

Formal Ethics Complaint against Courtney Milan to Romance Writers of America

To whom it may concern,

I have recently learned that Courtney Milan serves on the RWA Ethics Committee.

An essential element of RWA's Code of Standards is acting as a leader in our industry in ethics and fairness. The high level of trust authors must place in the RWA to operate with integrity leads me to file this complaint against Ms. Milan for poor and unethical behavior.

On March 12, 2019, Courtney Milan posted statements about me and a lawsuit against me to her 37.9k twitter followers—after I was sent to her by the RWA for assistance. These posts were not based on fact or evidence, but merely on the allegations in a lawsuit which had just been initiated. And, as someone who markets herself as a legal expert, she did not take the time to research the allegations she recklessly tweeted.

She likened me to Faleena Hopkins, based on rumor and a supposition purported by the lawsuit and a website created and maintained by Quill Ink Books Limited—who has filed two lawsuits against me, and used said website to dox my personal information to the public. The first lawsuit was dismissed for lack of personal jurisdiction. The second is ongoing in Virginia, where all but one count has been dismissed with prejudice. In its answer to my countersuit, Quill Ink states that despite rumor and the former headline on their website “No one owns a genre, least of all Omegaverse”, they never stated I claimed to have owned Omegaverse. *Paragraph 46 in answer to my countersuit. *Countersuit and answer attached.*

I have never tried to trademark Omegaverse nor have I ever claimed to own it.

Thanks to Courtney's carelessness, unsubstantiated slander was spread to the point I received threatening messages. After her tweets, many members of a community I loved, and dedicated readers turned on me, taking her factually unsupported posts at face value. My reputation was harmed being equivocated to Faleena Hopkins.

Ms. Milan's behavior was unethical, careless, and never backed up any with supporting evidence. She didn't look into the other side of the story or wait to see what my answer was to Quill Ink's allegations.

Furthermore, select tweets have been used in evidence against myself and my former publisher in the Oklahoma lawsuit, naming her as a third-party witness.—The evidence failing to include tweets where Ms. Milan states to never have read the books in question.

TIMELINE OF TWEETS

March 12th, 2019

Courtney rebukes non-literal copying:

<https://twitter.com/courtneymilan/status/1105608223329914880>



Courtney!!! Milan 🐶 → 🇮🇹 🇺🇸 GPF
@courtneymilan

You're asking someone to help you plagiarize *better* but even if you cut out a thing that was plagiarized, the hole that is left is the shape of the thing you plagiarized.

This is not a fixable problem, and certainly not at those rates.

7:15 PM · Mar 12, 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

2 Retweets 75 Likes



March 12th, Courtney liked me to Faleena Hopkins based off my former publishers DMCA's for non-literal copying.



Courtney!!! Milan 🐉 → 🇮🇹 🇺🇸 GPF
@courtneymilan

Also, even if she DID invent m/f Omegaverse, it's an idea, and she has no right to restrict others from the idea.

Honestly, this looks to me like Addison is the copyright version of Faleena Hopkins. You don't get to take ideas from the community. This is wrong.

12:39 PM · Mar 12, 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

28 Retweets 309 Likes



Nora Ash @NoraAshWrites · Mar 12

There's so much WTF in the supporting documents of that filing.



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Courtney!!! Milan 🐉 → 🇮🇹 🇺🇸 GPF
@courtneymilan

Replying to [@NoraAshWrites](#)

Yeah, at this point Addison looks a LOT more like the copyright version of Faleena Hopkins.

12:34 PM · Mar 12, 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

1 Like

Courtney publically stating “Addison is apparently claiming that she invented m/f Omegavesre.”



Courtney!!! Milan 🐾 → 🇮🇹 🇺🇸 GPF
@courtneymilan

Correction: Addison is apparently claiming that she invented m/f Omegaverse, which is false.

Nora Ash @NoraAshWrites · Mar 12
Replying to @courtneymilan

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Addison Cain
I think the reason the M/F pairings are more violent, is because I was the first to write them and I'm a NonCon/DubCon writer. What followed suit was keeping in line with the trend. lol

***Addison corrupts everyone!**

16m Like Reply



64. Blushing published another omegaverse series by an author named Carolyn

12:37 PM · Mar 12, 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

March 12th, Courtney demands answers:



Addison Cain
@Addison_Cain



Replying to @courtneymilan

I wanted to jump in here and say that at no time ever did I claim to own Omegaverse. Not once. And anytime I was asked if I did own it, I immediately pointed that person to fanfiction. I also wrote fanfiction for years before I was published. I love and support authors!

12:52 PM · Mar 12, 2019 · [Twitter Web Client](#)

||| [View Tweet activity](#)

1 Retweet 4 Likes



Courtney!!! Milan 🐉 → SOON 🇮🇹 🇺🇸 GPF @courtneymilan · Mar 12



Replying to @Addison_Cain

Addison, the issue is that by claiming standard plot items that you must have KNOWN were standard as similarities, you did effectively assert claim to concepts like suppressants, heats, and ruts.

What proof do you have that you were plagiarized beyond standard Omegaverse fare?

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Courtney!!! Milan 🐉 → SOON 🇮🇹 🇺🇸 GPF @courtneymilan · Mar 12



This isn't fair of me—you shouldn't answer because you're effectively still embroiled in litigation, and you'd have to be an idiot to say things in public without advice of a lawyer.



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Multiple examples of Ms. Millan admitting that she's never read the books in questions, basing her public bashing on hearsay:



INTEGRITY AND HONESTY CONCERNS

This is not the behavior authors would expect from a member of RWA's Ethics Committee. She is a poor representative of RWA due to her careless and rash twitter behavior. I am aware I am not the first to file a complaint for this reason. Ms. Milan's behavior counters what the RWA stands for.

Once again, I request RWA sanction Courtney Milan and remove her from the Ethics Board and any affiliation with RWA.

Sincerely,
Addison Cain - Membership ID 31817