

A Quick Guide To My Beliefs On “Innocence and Guilt” On The Internet.

In light of some recent “drama” spewing about on a few websites that I visit I thought I’d take a moment to outline for people why it is that I’m not joining the witch hunt. Let’s begin!

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#1. We live in the United States where the court system is based on the wonderful belief of “innocent until proven guilty”. What this means is that a person can be held accountable for no crime unless that person has been tried in a court of law (typically via a jury of his peers) and found legally guilty of committing the crime in which they are accused. Or, to put it simply, if a judge doesn’t say someone did it... they didn’t do it.

#2. In the United States we have a basic human right called “Freedom of Speech” except... well... it’s not freedom of ALL speech. Anything verbally spoken that is spoken in a manner that tries to convey it as FACT without evidence or legal documentation to back it up is called SLANDER. Now, you might be saying “but this doesn’t apply online, right?” Hahahaha... yes it does. However, when it’s something that’s been typed or written it’s not called slander... it’s called LIBEL. Now, I could go on to define libel in its entirety but since you are already online anyway just pop it into Google and read up on it. You might learn something new!

#3. “But Eli, you are defending a criminal? Why won’t you see that?” Well, to be honest this question is one I get almost every time I refuse to

join a witch hunt. The answer is quite simple actually... I'm a journalist. Well, former. Out of work at the moment. Still, my morals as a journalist bind me to things like "innocent until proven guilty" and confine me heavily to slander and libel laws. When I see someone getting attacked without evidence to support the claims then I will interject to remind people of that. I don't take sides, contrary to common belief, but in fact state only that if there was no evidence to back up a claim of "he said she said" anything that is cruel, accusatory, or demeaning could be potential libel and subject to legal action.

#4. To be honest? 9 of 10 times I don't really give a shit. If something pops up that brings drama and I'm not directly involved I usually stay out of it... until someone claims a crime has been committed and a witch hunt starts. Then I do my journalist thing and pop my nose in where it probably doesn't belong. I'm a fox, we have long noses. You guys remember the song.

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So there you have it kids and not-kids. Remember that if you see my commenting on drama it's not me taking a side... it's me trying to keep people out of legal trouble. Don't let yourself commit a crime just for the sake of pointing fingers. Be safe.

*This message brought to you by the general assembly of fennecs for
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