

# Johnny Weir Interview With Access Hollywood, Part 1

## March 2014

*Unofficial Transcript*

**Billy Bush** [voiceover]: “It was a very threatening marriage.” “I lived under constant threat.” The personal torment of Johnny Weir. Welcome to Access Hollywood. In a stunning, wide-ranging, exclusive interview, Johnny Weir speaks openly about calling it quits with his husband of two years, Victor Voronov. Claims from Johnny of abuse, both physical and mental, and of being cut off from his family. Earlier today I spoke with Johnny; he did not hold back.

**BB:** What happened, Johnny? What happened?

**Johnny:** Well, I’ve been having a tough time at home for a long time now, and it’s something that I kept from the public, and, um, there were so many things that hurt me as a person, so many things that I couldn’t control in my marriage because I can’t control my husband, I can’t tell my husband what to do in terms of our relationship. Personally, I was losing myself by being married to my husband. I was losing my objectives in life, I was very isolated from the world.

**BB** [voiceover]: Putting on a brave face in Sochi, it was actually while Johnny was there that he filed for divorce on February 12.

**BB:** In a sort of traditional Russian way, was Victor more interested in, you know, domesticating you, and you not traveling and working and, you know, providing America with flare as you do so much?

**JW:** Thank you. Um, he definitely didn’t like when I traveled so much. He was not super-accepting of the fact that I work, and I have to work this week in Russia, this week in Los Angeles, next week in Tokyo, and that’s something that’s hard to wrap your head around, especially when you are a stationary person. He has a law degree and he hopes to practice law someday. You know, I was supporting two people, and whether it seems like a big deal or not, I come from a lower-middle-class family that has to work no matter what. If you can’t be an attorney this week, then you’d better go get a job the next week. Otherwise the bills won’t get paid. And I had to travel to work, to support myself and to support my family.

**BB:** Johnny, while you were captivating audiences and having a great run in Sochi, were you spending nights on the phone and sending emails, and were things falling apart while you were carrying on a great show onscreen?

**JW:** Sochi was one of the hardest times in my life, and I'm so thankful that I was able to persevere and put on a brave face. When we were fishing, when I was on the broadcasting, I escaped my own personal hell that I was, that I was living in. My husband was behaving very erratically. The majority of the time off-camera I was in tears, I was on the phone, I was fighting, I was not in a good place.

**BB:** What were the fights over, Johnny? What was going on?

**JW:** We started to really have problems last fall, so these were kind of carrying over, and there were financial disputes between he and I, and of course it's been made public now that there was sort of a domestic incidence between Victor and I before I went to the Olympics, and we were fighting over that, and it was being held over my head, he was going to get me fired, and I would have to say, "Well, Victor, if I get fired, then what are we going to do? What are we going to do? How are we going to survive? I need to work." I saw very clearly while I was in Russia that when I got home, it wouldn't be to the same household and it wouldn't be a situation that I could foresee myself going down that road and fixing it. I had to take action to protect myself and to protect—to protect my life. We're still young people, and I want to have a happy life, and I wish that so much for him also. [voice breaks] And that's just what it is. It's two people that got married for all the right reasons, and I hope that this divorce will also be for the right reasons. And that he finds peace, and that I can find peace with this as well.