

Jan. 1, 2020
New York City

To Any and All,

My name is Sara Victoria Emory, and I have known Eric Francis Coppelino for around nine years, first as a friend and later as a colleague.

I would call myself a feminist, though that label has taken on a pretty wide spectrum of valences over the years.

I have a background in depth psychology at the graduate level, and consider myself a good analyst of the nuanced, contributing factors that converge in personality, behavior and character.

Eric has always impressed me as both extremely self-aware and sensitive. Never have I felt at all pressured or threatened or uncomfortable with him, as a woman.

My honest assessment of the harassment, intentional character assassination and illicit attempt to destroy his well-earned professional standing, is as follows:

This historical window in time is one in which major cultural paradigms are undergoing radical transformation. Millennia-old power dynamics between male and female are being deconstructed. An eruption of pain, accumulated over countless generations, has accompanied this shift. That pain expresses from several different quarters, but I am focusing here on the legacy of rage and grief held by women. I should add that I can personally relate to that legacy.

Now – understandable though it may be, the impulse to scapegoat is a primitive psychological phenomenon that has done little to advance humanity.

From every single thing I have observed about the events that unfolded in the Hudson Valley, as a result of what was actually a pretty tame and logical essay which Eric wrote at the beginning of the publicity wave about the Me Too movement, it has been a ***classic example of cultural scapegoating, as opposed to a justifiable response to actual transgression of any kind.***

I'm an attractive woman with a lot of experience with men. I repeat that never have I felt at all uncomfortable in any way with Eric. He is a cultural critic, and one to probe beyond the surface of sexual mores and underlying psychology. As such, he is used to criticism, as any cultural critic, much less one who writes about sexuality and culture, must be. His work in this area provides an important perspective and sounding board, while at the same time being compassionate in the extreme.

He's one of the most generous people I have known, and I am extremely proud to be among his friends and colleagues.

Sincerely,

Sara Victoria Emory