

When do you think this change happened? I also think it's disingenuous to argue that he can easily just be "out-competed." He went to Russia as a bourgeois boy from a very well-connected family and built his Gonzo credentials, the ones that got him picked up by Rolling Stone, off of eroticizing cruel decadence built from mass, desperate poverty. Now he has a following that cudgels anyone who crosses his path. I do not think his apology, I'm referring to the one from the first of last month, is heartfelt –

## 1

It begins with paragraphs about his deep desire to be a writer and how he ruined his dream not by cheaply building its foundations on catering sexist bullshit to nasty Western men, but by "becoming an internet scandal." It takes him twelve paragraph to reach any sort of apology.

## 2

He claims he has been haunted for years by the misogynistic content of eXile, yet he never once took any initiative to apology or rectify what he had done. It seems very self-serving that now that the issue seems to be on the brink of a breaking point, the apology comes. His argument against apologizing is that writers should instead simply seek to improve their world and that "ongoing embarrassment and loss of audience is the price of offensive work." There is no discussion here of the fact that there is often no loss of audience, nor much painful embarrassment, when one's work is perhaps morally wrong but popular due to the acceptance of the sins it espouses (sexism, especially against Russian women, in this case). So far, this certainly seems to be the case of Taibbi.

Additionally, he claims that he has been "working for nearly two decades now to try to do the right work instead of the wrong work." He has certainly written disgustingly sexist pieces since then, however, as well as sent a lot of personal attacks to women (something which popularity shouldn't replace an apology for, considering the fickle favoritism of the his primarily male audience). In 2009, he wrote the steaming pile of garbage that is "A Guide to Sports Wives" for the Men's Journal. In 2011, he literally threw coffee at a female journalist for bringing up eXile at an interview before following her to yell at her. In 2012, Karen Tumulty brought up that he had called her "mannish," "a pre-op version of Dave Barry," and a "female impersonator." These are just the most overt incidents I can find. I almost wish I had the patience of Cernovich to really show you what I mean.

## 3

He defends himself with the generalization that "writers often start out by writing terrible things, either to get attention or to imitate some other shocking or flamboyant writer" while not acknowledging the fact that this is not a path available for many people, especially women he has had a personal hand in harassing.

#### 4

He totally lacks any consideration of his impact. He mentions personal misogyny once, when he writes that "as for the misogyny, that's a darker topic that will likely require years more self-examination." So... he doesn't show any introspection or consideration of the harm he has caused, as well as totally missing the recorded instances of personal abuse. By the way, that quote prefaces three paragraphs of him calling Ames a misogynist while claiming he acted far better.

Millions of Russian women were preyed upon by the kind of men who read eXile and did NOT take it as satire but as an encouragement of their abuses (look at how much RooshV's clique loves eXile and what kind of messages they take from it, read the hundreds of eXile copycats which created a niche for cultural acceptance of depraved sex-tourism in Russia and other countries, etc.).

#### 5

He justifies non-action in his apology, claiming that he will accept a reader boycott of a drop in popularity as primary form of punishment. He is welcoming the kind of public trial that I suspect will leave his readership intact, as the same kinds of people that deny the role of his familial connections and his identitarian appeal to a very lucrative group, assholes, in his success are also the kind to think that Taibbi is someone we have to accept while naively waiting for better journalists to simply "jump in."

Of course, he has to pay lip service to the idea that women should occasionally be listened to on the topic of sexism, so he does state that, "If there are other apologies to make, I will make them." Still, he strangely does show up in the comments of his own thread but only to clarify that he has never raped a child, while ignoring the multitude of demands to show via actions that he has changed. Keep in mind that he is fairly wealthy now, in part due to his and Ames' eXile memoir, and has the capacity to put his money where his mouth is. Or, he could make his wide readership aware of the disgusting, misogynistic culture he helped brew among the "expats" of Russia, but this seems unlikely as it would require taking some blame.