

Marvel's failed experiment on replacing fan favorite characters ends in disaster.

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GEEKY



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## THIS IS TRULY HORRIBLE!

### In more than one way

Okey, this is a fiskin of Joe Glass by yours truly Eduardo López, the rules are easy his text will be in italic and mine in bold, also I will forget about having columns. You'll find his article [here](#).

*There's something rotten in the world of comics. It's something I've noticed for a very long time, sadly, but the last few weeks has seen it feel even worse. Maybe even the last year, emboldened by the kind of discourse pervading our world now, even down to our politics and societal structures. That problem is, simply put: trolls.*

**Well some discovery you have done dude! Every single community has those, of course I would love to see some examples of said trolling, only to make sure you're not painting every single fan as one, or at least those who disagree with you.**

*No, not rebirths, retcons, or reboots (or perpetual event comics) — no, the problem with comics has become a frankly toxic element of discourse that has pervaded every section of comics, from fandom, commentary to critical elements — and even the creators and publishers themselves.*

**Neat! So there are trolls among the editors, assistant editors, artists and even the upper echelons of the publishers and among the fans. Okey sounds fair, a shame you don't provide any sample of said trolling.**

*Note: I am not going to name names here. This article isn't about playing the shame game, and I will not be calling any particular individual out, but I most certainly will be discussing the kind of harassment and offensive dialogue that has sprung up in comics, or at the very least become far more visible, through the advent of social media.*

**What!? You'll not give names? Do you realize this paints everyone as a troll and a harasser? Worst yet, you are becoming an accomplice of the harassers by not naming them, well at least I hope the people victims of said harassment went to the police since that IS a crime.**

*After all, there has probably always been a negative element. The idea of gatekeepers to the comics community and fandom is hardly new. It's what led to all those offensive stereotypes of comics fans as fat, balding, middle-aged white men living in their mothers' basements — because it was happening. Comics felt inaccessible to minorities, women, and POC for years due to a) a perceived lack of their presence in the material and b) a threatening, unsafe feeling generated in comics spaces, whether through language used or the perceived glares of those admitted into that world.*

Really? Comics "felt inaccessible to minorities, women, and POC for years"? Funny, nobody informed me -a latino- about this, and I have many black, Asian, women, gay, etc. friends who weren't informed either that we should feel this way, (By the way stop using the modern form of colored people please?). Wonder how you know how we felt?.

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## Painting with a wide brush

*The why of this, why would they be like this, is largely a simple psychological response: they are made to feel powerless in the world, and unfortunately a natural inclination for humans, a very base response, is to "reclaim" some of that power by passing along those feelings of powerlessness to someone they feel they can — such as individuals or groups new to the area or community, or who are themselves seeking a safe space. Think about that for a second: this is basically the entire discourse of the wider social and political world at the moment too, a behaviour purposefully manipulated on a larger scale outside of the comics community. What we are seeing in comics is perhaps a microcosm of that.*

**So you ARE painting every fan with the same brush, we "felt" this way and searched to make others feel the same. Dude you are lying, you are lying about me and my fellow geeks, nothing new, you puritans always find things to blame us for.**

*But social media seems to have magnified things to a scale hitherto unseen, and it is perhaps all the more horrifying to see because we are at a time when those women, POC, and minorities are at least being attempted to be brought into the comics community.*

**And you lie again, all those people you pretend to talk about were always a part of our community, both as fans and as creators : Milestone Media dude, Barbara Kesel and Louise Simonson to name but a few. Stop using me as a shield to lie with impunity about my fellow geeks.**

*After all, social media has done many great things. It has made access to creators, publishers, and the fandom so much easier, and has played roles no doubt in helping some of these newer, more diverse voices from becoming beacons in the community — whether it be at a creative level, critical level, or fandom level.*

**We always were there dude, years before you leftist puritans we suffered and conquered the right puritans, and we will do so with your brand of bigotry.**

*However, it has also made it easier for those who would dissent to change to find and target those they feel are ruining "their" comics. And certainly of late, we have seen female creators and editors and trans creators and editors face an insane amount of hate, irrational thinking and vile speech — and yet the perpetrators have faced little to no reprimanding.*

**I would love to see that hate, but you don't name names, either by design to tar us all with the same stigma or to lie about it with impunity since you don't have to prove that X person is 1 a comic fan and 2 that said person did what you claim. If anyone WAS harassed they should go to the police, it is a crime after all, wonder how many police reports have been filled about it?**

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## Still no evidence

*This is especially true of Twitter, which continues to allow users to harass trans comics creators. A major part of this may be freedom of speech laws, especially in the US, which arguably have not yet caught up to modern technologies. In the majority of cases, while some of the things they are saying are so morally vile and objectionable, they have not broken any of the protections built into the sacrosanct laws of freedom of speech — they have not incited violence or unsafe physical situations (or at least not in a legally provable sense); they have not said anything that would be deemed obscene (they often avoid swearing or crass imagery, though not always); and they do not say anything that could be construed as legally libellous or slanderous.*

**Are you aware that harassment is not only against Twitter's TOS but against the law? Why do you waste your time writing a hit piece on all comic fans instead of giving names and telling the victims to go to the police? Why are these people not banned if they are truly harassing anyone? If you are such a coward that fears to report them to Twitter give me their names on a DM and I will do it after seeing with my own eyes the proof of the harassment.**

**Why do you protect these vermin instead of doing what any moral person would do? Again either you lie to paint us all with the same wide brush or you are an accomplice of the harassers.**

*From this standpoint, Twitter can stand behind a wall of "they have the right to say these things", no matter the moral implications or repercussions. They might try to argue that shutting them all down is not possible, but we know this isn't true. After all, any account that is perceived to have any remotely Nazi content or imagery is banned in Germany...where such things are illegal and would see Twitter getting sued.*

**Nice you now are claiming that Twitter is an accomplice of the harassment, and still nary a sign of evidence of said harassment, give it to us so we can join you in denouncing them and reporting them to Twitter. Or you can't because you're lying?**

*But while to some extent comics has always had this problem of toxic environments, let's not forget that old stereotype: such examples were usually socially awkward themselves and would not express these views publicly. Of course, this is another element where technology came into play and changed things.*

**Assertions, assertions everywhere and nary a sign of evidence to back them up. You are the ones perpetuating that stereotype, it was never true.**

*Because since the advent of the internet, people could anonymously throw out their hatred and bile without fear. It emboldened such voices to finally speak up loudly, and they sure as hell did so. While it may forever be impossible to measure the size of this element of fandom, it can't be denied that this element is loud.*

**Still more assertions and not a shred of evidence to back them up, who are the harassers? Why haven't their victims gone to the police? I'm sure it is a crime in every civilized country, so by not reporting them to the police their victims become their accomplices in the harassment of the next victim, and you by withholding the names become an accomplice of all their present, past and future victims. GIVE US THE NAMES AND THE EVIDENCE!**

*With the advent of social media, this became a more difficult situation, as this element now had access to make their statements not just into the ether, but targeted at individuals and groups. They got to see themselves as digital gatekeepers "protecting their community" from the outsiders — instead of welcoming new insights, new fans, and potentially new friends.*

**First it's Ether not ether, second who is this element? Have they been reported to the police for harassment? Have their victims reported them to Twitter? If there's an ongoing investigation surely you, with such anonymous and well informed sources, would know about it? Why do you insist in protecting these vermin?**

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## Liar or accomplice Joe?

*This element continues to grow and get bolder too, and this is in large part not due to laws not catching up with new technology — but rather with the publishers and creators themselves not catching up with an ever changing audience and an ever-changing time.*

*The trolls of the internet probably feel safe in speaking their minds as they do, as the creators they idolise often do the same. There have been a number of creators who have publicly via social media made troll like comments themselves, whether it be making fun of fans who are concerned with the direction of a story or shutting them down for expressing concerns from a different viewpoint; actually threatening critics or calling them idiots or liars because they have a distaste for the site they work for or other writers at that site, or merely didn't like a review or article they wrote; or expressing social or political views that previously they would have kept to themselves. And publishers have been few and far between in any kind of reprimand against this action.*

**It's "idolize" you dolt, also why do you protect this people? And why do you talk differently when it's in the corporate side? Are you aware that threatening people is a crime? That it goes against Twitter's TOS? Give us the evidence and the names so we can do the moral thing since you lack the spine to do so.**

*While the ability social media gives fans to feel a greater connection to their favourite creators is one thing, it has also allowed the trolls element to feel safe in their aggressive, threatening messages because they see people in places of "authority" within their community get away with it, too.*

*Comics, then, has come to accidentally nurture this environment, even when it has worked against them. Even when it leads to movements pushing back against the trolls such as [#MakeMineMilkshake](#), they simply move on to the next group that they perceive as unprotected.*

**Once again, I'm pretty sure threatening people is against Twitter's TOS, why aren't you giving Twitter their names? Why are you writing this article and threatening these vermin as if they were the victims? Why didn't you report all of them creators and fans alike if they threatened anyone? Are you okay with the vermin to be free to keep on harassing and threatening people?**

*This may be the biggest problem facing comics right now. If the tolls gatekeeping the community persist, it will continue to put off new people from wanting to join the community, even despite the best efforts of creators and publishers. We need to foster an environment where this kind of hatred; this kind of ownership, this kind of moral wasteland can no longer be permissible.*

**Since you provide exactly zero evidence to back up your claims I have to conclude that you are either okay with the status quo or are lying through your teeth so that you, or other puritans, can then become the gatekeepers. Since you are fine with tarnishing us all, fans and creators alike, with the same brush and lack the spine and moral fiber to give names and evidence to help solve this (according to you) huge problem, you have no stature to be talking about morals.**

*And this really should be done from top down. What needs to be found is a way of turning these examples of bad behaviour into an actual conversation. And I do not mean by the minorities or communities being affected — it is not the job of these groups to educate trolls; they are spending enough time dealing with the fallout and trying to live their lives. Rather, as a community we should not just [rally towards showing support](#), but also towards seeding change — not just of opinions and hearts and minds, but of the nature of the conversation away from an environment of exploitative and reactionary poop-flinging and towards mature, stable, and reasoned conversation that is open to new viewpoints.*

**So, the same self people that according to you are victims, are part of one of the groups guilty of doing those terrible things you claim are being committed, but it's not their job to educate trolls, WTF? As a community we have the right to call you out for not giving names, for shielding these terrible people you claim are hiding in our midst (with zero evidence to back it up), more evidence and less appeals to emotion my dude, didn't they teach you that it's a logical fallacy?**

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### In closing

*We have seen examples again on the wider stage of where the discourse of the world has moved away from healthy debate and education and towards this new paradigm of statements designed to send people into a rage, preventing all reasonable conversation. The reason for such discourse is clear: it's self-serving. You get to hear your own voice and opinion, and then watch the rabble as those it's offended because of the way it was delivered vent and rage — and speaks to the primal element of those who agree with you. It is designed to eliminate reason in favour of the instant gratification of having your own thoughts "validated".*

**And you want to purge our communities from said rabble so that you and yours can have an echo chamber where YOUR thoughts are the only ones being validated. Since you provide ZERO evidence of any harassment and threats I, as a skeptic, have to dismiss your claims, because "That which can be asserted without evidence can be dismissed without it too".**

*But we cannot allow that to continue. We cannot allow the validation of attacking and hurting minorities, or indeed anyone. We need the comics community to change — and it is all of our responsibility to work on that.*

*(Last Updated August 6, 2017 1:24 pm )*

**And yet you are allowing it, in fact YOU are becoming an accomplice of it, by shielding people on both sides (according to your own words), by not reporting them to Twitter, by not demanding from the victims to go to the police YOU (and said victims) become an accomplice of all past, present and future victims of the "rabble".**

Either you are allowing it and an accomplice or you are lying through your teeth. Which is it Joe?

**Needles to say I'm against harassment and have spoken before about judging people for their character and actions and not census characteristics, because I (in contrast with Joe Glass) believe that the members of those groups Joe wants to be the WHITE SAVIOUR do not need his White Knighting and are capable of defending themselves I urge you, if you see anyone being harassed, to tell the victim they not only SHOULD, but MUST go to the police in order to stop their harasser and to protect future would-be victims from that treatment.**

Signing off from México, yours truly Eduardo López. Happy readings and be well my fellow geeks.

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