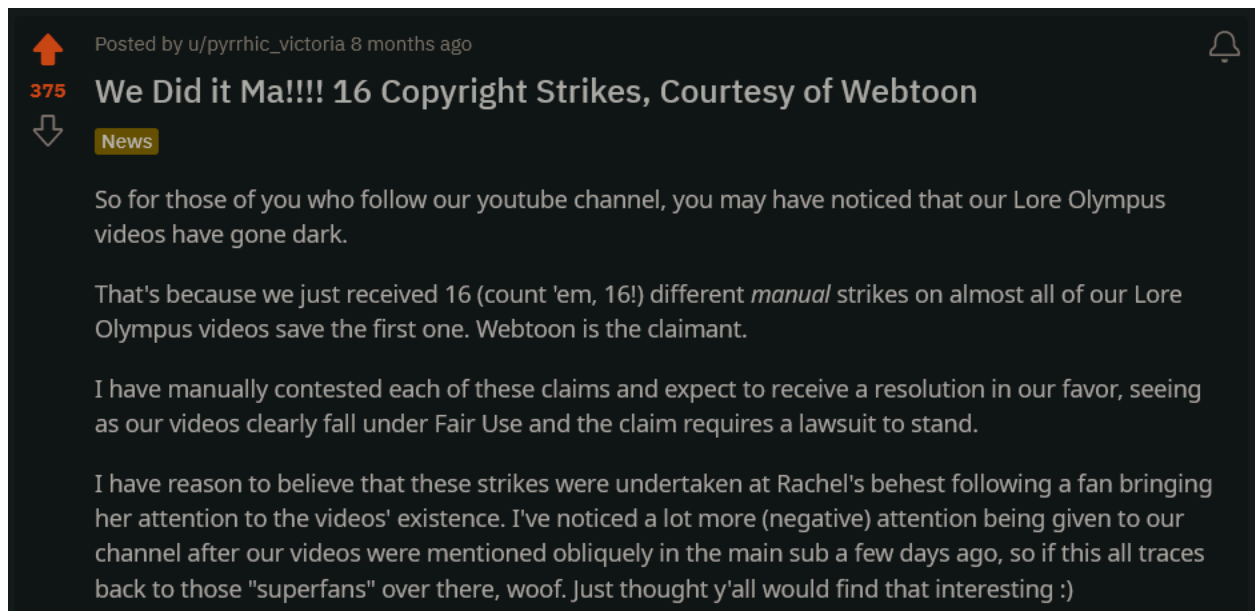


**[Content Warning for mentions of racism, grooming/pedophilia, and miscarriage. All claims will have sources linked at the end corresponding to the number in parentheses.]**

As of September 20th, 2023, I, Enit, will no longer be updating my comic Captain Jellyfish on Webtoon or Tapas. I've had my share of problems with the two platforms(although mainly Webtoon) for the past couple of years now, but I don't want to just ignore them anymore. For starters, I don't like how Webtoon ignores most of their creators in favor of one or two series. There are so many incredible and talented authors all over their platform, but instead they choose to only advertise Lore Olympus(3), a series whose numbers have been going downhill since Season 2 ended(16). A series that I would argue is morally bankrupt and has been since the very beginning(17). A series that they're so protective over that they'll copyright strike(1) videos of small creators for "daring" to criticize their flagship series that struggles to break 100k likes per week on the new chapters.



The screenshot shows a Reddit post on a dark background. At the top left, there is an orange upvote arrow with the number '375' next to it. To the right of the upvotes, it says 'Posted by u/pyrrhic\_victoria 8 months ago'. On the far right, there is a small bell icon for notifications. Below the upvotes, there is a downvote arrow and a yellow 'News' tag. The title of the post is 'We Did it Ma!!!! 16 Copyright Strikes, Courtesy of Webtoon'. The body of the post contains four paragraphs of text.

Posted by u/pyrrhic\_victoria 8 months ago

**375** We Did it Ma!!!! 16 Copyright Strikes, Courtesy of Webtoon

News

So for those of you who follow our youtube channel, you may have noticed that our Lore Olympus videos have gone dark.

That's because we just received 16 (count 'em, 16!) different *manual* strikes on almost all of our Lore Olympus videos save the first one. Webtoon is the claimant.

I have manually contested each of these claims and expect to receive a resolution in our favor, seeing as our videos clearly fall under Fair Use and the claim requires a lawsuit to stand.

I have reason to believe that these strikes were undertaken at Rachel's behest following a fan bringing her attention to the videos' existence. I've noticed a lot more (negative) attention being given to our channel after our videos were mentioned obliquely in the main sub a few days ago, so if this all traces back to those "superfans" over there, woof. Just thought y'all would find that interesting :)

The creator of Lore Olympus, Rachel Smythe, has a history of reacting with hostility/passive aggressiveness to any criticism of her webcomic(4), deleting any within her discord and the official Facebook group for LO. She's gone so far as to go to *fan* facebook groups to complain about them allowing criticism for her webcomic, and getting upset when they boot her out for her shitty behavior(5). Webtoon tacitly encouraging Smythe's behavior doesn't end there however, as they have also allowed Snailord's (creator of Death:Rescheduled) harassment towards someone who is likely a child (based off the demographics of people who read/use Webtoon)(2), yet in both instances(and probably more) they have remained silent. While I understand that they

cannot control their creators, they should not be turning the other way and twiddling their thumbs while their employees shit over their company's reputation.

Webtoon not only doesn't care about what their *paid* creators say, but they don't care about their creators' health, both in a physical and mental sense. They simply do not care about the time and energy needed to create a comic, they only care about the money they can make off of their creators' hard work, with the most egregious and shameful incident involving the artist/creator Summer Light who made the Webtoon/Tapas series "Roxana: How to Protect the Heroine's Older Brother. She was treated incredibly poorly by the company/her producer, being denied maternity leave with the stress of the workload placed upon her resulting in her suffering a ***miscarriage***(6).

Real quick before I go onto my next point, I need to explain how these creators make money off of Webtoon. To those who don't know, Originals creators make money off their fastpass episodes after the "minimum threshold" of coins used to buy one of their episodes is met, with the coins used to purchase the episode before the minimum threshold going into the pocket of Webtoon. What *is* this "minimum threshold" you ask? Good question! Nobody knows! The people *who need to know when it's been met so they know that they're being paid don't know*. Originals creators have had to regularly fight just to know what their analytics are, and even then they don't get a fucking response(7). I know that as a(now former) Canvas creator that Webtoon *deletes the data for your analytics/performance* every month, so if it's August 1 and you forgot to record the data from how your comic performed in June, you are plain out of luck because you're never seeing that data ever again. This isn't even mentioning how Webtoon underpays their Latin American and South American creators(8), and how there's vast differences in the payments per chapters for each of the Originals creators.



jenny ✨  
@notthisdeath

re webtoon: \$40,000 TTTTTTT wtf



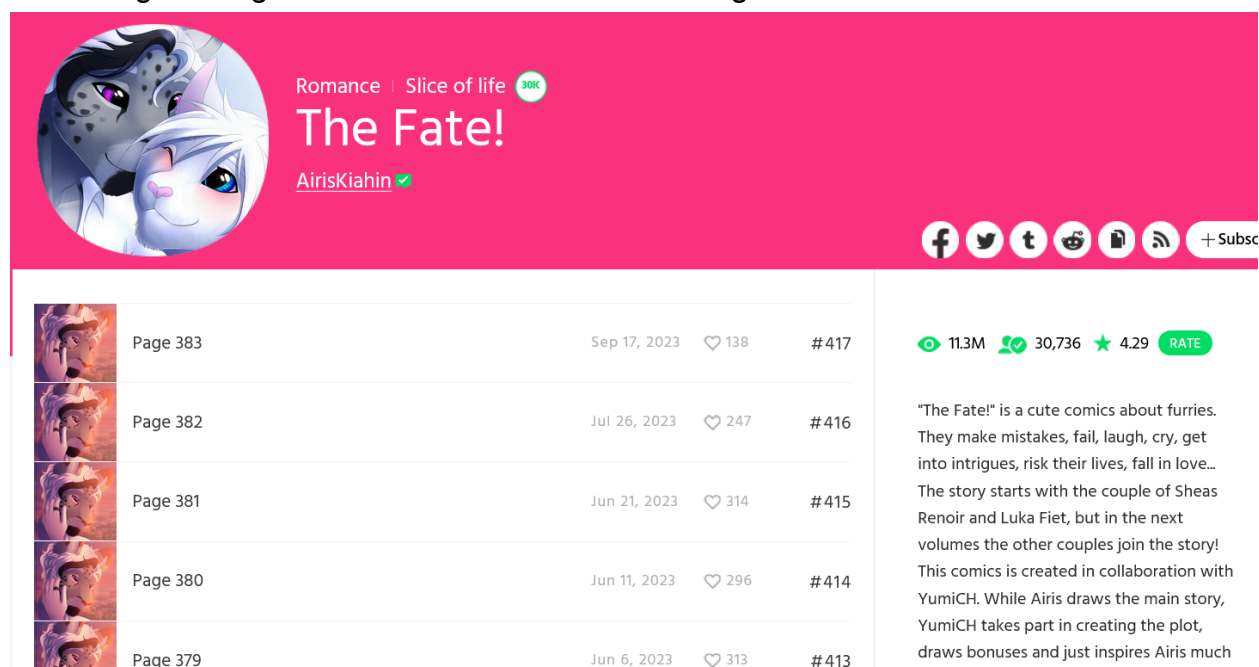
7:53 AM · Sep 19, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

3,407 Retweets 96 Quote Tweets 12.6K Likes

This leads us to today: the recent controversy surrounding the Webtoon Original, Get Schooled, and how it should have never made it this far. For those of you out of the loop, I highly recommend viewing this post here(10) as the reddit post by Kendrillon

summarizes/recorded just what the Hell happened with episode 125 and how webtoon/the author responded to the backlash far better than I could. I'm not here to say how betrayed I feel as a fan of the series, I've never read it before and I only just learned about what the plot for the series pertained, and to be honest I don't think that it would be my cup of tea. What I *am* here for is to ask just how the editor didn't shut this episode down when it was still in the scripting and storyboarding phase? While I understand that most of the editors are overworked with all the comics they're managing, I don't see how something *this* huge could've been missed. The editor should have said something when the N word showed up, but instead they let it slide and now they have this whole mess on their hands with Get Schooled being pulled from the platform(11,12).

While it's good that for once Webtoon took accountability for their actions, this brings up another question: why aren't they deleting other series on their site that also have harmful content? The Fate by AirisKiahin/YumiCH is a comic where the teacher is in a romantic/sexual relationship with his 17 year old student that he groomed. It is labeled as romance/slice of life. The story does not acknowledge how fucked up it is that he's grooming his student. At the time of writing it has over 11 **million** views.



Romance | Slice of life 30K

## The Fate!

AirisKiahin ✓

Facebook Twitter Tumblr YouTube RSS +Subsc

|  |          |              |       |      |
|--|----------|--------------|-------|------|
|  | Page 383 | Sep 17, 2023 | ♡ 138 | #417 |
|  | Page 382 | Jul 26, 2023 | ♡ 247 | #416 |
|  | Page 381 | Jun 21, 2023 | ♡ 314 | #415 |
|  | Page 380 | Jun 11, 2023 | ♡ 296 | #414 |
|  | Page 379 | Jun 6, 2023  | ♡ 313 | #413 |

11.3M 30,736 4.29 RATE

"The Fate!" is a cute comics about furies. They make mistakes, fail, laugh, cry, get into intrigues, risk their lives, fall in love... The story starts with the couple of Sheas Renoir and Luka Fiet, but in the next volumes the other couples join the story! This comics is created in collaboration with YumiCH. While Airis draws the main story, YumiCH takes part in creating the plot, draws bonuses and just inspires Airis much

Despite videos covering this comic gaining views in the millions(even if you can't really tell at the moment due to one of the authors copyright striking them/getting them taken down(13))the story is *still* up. Now in general I'm anti-censorship. In a way I sort of have to be as a queer person, as many cries for censorship(EX: Kink, drugs, violence) quickly leads into the censorship and erasure of discussing/talking about things like LGBTQ identity, racism, criticism of government, etc(14,15). That being said,

there still needs to be *some* form of censorship as to avoid harm from happening(there's a reason "*Mein Kampf*" generally is no longer in circulation(no I am not saying The Fate is on the same level as a book used as reasoning to push propaganda/commit genocide)), and I believe The Fate falls under this category. The webcomic pushes the idea that it's "cute" and "romantic" for an adult to have inappropriate relationships with a minor, which is especially concerning when you factor in that Webtoon's main audience is comprised of 13 - 24 year olds(18). This romanticization of grooming and abuse shouldn't be shown to such a vulnerable group of people, and it's shameful that Webtoon has yet to take down such a vile series on their platform.

I'll admit that I have other qualms about Webtoon(lack of customisation options, inability to view/create comments on the website, clear favoring of their Originals creators, etc), but they all seem so dumb to me in the face of all the other things they've done and *continue* to do. In the beginning I almost didn't want to even publish Captain Jellyfish on Webtoon because of their shady practices, but I knew that I would be missing out on *the* largest comic website due their monopoly over the webcomic scene. I eventually settled on updating on both Webtoon and Tapas, but even then I felt unsatisfied. Many of the same base, quality of life things about Webtoon carried onto Tapas, and even though I don't hear nearly as much drama coming out of Tapas as I do Webtoon, I've still heard about them doing shady things in the past like trying to have the power to control when/if a series gets a physical release and "losing" track of where the money from the ink used to purchase episodes went(19,20). Webtoon and other sites fumbling with their user bases has made me paranoid that Tapas will be the next website to make a dumb change that no one likes but we'll all be stuck with because the people running the site don't care.

With all of this in mind I was a bit shocked when the possibility that I could host my comic on Neocities came up. For those of you who don't know, Neocities is a free website hosting platform that allows their users to create a website for free(as long as it's under 1 GB), and if you needed more space, you could upgrade to a supporter for \$5.00 a year in exchange for 50 GB of storage. With Neocities I could fully customize the entire *website* for my comic, I could include gifs, music, author updates, truly whatever I wanted! There was one thing stopping me initially from jumping right in to learning how to code so I could make my dream a reality: the fear of missing out. I was afraid that when I moved websites that no one would want to read my comic anymore, or that by moving sites that I would miss out on my "big break" on Webtoon. In a way I'm still scared of those things, but I have to move on. I had already completed the bulk of the website, but I had sat on it for a few months before I went all in, and the longer that I sat on it, the stronger my desire to move websites grew. I could literally have everything that I wanted, who cares if my reader count or whatever grows a bit slower

than before? I was already buried under all the other Canvas series, I might as well just move on from the bridge and step on the island already. I won't be deleting the series off Webtoon and Tapas, not only for archival purposes, but I have a bunch of posts linking people there. If you see that it's no longer on Webtoon or Tapas, then either the sites started letting ai leech off the art there/started doing nfts, or they deleted me off the platform because they're mad at me for writing this lmao. I appreciate Webtoon and Tapas for helping me to grow an initial readerbase, but it's time for me to move on. To those of you who've supported Captain Jellyfish so far, thank you, from the bottom of my heart. You have no idea how much I appreciate you reading your comments and hearing what you think, and it honestly makes my day when someone says that they enjoyed reading my silly magical girl story. If you read all of this, thank you for reading my small essay, and I hope to see you at the new website <3

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Other Critiques of Webtoon Worth Checking Out:

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- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4D7DXYijvo&t=4561s>
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