

SPEAKER 1: So I just want to explain the reason why I am putting them up is because... losing these people, and all the stuff that has happened in my past, just made me realize I need to spend time on things I love and I absolutely love this series. So I do wanna write more in it. And to address my concerns about underage readers, Amazon has this wonderful feature where we can put in minimum age requirement.

So I did do that as 18 plus and I put it at the top of the series as well in each of the descriptions. Before the description of the book. I'm spending a lot of time on healing right now. There's a lot of grief I'm putting behind me. I lost a dear friend of mine, Mark Goff, who was a staple in my life, probably much more than he realized, in the beginning of August.

And then my brother Todd David Mackey was taken from this world in a... in a car accident on October 3rd. I had the instinct the day before to go and visit him. And I didn't follow that instinct and I will regret that for probably the... rest of my life.

I'm so grateful to my readers who supported me in taking it down. And I'm grateful to my readers who were upset at me for taking it down and for being honest. I'm glad that you felt you could be honest with me.

I really appreciate that and you guys can read them if you want to, or not if you don't. :)

The series is gonna be up there and I hope you enjoy it. And as far as the cockygate thing, the news says that I lost the trademark and the truth is I gave it up, I gave it up because... see, I didn't even want to go into court in the first place. I actually contacted the person who was gathering finances to go to the court, and who was just, you know, making the (sic: petition) signature thing. And I said, I'm so sorry this has happened. I never intended for any of this to happen. Can we just do something about this? Can we take care of this? And I didn't get a call back. Instead, I got a cease and desist and we were in court. Boom.

So, but... we're in court and we're waiting for the other side to come back because we were trying to also handle it without the, an actual, you know, Judge (sic: having to be) making their own decision. We (sic: the authors on both sides) were trying to handle it among ourselves and just come to them (sic: the Judge) with something like an agreement, but we hadn't heard from the other side. And then it turned out that one of the other authors, her mom had passed during the proceedings and that changed everything for me. I would have just probably walked away from it... if, if, if I'd gotten that call back... I would have actually. I would have. But when I got, when I found out about her mom, I thought, you know, what, what are we doing here? I lost my mom in 2005. I was there when she left.

It was tremendously... It's a part of life, but they do not warn you how hard it is. And I was devastated. I don't think I've maybe even still process some of the grief. Sorry, I didn't, I didn't mean to get emotional. My mom was my rock. She was amazing.

I loved her. I will always love her.

I've even had some signs that she's still looking out for me over the years. So thank you, Mom.

Anyway, here I am going deep again.

So I told my lawyer I wanted to, I wanted to give it up (sic: the trademark) because she just lost her mom. Why are we doing this? I don't want to do this. Just let's just do it, let's get out of it, whatever they want. Let's just get out. I'm gonna drop it(sic: the trademark). It's fine. I should never have gotten it.

And I'm terribly sorry. I'm terribly sorry I did. I'm terribly sorry for the cease and desist letters I sent out. I was an asshole. I was. I was defensive. And so I came off with, with what I do when I am defensive, I came off hard. I came off like a bitch. And, it was me being self protective and me worrying that they wouldn't hear me based on my own personal life history, you know. So regardless, I am sorry, I am sorry for cockygate.

I hope you can forgive me for that.

Thank you.