



Written by [Selwyn Duke](#) on August 19, 2018

## N.Y. Times Got Hoaxed? Comic Claims Authorship of “White Guilt” Letter

It’s easy to fall victim to a spoof when your ideology itself is indistinguishable from satire. The *New York Times* may learn this the hard way after, if a hoaxing comedienne can be believed, it got trolled and rolled by her alleged authorship of the letter “How Can I Cure My White Guilt?”



Written under the pseudonym “Whitey,” the [letter](#) was a wholly ridiculous lamentation about how the author was pained by her own white privilege. “I’m riddled with shame. White shame,” she opened — and the *Times* not only ate it up; it licked that plate clean providing politically correct advice to the poor suffering Caucasian reader.

Since then, a foul-mouthed comedienne going under the name Titania McGrath has taken credit for the letter. As she [tweeted](#) Thursday:



**Titania McGrath**  
@TitaniaMcGrath

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I wrote this letter to the New York Times under my poetic alter ego “Whitey”, a privileged cisgender white girl from Harlem.

I feel my letter encapsulates the way that all white people should feel about themselves.

Still can’t believe they published it.

For the record, here’s what I wrote reporting on this story the day before, responding to the letter’s [inane subject matter](#):

Wow, Sacha Baron Cohen, is that you? Are you punking via print now? *American Thinker’s* Monica Showalter [emphasizes](#) that Whitey’s letter isn’t a joke, but I’m not so sure. Commenters [under Showalter’s piece](#) suspect the *Times* of concocting the letter itself as a rhetorical device. While this is unlikely, it wouldn’t surprise me if a reader is using parody to make the *Times* look foolish; it’s a bit like how a woman years ago [tricked the art world](#) into thinking her toddler’s tomato-ketchup paintings were great art.

My suspicions were raised, mind you, not by the letter’s *Through the Looking Glass* quality; with



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leftism's cultural ascendancy, truth today really has become stranger than fiction. But it just seemed *too* perfect in its lunacy.

This isn't to say that McGrath, assuming she actually is the author, didn't do a good job. Looking at her Twitter feed, she seems to aspire to be the third millennium's [Andy Kaufman](#), a comic who keeps one confused about when he is and isn't serious to the point where, if he dies, his friends and relatives [suspect it's just another act](#).

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Of course, we can't be sure that a would-be Andy Kaufman is telling the truth, but as *American Thinker's* Thomas Lifson [wrote](#) Friday, "I don't know if the New York Times was hoaxed by a comedian pretending to be ridiculously PC about collective 'white guilt,' and it almost doesn't matter. The fact that the *New York Times* published [this op-ed](#) is simultaneously horrifying *and* hilarious ('horrifarious' in the very useful neologism [coined](#) by talk show host [Joe Getty](#))."

In reality, the *Times'* issue isn't that that it might have gotten trolled, but that leftism, its working "ideology" ([it's a process, really](#)), is now often indistinguishable from satire. "Whitey's" letter actually aligned perfectly with what's now taught in many schools and colleges about the "problem of whiteness." No one is stupid for having believed it was genuine — he's stupid for believing white-privilege pap in the first place.

This is why McGrath, who seems perturbed that some Twitter respondents don't believe her authorship claims, probably won't get the exposure she'd like from her alleged hoax: Acting nutty in a nuthouse just doesn't stand out. Abnormal is becoming today's new normal — and the *Times* fits right in.

Speaking of which, Lifson closes his piece with the money line, "So far, no satirists have claimed credit for getting Sarah Jeong hired for the editorial board at the Times." No, at that paper truth is [stranger, and dumber](#), than fiction. You can't trump its journalists with feigned insanity — they've got the real thing.

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