

“Statement to Madison Family & Elyria Officials” by Tianna Bartoletta

A message sent from 2016 Rio Olympic Games: August 14, 2016

This is Tianna Bartoletta. Thank you to those of you in Elyria who I've learned actually are supportive of me and what I'm trying to accomplish as I work to improve as an athlete and person. I am directly addressing those of you who respect me enough to refer to me by my married and legal name Tianna Bartoletta. Those of you who want to see me do well and could care less about infighting in a family or declaring allegiance to a certain side.

I did not intend for a private dispute between Jo Ann Madison and I to become a subject of public discourse. Had she and Robert Madison decided not to sue me after my last Olympic Games you would have never known about the animosity that exists between us and you would have been free to remain inspired by my lead off performance on the world record breaking 4x100m relay team. And let's just ask that question out loud, "what kind of supportive parent sues their child ever? Let alone after the Olympic Games?"

But that was their intention. To divert attention from something/anything positive that I've done back to themselves. "Your prayers were answered." What were you praying for? For me to fail?

My "parents" and "little sister" are delusional and narcissistic and like clockwork every time I am in position to do something positive they pop up online and begin their twisted campaigns ("family first"... you realize they sued me) And seeing as we are in another Olympic year the same pattern is being initiated again. This is a textbook definition of narcissism, their need to say, "don't look at Tianna and what she's trying to accomplish... look at us!"

Over the last four years I mistakenly thought that not dignifying their manipulative and pathetic behavior with a response was the noble thing to do. But we live in a society where anyone with a social media account can have an audience, and anyone with a keyboard can spew any narrative they want. I instead chose to focus on myself, my husband, and my career while Robert continues to sit back and allow Jo Ann and Christina to spread a twisted narrative veiled in religious subterfuge about myself and my husband. I naively thought it would make me look bad to stoop to their level and engage. But, like we teach children daily when faced with a group of bullies, you don't run you face them and confront them and almost every time you will expose them for the cowards they are. So I can no longer remain silent.

Here's what you won't see Jo Ann Post to her Facebook page, that several months ago I called them deciding to take a proactive roll by stating my desire not to reinstate a mother/daughter, father/daughter, or sister/sister relationship but to demand that we at the very least just respect each other as adults. Robert spoke freely on that call but Jo Ann, who was also on the phone chose not to speak to me, even when she was directly spoken to by me.

What you also won't see Jo Ann post is that for 4.5 years she has had both my home phone number and my husband's two cell phone numbers. If she really wanted to talk to me (and I assure you she does not and let's be clear I have zero to say to her either) a mother would attempt at least once to pick up the phone and call. Or at the very least have taken the opportunity to speak to me directly when I called her. But she did not and she won't because she'd rather be "mother of the year" or the perceived "P&G Olympic mother" in her circle of online friends.

They are not victims and I am not a prodigal daughter that will one day return to the fold. I am done. They might as well have a funeral for me because they will never see my face again.

And for those other adults (online) who have injected themselves into this ordeal I implore you to take a step back and understand that this has nothing to do with you. There is zero reason for you to have an opinion about how I live, who I'm with and who I allow to be in my life.

To my so called "God-family" posting things about my husband as if it validates your argument that I'm better off without him. First, together my success with John is well documented and speaks for itself. National Titles, World titles, two Olympics and world record Gold. And there's more to come. Second, name one time you gave me anything other than empty words to help me survive from 2006-2011. Third, name one time you traveled to a track meet to see me compete. Please sit down, you are only proving to me exactly why I'm better off without you.

I married a man who had my back through the nonsense you keep perpetuating. It's actually funny to the both of us that all of you continue to demand credit and acknowledgement for being supportive of me "once upon a time" and your method of choice is to dog me and my husband in the process.

Did Robert and Jo Ann also tell you they had no problem spending John's money? No problem accepting his hospitality while staying at our house in 2012? No problem accepting offers to fly them out to meets, secure rental cars, pay for dinner? Did she tell you about how we all went to the Tampa Bay Lightning Hockey game together? No? I'm not surprised. That doesn't fit her narrative. Has Christina posted about John finding gigs for her to do makeup to help her with extra cash? Or about when she came and spent nights over? Or the money she got from us? No? I'm not surprised.

Christina, you're a mother now. You need to spend more time parenting and less time playing mommy's little girl. We are not in competition. You no longer need to lie on me or throw me under the bus to endear yourself to her. You can stop pretending we had anything more than a relationship based on proximity and bloodlines. My therapist asked me once if I'd be friends with you if we weren't sisters and the answer was and still is a resounding no. Life is too short for me to pretend I miss having your two faced personality in my life. You injected yourself in the middle of this dispute by choice- it had nothing to do with you. And now, because I've seen every one of your ignorant posts, you've written yourself out of my life too. Good riddance. And the next time you post about John remember to share how you two texted back and forth this year and you sent him a bunch of pictures of your son. We can screenshot the conversation if you have trouble finding it on your own.

In our Judeo-Christian society it is extremely hard to imagine a child taking this stance against her parents. "Honor your father and mother" is a scripture that all of us are aware of. However, if we're going to quote scripture let's recite together Ephesians 6:4 "do not provoke your children to anger..." Or Colossians 3:21 which reiterates the other.

I have a toxic mother that I, as an adult, decided to divorce for my own well being and mental health. She has not done right by me since I was a pre teen. I have a submissive and cowardly father that allows my mother to treat, manipulate, and bully people however she wants. And a sister that carries on online rants knowing they are not the truth. Robert you are just as bad as they are for your silence. And this isn't the first time you're hearing this. I know one of your other daughters had told you exactly this same thing- but you have not and will not stand up for what's right and get control of your family. How pathetic. Didn't you also say to me on the phone after the 2012 Olympic Trials when I was still in Portland at the Benson Hotel "your mother and I are disgusted with who you have become"? You did and I will never forget it.

For these reasons and other "unspeakables" like Jo Ann likes to insinuate in her opportunistic posts, I have divorced this "family". They are dead to me. I am currently writing my own story and living my life the way I want and need to. I am happy and living joyously with a family in Tampa that needs none of the fanfare you seek, and true friends that are supportive of me and John. And I'm doing a good job of it. It's time for you to get your own life together and leave us alone.

Jo Ann and Christina this need not be twisted, broken up, re-written, plagiarized or spun

by you to create a false narrative for two reasons. First, this was written solely and directly by me Tianna Bartoletta and Second, there are a lot of people within your little circle that already know the truth. Many more than you are aware of...

I am at the Olympic Games in Rio Competing in 3 events and this is what I'm forced to deal with...at the hands of my so-called supportive family? What a contradiction.