

Requires Hate / Benjanun Sriduangkaew

By the Mixon Report team

From about 2010 onwards, the Science Fiction and Fantasy writing and reading community was subjected to a series of increasingly pervasive and influential online attacks from a troll calling herself Requires Hate, Winterfox, and a wide variety of other names. Under her alternative handles, she had been wreaking havoc in other online communities since at least 2003. As Requires Hate, she claimed to specifically ‘critique’ white male writers, and in her posts suggested, among other things, that they should be castrated, beheaded or subjected to acid throwing. However, it became clear that she spread her net wider, also targetting other writers from under-represented groups (particularly, though not solely, women writers of Asian descent). Over the years, these attacks resulted in a suicide attempt by a female British author and the isolation and marginalization of those she targeted most persistently.

In 2014, her identity was revealed to be the same as that of a published science fiction writer, Thai author Benjanun Sriduangkaew (a pen name). As Sriduangkaew, she had befriended many of those whom she had attacked as Requires Hate. Before one of her editors, acting as her proxy, revealed publicly that the two identities were indeed the same person, she had denied the connection between the two identities, and insisted that identifying Sriduangkaew as Requires Hate was a ‘racist ploy.’

At this point, the community decided that action needed to be taken and a group of writers and other individuals assembled to investigate and compile a report on her activities. The multi-gender, multi-ethnic, international group was headed up by writer Laura J. Mixon and included writers Athena Andreadis, Victor Ocampo, and Liz Williams, among numerous others. We invited victims to contact us in confidence, compiled accounts, and investigated online forums and websites whose members reported her attacks. This process revealed that Requires Hate had been blackmailing POC and LGBTQ+ victims, insisting on their support for her attacks on other writers by (for instance) threatening to inform parents or employers of deeply personal information that they had confided in her.

Part of the difficulty in derailing this troll’s attacks was her ability to hide her abuses behind a veneer of social justice. Since she was Asian and a lesbian, people were reluctant to confront her for fear of being accused of racism and homophobia. Requires Hate’s attacks were characterised as ‘punching up’ and criticism of her was depicted as ‘tone policing.’ During the period of investigation and report writing, team members who had been targets of hers received accusations and threats at Requires Hate’s behest, from progressives on Twitter and Facebook and elsewhere online. Requires Hate had, like many abusers, cultivated a number of enablers, some of whom were unaware of some of her worst, targeted attacks and had become convinced that she was a genuine proponent of social justice, while others were simply bad actors with a history of online harassment of their own. Her supporters included writers, editors, and publishers; thus there was a significant risk of professional harm to anyone who took issue with Requires Hate’s behaviour, and some team members have suffered professional fallout as a result.

However, we persevered, and in November of 2014, the Mixon Report was published online: a report that detailed Requires Hate's activities and the extent of her abuse and harassment. This was a detailed report for which we did a considerable amount of due diligence.

The report ultimately won a Hugo Award, one of Science Fiction's most prestigious literary awards, and although it did not pass without criticism, it slowed down the torrent of abuse that stemmed from Requires Hate and her enablers. Requires Hate/ Benjanun Sriduangkaew was subsequently doxxed, though not by the Mixon team, as an ultra-wealthy Thai heiress. Since then, there have been periodic attempts to rehabilitate Sriduangkaew, but members of the POC and LGBTQ+ community of writers have now been speaking out to expose the true nature of her online reign of terror.