

This report is about the unethical conduct of Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki. Using it to harass anyone, including its subject, is itself unethical, and serves only to silence other victims. Its intended purpose is to inform those seeking information of some of the reasons Ekpeki is being accused of unethical conduct, and to support the other people exploited by Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki if/when they choose to share their stories with others.

I have done my best to remove all unrelated names and titles from this report, but if I have missed some-- that is not permission to question or harass them for comment.

What follows is my comprehensive report which originally included references to information that I became privy to but is not at this time public, or whose sources requested I keep their information private. As such, I have redacted those sections.

Overarching evidence of his bad faith in dealings with the writing industry, and the way he believes it does and should work begins on page 8.

My name is Erin Cairns.

I am reporting Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki for unethical practices. He submitted a story entirely written by me into a black voices magazine without my name on the byline. He lied about who he knew and how well he knew them. He obfuscated information about publications and editors and manipulated me to such an extent that I still struggle to trust myself and others.

We have never met or spoken outside of emails or twitter DMs. My first interaction with Ekpeki was in late 2018 when I posted on twitter that I had won a writing award. We interacted on twitter for a while, exchanging stories for critique which I had done many times before. But this gradually shifted into me editing stories, which at the time I did not know was for his co-edited anthology: **Anthology D**. When he told me a story I'd worked on was going to be *in* the anthology, I questioned him about what I'd been doing. He told me that for my help and work, my name would be in the acknowledgments of the book.

When the book was released, I bought a copy, and my name was nowhere to be found. Those messages about credit in **Anthology D** were sent from a twitter account which later that year was suspended for what he told me was political statements. He resumed contact with a new twitter account in 2020. I also had started a new twitter account I had been planning on using to promote my writing and focus more on the writing community. [1](#)

None of the work I did for Ekpeki has ever been publicly acknowledged. The extent has been that he included my name in a 'writer's boost' once or twice (a tweet with a list of writers usernames). This was fine-ish. It was a lot of work, it was hard work, and sometimes it was work I did not believe in, but there were no contracts. I knew I should say no when it became clear I wasn't going to get credit, but I didn't. I tried once, but he sent me a story anyway, and I did it. By that point it felt like a firmer 'no' was going to cost me a connection in the writing world I had already poured a ton of time and work into.

Much later, in 2021 he said: "I really wish you hadn't gone off the radar around when I was doing **Anthology D**," as a way to say he would have published my work in that anthology. But I was on the radar, editing a story *for* **Anthology D**. I did not submit to the call (though I had been sent the submissions link by a friend, and did not know I was at that time editing a story in said anthology) because the submissions guidelines said "white South Africans need not apply," and I am a white South African.

He hadn't been transparent with me about his involvement with **Anthology D** when it was being put together, even while I was editing for it. And when I asked about the other stories I was critiquing or editing for him, he would give me vague answers like he wanted it to be a pleasant surprise. [3](#)

When the conversation about co-authoring began [2](#), I assumed maybe he was asking me if I would like to put a story in a new anthology. [4](#)

He listed markets that had solicited him for manuscripts, among them, a prestigious publication run by **Editor S**. [5](#) So I thought perhaps he was asking me about burnout and how to keep productive. [6](#) I told him it was a good problem to have and congrats. He suggested that we co-author so he could keep up with the demands on his time. [7](#)

In the same conversation he brought up the issues of some my stories perhaps not being publishable because they are told in an African style. [8](#) I am a white South African, and moved to America with my parents when I was young. What he was saying made me feel uncomfortable, but I explained the red flags away to myself as this was justifying good changes and contributions he could make to a manuscript. [9](#)

But it embedded itself in my consciousness as a rebuke, that I should not have written these stories and that they did not belong to me.

He said he had no time to write and could we change one of the stories I'd already written. I said yes, and sent him some options, he chose "The Mask of Our Demon" and we discussed the changes he would make.¹⁰

Specifically that he would change the story to reflect a more own-voice context, and give it more Nigerian spiritualism and culture, but distance it from the real world inspiration I'd had for the story (a Makonde mask I'd seen in the Dallas Museum of Art).¹¹

Under his direction, I search-replaced the names in my story to names that he said would be better¹² and I sent the manuscript to him to make the other changes. [I found out much later that he'd made no changes.³²] I had started to get a bad feeling. The timing between his messages was strange and I thought once or twice he'd sent a story out while we were still discussing them.

Looking back, there were a lot of red flags. I started to feel them, but I didn't want to think about them. I had already invested a lot of time and work into his stories and his success finally felt shared. About a week later, he sent me a different story to critique and the names had been obviously search-replaced.¹³

He told me that our story was being sent to **Editor S** for consideration to be published in **Market 1**¹⁴ He knew that I had admiration for them and that market and from the moment we started talking, I was under the impression that we (me and Oghenechovwe) were working with **Editor S**. He showed me screenshots of his DMs with them talking about me.¹⁵
¹⁶

I had still not seen the revisions he had done to the story, but that he was willing to change a big conflict in it when speaking to **Editor S**, I figured he had it handled.

I was in and out of the hospital from September of 2020 to February of 2021 so I did not keep up with what was happening with the story. I told him I felt cut out of the loop and to let me know if/when we were accepted or rejected.¹⁸ Because he had the solicitation requests, and he was sending it with 2 other stories I was not involved with, I thought it made sense that he was in control of the submission process.¹⁷

Sometime between December 1st and December 19th, the story was rejected from **Market 1** But I was not informed.

On December 19th, **Editor S** solicited the story for **Market 2**, a Black voices magazine. On the same day, Oghenechovwe submitted the story to that market. I was still not informed. I know these dates from screenshots he sent me later.¹⁹

On December 31st, he told me the story had been rejected from **Market 1**.^{21 18}

He sent me a screenshot of **Editor S**'s email to him enlarged. It is dated Dec. 19²⁰ But was only sent to me on the 31st, over a week after he had already submitted my story to the solicitation.

Because I thought **Editor S** knew who I was from the screenshots¹⁶, I didn't question this. I was also, as you can see from the next few screenshots, not in the best place to question anything that was happening, and I trusted him.²² I still don't know what 'mouthed' means.²⁴ I assume from context it means something like 'ownvoices' though later he refused to acknowledge that this magazine was ownvoices.⁵³ I only saw these messages now, while going back through the screenshots. Still, I said yes on the understanding I'd be put in contact with the editors and magazine²³, which never happened, though he kept promising it.²⁵

I would like to note that as time went on, he started to offer payment, especially as he started to rise in popularity, but I always refused. In this exchange I missed that he'd offered payment again.²³ I would have refused again if I had seen it. I refused it again when next he offered it. Money never exchanged hands. Whenever he offered it, it was always far past the time I'd done the work and that always felt odd to me. So I insisted he also worked hard on the stories he sent me and declined the sudden offers of payment again and again.

For the next 2 months I was engaged with health concerns, and he then contacted me on February 25th²⁷ to tell me that the story "the Mask of Our Demon" had been accepted²⁶ on February 5th and that I should do the rewrites that day²⁸ because **Editor S** was 'cranky' and he didn't want to disappoint them.³³

This was really the first time I had feeling. I looked back upthread. He had contacted me on the 5th, and said nothing about the acceptance.²⁹

I immediately got a bad feeling and started to realize how disconnected I was from the magazine, the editors, the story, and anyone that could tell me what was going on. I was

clearer-headed after the surgery and now anxious, angry, and confused. I asked for contact info. He sent me the story, but not the editor's contact info. [30](#)

He sent me 'the most recent version'. I did not see anything changed except the format of the byline. I did a 'compare' of the document I had sent him and the document he sent back to me, and there were no changes to the document except formatting around the byline and changes to the Standard Manuscript Format [32](#)

[the '6000 words' is just the wordcount of the story added to the top right of the front page as per SMF]

He did not send me **Editor S**'s contact info as I asked, but reiterated that any delay was potentially upsetting and disappointing to them. [31](#)

I asked again. [33](#)

And again. [34](#)

And again. [35](#)

Each time, he quite deftly and adeptly deflected and distracted me.

Eventually he cc'd me into a submission portal, which does not cc me in on anything except a defunct, dead address with no information, and I realized something was very, very wrong. After he'd done nothing but change the format of the story out of standard Manuscript format, I suspected from the changes to the byline that he had removed my name. I tried to get in contact with **Editor S** myself. They did not follow me on Twitter and I had no email address and almost no connections to them in the writing world, so I had to email them through a portal on their website. Because it was through a portal, I don't have a copy of the email I sent, but I received an email from them pretty quickly. [36](#)

And then almost immediately, I heard from Oghenechovwe. [37](#)

Now knowing that **Editor S** was not as involved as I had been led to believe, [38](#) I looked into

Market 2 and realized they probably didn't know I was attached to the story. [39](#) [40](#)

I raised my concerns with Oghenechove. [41](#) He explained, for the first time, that the situation was 'tricky' and that he was trying to be the 'face' of the story. He offered to drop the story rather than introduce me into a conversation with the magazine, which only raised my alarm that something unethical was going on. [41](#)

He said he was only doing this for the sake of my story and that **Market 2** was not a paying market, so he wasn't doing any of this for money. He was just exhausted and that's why it had slipped out of control. [42](#)

He refused to give me contact with the market, saying it made no difference whether he or I was talking to them. He said he understood that I was used to doing things 'by the letter' but he didn't have that 'luxury'. [43](#) He sent an unconnected author's email to me in an effort to show how connected and busy he was. [44](#)

He asked me to chill out and trust him, because this was how he worked. [45](#)

In response. I told him I had no evidence that the magazine knew I was working in good faith [46](#)

He sent me a screenshot of him telling the magazine that I was attached (after the story had been accepted), but they had never responded. To me, this meant it was likely he had removed my name from the byline of the manuscript. [47](#) *[Please note that in screenshot 47, this is an email chain he could have cc'd me into, not the submittable address he eventually did cc me into. Also that he informed them of my existence upon acceptance, (Feb 5th) not submission. (Dec. 19th)]*

He reiterated that **Editor S** knew who I was and had still solicited the story. [48](#) [49](#) But still refused to give me contact with them.

He told me no one else wanted to publish this story, but he wanted it to be seen. He told me he'd been on so many panels about race and publishing, he had the experience to know this was the only way my story would be published. [50](#)

I didn't know how to even answer all of that, so the conversation became about whether or not Market 2 was a Black voices only magazine. I said it seemed like it was black voices only from everything I could see. He insisted it wasn't explicitly stated. [51](#) [52](#) [53](#)

In the meantime, I reached out to Market 2.

I have the email I drafted to **Market 2**, but because it was sent through a website portal I don't have a sent record. Just what I drafted in a word document. I tried to be non-accusatory, but after realizing that **Editor S** wasn't involved in the story's selection, and this was a black voices magazine, I was panicking. Here is the message I sent to them, (I recollect that it is very similar to the one I sent to **Editor S**)

Dear **Market 2** editors,

*My name is Erin Cairns, your magazine is publishing a story I co-wrote with Oghenechovwe Ekpeki called "The Face of Our Demon". I only learned about this recently, and I'm feeling a little out of the loop. Oghenechovwe has been understandably busy these past few months, and while he's passed on some of your communications in recent days, I can't help but feel that some lines of communication have been crossed for a while. I did not understand that **Market 2** was a primarily, if not entirely, black voice magazine. I am a white South African, and if I had known, I would first have asked through this portal if a contribution from me would have been welcome. From what I understand, the story was accepted mid-December, but you did not know I was attached until early February. This leaves me a little unsure about whether my name will make it to the byline, or even if you still want to publish this story. If not, I completely understand, and I would immediately withdraw the story with sincere apologies. If there is to be more communication about 'The Face of Our Demon', could you please cc me in on the emails with Oghenechovwe so that we both have the information? He's cc'd me in on his last email, the one with the revisions, but it was in response to a submittable reply that I cannot see or follow.*

Thank you for your time and patience.

Erin Cairns

I did not receive a reply from them, instead I have confirmation that they received this email through Oghenechovwe himself [56](#).

When **Market 2** did not respond to me, but alerted him to my email, I understood that to mean that they did not believe me and Oghenechovwe had somehow communicated to them that I was not who or what I said I was. I told Ekpeki to pull the story. He wanted me to

talk it over with him, although at this point, he was just leading me in circles about how experienced he was, and how I should just trust him. [57](#)

I felt as though I was in a precarious position and as if I had done something wrong. [58](#) He said that me trying to contact **Editor S** and **Market 2** had put him in a bad light, and I was betraying him. [59](#)

I asked him outright why they weren't willing to talk to me. In response, he abandoned the pretense of the market being open to a submission from me and told me 'It's an African exclusive space' and the 'politics of white Africans is complicated'. [60](#) But he'd just spent months obfuscating this issue between me and the magazine. He said he was 'trying to make sure things went smoothly till publication' [60](#) though what me or the magazine were supposed to do in the rough waters *after* publication would then likely be up to me and the magazine, with me looking like I was a part of hiding my own involvement in a story I'd written in its entirety.

I reiterated that I wanted him to pull it and he could say it was entirely my fault. **He said 'arrangements and attitudes and submissions are overrated'** [61](#) Which is an attitude he has displayed ever since in every interaction I have heard on him having with someone he has power over.

He told me again that I was hurting him and his career. [61](#)

I told him that what was occurring was not fair to me or the magazine.

[62](#) is so infuriating to me. If you don't look at any other screenshots, look at that one. **He belittles my misgivings and desire for an ethical industry. He implies that I am beneath him. He says that working in "uncomfortable environments" is the only way to get published.** [62](#)

When I stood my ground, he said he'd respect my feelings and wishes. He said 'It looks like I tried to steal and got caught' [63](#)

Because I still wasn't allowed to talk to the editor or magazine, all I could do was accept responsibility for his unethical behavior. It was the only control I had over the situation. [64](#)

He wanted to know who I would talk to this about. [65](#) I'd tried to talk to the magazine and

the editor, but from my point of view, both had just sent Oghenechovwe to silence me himself. At that time, I was not planning on reaching out to anyone again, though as these events were unfolding, I had contacted a few friendly writers to ask for advice. [66](#)

I still didn't know what was happening with the story. I had to ask him at least twice if he'd pulled it. [67](#) Finally, he sent me a screenshot of the story as 'withdrawn' [68](#)

For most of 2022, I couldn't get on twitter for all the events, promotions, and campaigning Ekpeki was doing. I focused on writing novels and did not interact with the writing community. He had made it clear to me many times how well-connected he was and how trusted he was by people and institutions that I respected and trusted, and would send me evidence that he worked well with other authors and that I should trust him the way they did. When he offered me contacts or money after this experience, I could only take it as threats and bribes, but whether it was meant that way or not is a matter of perspective.

A few months later, I heard from Ekpeki again. He had been removed from a project due to ethics complaints against him, and he resumed contact to tell me, again, not to talk about what had happened with **Market 2**. He sent me screenshots of someone outing my complaint, which made me even more afraid to speak out.

It is my opinion that if he has a position of power, then he has a much larger pool of aspiring writers to draw from and an even stronger power dynamic to use against them.

I believe his preemptive defense in case I or anyone else ever came forward is that he is beset by racist trolls that refuse to believe he writes his own work.

Those trolls and their comments are awful. Their rhetoric is despicable, and their actions inexcusable. I personally believe Ekpeki uses them at least to some extent as a smokescreen.

Please look at the evidence I have provided and make your own judgment.

Appendix

1

4:39    

← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** 
@Penprince_

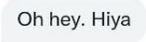
Multi Hugo finalist, Nebula, WFA, BFA, Otherwise, Nommo winner. Locus, BSFA, Sturgeon finalist
 @Asimovs_SF, @NAACPImageAward nominee.
#ICFA44 GoH

6,789 Following **12.6K** Followers
Joined August 2020

 Here! :)

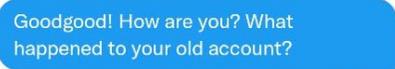
 Sorry I haven't checked my other twitter in a long while XD

11/16/20, 8:58 PM ✓

 Oh hey. Hiya

 Been a while. How are you?

11/16/20, 9:18 PM

 Goodgood! How are you? What happened to your old account?

11/16/20, 9:24 PM ✓

 Was suspended

 Twitter doesn't like people who aren't rich, white old men who evade tax talking about serious issues strongly 

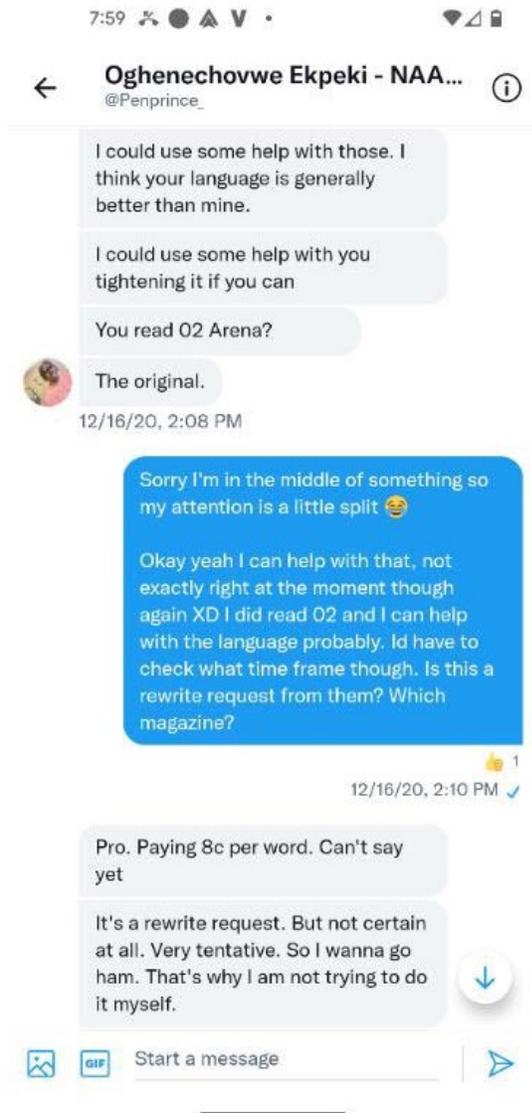
11/16/20, 9:27 PM

  Start a message 

2



3



5

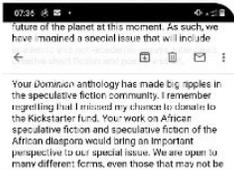
4:44 [status icons]

← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** @Penprince_ ⓘ

So I have exactly the opposite issue.

I am having a lot of invitations to contribute to stuff. More than I can fulfill. I have done as much as I can. Burnt out of seems.

For example



[image icon] [GIF icon] Start a message [send icon]

6



7

5:13 🔒 📧 🔴 🔵 ⋮

📶 🔴 🔵 🔴



Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...

@Penprince_



So I was wondering, what you think about co-authorship? 😊



For example. I have to send a story to Market1 and the [redacted] anthology. I have one story.

11/30/20, 9:42 AM

I would absolutely love to co-author!

11/30/20, 9:43 AM ✓

And the other one I am doing is dead in the water.

I don't think I should let a chance to be in Mkt 1 go cuz I am burnt out should I?

Editor S [redacted] asked me to send something.

I was thinking of sending S [redacted] what I have for the [redacted] anthology and telling them I couldn't make it.

But that's still wack.

Not that sending S [redacted] just one story is even wise

Cuz what if S [redacted] doesn't like it



So I decided to try to think my way



GIF

Start a message



← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_



So I decided to try to think my way out of this. If I can't write my way out.

11/30/20, 9:46 AM

Well, I am well and truly open to share the stories I have. I'm desperate to just sell one. I've been inactive for like 2 years now which is so upsetting :(I'm assuming you'd want the more african ones? Or I can send you some of the others and we can rewrite them to fit our two different styles more cohesively?

11/30/20, 9:46 AM ✓

Okay. And another thing. Some of your stories, the African ones mainly, that you have bene having issues publishing. Have you considered that asides the issues of publishing being normally hard, it might be because they aren't own voices?

Mags might be hesitant about publishing a work set in a black community by a white writer.

See the recent Fireside issue.

And plenty others.

That's another thing co-authorship can help with. Asides the fact that it



Start a message



9

5:25



Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...

@Penprince_



Yes. Im afraid to even send them out most of the time. I used to be more confident about it but these past couple of years I've started to feel like I've never had a country and I don't belong anywhere, so I stopped writing african-style stories early this year.



1

11/30/20, 9:49 AM ✓



If that's okay with you.

11/30/20, 9:49 AM

That would be fine with me! What would be the basis of working together? From concept to finished manuscript? Or I send you a couple stories and you see if you can work with them?

11/30/20, 9:50 AM ✓

You can't really blame the mags and venues if that's why. There's been outcry a lot about inaccuracies. Which there usually isn't if the story is own voices. Even if there's inaccuracies.



11/30/20, 9:51 AM

(I don't mind if we end up changing of a lot, I kind of expect that XD)



Start a message



10



← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

Coming back to this.

I'm having a really huge dilemma with the story.



Face of our Demons.

12/01/20, 12:49 PM

If I bring it closer to home, it's safer for us. But it erases some of the fine points of the culture. Plus changes a whole unique story we could be doing honour to by telling.



12/01/20, 12:50 PM

I would leave it. Actually. Much better that way. And risk some inaccuracy. But the problem with this is the names. If we were leaving it then we would need to make it as straight as possible. That is get the names right. Use actual Makonde names.



I've searched though. Can't find any.

12/01/20, 12:52 PM

Third alternative is to take it outside anything present. Make it secondary world. Inspired by Africa but not directly connected. So all issues of



Start a message



← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

12/01/20, 1:51 PM

I like 'em! If you've made any edits to the story you should probably change on your end. I just went out to grab some medication

But if you haven't I can do it on mine when I get home--in about 15 minutes

12/01/20, 1:52 PM ✓

Okay. Go you

Uhhh. Maybe I should wait.

Cuz it will take me more time to track down all the usages

And I might still miss some



Cuz you don't always use the names in full I think

12/01/20, 1:53 PM

Yeah, I can do that. It won't take me long at all.



12/01/20, 1:53 PM ✓



Cool. Will wait for yours to do further edits.



12/01/20, 1:54 PM



Start a message



← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

Oh. Okay. Thus fine. Just didn't remember you fixed it for later. Thought you forgot. Did you read that my other story? Mother's love, Father's Place?



12/10/20, 3:57 PM

I did! I liked it a lot, but it definitely needed an edit. I think you might have done a wonky search replace which left remnants like "PleOfonime" instead of "please" and 'cOfonime' instead of 'case'
I liked the story itself, but especially where Basset's other wife confronts and then covers for the two of them. I did get a touch confused at the end. I didn't get a sense of whether or not the twins had died in transit or even whether they were carrying the babies still or not, but the whole 'by saving one, you've saved them all' was really good.
Plus! Happy ending! I love a happy ending :D



So... Yeah! A great story! It read well. It was very well done :)

12/10/20, 6:52 PM ✓

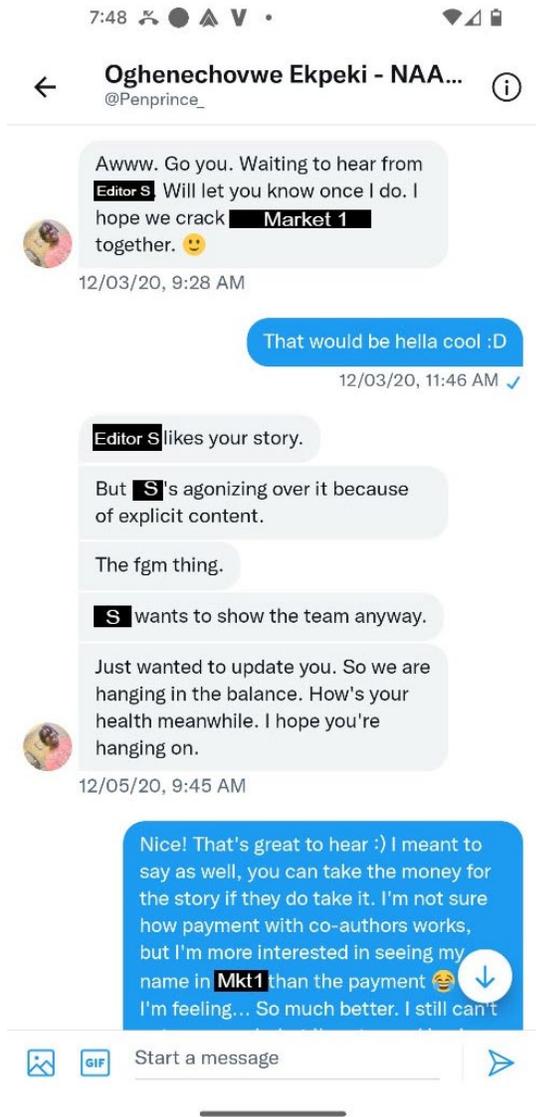


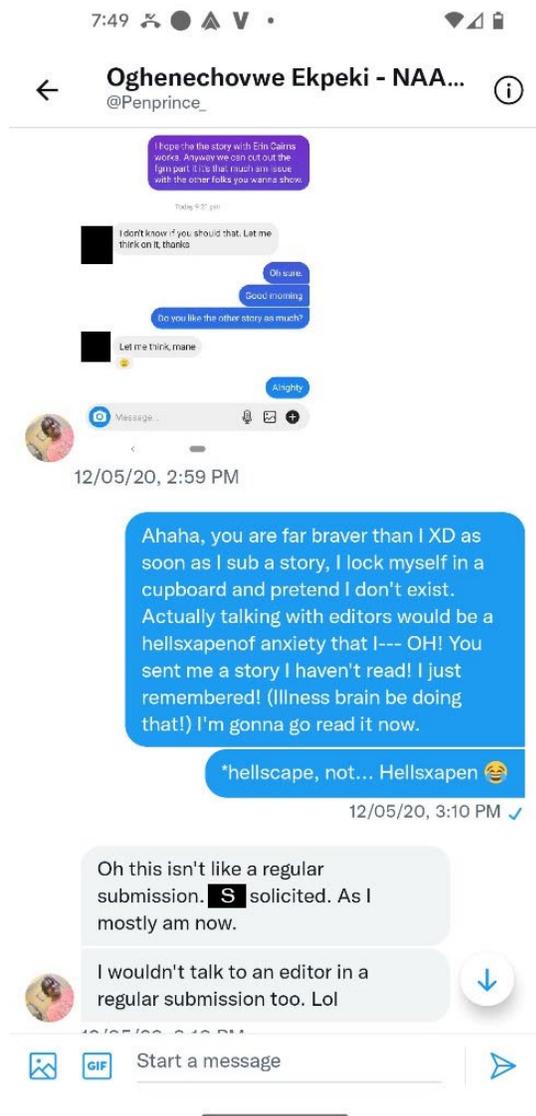
Yeah. Wonky edit.

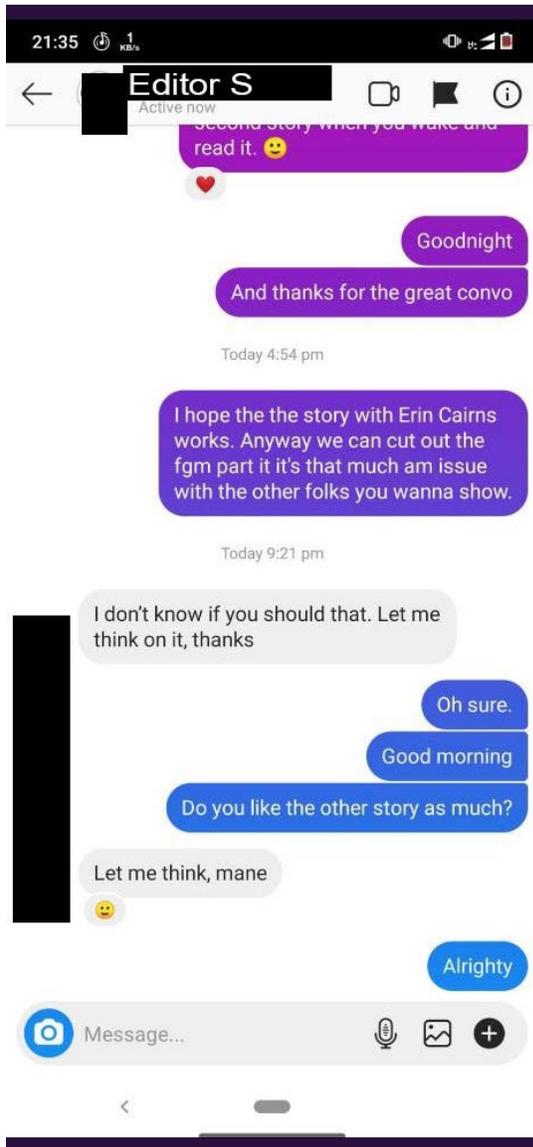


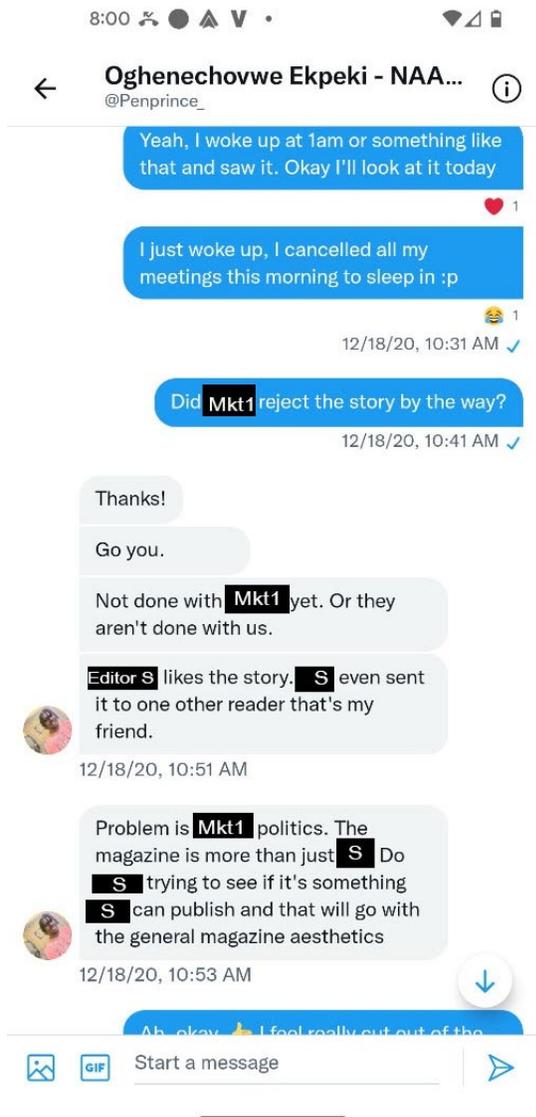
Start a message

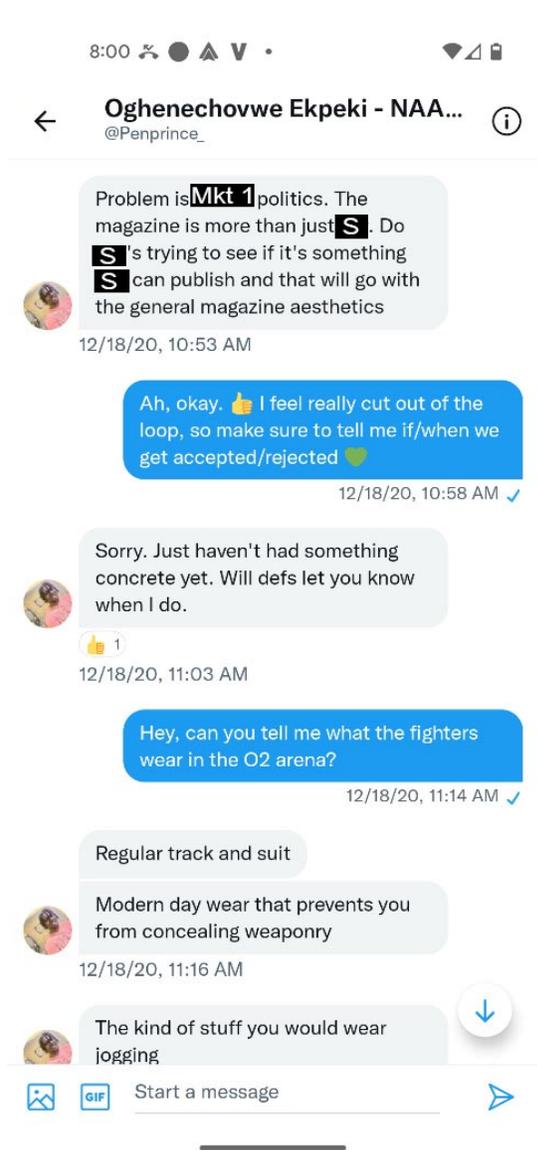


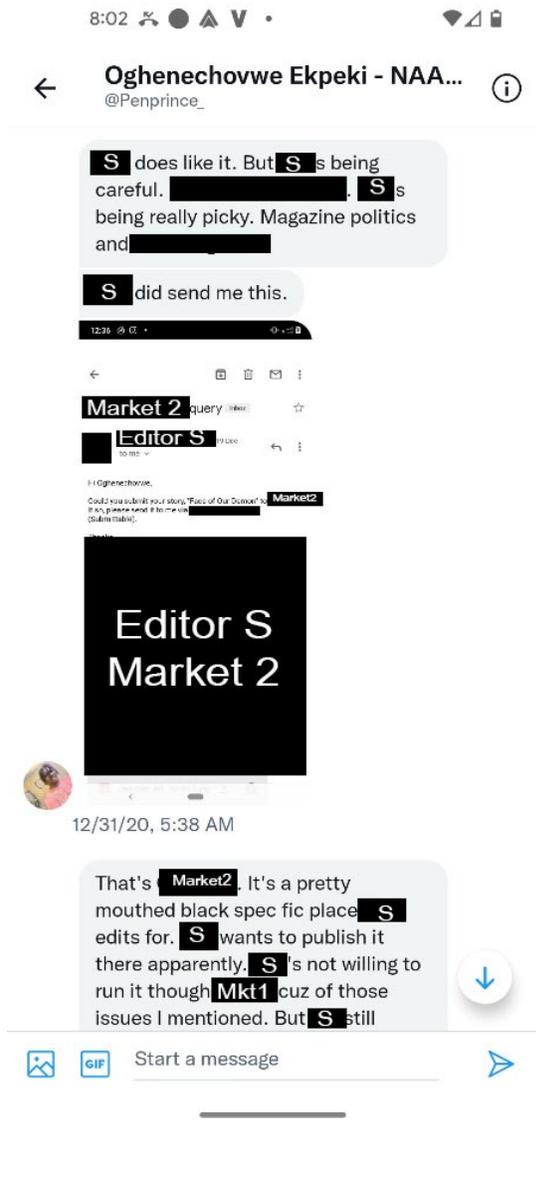


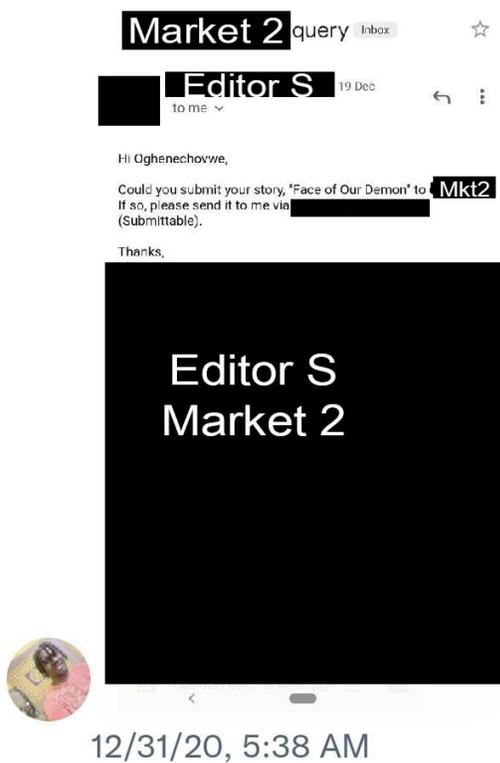


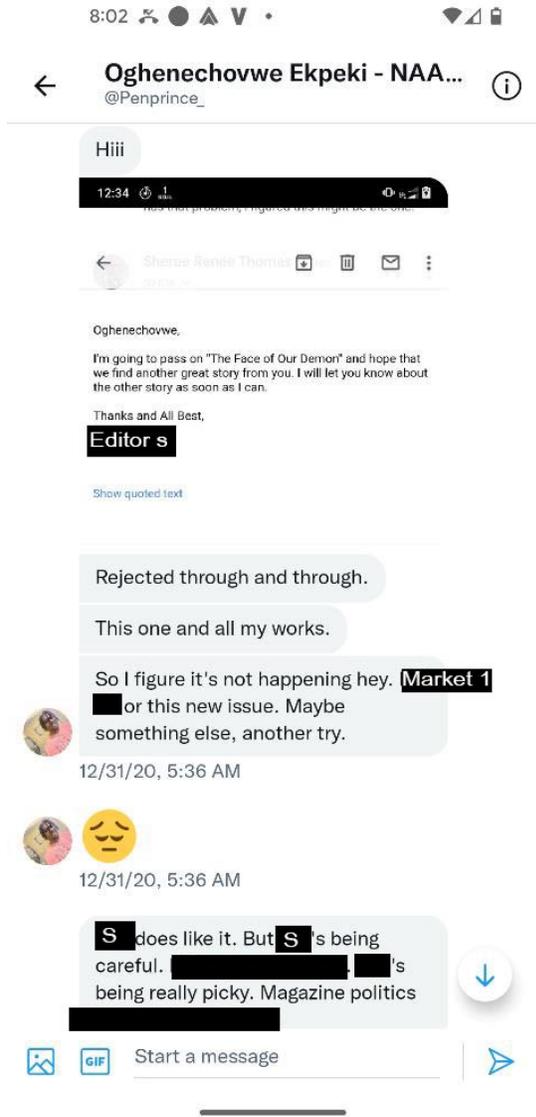












← Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...
@Penprince_ ⓘ



I'm in the ER rn, so can't talk much :p

♥ 1

12/31/20, 5:42 AM ✓

If you are cool publishing this story with **Market2** I'll share the pay from O2 Arena which is solicited somewhere.

Afteral you did help work on it so it's deserved. And we can divert some of the pay to this story with **Market2** so it's not a loss for you.



[image icon] [GIF] Start a message [send icon]

← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

If you are cool publishing this story with **Market2** I'll share the pay from O2 Arena which is solicited somewhere.

Afteral you did help work on it so it's deserved. And we can divert some of the pay to this story with **Market2** so it's not a loss for you.

Oh cool. You don't have to

Just wanted to bring you up to speed.



Sorry. 😊

12/31/20, 5:43 AM

Would I be in the loop somewhere on **Market2** I'd also like to speak with the editors if they want changes etc. But yeah I'm up for it.

❤️ 1

No worries!

I'm still coherent... I think XD

But I might have to sign off unexpectedly

12/31/20, 5:44 AM ✓

You would be in the loop of course. It's **S** that's the editor too. **S** already read it. **S**



Start a message

Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...
@Penprince_

Market2



12/31/20, 5:38 AM

That's Market2. It's a pretty mouthed black spec fic place S edits for. S wants to publish it there apparently. S's not willing to run it though Mkt1 cuz of those issues I mentioned. But S still wants it.



Problem is while Market2 is mouthed as far as black literature goes, I don't know about sff. Also, they don't pay.

12/31/20, 5:40 AM

But if you ask me, it's not a bad shot to take. I don't think all one's stories can go pro, sffa rates paying. I published with Market2 this year.



They don't pay too

12/31/20, 5:41 AM



[Image icon] [GIF icon] Start a message [Send icon]

← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

You would be in the loop of course.
It's [S] that's the editor too. [S]
already read it, so requested it. [S]
does like it.

Just doesn't seem to want to
experiment so much with [redacted]
Market 1 yet

[S] rejected everything I sent myself.
And we are like family.



That's okay. No problem. Will keep
you updated.

12/31/20, 5:45 AM

Ahaha, I totally understand that XD
rejection honestly doesn't phase me
anymore.

Okk sounds good!



12/31/20, 5:46 AM ✓



Start a message



← Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA... @Penprince_ ⓘ



Thank you for your submission of "The Face of Our Demon". We appreciate having the opportunity to read it. **Market 2** more would like to accept this work but other members have asked that we offer for your consideration the following feedback toward revision:

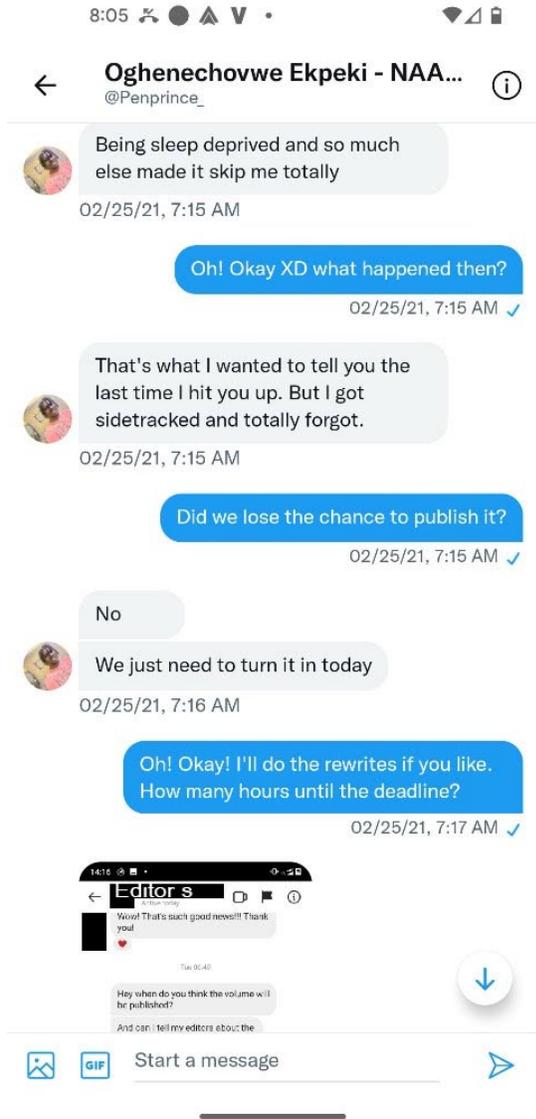
Sentences in Page 4 seem a bit rushed-can more description of the "face" events be included? Also, at times the author should slow down a bit to paint the picture for the reader. "He was afraid, and wanted to protect him, but I could not control him through the trail of our blood when each of the boys would wear the mask of the demon, taking turns to believe it and claim their ancestral powers, then Coroz would wear it to the dance, showing it to me as I propped over to attract to one and control it. Awely Chino could only witness it because she was not medicine woman".

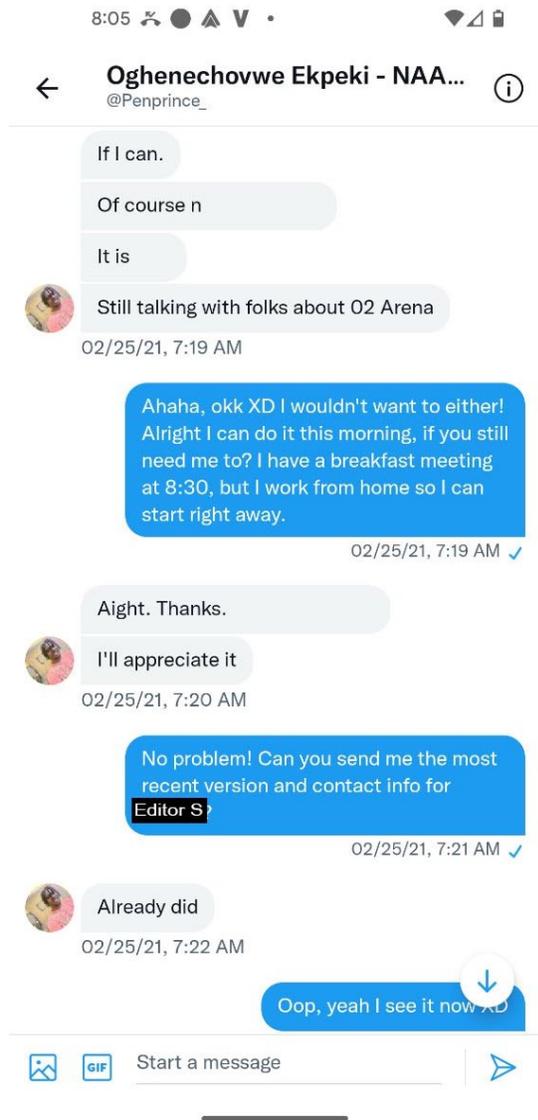
Sometimes the author includes too much into one sentence and the story begins to stretch rather. During the hottest part of the day when we should have been inside, taking shelter for Awely Chino and other no Lot to the young men, in kered and rolled with our backs to the fence that marked our township. The raids came from over this fence at night." (2)

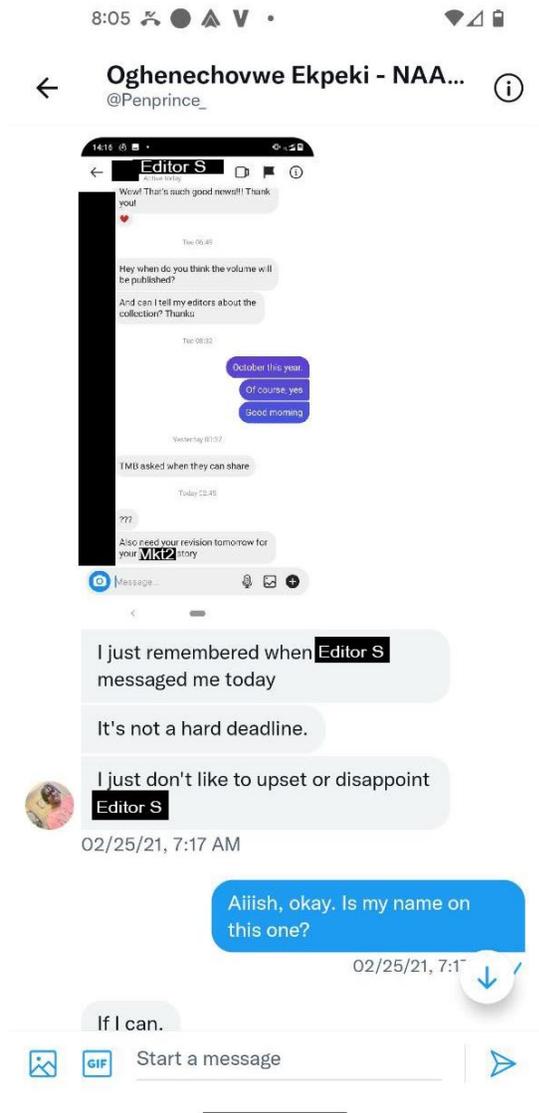
We look forward to hearing back from you and hope that you decide to revise and resubmit by February 28 for consideration for our **Market 2** page.



Start a message [GIF icon] [send icon]







Revisions

21 revisions

Author Style Definition
Heading 1: Font: (Default) Calibri, Font color: Custom Color(47,84,150),
Border: Top: (No border), Bottom: (No border), Left: (No border), Right: (No border), Between : (No border)

Author Style Definition
Header

Author Style Definition
Footer

Author Formatted
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Author Added
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By

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Author Style Definition
Normal: Font: (Default) Calibri

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Font color: Black

← Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA... @Penprince_ ⓘ

 Just send it back to me when you're done.

02/25/21, 7:22 AM

Oh yeah I know, I will, but if I have any questions about the edits, I'd like to be able to ask them pretty quickly. I can't message **S** on twitter or anything XD

I suppose I could ask you to ask them? But that seems a bit roundabout

👍 1

02/25/21, 7:33 AM ✓

Thing is **S** is cranky. I'm trying to keep everything sharp

Since it's already late.

And getting extra queries from a third party won't really help

SO just send me and I'll send back to **S**

Tbh it's better if we just do whatever and send back

No need to prolong this any more than we should.

Folks be cranky



  Start a message 



← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

Okay, I'm nearly done.
02/25/21, 10:07 AM ✓

Do you think you could tell Editor S that I only learned about this today so if S wants more edits, I'll be available anytime for any amount of time to do everything S'd like to do to the story before final edit/publication? They really didn't ask to change much and if it was a test to see how well we'd work together on the story/edits etc, I'd like them to know I'd do it same-day etc.
02/25/21, 10:10 AM ✓

 It's fine. Worry not.
02/25/21, 10:10 AM

 Just text me when you done.
02/25/21, 10:46 AM

Ok done I'll email it now!
👍 1
02/25/21, 11:01 AM ✓

 Aight. Cool
02/25/21, 11:04 AM

Remember to cc me in!

  Start a message 

36

Editor S sent you a new message ▷ Inbox x



Editor S <reply@crm.wix.com>
to me ▾

Thu, Feb 25, 2021, 11:48 AM



Reply

Hi, please contact **Market 24** managing editor. Oghenechovwe has their contact email. Thanks

↩ Reply

➦ Forward



← Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA... @Penprince_ ⓘ

Hi. Emailed and cc'ed you



S said you reached out **S**

02/25/21, 12:05 PM

Yep! I had no idea if **S** would get it, it was just on **S** website. I know you said not to worry, but I wanted **S** to know I'd do same day edits for any further changes :)

S was quick!

02/25/21, 12:06 PM ✓

Well, they didn't need to know it's one day edits.

Since I actually got the request way back

Told you I forgot till today.

Also, **S** isn't really the person I was emailing it to, **S** just my plug there. So it was a bit awkward. But no harm done I guess.



02/25/21, 12:08 PM

Oh yeah, **S** told me. I assumed because of the screenshots I've seen that **S** was more involved XD I did mean to cause trouble! I just wanted to

[image icon] [GIF] Start a message [send icon]

← Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...
@Penprince_ ⓘ

Oh yeah, S told me. I assumed because of the screenshots I've seen that S was more involved XD I didn't mean to cause trouble! I just wanted to be as professional as possible, considering a pretty bad impression to start of two months late. I don't know S at all, but I do admire S I mean they can guess it's a last minute job. They were very minor rewrites 😊

02/25/21, 12:09 PM ✓



Yea yea. It's fine. We move I guess

02/25/21, 12:11 PM

Yeah, I guess I didn't think about it. It's noon and everything has been on fire since 6am. This is not the only deadline I had today :p I'm still working furiously.

02/25/21, 12:15 PM ✓

Hey, do we have any idea what the contract looks like for this story? Can I see it?

02/25/21, 4:00 PM ✓



I haven't seen a contract yet

I just sent the final copy yesterday



🔄 Capture more

← Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...
@Penprince_ ⓘ

I haven't seen a contract yet

We just sent the final copy yesterday

Hey

If I have you would definitely have gotten it and wouldn't need to ask.

You do trust me right?

You don't think I'm cutting you out or doing anything behind your back or hiding anything from you do you?



02/26/21, 5:08 AM

I wasn't sure. I did not get a good feeling yesterday that I had not seen anything of what was happening. I looked at Mkt2 and it looks like it's only for black authors? Which I didnt know. It makes me uncomfortable. And you cc'd me to a submittable address, so I won't see any information from the magazine. They can't contact me, I can't contact them, which is a completely new situation for me. I've published before, and never this blindly. It's a little scary. and the two months if being accepted and not knowing was weird. It was really weird to wake up at 6am with this 't due today or we're disappointing

Editor S Two months is a lot of time to

Start a message [image icon] [GIF icon] [send icon]

← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

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Editor S Two months is a lot of time to get the story polished and take notes from the editors if they wanted more to change. I'm really not good with last minute stuff, especially when the note I got was 'these sentences feel rushed'. I've generally got the contract on acceptance? But different magazines work differently.

So I don't know. Everything is through you, completely through your control. I don't feel like a co-author. You called me a third party when I asked to be introduced into the discussion--that didn't feel great. It was... A lot was happening. I spent most of the day trying to work and then just spiralling on how I didn't know what was happening with this stuff and honestly nothing got done



02/26/21, 5:27 AM ✓

Start a message

← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

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02/26/21, 5:27 AM ✓

You need to trust me. I wouldn't steal from you. I don't need to. And I wouldn't even if I needed to. It's Pan-African. You said yourself. Not necessarily black, but Pan-African. Tricky. That's why I was trying to do everything and be the face.

I told you I was submitting it.

Sure I forgot to let you know about the corrections on time. But I explained to you that I forgot. This isn't a regular submission. Hence the third party thing. If you aren't comfortable with it and want to drop it, that's okay. Just let me know. If it's making you too uncomfortable

Other than that



Start a message



← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

Sure I forgot to let you know about the corrections on time. But I explained to you that I forgot. This isn't a regular submission. Hence the third party thing. If you aren't comfortable with it and want to drop it, that's okay. Just let me know. If it's making you too uncomfortable

Other than that

You. Need. To. Trust. Me

I'm only doing this because I think it will be great for the story. Other than that, they don't pay. I have requests from pro mags that I haven't been able to write for.

I'm doing so much work myself, I can't breathe. I'm editing several anthologies at once, reading for a couple mags and a lot of work.



So yea, I miss things.

02/26/21, 5:35 AM

I explained to you. Before you reached out to **Editor S** Told you, you didn't need to. I'm not sure what difference it makes if they email me and you or me or anyhow. So long as it's published and the story is out



Start a message

← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_



I explained to you. Before you reached out to **Editor S** Told you, you didn't need to. I'm not sure what difference it makes if they email me and you or me or anyhow. So long as it's published and the story is out there.

02/26/21, 5:37 AM

I get that you are used to doing things by the letter, all protocols observed. I don't have that luxury. Most of the stuff I do is unofficial, social media. I get invitations on social media, solicit and make responses, and generally do things the quickest way I can because of how much is going on.

And I am working that way with a while lot of people. Hugo, Emmy award winning writers, publishers, etc. If we are inspiring in every kind of form and protocol observed we won't be able to get anything done.



There's just going to have to be a level of trust involved here. Until you deem that I'm not deserving of it.

02/26/21, 5:42 AM



GIF

Start a message





← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

Just chill, and trust me



If you can

02/26/21, 5:44 AM

Asides the amount of work I am doing, the conditions I'm working from? It shouldn't be possible for me to do any of this. I'm just trying to make things work,

So again, sorry if I'm missing clauses and things are a little harphazard

And it fine if you can't work like this.



Work with me like this.

02/26/21, 5:46 AM



But if you can, it's as he said, we'll work it out.

02/26/21, 5:47 AM

Lol I do trust you 🤔 I gave you a story! It makes a huge difference if this is a market for black authors. I mean african is one thing, I never submitted to dominion because there was a thing in the submissions that white south africans shouldn't apply. I will respect those rules. If I don't, I'm stealing a spotlight from a worthier author.



Start a message



← Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA... (i)
@Penprince_

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I explained why I reached out to **Editor S** and it makes sense to me. I'm not sure if what I did was wrong? You aren't publishing one of my stories in an anthology, you're publishing it with someone else. I have been working with you! I'm not sure what I've done to indicate otherwise. But you have to agree that this is a weird situation, it's not an author sending a story to you to publish. Though obviously I would have been fine with that. This is my reputation as well, that you've got in your hands and I have no evidence that **Market 2** knows that I've been acting in good faith. I have no idea what they know about me, and that's down to a problem with communication between me and them. I've been working really hard In adverse conditions too, it's easy for nobody in this business. It sucks. Do think I don't have sympathy.



02/26/21, 5:55 AM ✓

Start a message

← Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...
@Penprince_ ⓘ

them. I've been working really hard In adverse conditions too, it's easy for nobody in this business. It sucks. Don't think I don't have sympathy.

02/26/21, 5:55 AM ✓

Well trust is part of understanding that I know about the nuances or exclusive spaces and race

12:55 [notification icons]



This was actually why it took so long.

I thought I neglected to tell them it was co-authored



← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

This was actually why it took so long.

I thought I neglected to tell them it was co-authored

There's so much I'm doing and missing as a result, that would have bene possible.

And not malicious.

And I asked to make sure it was okay.

And then I looked at the work, which I sent you. And I realized I didn't.

Your name was there. It's on the work as you could see. And I had talked to **Editor S** about you being White and South African.

Talked to **S** about it when I sent it to **Market 1**

And **S** asked me to send it to **Market 2**. So **S** knew. They knew. That's what I realized

Then I stopped waiting for their response to my query. Which they never did



I figured it was unnecessary



02/26/21, 6:03 AM



Start a message



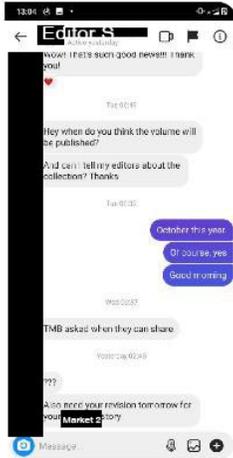
← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_



I figured it was unnecessary

02/26/21, 6:03 AM

Editor S again messaged me to send it back yesterday. S was the one who reminded me. And S knows.



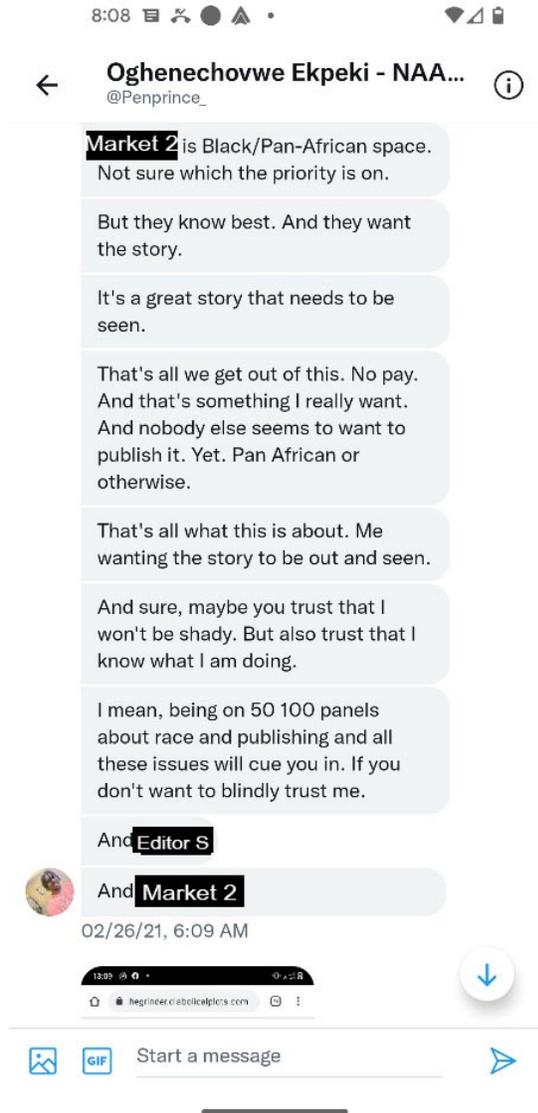
See how I don't even respond to her immediately? Until I absolutely can.

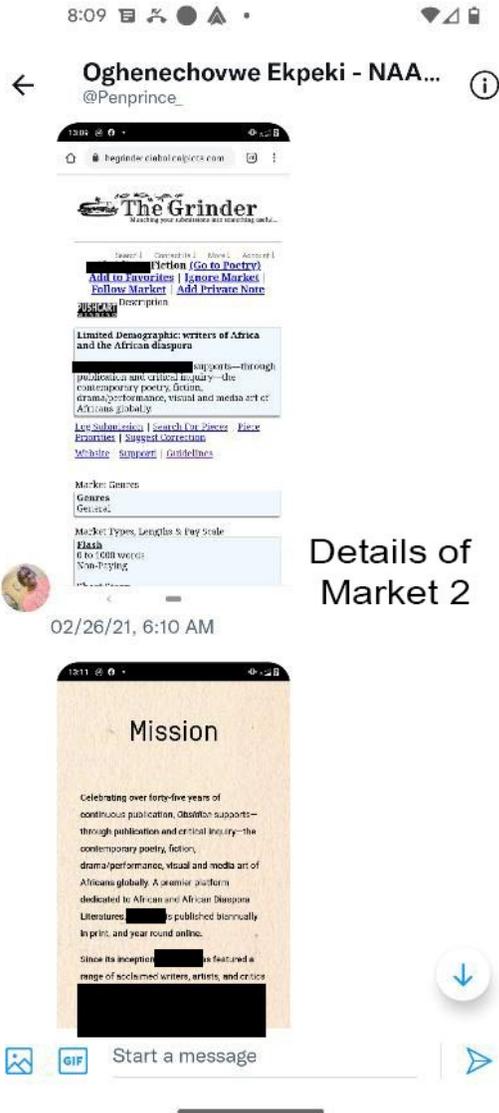
Market 2 is Black/Pan-African space. Not sure which the priority is on.

But they know best. And they want the story



[Image icon] [GIF icon] Start a message [Send icon]





Details of Market 2

8:09 [notification icons] [signal strength] [battery]

← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

Black isn't even mentioned anywhere



So where did you say you saw that it's a market for black authors?

02/26/21, 6:13 AM

I wouldn't be so inept, throw you under the boss by putting your work in a venue it's not supposed to be in by misleading them or concealing info about your identity. Gosh.



I'm not a complete idiot.

02/26/21, 6:19 AM



Start a message

← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_



Original

Lol

That's obviously not the case now.

You should know to look beyond headlines.

They knew about our identity. Cuz I told them.

It didn't skip me, despite how much work I am drowning in

And they still asked for it.

I trust them, and **Editor S**

And that was enough for me.

If this was going to go badly, it was going to be bad for us both. I wouldn't screw myself up. Even if you think I would you

 It's literally my life on the line. 

  Start a message 

← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

And they still asked for it.

I trust them, and **Editor s**.

And that was enough for me.

If this was going to go badly, it was going to be bad for us both. I wouldn't screw myself up. Even if you think I would you



It's literally my life on the line.

02/26/21, 6:26 AM

My career is my physical life.

I don't mean that metaphorically. I am chronically ill too you know. And I can't afford healthcare if I have a crises. Not to mention there's not advanced enough healthcare here.

Illness asides I might just get shot or killed here randomly or die from one of the myriad failing things here. We do have like the lowest life expectancy in the world. Lower than even war-torn countries like Syria and Lybia



Just to let you know I'm as careful as I need to be.



02/26/21, 6:28 AM



Start a message



← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

03/01/21, 8:27 PM

I thought I clarified for you that **Market 2** was African and diasporan? I showed you their about page. You emailed to say they were a black space? But that's not what's in their website. And you said I wasn't carrying you along? I was bringing you up to speed wasn't I? Except the revisions I forgot to tell you on time. And I explained. If you weren't happy with our correspondences, why not talk to me instead of going to tell them that? It makes me look like I'm trying to steal your work. It gives me a bad reputa. That was throwing me under the bus. Why not talk to me?



03/01/21, 8:27 PM

And some of the stuff you said about me not bringing you up to speed, I thought I did. Maybe I wasn't as clear as I thought. Anyway what do you want now? If they are okay with still publishing the piece, do you still want to?



Like talk to me instead of the magazine. I'm your partner. Right?

03/01/21, 8:29 PM



Start a message



← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

Cool! Okay, so yeah I no longer feel comfortable with this arrangement.

No, I did not send them an email about your lapses XD did you see the email? I asked them to send us both an email that we could both see/reply to. I can't see/reply to a submittable account email.

But yeah... I think pulling the story is a good idea at this point.

03/02/21, 8:19 AM ✓

I got the feeling there was more than just wanting to be cc'ed in the email

Cuz it definitely seemed to them as if I was acting shady

Or even trying to cut you out or steal your work

If you wanted to pull the story, why not talk it over with me?



Why go to them then?

03/02/21, 8:21 AM

I also brought up me being white, and was hoping I'd get some reassurance directly from them :/ this lack of

Start a message

← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

I also brought up me being white, and I was hoping I'd get some reassurance directly from them :/ this lack of communication this was giving me bad vibes.

I was hoping they'd have a more professional way for us all to interact.

But maybe they don't. And that's not your fault.

But this is not how co-authors are supposed to work.

I should have been involved from the get-go on discussions about re-writes and such. If I'm not, we run into issues like them not knowing when they accepted the story, who it was attached to. That looks like bad faith on our part.

03/02/21, 8:23 AM ✓

Bad vibes. So why not talk it over with me? You wanted reassurances. Didn't I talk to you though and assure you it was okay? Even if you were still unreasurred and wanted to pull it, why not talk to me. Why message them in a way that puts me in such terrible light?



But I told you I talked to them.

Start a message



← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

The bad vibes were entirely with me not feeling able to talk to them. If they're publishing a story of mine, why aren't they willing to talk to me?

03/02/21, 8:26 AM ✓

This doesn't seem like a professional arrangement.

03/02/21, 8:27 AM ✓

It's an African exclusive space. The politics of white Africans is complicated. It's a no brained Erin

Brainer

That's why I put myself in the front seat in the first place.

Surely you have some idea about this. It's not because I was trying to cut you out that's why I was putting myself forward more. I was trying to make sure things went smoothly till publication. Prevent any "bad vibes". Now look at us.



Okay

03/02/21, 8:29 AM

So yeah... I think pull the story. And they ask why, you can tell them it was entirely my fault



Start a message



← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

So yeah... I think pull the story. And if they ask why, you can tell them it was entirely my fault.

03/02/21, 8:29 AM ✓



I think arrangements and attitudes and submissions are overated. I just want to get published. But bags just me I guess

03/02/21, 8:29 AM

It can't be entirely your fault my dear. I submitted it, put myself forward since. Made them read and accept and go through a bunch of labour sending emails and all. Even asking for edits.



Mags don't like that kinda stuff. That's why most of them say no simultaneous submissions.

03/02/21, 8:32 AM

Yeah. That's why this wasn't fair to me or them. If I'm not wanted in a space, then I don't want to shove myself into it-- that's giving south africans a bad name.

And I... Don't understand that attitude Oghenechovwe. This is the professional part. It's more than half the work. It's

Start a message

← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

it-- that's giving south africans a bad name.

And I... Don't understand that attitude, Oghenechovwe. This is the professional part. It's more than half the work. It's contacts and responsibility and lifting up the places were submitting to just as much as they're lifting us up

03/02/21, 8:32 AM ✓

So that put the blame on you ship has sailed. I also read for and work with **Editor S** and some of them in other capacities. So it's bound to affect our relationship in other things.

But it's fine. We should prioritize your feelings and not do something you are uncomfortable with just to get published

I will pull it as you asked.

My dear Erin. The industry isn't nearly this simple. As I hope you get to advance and find out

You will have to work in uncomfortable environments a lot to get things done.



I'll email **Editor S** later today.

Start a message

← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

 I'll email **Editor S** later today.
03/02/21, 8:34 AM

I'm sorry, but this is me doing the right thing for me and the market. This was a bad idea from the get-go. I think if you'd put more of yourself into the story I wouldn't feel so weird about all of this. But it's a story I wrote with the names changed, in a magazine that values ownvoice stories. It is unethical.

03/02/21, 8:35 AM ✓

Okay

I respect your feelings and wishes.

I wish you had said all this to me before emailing them

After sending a message they interpreted as me being shady, we pull the story.

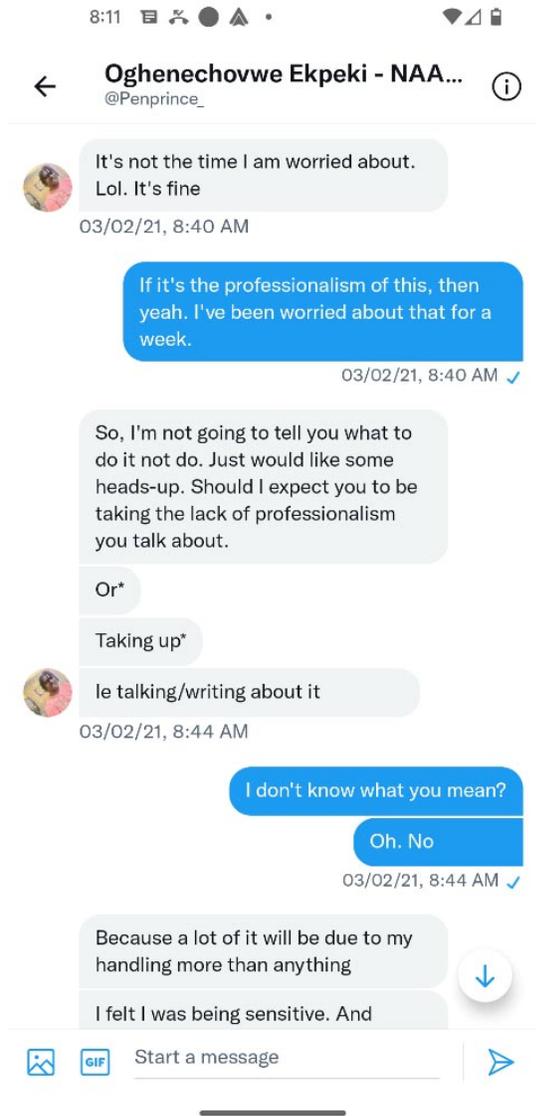
 Yeah, it looks like I tried to steal and got caught. But nothing for it now

03/02/21, 8:36 AM

Why? What would have changed? I was trying to get in touch with the maga so that they would know I wasn't act in bad faith. I said in the email it was

  Start a message 





← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

Because a lot of it will be due to my handling more than anything

I felt I was being sensitive. And handling things carefully, in a way that would make it run smoothly

Invariably it would be my back of professionalism, not theirs.



Lack*

03/02/21, 8:45 AM

No. I'm not going to write or talk about it. Who would I tell anyway? 😞 I'm not into drama, I try to avoid it possible, which is what made all of this fall apart anyway.

03/02/21, 8:47 AM ✓



Okay. I think it fell apart cuz you and I didn't understand each other well enough

03/02/21, 8:47 AM

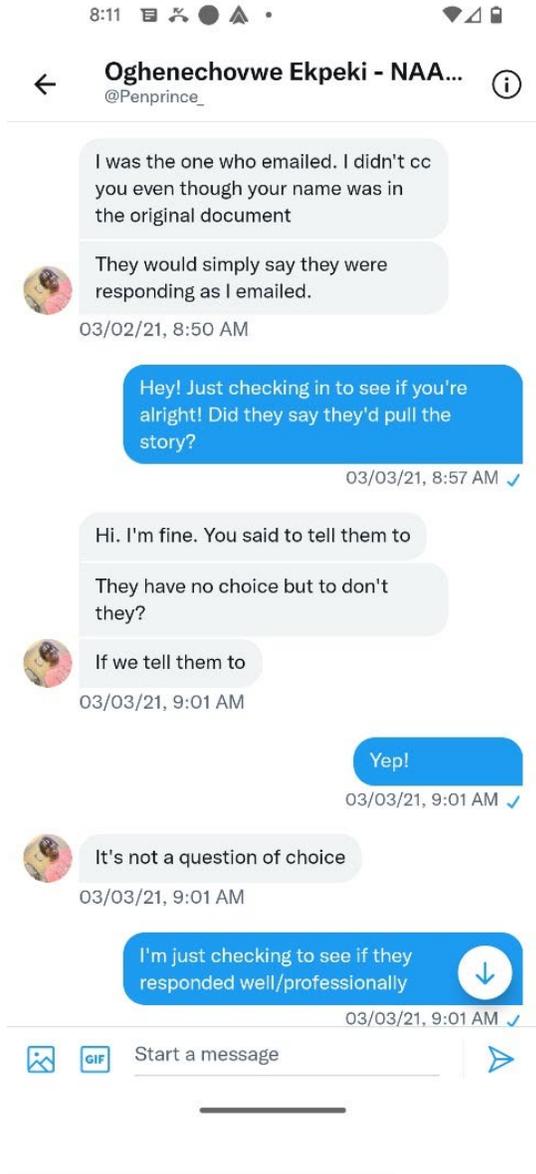
I dunno, if the magazine had gotten back to me in an email cc'd to us both, I would have no qualms. But anyway. Yeah. It's done. Moving forward, onward, and upward. ↓

03/02/21, 8:49 AM ✓



Start a message





← **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki - NAA...** ⓘ
@Penprince_

03/03/21, 9:01 AM ✓

That was a "yes, they pulled it." right?

03/03/21, 9:15 AM ✓



03/16/21, 3:07 AM

Thank you, I really appreciate that.

👍 1

03/16/21, 9:47 AM ✓



I hope you are fine?

03/16/21, 9:50 AM



GIF

Start a message



8:42 [notification icons] [signal strength] [battery]

← Oghenechovwe Ekpe... 23.1K Tweets [search] [more]

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 **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki ~ Nebula ...** · 4h [more]
I stumbled on a forum where em racist trolls were discussing my work. Apparently they found it so good, 'poor, uneducated African' me couldn't have written it so I must 've paid a white guy, a prof to write it. I was.... [person icon]
Cuz how did poor uneducated, African me get money to pay?



8 5 61 [share]

 **Oghenechovwe Ekpeki ~ Nebula ...** · 4h [more]
Reading "O2 arena" now - he's absolutely stole this shit from some middle aged woman he's scamming on plenty of fish.
There are sites where you can pay graduates to do your university coursework for you.
I wonder if this guy paid some American guy with a master's in English Lit. (and a job at Starbucks) a couple of hundred bucks for the story, changed some of the names and locations, and hey presto - he's the best Sci Fi writer in all of Africa!

10 1 14 [share] [plus]