set forth above, the Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount to be determined in payments to third parties for assistance in removing the Defendant's defamatory Internet materials from Internet-search results.

94. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendant's tortious acts, the Plaintiff has been damaged.

95. The Defendant tortuously interfered with the Plaintiff's business relationships maliciously, with a willful, wanton, callous and reckless disregard for the Plaintiff, his rights, and the truth.

96. The Defendant had actual knowledge of the wrongfulness of her actions and the high probability that injury or damage to the Plaintiff would result and, despite that knowledge, intentionally pursued to defame and disparage the Plaintiff, resulting in injury or damage to him.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, JOHN BARTOLETTA, prays for a judgement against Defendant, TIANNA TASHELLE BARTOLETTA, as follows:

1. For an award of general and special damages in excess of five hundred thousand

dollars (\$500,000.00) resulting from his general damages, financial damages, lost profits, lost income, and other economic damages to the Plaintiff in accordance with proof at trial together with interest thereon at the maximum legal rate; and the Plaintiff reserves the right to seek leave of court to seek punitive damages against the Defendant in accordance with the facts and claims stated herein and established through discovery;

2. For costs of suit incurred herein; and
3. For such other and further relief as to this court may deem just and proper.

COUNT III -- TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS
(Permanent Injunctive Relief)

97. This is an action by the Plaintiff against the Defendant for permanent injunctive relief for tortious interference with a business relationship.

98. The Plaintiff incorporates the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1-70 above as if fully set forth herein.

99. The Defendant's disparaging and defamatory statements will have a lasting and permanent effect on the Plaintiff's business relationships and client base.

100. If the Defendant continues to harass the Plaintiff and to post disparaging and defamatory statements about the Plaintiff on the Internet, the Plaintiff will suffer irreparable harm.

101. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendant's tortious interference with the Plaintiff's business and professional relationships, the Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer damages to his business and to his reputation in an amount that cannot be quantified.

102. The Plaintiff has no other adequate remedy at law.

103. The Plaintiff has a clear legal right to operate his business and conduct professional activities without the Defendant tortuously interfering with his business and professional relationships.

104. The threatened injury to the Plaintiff caused by the Defendant's tortious interference outweighs any threatened harm that an injunction may cause the Defendant.

105. The issuance of an injunction will not disserve the public interest.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, JOHN BARTOLETTA, pray for a judgement against Defendant, TIANNA TASHELLE BARTOLETTA, as follows:

a. enjoining the Defendant from publishing any information about the Plaintiff on the Internet or through any other media outlet;

b. enjoining the Defendant from making any disparaging or defamatory statements concerning the Plaintiff.; and

c. an award of costs; and such other and further relief as this Court may deem appropriate and just.

JURY DEMAND

The Plaintiff respectfully demands a jury trial on all issues so triable.

Dated: November 8, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Eric W. Neilsen

Eric W. Neilsen, Esquire

FBN: 476757

NEILSEN LAW GROUP, P.A.

100 2nd Avenue N., Suite 240

St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Phone: (727) 350-3240

Facsimile: (727) 499-7166

Email: eneilsen@neilsenlawgroup.com

Counsel for Plaintiff, JOHN BARTOLETTA

Exhibit “A”



From: tianna@club-360.com
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 6:34 PM
To: charles.william.ryan@gmail.com
Subject: Gmail is banned here.
Attachments: Note2Self.docx

I keep forgetting about the great "firewall" of China. They don't do google here. So I had to send from this account.

T.

Note to Self

Tee,

You don't know me. At least not yet. If I passed you on the street something about me would seem familiar and give you pause but you'll keep walking because you won't quite be able to put your finger on what it is.

Today is your first day of seventh grade at Northwood Junior High. You're a little nervous because for seven years at Windsor Elementary you were comfortable. Now, that 's all going to change, and quickly.

I know you love being passed notes so I wrote you this one because you'll tear it open and devour its contents in a matter of seconds. You love to read, I do too. It's really important that you finish this note before your lunch period.

Lunch is when everything changes.

At lunch, your core group of friends from Windsor are going to turn their backs on you. They are going to figure out before you do that being "black" means something—and for them it isn't necessarily positive. This will be the most painful thing you experience to date. You won't know where to sit at lunch now, you'll sit alone, and after several days some black girls you don't know will invite you to join them at their table. You'll accept. They'll tease you for the way you speak but you know that for most of them their intentions are pure. You develop a double consciousness ala W.E.B DuBois (I know you know what I'm talking about even at your age you are very well read).

Teachers will pick on you for your change in social group. They'll call you to the office and accuse you of some outlandish things. You'll keep your head...you're in the GIFTED curriculum program and they don't have a clue what they are talking about. Keep up your good work. Your brain- later in life- is going to be a hot item.

You will figure out quickly that you have a lot of the same issues that biracial children have with self-identifying and belonging. You'll find your identity and sense of belonging on team sports.

Sports catapults you into the light. Your natural athleticism is a draw. Students who wanted nothing to do with you before will gravitate towards you. You may be flat chested and slight but

Note to Self

boys still gravitate towards you too, they don't touch you or even flirt but they are malicious in their teasing. I know this bothers you. Criticism hurts you...especially about things that you can't control. You try to make yourself "prettier" thinking the teasing will stop. You change your personality to have more of an edge, you embrace your black friends more closely, you change your vernacular, play more aggressively. And you take it all off like a costume when you get home. You'll be exhausted from the energy that goes toward maintaining the facade.

At school you have a crush on Brandon a black kid from a side of town you've never even been to that wears an oversized first down jacket and Lugz boots. At home you have a crush on David a white boy who's the son of an ophthalmologist who always looked like he was headed straight to a yacht after school. Neither paid you any mind. Except for one incident when Brandon decided to announce in computer lab in front of the entire class that your back was just as flat as your front. I assure you...people will have a lot to say about your back in the future and it won't be *that*.

You'll make it out of middle school relatively unscathed. But high school, little one, is a different story. You'll be molested there. More than once by a kid who scares you to death. In a dark secluded hallway. You'll get beat up for the first time by a man who's much bigger than you, and you'll learn the importance of hitting back. You'll promise to never let something like that happen again. And you will break that promise. And you will hate yourself for it.

During this time your relationship with your mom goes down the toilet. You needed her to do something for you and she didn't/wouldn't—so taking a lesson you learned from that day in lunch when your Windsor friends showed you who they really are and you cut them off, you cut her off- as much as practically possible. This souring of your relationship with your mom is a simmering pot of pain for you. You won't realize until many years later, after you've moved far away from home, how much this pain had colored your decisions.

High school may have prematurely introduced you to your sexual self in the most negative of ways but it also provided you the sports platform you needed to get a scholarship. So you could leave home. You'll go to the University of Tennessee on a full scholarship for both academics and athletics. You'll love it there. You'll never want to leave. But you will leave, and it won't be under the best of terms.

Note to Self

But before that happens...

Your freshman summer you'll walk into the apartment of one of your teammates and be stopped dead in your tracks by a new guy sitting on her sofa. His name is Charles. You will never forget that moment and you will never forget him.

Your sophomore summer you'll win the IAAF World Championships. You were ready to jump, but you weren't ready for what would happen next. You'll go pro, but things quickly start to go badly for you. You'll move to LA and that will be the loneliest time of your life. You'll move back to Florida, and go back to school. You'll be ready to leave the sport.

But then...

You meet two men at almost the same time. One man's name is John, the other man's name is Rana. John will woo you, he'll make you feel like a queen who's lost her crown. He'll make you believe he can help you find it and restore you to your former glory. Rana is an elite coach who decided to take me on and through his workouts and patience actually recreated me into hardcore elite athlete.

Back to John though...Tee. I've gotta tell you. You have a huge heart, you want so badly to believe the good in everything. Your capacity for empathy is enormous. You'll have no way of knowing this when it happens but the price will be way too high to maintain this relationship. You will lose yourself, and your personality, but win medals and break records. You will hurt in ways you didn't think were possible but give amazing interviews about your "perfect life". You will get into physical fights and then climb into the same bed and go to sleep. You will try to kill yourself by hanging on gym equipment, prescription drug overdoses, excess alcohol mixed with sleeping pills and Xanax, leaving the car running in the closed garage, drowning in the deep side of the pool, you'll even contemplate while on the platform taking that tiny step in front of a train in Europe, all because you will come to believe that the only rest you'd get from your misery would be in death. You will start to believe that the world never needed you, that no one actually ever loved you, and no one would miss you if you were gone.

But you will realize through your meditation and yoga practice that even if no one else cares, YOU care. And that's a start. You still care, you still feel like you have more to give to the sport

Note to Self

and to the world, you still feel capable of giving and receiving love. YOU care. Tee, little one, that's all you'll need to keep moving forward.

Keep caring kid.

Because on May 1st, 2017 you'll step into the light. You'll file for divorce, you'll leave your home forever. You'll be afraid, you'll feel like you're on the run, but you won't be alone. Remember Charles? Charles and Emily (whom you'll meet when you join the Bobsled team in 2012) will be with you every step of the way. You will become in that moment a butterfly. A beautiful monarch spreading its wings to heat itself in the sun after a tumultuous time in a dark cocoon.

That's the day you meet me.

I hope I've made you proud kid. You've survived so much, you proved yourself to be so strong, so resilient, so tenacious.

With everything I am, with my entire heart, and my entire being. I love you. I know who you are, and I promise to honor that for as long as I shall live.

Yours Truly,

Tianna Bartoletta

Exhibit “B”

From: Tianna Bartoletta <tianna@club-360.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 3:45 PM
To: Sandy Snow
Subject: Re: Heads Up

Thank you so much Sandy.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 26, 2017, at 20:00, Sandy Snow <sandy.snow@usatf.org> wrote:

I am glad to hear it. If you just need to talk to someone don't think you are alone. I am here and I listen really well.

Take care.

Sandy Snow
Director of International Teams
USATF
1695 Nunnally Place
Atlanta, Georgia 30350
Office: 770-392-1027
Cell: 770-330-6482

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From: tianna@club-360.com [<mailto:tianna@club-360.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 12:41 PM
To: Sandy Snow <sandy.snow@usatf.org>
Subject: RE: Heads Up

Thank you. I've just spoken to him that made me feel so much better. Thanks for acting so quickly.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Heads Up
From: Sandy Snow <sandy.snow@usatf.org>
Date: Wed, July 26, 2017 8:50 am
To: "tianna@club-360.com" <tianna@club-360.com>

I have contacted him already and he is coming to see me when he returns to the hotel in Birmingham. I will give him your number.

Sandy Snow
Director of International Teams
USATF
1695 Nunnally Place
Atlanta, Georgia 30350

Office: 770-392-1027
Cell: 770-330-6482

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From: tianna@club-360.com [<mailto:tianna@club-360.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 11:42 AM
To: Sandy Snow <sandy.snow@usatf.org>
Subject: RE: Heads Up

Yes that would be awesome thank you! My cell-phone number is 8134842369

----- Original Message -----
Subject: RE: Heads Up
From: Sandy Snow <sandy.snow@usatf.org>
Date: Wed, July 26, 2017 7:58 am
To: "tianna@club-360.com" <tianna@club-360.com>

Hi Tianna

Sorry you are having such a hard time.

The Foundation Board members do not have credentials to get into any of our meetings nor the warm-up track or practice track. We have two security with us and I will be glad to have our Chief of Security talk with you.

We do not have another credential that we can provide to anyone and we certainly don't have housing for another person. Knowing that John can't attend our meetings, nor get into the warmup track should make you feel better.

Will it work for me to have Lloyd contact you?

Sandy Snow
Director of International Teams
USATF
1695 Nunnally Place
Atlanta, Georgia 30350
Office: 770-392-1027
Cell: 770-330-6482

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From: tianna@club-360.com [<mailto:tianna@club-360.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 10:48 AM
To: Sandy Snow <sandy.snow@usatf.org>
Subject: Heads Up

Hi Sandy,

I apologize in advance for having to bring the contents of this email to your attention. But as I told you before, I filed for Divorce on May 1st. I had largely kept the reasons to myself. However, for whatever reason John Bartoletta was offered a seat on the board of directors of the USATF Foundation shortly after Nationals. Additionally, he will now be attending London IAAF World Championships in that capacity. What I wanted to tell you is that I now have private security...as the reason we are divorcing is because he was physically and emotionally abusive. In his capacity as a Board Member and the access that grants him, I am no longer sure that I will be or feel safe anywhere! I just wanted to let you know that I probably will not be attending meetings, team events, or team photos alone because of this threat or the risk of confrontation and I need to know it's okay to have this person with me. Let me know your thoughts, and also if there's anything else I need to do.

Sincerely,

Tianna

Exhibit “C”

AMENDED DISCIPLINARY COMPLAINT PURSUANT TO USATF BYLAWS

USA Track & Field)
)
)
vs.) **Amended**
) **Disciplinary Complaint**
)
John Bartoletta)
(USATF Registered Coach))

FACTS

1. USA Track & Field (“USATF”) was made aware of an alleged violation of the SafeSport Policy by USATF member and registered coach, John Bartoletta, against a USATF member athlete (the “Athlete”).
2. The alleged misconduct was reported on or about July 29, 2017 directly to USATF, and USATF’s Chief Operating Officer, Renee Washington.
3. Pursuant to USATF’s SafeSport Policy, USATF submitted the complaint to an independent third party for further investigation.
4. The third party investigator concluded that there was sufficient evidence to suggest that Mr. Bartoletta: (a) engaged in a pattern of deliberate, non-contact behavior that had the potential to cause emotional or psychological harm to the Athlete; (b) engaged in an intentional, persistent and repeated pattern of committing non-physical behaviors that were intended, or had the reasonable potential, to cause fear and humiliation in an attempt to socially exclude, diminish or isolate the Athlete; and (c) engaged in a repeated pattern of non-physical behaviors that were intended to cause fear, humiliation or annoyance; offended or degraded, created a hostile environment; or reflected discriminatory bias in an attempt to establish dominance, superiority or power over the Athlete based on gender, race or ethnicity.
5. Ms. Bartoletta left Mr. Bartoletta under contentious circumstances. She had no contact with him whatsoever since May 1, 2017, and when she learned in late June/early July 2017 that Mr. Bartoletta planned to attend the World Championships in August 2017 in London, she feared for her safety. Ms. Bartoletta had experienced a pattern of abusive conduct from Mr. Bartoletta.
6. For example, on or about 2012, in Ponce, Puerto Rico, Mr. Bartoletta made derogatory comments toward Ms. Bartoletta when she hugged a coach.
7. Prior to the 2012 Summer Olympics, Mr. Bartoletta demanded that Ms. Bartoletta choose between being with him or maintaining a relationship with her parents, claiming that her parents were “acting like niggers jumping on a bandwagon.”
8. Between 2012 and 2016, Mr. Bartoletta made further abusive statements like, “why would you want to look like a whore when competing” if she ever wore makeup, and then would be aggressive and confrontational with Ms. Bartoletta if she did not outwardly attribute her success on the track to him.
9. On or about late 2016 through 2017, with Ms. Bartoletta experiencing success on the track, Mr. Bartoletta would continue to push for outward praise of his efforts, and when he did not feel he received enough praise from Ms. Bartoletta, he would refer to her as a “cunt”, “spoiled” or “entitled bitch”, which bothered Ms. Bartoletta.
10. During the 2016 Olympic Games, Mr. Bartoletta even went so far as to make comments that Ms. Bartoletta “would have won 3 medals had she not been on her period”. This is not information Ms. Bartoletta wished to be shared publicly.

BYLAW AND REGULATION VIOLATIONS

1. As a Registered Coach on the USATF Coaches Registry, Mr. Bartoletta is subject to Section 1.1 of the USATF SafeSport Handbook, which contains the USATF Anti-Harassment and Abuse Policy, which affirms USATF's commitment to take all reasonable steps to prevent harassment or abuse from occurring. It specifies that "USATF strictly prohibits unlawful harassment or abuse of and/or by staff members, volunteers, athletes, coaches..., whether the harassment or abuse occurs at any events controlled by USATF or a USATF Association, including its affiliated entities, or outside those events." Additionally, the Anti-Harassment and Abuse Policy states that prohibited contact includes (but is not limited to) emotional misconduct, bullying, and harassment.
2. Section 3.1 of the USATF SafeSport Handbook contains the USATF Code of Conduct for Registered Coaches. The Code of Conduct for Registered Coaches states that "USATF Registered Coaches must be knowledgeable and abide by USATF Bylaws and Regulations, Code of Ethics, Competitions Rules, and other USATF policies, procedures and guidelines." It further states that, coaches should interact with others in a manner that enables all participants in sport to maintain their dignity" and provides certain ethical standards of respect for participants, responsible coaching, integrity in relationships and honoring sport.
3. Article 14-A grants USATF the authority to discipline any member, delegate, coach, manager, official, trainer, member of any committee, and any other person or entity participating in Athletics who acts in a manner detrimental to the purposes of USATF or Athletics or who, by neglect or by conduct has violated any provision of the USATF Code of Ethics and their related Codes of Conduct contained within the SafeSport Handbook. Therefore, USATF submits this Amended Disciplinary Complaint pursuant to Article 14-A and in accordance with Regulation 21.

RELIEF SOUGHT

Given the report of the independent third party investigation, USATF is requesting that Mr. John Bartoletta not be permitted to participate in any activities of USATF or any USATF affiliate (association, club, etc.) as a member, volunteer, athlete, coach or in any other capacity for a period of one (1) year. Further, Mr. Bartoletta should not be permitted to return as a Registered Coach on the USATF Coaches Registry, or receive any type of USATF credential, for an additional period of five (5) years.

Dated: 3-23-18



Norman Wain, USATF General Counsel

AFFIDAVIT

Norman Wain, on oath, states that the allegations in this Amended Disciplinary Complaint are true and accurate.



Norman Wain, USATF General Counsel

Subscribed and sworn to before

me this 23rd day of March, 2018.



Notary Public



Exhibit “D”

Search

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tianna.bartoletta • Follow

London, United Kingdom

tianna.bartoletta I knew defending my title would be difficult. And you may find it hard to believe but this Bronze medal is THE most special medal I have ever won. Because just three short months ago I had to run away from my own home, I had to decide which of ALL my belongings were the most important, I had to leave my dogs, I had little money, I still have no actual address, all to give myself a chance at having a life and the love I deserved-- one that didn't involve fear or fighting, threats, and abuse. To stand on the podium today after not even being in the mix for 4 rounds means the world to me. I took a huge gamble blowing my life up in such an important year for me career-wise. But it was about time for me to see that I was worth it. It was worth it. Thanks so much for riding with me. ❤️

4,240 likes

AUGUST 11, 2017

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Log in to see photos and videos from friends and discover other accounts you'll love.

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Sign Up

Exhibit “E”

From: Delta Air Lines <DeltaAirLines@e.delta.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 2:05 PM
To: tianna@club-360.com
Subject: Get Ready For Your TPA-MGM Trip

It's coming up. Here's some useful info.



PREP

Hi Tianna.

It's almost time for your trip. Here's some info to help you along the way.

TPA ▶ ATL

DEPART: 2:45 PM, MON 1 MAY
ARRIVE: 4:14 PM, MON 1 MAY

FLIGHT #: DL 66
SEAT: 13E

ATL ▶ MGM

DEPART: 5:49 PM, MON 1 MAY
ARRIVE: 5:45 PM, MON 1 MAY

FLIGHT #: DL 5252
SEAT: 03A

YOUR FLIGHT TO

ATL



YOU'RE IN DELTA COMFORT+™

Look forward to free drinks, extra legroom and access to Sky Priority® boarding. >>

1 YEAR TOGETHER



1 YEAR TOGETHER

Thanks for your business this year. We look forward to a lifetime of travels together. >>



WITH TRIP INSURANCE, WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

Purchase Trip Insurance and travel worry free. >>



READY TO STREAM.

Get the Gogo Entertainment App before you board so you can stream Delta Studio™ movies and TV shows right to your smartphone. >>

USE YOUR DIGITAL CREDENTIALS

Access your Platinum Medallion® credentials from the Fly Delta app. >>



READY TO ROLL?

Save space in your bag and prevent wrinkles by rolling your clothes instead of folding. >>



THE FIRST ONE IS ON US

With your Delta SkyMiles® Credit Card, we've got the first checked bag covered. Terms Apply.** >>



INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST PARTNER: AIRBNB

SkyMiles® brings you a world of choices with our newest partner Airbnb. Book and earn miles at over 2 million listings worldwide >>

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[RESERVE A CAR + HOTEL >](#)

[EARN MILES >](#)



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Terms & Conditions

*Terms and conditions apply.

** Benefit is limited to Basic Card Members (not Additional Card Members) with the Gold, Platinum or Reserve Delta SkyMiles Credit Cards. Reservation must include the Basic Card Member's SkyMiles number. Fee waiver also available for passengers traveling in the same reservation as the Basic Card Member. Maximum nine waivers per reservation. Waiver is only for normal bag fee, if any, for the first checked bag that is not overweight and not oversize under Delta's applicable rules as set forth in Delta's contract of carriage. Additional checked bags will be subject to the applicable baggage fees as outlined by Delta's rules and the purchased fare as set forth in Delta's contract of carriage. The first checked bag fee waiver will only be applied on flight segments which originate on a Delta or Delta Connection® carrier when you check in with Delta for both a Delta marketed and Delta operated flight. Codeshare flights are not eligible. New Card Members and Card Members upgrading from another Delta SkyMiles Credit Card product will be eligible for the checked baggage fee waiver benefit after receiving their Card from American Express. Offer terms and conditions subject to change. Additional restrictions may apply. See delta.com/firstbagfree for details.

All SkyMiles program rules apply to SkyMiles program membership, miles, offers, mile accrual, mile redemption, and travel benefits. The rules are subject to change at any time. To review the rules, please visit delta.com/memborguide. Taxes and fees for Award Travel are the responsibility of the passenger and must be paid at the time the ticket is booked. Partner offers subject to the terms and conditions of each individual offer. Offers void where prohibited by law. Offers and benefits subject to change without notice. Other restrictions may apply.

[Comment or Complaint?](#)

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Delta Blvd. P.O. Box 20706 • Atlanta, GA 30320-6001

Exhibit “F”

FROM: +18134842369@tmomail.net
TO: Simon Update Manager, AutoReply3
SUBJECT:
DATE: 5/2/2017 2:25:39 AM(UTC)

Update: 6am 60 min window from 5/2 to 5/4 address: 2600 Vaughn Lakes Blvd. #1227 Montgomery, AL 36117

Exhibit “G”

From: U.S. Anti-Doping Agency <siteadmin@usantidoping.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2017 1:43 PM
To: tianna@club-360.com
Subject: Text Message Update Received
Attachments: BartolettaTianna_update_5-2-2017.pdf

Thank you for your update! The attached update has been processed and added to your account.

Please review the attached update to ensure your message was fully received by USADA. You are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the information. If any part of your original message is missing and inaccurate, please contact USADA immediately to make the necessary corrections.

Phone: Toll-Free (866) 601-2632 or (719) 785-2000 Email: athleteexpress@usada.org

For information regarding the changes in the text message updating process, log in to your USADA account and view the “Text Message Update” in the USADA Alerts area.

Exhibit “H”

American long jumper Tianna Bartoletta won a medal at worlds despite being homeless for three months

Tianna Bartoletta shocked her fans, revealing that she's been homeless for three months, while she escaped what she has alleged was an abusive marriage to her husband of five years

NBA Top 10 for Nov. 2



By Marissa Payne

Tears streamed down the face of Team USA's Tianna Bartoletta as she collected her bronze medal in the long jump during the final days of the IAAF World Championships last weekend. Having previously won gold in the event at worlds twice before, and being the reigning Olympic gold medalist at the long jump, Bartoletta's had better finishes, but she wasn't crying sad tears. Her tears came from relief — that she could persevere and even succeed through even the darkest of times.

"(Y)ou may find it hard to believe but this Bronze medal is THE most special medal I have ever won," the 31-year-old wrote on Instagram after collecting her hardware. "Because just three short months ago I had to run away from my own home, I had to decide which of ALL my belongings were the most important, I had to leave my dogs, I had little money, I still have no actual address, all to give myself a chance at having a life and the love I deserved — one that didn't involve fear or fighting, threats, and abuse."

WASHINGTON POST

August 18, 2017
3:38 PM EDT
Last Updated
August 21, 2017
8:59 AM EDT

Filed under
Sports > [Olympics](#)

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TORONTO WEATHER

5°C

Partly cloudy
Feels like 1 °C



Sunday	8 °C
Monday	12 °C
Tuesday	14 °C
Wednesday	9 °C

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Daily horoscope for Saturday, November 3, 2018



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tianna.bartoletta I knew defending my title would be difficult. And you may find it hard to believe but this Bronze medal is THE most special medal I have ever won. Because just three short months ago I had to run away from my own home, I had to decide which of ALL my belongings were the most important, I had to leave my dogs, I had little money, I still have no actual address, all to give myself a chance at having a life and the love I deserved--one that didn't involve fear or fighting, threats, and abuse. To stand on the podium today after not even being in the mix for 4 rounds means the world to me. I took a huge gamble blowing my life up in such an important year for me career-wise. But it was about time for me to see that I was worth it. It was worth it. Thanks so much for riding with me. ❤️

[view all 217 comments](#)

Add a comment...

Bartoletta shocked her fans, revealing that she's been homeless for three months, while she escaped what she has alleged was an abusive marriage to her husband of five years John Bartoletta. (For his part, John Bartoletta has characterized the couple's divorce as "amicable," per the BBC.)

"I took a huge gamble blowing my life up in such an important year for me career-wise. But it was about time for me to see that I was worth it," she continued. "It was worth it. Thanks so much for riding with me."

Not having a permanent address, however, was just one of the many obstacles Bartoletta had to overcome on her way to worlds. On Wednesday, she opened up to the BBC about the effect her relationship had on her mental health.

"I lost my personality," she said. "I felt like I became a stranger to myself almost."

Bartoletta said she even thought about suicide.

Bartoletta told the BBC it took her a while to open up to people about how she was feeling, including family, but doing so put her on the path to feeling better.

“This has been my therapy — sharing this story with you, sharing the Instagram post, blogging,” she said. “It has kind of been my way of healing.”



US athlete Tianna Bartoletta reacts during the final of the women's long jump athletics event at the 2017 IAAF World Championships at the London Stadium in London on August 11, 2017.

ANDREJ ISAKOVIC/AFP/Getty Images

Now she hopes to inspire others who might also be struggling.

“The most important thing is you're not alone,” she said. “(Depression) is a very difficult situation, it's complex, it's confusing and hard for a lot of people who aren't in it to understand, but . . . I understand.”

Others who suffer from similar issues haven't always followed a positive path. At least 102 former Olympians have committed suicide, according to statistics kept by Sports Reference. Twenty-one of them were track and field athletes.

While studies suggest elite athletes have a broadly comparable risk of developing depression relative to the general public, Bartoletta suggested her athletic success acted as an impediment to her getting help.

“(T)he most difficult thing . . . I was still being successful on the track, so I think it was easier to overlook the personality change because I was still bringing it home, medals in huge performances,” Bartoletta told the BBC. “So I was able to rationalize the change in my personality, and other people would say, ‘Oh, that's just what it took to be elite. It was the sacrifice. She's just the ultimate professional.’ ”

Going forward, Bartoletta said she has no foolproof plan to keep on the path of growth, but she appears confident that she'll continue to make strides and not just on the track.

OLYMPICS



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Scott Stinson: Given WADA's response, why would Russia hesitate about cheating all over again?



Watch Scott Stinson: Even with plan for off-the-rack Olympics, Calgary's billions may not be worth month of good times



Canadian sprinter Crystal Emmanuel kicks Iced Capp habit, emerges as podium threat for Tokyo 2020



Watch Future of Canadian figure skating is a slender 13-year-old who can land jumps that eluded Patrick Chan



Marathoner Lanni Marchant embarks on long road back from surgery, perhaps ending at Tokyo 2020

TOP STORIES



Jordan Peterson: It's 2:39 a.m. in Oslo and this irritating man has pushed me too far

The part of me that lurks underneath isn't finished grappling with this French journalist acting the tough, hard-bitten reporter



Watch Private food tests promise to reveal your food sensitivities. But is it just a pseudoscience?

The tests claim to be able to identify food sensitivities associated with headaches, lethargy, brain fog, depression and an huge array of other symptoms



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We concluded that practically all of western Canada, and the sizeable conservative minority in eastern Canada, were practically unrepresented in the national media

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Exhibit “I”

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD

SACRAMENTO COUNTY
 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

CONFIDENTIAL
 LICENSE AND CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE
 MUST BE LEGIBLE - NAME NO ERASURE, NO REPORT OF OTHER ALTERATIONS
 USE DARK INK ONLY

5201634037422
 LOCAL REGISTRATION NUMBER

STATE FILE NUMBER		5201634037422	
MARRIAGE FIRST PERSON DATA	1A. FIRST NAME DOREN	1B. MIDDLE DORENE	1C. LAST NAME AT BIRTH (IF DIFFERENT THAN 1D)
	2A. CURRENT LAST BARCOLETTA	2B. LAST MARRIAGE (IF ENDED BY DEATH OR DIVORCE) DATE ENDED (MM/DD/YYYY) 05/27/1997	
	3. DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY) 07/24/1963	4. STATE/COUNTRY OF BIRTH CA	5. STATE/COUNTRY OF BIRTH CA
	6. ADDRESS 17007 ABASTROS DR AVILA	7. CITY DANZA	8. ZIP CODE 95813
MARRIAGE SECOND PERSON DATA	11A. FULL BIRTH NAME OF FATHER JAMES LEE BARCOLETTA	11B. STATE OF BIRTH (IF OUTSIDE U.S. ENTER COUNTRY) NY	11C. DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY)
	12A. FULL BIRTH NAME OF MOTHER LITA FELICE SACCOLETTI	12B. STATE OF BIRTH (IF OUTSIDE U.S. ENTER COUNTRY) NY	12C. DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY)
	13A. FIRST NAME TIARDA	13B. MIDDLE TARSEILLE	13C. LAST NAME AT BIRTH (IF DIFFERENT THAN 13D)
	14. DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY) 08/30/1985	15. STATE/COUNTRY OF BIRTH CA	16. STATE/COUNTRY OF BIRTH CA
17. ADDRESS 17007 ABASTROS DR AVILA	18. CITY DANZA	19. ZIP CODE 95813	
AFFIDAVIT	18. I, THE UNDERSIGNED, CURRENTLY LIVING TOGETHER AS SPouses, DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA THAT WE ARE UNMARRIED AND THAT THE FOREGOING INFORMATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF. WE FURTHER DECLARE THAT NO LEGAL PROHIBITION EXISTS AGAINST OUR ADOPTING THIS AFFIDAVIT AND WE AGREE TO ACCEPT THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY FAMILY CODE SECTION 300.001. I HAVE LISTED IN FIELD 13C		
	19. I, THE UNDERSIGNED, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE-NAMED PARTIES TO BE MARRIED HAVE PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME AND PROVED TO ME ON THE BASIS OF SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE TO BE THE PERSONS CLAIMED, OR THAT THE PERSON REPRESENTING THE DESIGNATED PERSONS PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME AND PRESENTED AN AFFIDAVIT SIGNED BY THE PARTIES TO BE MARRIED DECLARING THAT ONE OR BOTH OF THE PARTIES ARE INCAPABLE TO APPEAR AND EXPLAINING THE REASONS THEREFOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH FAMILY CODE SECTION 300.001. I HAVE FURTHER DECLARED THAT THE MARRIAGE MEETS ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW AND WITHIN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. TO SOLEMNIZE THE MARRIAGE OF THE ABOVE-NAMED PERSONS PURSUANT TO FAMILY CODE SECTION 300.001. THE MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE MUST TAKE PLACE IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.		
LICENSE TO MARRY	20A. MARITAL DATE (MM/DD/YYYY) 03/09/2016	20B. EXPIRES AFTER (MM/DD/YYYY) 06/06/2016	20C. SIGNATURE OF COUNTY CLERK DONORA ALLRED
	21A. MARRIAGE LICENSE NUMBER A-51634000051	21B. COUNTY OF BIRTH SACRAMENTO	21C. PERFORM COMPLETED MARRIAGE LICENSE TO INCLUDE ADDRESS 600 STE STEWART, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
NOTARY PUBLIC COMPLETED (ONLY IF LICENSE NOTARY PUBLIC)	22A. STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SUSQUEHANNA AND KNOWN TO ME OR AFFIRMED BEFORE ME ON THIS DAY OF 20		22B. TYPED NAME OF NOTARY 22C. SIGNATURE OF NOTARY
	23. I, THE UNDERSIGNED, DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA THAT THE ABOVE-NAMED PARTIES WERE JOINED BY ME IN MARRIAGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. NOTE: THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY MUST TAKE PLACE IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.		
CERTIFICATION OF PERSON SOLEMNIZING MARRIAGE	24A. DATE OF MARRIAGE (MM/DD/YYYY) 03/09/2016	24B. CITY OF MARRIAGE SACRAMENTO	24C. COUNTY OF MARRIAGE SACRAMENTO
	25A. SIGNATURE OF PERSON SOLEMNIZING MARRIAGE Cristina Ramirez	25B. RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION (IF ANY)	25C. OFFICIAL TITLE DEP. CO. CLERK
NEW MARRIED (IF ANY) (SEE REVERSE)	26A. FIRST - MUST BE SAME AS 1A 26B. MIDDLE 26C. LAST		
	27A. FIRST AND LAST NAME OF PERSON LISTED IN 13C (IF ANY) FOR USE UPON SOLEMNIZATION OF THE MARRIAGE (SEE REVERSE FOR INFORMATION) 27B. MIDDLE 27C. LAST		
COUNTY CLERK	28A. NAME OF COUNTY CLERK DONORA ALLRED	28B. SIGNATURE OF CLERK OR DEPUTY CLERK DONORA ALLRED	28C. DATE ACCEPTED FOR REGISTRATION 03/09/2016

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH - VITAL RECORDS VS-128 (REVISED)

CERTIFIED COPY OF VITAL RECORDS
 STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

This is a true and exact reproduction of the document officially registered and placed on file in the office of the SACRAMENTO COUNTY CLERK/RECORDER.

DATE ISSUED **MAR 09 2016**



Donna Allred
 DONORA ALLRED COUNTY CLERK/RECORDER
 SACRAMENTO COUNTY CALIFORNIA

This copy not valid unless preceded or engraved border displaying date, seal and signature of the County Clerk/Recorder.

ANY ALTERATION OR ERASURE VOIDS THIS CERTIFICATE



Exhibit “J”

Moving Forward From Her Marriage, Bartoletta Values Bronze More Than Gold



Tianna Bartoletta's first few long jump attempts at the 2017 IAAF World Championships didn't put her in contention for the podium. But, thanks to nerves steeled by years of world-class competition, her attempts -- 6.56m, 6.60m, foul, 6.64m, 6.88m, and 6.97m -- increased gradually. Each time, the Olympic champion learned and corrected. She maintained focus and found her strength, along with a bronze medal.

For Bartoletta, the process was much like the build-up in her decision to leave what she has called an abusive marriage to her husband of five years, John Bartoletta.

"The way that the competition went kind of represents how my season went as well because I couldn't leave right away. It took me two months to plan to leave so that I was safe and so that I would have enough resources to continue to compete," she told FloTrack.

"For me, those months between March and May were like the five rounds. I was just trying to chip away at making a better life for myself slowly but surely, not freaking out, not panicking, but continuing to move forward and focus on the task at hand."

Moving Forward From Her Marriage, Bartoletta Values Bronze More Than Gold



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On May 1, 2017, after two months of planning an escape, Bartoletta left the home they shared in Tampa, Florida. She abandoned most of her possessions, including her three Olympic gold medals.

While standing on the podium with her bronze medal, Bartoletta let the tears flow. She could finally let go knowing that the accomplishment was hers and hers alone.

"I just cried uncontrollably. I could not stop," she said recalling the moment she received her medal. She couldn't even let the IAAF officials remove it for a few minutes to

engrave her name.

"I said, 'I'm sorry but I cannot take this off,' and I started crying again," she said, laughing. "I was done being strong for the moment. I didn't have enough strength left, I had used it all to get to that point, and I had nothing else."

After the ceremony, Bartoletta shared the whole story on Facebook.

"I knew defending my title would be difficult," she wrote. "And you may find it hard to believe but this Bronze medal is THE most special medal I have ever won. Because just three short months ago I had to run away from my own home, I had to decide which of ALL of my belongings were the most important, I had to leave my dogs, I had no money, I still have no actual address, all to give myself a chance at having a life and the love I deserved--one that didn't involve fear or fighting, threats and abuse."

On the same day that Bartoletta left her home, she filed for divorce after five years of marriage. Her husband John said that in their time together they "made an incredible team," and that they are currently going through an "amicable" divorce, according to a statement obtained by BBC Sport.

Three months later, Bartoletta vividly remembered the day she left. Her husband went to work in the morning. After he left the house, she packed only the possessions she absolutely needed and got in the car. She drove to the airport and parked in their usual spot. But before she left, Bartoletta wrote him a note, which explained her departure and where the car was parked. She would mail the keys back to him.

Bartoletta recalled the gut-wrenching mix of emotions that tortured her while she sat in

the airport. She was terrified, she had an overwhelming feeling of guilt, but most importantly, she had to get out. Unable to sit still any longer, she walked up to the flight attendants and asked to be put on a flight to Atlanta immediately. With no questions asked, they put her on a plane in 20 minutes.

"I felt like I weighed a couple hundred pounds lighter as the wheels took off on the flight to Atlanta. I hadn't felt like that before," Bartoletta said.

Once she arrived in Atlanta, Bartoletta stayed in a hotel for a few days before she flew to Shanghai for her first Diamond League competition of the year.

Before she made the decision to leave, Bartoletta said that her friends were the ones who helped her see the abuse in her relationship and the stark changes in her personality. For example, she had stopped writing, a passion that she says she enjoys even more than competing.

"There came a point where [my friends] were just like, 'Come on T, you're withering away in front of our eyes,'" she said.

"I have a large personality, but I became very muted in 2012. I didn't speak up at all, I was very standoffish in the media which was totally not my personality but it was what I was advised to do as part of a larger plan for me. It wasn't necessarily what I agreed with, but I felt like I had to go along with it."

Bartoletta is thankful for her coach Rana Reider who helped keep her occupied in those dark times by intentionally scheduling long, drawn-out practices and training sessions so that she wouldn't have to go home right away.

Reider was also there to congratulate Bartoletta on her hard-fought bronze medal in London. More than anyone, he understood the journey it took to get there.

"He told me that I was probably the only person in the world who could have pulled that off," Bartoletta recalled. Never one to admit weakness, she remembered breaking down when she finally admitted how difficult the situation was.

Since sharing her story on social media, Bartoletta says that she already feels so much better as the process has been "therapeutic" in a lot of ways. After years of being "muted," she is finding her voice -- she even started writing again.

"I had these voices in my head saying that I was only good because of these external factors that had nothing to do with me but were given to me by someone else. I started to believe that. Every time I struggled this season I thought maybe they were right," she said.

"So to pull that off in London, and the way that I pulled it off, knowing that it was me working for it round after round and staying in it. After that sixth jump, I knew that was me! I did that. When I looked at the medal, I just knew: I earned this. . . . I was believing all of these other narratives about me. But I know better now."

Exhibit “K”

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[Tianna Bartoletta Inspires Others With Her Long Jump From Abuse](#)

Tianna Bartoletta Inspires Others With Her Long Jump From Abuse

Hoping that others are able to soon find their way to their own peace

- By [Skyy Hook](#)
- August 23, 2017, 12:50 PM EST



Getty Images

According to [NBC News](#), African American women experience intimate partner violence at a rate 35% higher than that of white females, and about 2.5 times the rate of women of other races.

This is a harrowing statistic.

Swallow that. Digest it. Now think about the women in your own life that may be suffering in a silence so deafening that, if left unchecked, could literally render them permanently mute.

There is no typical woman that this happens to. Women of all walks of life can be targeted by abusers. The batterer doesn't start off behaving that way. So, what was at first thought to be a whirlwind romance can become an emotional hellhole quickly.

 YOUTUBE IAAF ATHLETICS

WCH 2017 London – Tianna Bartoletta USA Long Jump Bronze

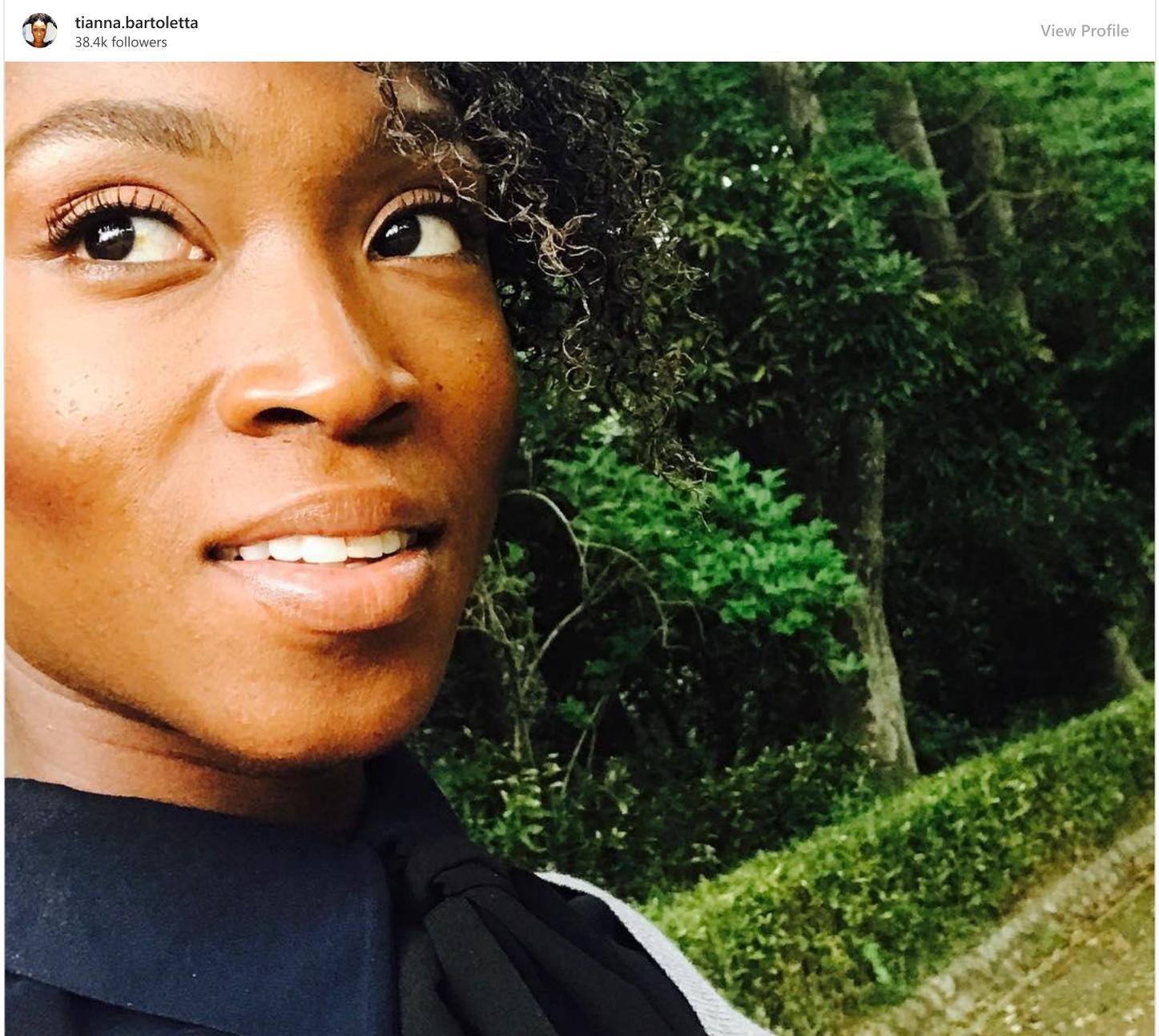


Add fame and notoriety to this situation and things can become even worse for the woman, as the fear of public shame and backlash may seem even more daunting than the pain she is enduring at the hands, or from the mouth, of the one who is supposed to love her the most.

Take the case of Team USA's Tianna Bartoletta, who upon winning the long jump bronze medal at the IAAF World Championships last weekend became quite emotionally overcome at the award ceremony.

Big, fat, crocodile tears were rolling down her cheeks. Most assumed it was because she was proud of her prize winning performance.

INSTAGRAM TIANNA.BARTOLETTA

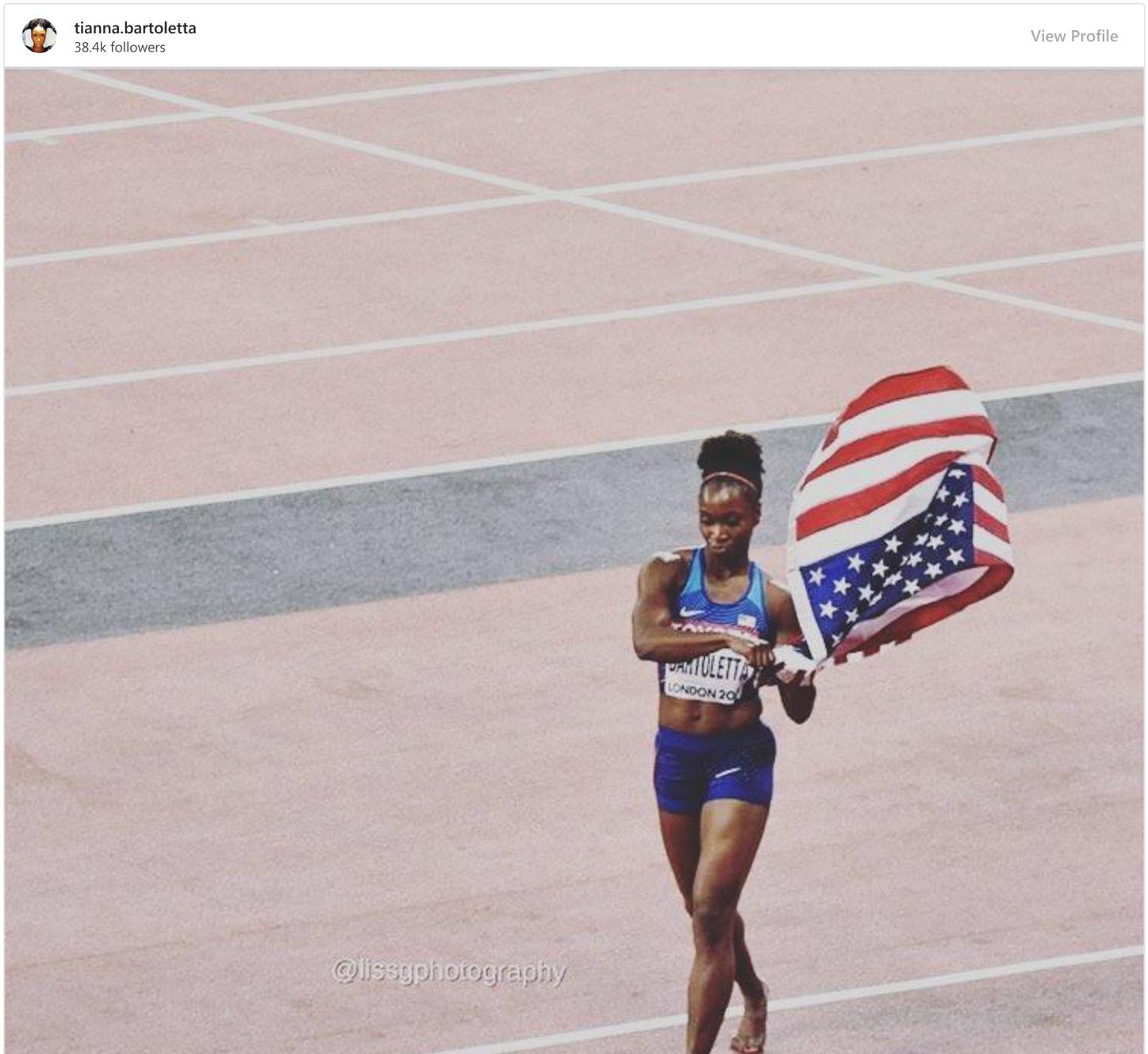


However, her Instagram account told a very different tale. According to the [National Post](#), she had just gone through a nightmarish existence and she spoke out about it publicly for the first time.

“I knew defending my title would be difficult,” said Bartoletta. “And you may find it hard to believe but this Bronze medal is THE most special medal I have ever won. Because just three short months ago I had to run away from my own home, I had to decide which of ALL my belongings were the most important, I had to leave my dogs, I had little money, I still have no actual address, all to give myself a chance at having a life and the love I deserved--one that didn't involve fear or fighting, threats, and abuse. To stand on the podium today after not even being in the mix for 4 rounds means the world to me. I took a huge gamble blowing my life up in such an important year for me career-wise. But it was about time for me to see that I was worth it. It was worth it. Thanks so much for riding with me.”

In an interview with the [BBC](#), Bartoletta explained further stating, “I lost my personality. I felt like I became a stranger to myself almost. It got so dark that I contemplated walking off a train platform in front of a train in Europe last season because it just started to feel like I had no way out, no way out of the feelings of frustration and shame. It was just so tempting to call it quits.”

INSTAGRAM TIANNA.BARTOLETTA



She is not alone. Not by a long shot as we all know or have known at least one woman who we constantly see smiling through her pain while explaining away her spouse's behavior. We know her and we love her but we don't know how to reach her.

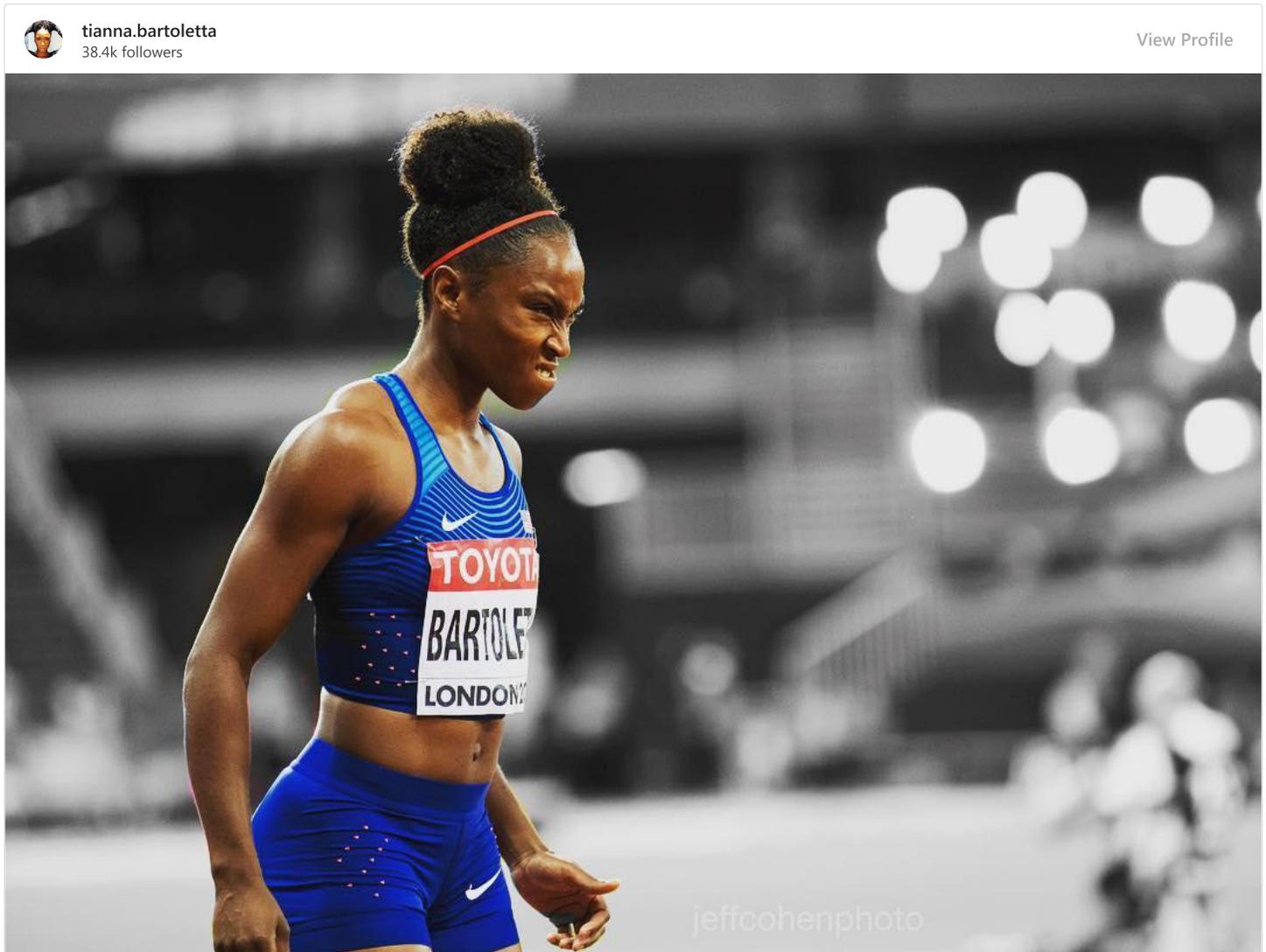
So, we smile politely as she conjures up stories about a grand home life that neither she or we believe to be true. Or we grow tired of trying to convince her to leave so we play pretend with her to allow her to save face because we think if she was really that fed up she would in fact just go.

According to [Department Of Justice](#) findings, there are several troubling reasons as to why African American women stay in these troubled relationships.

1. As a result of historical and present day racism, African American women may be less likely to report her abuser or seek help because of discrimination, African American men's vulnerability to police brutality, and negative stereotyping.
2. Stereotypes amplify the complexities African American women encounter when trying to seek help services.
3. Myths that African American women are "domineering figures that require control" or that African American women are "exceptionally strong under stress and are resilient" increase their vulnerability and discourage some from speaking out about abuse.

These are but a few of the problems that African American women encounter in these situations but there is another one that many really don't talk about.

INSTAGRAM TIANNA.BARTOLETTA



As with the case of Tianna, many women stay because they don't have anywhere to go and no money to run away with.

The idea of being homeless and penniless can at times seem so frightening that it may keep women in an abusive situation much longer than they would like to be. Especially if children are involved.

The [Family And Youth Services Bureau](#) reports that Between 22 and 57% of all homeless women report that domestic violence was the immediate cause of their homelessness. This is a staggering stat to say the least.

So, what can we do?

The [National Domestic Abuse Hotline](#) has some tips for helping our loved ones through a domestic violence ordeal.

Tianna told the BBC how she got through it all, saying, "This has been my therapy — sharing this story with you, sharing the Instagram post, blogging, it has kind of been my way of healing."

We hope other women are inspired by her story and find a way toward their very own peace...and soon.

[Tianna Bartoletta WCH 2017 London IAAF World Championships Sky hook domestic abuse Domestic violence Homelessness](#)
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Exhibit “L”



THE AUDACITY OF HOPE...THE COMPLEXITY OF COMPASSION

APRIL 22, 2018 · 3 COMMENTS

I didn't think it would ever happen.

Because I am not a forgiving person really.

Typically, by the time I've realized that I've been irreparably hurt by a person...

that relationship has passed the point of no return.

And in my mind, there is no point in offering up forgiveness to a person for which I only have heaps of ashes and burned bridges to show for my time with them.

Yet somehow it still happened.

32 consecutive days of meditation and on the morning of what would be the 33rd day I felt it.

Compassion...

For him.

Of all people.

And I wanted to be livid that I STILL, still after everything that happened then, everything he is doing now I have the capacity for compassion.

Simply because I remembered what it was like to need help desperately...

The difference is that I possess the strength and humility to ask, not the hubris to take.

I remember how it felt to have less than nothing in all my bank accounts...

I remember feeling like I had caught a break, and relishing the power of feeling supported.

Only difference is that I leveraged that empowered feeling into six global medals, four gold, two bronze, and a world record that helped leave me in a better place as a person and athlete rather than allow myself to be supported for years with zero personal growth to show for it.

I was filled with compassion, looking back on this failed relationship this way.

It was unsettling, that I could wake up and think, “man, I know how you feel right now. I’ve been there. I can see why you acted that way, I’ve felt that.”

The difference was in *how* we acted.

Those antics and behaviors are rooted in fear.

I made every decision (misguided or not) because I had the audacity to hope.

I hoped that holding down three part-time jobs at the same time while training would be enough to supplement my lack of funds and sponsorship dollars while trying to remain in the sport.

I hoped that I would never have to worry about getting dropped or having to go through a sponsor-less season because I hoped I’d always stay near the top.

I hoped that prince charming was exactly who he said he was.

I hoped that I would be able to land on my feet after leaving.

Even now, I still have hope.

But hope, like compassion requires vision.

And some people just don't have it.

And others just won't take the time to define and refine it.

And what does any of this have to do with track and field you're probably wondering?

Everything.

Because implicit in the act of going to the starting line, or standing on the runway, or in the throwing circle is an audaciousness...

an audacity to hope

that tells you

you might just win it all

this time.

And every decision you've made up until that moment, was made with this in mind, that you were putting yourself one step closer to taking it all.

But had you approached it from the other direction, from a place of aversion and fear...

You're stepping to the line/runway/circle defeated already.

Because instead of feeling like this may be the moment you win it all...

you're thinking...

this may be the moment my fears are validated...

when all my insecurities and self-doubts will be exposed.

And the mind, a tool so powerful it can be wielded in any conceivable way- for positive or negative — good or evil— will bring all of this into fruition.

Having the audacity to hope grants you a larger capacity for greatness.

Because hope, like compassion, doesn't need to be limited to the realistic, the familiar, the practical, the acceptable, the comfortable.

Hope, may just be the fertile soil from which we are all able to bear good fruit.

And personally, compassion is the reason I do any of this now anyway...because I want you to know

I've been there...

razor on wrist

noose on neck

overdraft bank account

failed business ideas

disappointing track seasons

failed marriage

truculent divorce

insufficient income

and I STILL have the audacity to hope for a full life, a satisfying career, happiness, purpose.

So maybe you aren't yet in that place where you can feel compassion for another and their circumstances...

but can you perhaps try,

to find

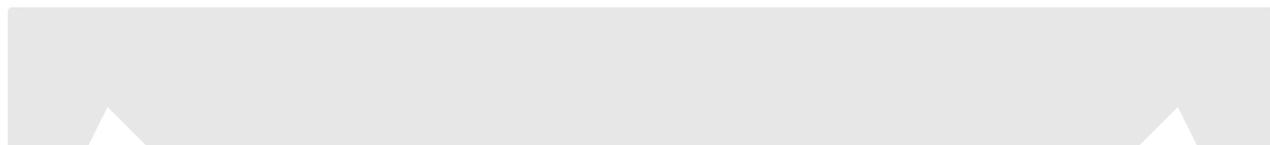
the audacity

to hope for better...

for yourself?

COMMENTS (3)

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Theresa Neuhoff 6 months ago · 0 Likes

Putting your heart out there like this takes amazing courage. What you have done gives me hope that if stay on this path of trying my best, I will succeed.

I'll never win a gold like you, but if I can fulfill my dream of buying a sailboat someday, it will feel like winning a gold.

Thank you for sharing your deepest feelings. It makes me feel like I am not alone in my struggles. 💎💎



itsamindgame 6 months ago · 0 Likes

It take a special kind of effort to feel compassion for an oppressor, without allowing them to manipulate us into feeling less about who we are for wanting better for ourselves. Congratulations on your growth and for sharing your path so that we too will not feel like no one has ever experienced the path we have lived. Thank you.



SHolden 6 months ago · 0 Likes

Very well written. All we have IS Hope, to make it through!

The Great Depression.

Stripped.



HOME PARTNERS BLOG CONNECT

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Exhibit “M”



INDELIBLE.

SEPTEMBER 29, 2018 · 1 COMMENT

I came home a few days ago after a full day of Yoga Teacher Training here in San Francisco to highlights (if we can call them that) of the Kavanaugh confirmation hearings.

It reminded me of my own hearing several months ago in Tampa that I was present for.

Opposing counsel, their client notably absent, stood before the judge and suggested that I was possibly guilty of some fantastical things...

My attorney reminded the other several times that I was in attendance

That he could simply ask me directly, rather than “wonder aloud”

But he refused to acknowledge my presence. Wouldn't even look me in the eyes.

And I remember thinking that I wasn't a human being to them at all.

I remember knowing in that moment that for them this wasn't about

fair or unfair

Right or wrong

No...

For them

This was about

Winning and losing

And carnage.

Most days I don't even think about my still pending divorce.

Most days I'm just in the present

Moving

Breathing

On other days I'm looking ahead, dreaming of my next thing

And like clockwork, I get a call, email, or a bill from my attorney that snaps me back

And so I fire off an email asking...

“Why are we still doing this? What are we even contesting?”

And my attorney patiently responds and explains

That the problem is...

I'm asking for half of my earnings

While he believes I deserve nothing

And the would-be-comical thing is that it doesn't actually matter what he or I believes because in Florida it's 50/50.

It's the damn law.

Unless...

The other person (me, in case I've lost you)

Says, "I don't want 50% of everything..."

I simply want 50% of what I've earned

What I've worked hard for...

And...because of the dynamic of this marriage, I unfortunately have to ask him for it.

But the answer is no.

No.

No.

No.

Why?

Because.

This isn't about

Fair or unfair

Right or wrong

But about winners and losers

And carnage.

But I didn't want to start a war.

I wanted to free us both from the bondage of a toxic relationship.

I don't want to go to war

Aligned on opposite sides from a man I've loved.

I didn't want to go to war.

Neither did Arjuna.

I know.

I bet you're like who the hell is Arjuna?

Right...yea about that. Remember when I mentioned Yoga Teacher Training? Well, one of the books on our reading list is the Bhagavad Gita.

And let me tell you...it's a must read story.

Here's the gist.

There are two families: We'll call them The Kurus and the Pandus (for the sake of my spell check)

They are actually related. Cousins.

And just like modern families the last time they got together they got competitive, a bet was made, the Pandus lost the bet and as a result lost ALL of their land.

But all wasn't lost forever. The Kurus said they could have the land back after 13 years if certain conditions were met.

Long story short...

The Pandus met the conditions and came back for their land and the Kurus were like...

Nah.

And didn't give it back.

So now because of this betrayal the two sides are going to go to war.

Arjuna is a warrior, the fiercest warrior, and the finest archer. He's also a Pandu.

(I have to skip a bunch of parts...so make sure you read this for yourself)

Arjuna is on the battlefield looking at both sides with Krishna (an incarnation of God- who's also the driver of the chariot)

And Arjuna's like...

I can't do this.

Those people I'm going to war against

Those are my teachers

My cousins...

My friends...

People I love

I cannot do this.

And he collapses debilitated to the floor of his chariot

Sort of like I did in a Honda Accord, last Saturday.

Anyway...

Krishna, with the patience only a God could have for these antics reminds him of who he is:

The fiercest warrior

The finest archer

He reminds Arjuna that he and his side of the family are on the brink of extinction now,

That he's on the right side of this fight.

And Arjuna cries out "BUT THIS IS AN IMPOSSIBLE CHOICE!" (Not a direct quote)

And Krishna basically says in response

This isn't a choice at all...

This is dharma...your calling according to your Karma.

Why the hell else would you be the fiercest warrior? The finest archer?

What was the point of all that training?

What's the purpose of all of your natural gifts?

Will you ignore your abilities, your gifts, what's right?

What is the point of being you

If...

when its time to really be “you”

and step into your power, and use your gifts...

You refuse

To even stand?

To even fight?

Live your calling.

And so...

Watching Dr. Ford testify reliving her high school trauma reminded me of my own hearing

felt like a foreshadowing of my upcoming one

And I found myself wondering, “what’s the point?”

Like Arjuna...

Except I know the answer.

We don’t train for the Olympics knowing in advance who will get the medals...

We don’t leave abusive marriages and toxic relationships knowing for absolute certain that we’ll get another chance at love...

We don’t quit day jobs to pursue our passion because we know for sure it’s going to work out.

No...

we do all of these things because we are called to.

We are compelled to.

There's a voice within that says, "run, leave."

or "go for it"

or "take your shot"

Not because we know how it ends.

Because we don't.

And maybe what we're born to do...

what we're called to do...

isn't easy.

Maybe its the hardest effing thing you'll ever have to do...

Maybe it's standing and testifying in front of a committee

maybe it's being deposed in a contentious divorce case...

maybe it's firing a coach...

maybe it's moving away from friends and family...

maybe it's finally standing up to someone who's been running over you for as long as you can remember...

maybe it's this...

maybe it's that...

whatever it is

it's for YOU to do.

It isn't a choice at all...

This is dharma...your calling according to your Karma.

What's the purpose of all of your natural gifts?

All of your training?

Will you ignore your abilities, your gifts, what's right?

What is the point of you being "you"

If...

when its time to really be "you"

and to step into your power, and to use your gifts...

You refuse

To even stand?

To even fight?

Live your calling.

That's the only thing you can control, and so it is your only responsibility.

Maybe he gets confirmed.

Maybe I lose everything in my divorce.

Maybe you don't medal at the Olympics.

Maybe you lose a friend.

Maybe you go broke.

Ask yourself this...

what have you truly lost

if you're living and acting inline with your calling?

Live it.

Breathe it.

Remind yourself of it everyday...

Until that voice inside, leading you and guiding you to live out your dharma, is indelible in the hippocampus.

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