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Will Terrell Mims Change?

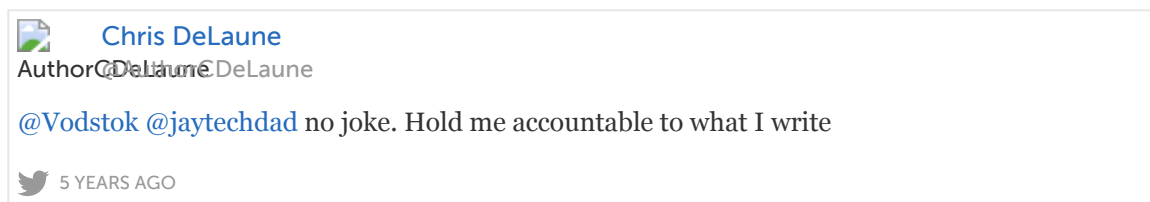
Plagiarist Terrell Mims, aka Chris DeLaune, faces his victims and makes a full admission. Warning: Language

by  Jami Gold 5 years ago 41 Views ▾

Monday night, a commenter to [my old blog post about Terrell's plagiarism](#) mentioned that Terrell Mims was back under a new name: Chris DeLaune. Sure enough, all he'd done was go into hiding for several months and then resume [his same Twitter account with a new handle and avatar](#).

After [we outed him on Twitter](#), Terrell/Chris had to face those who'd exposed his crimes the first time and those he'd plagiarized from back in 2011: David ([@Vodstok](#)), Travis ([@TravisHarder](#) and [@TravisHarder2ND](#)), and Holy Taco ([@holytaco](#)). ([@jaytechdad](#) is my Tech Guy and helped expose him this second time.)

Warning: Language




 **Xenomorph Nazi Punch**
@Vodstok

.@AuthorCDeLaune @jaytechdad I'm not holding my breath. You not only stole from me, you accepted accolades for it. Narcissism is incurable.

2:08 PM - Jan 22, 2013

♡ 👤 See Xenomorph Nazi Punch's other Tweets

 **Chris DeLaune**
AuthorCDeLaune

@Vodstok @jaytechdad I was wrong. I was very wrong. I apologize. You don't have to accept it, but I was wrong.


5 YEARS AGO

 **Xenomorph Nazi Punch**
@Vodstok

.@AuthorCDeLaune I believe you are as sorry as my dog is when I catch her eating from the counter; sorry she was caught.


2:18 PM - Jan 22, 2013

♡ 👤 See Xenomorph Nazi Punch's other Tweets

 **Chris DeLaune**
AuthorCDeLaune

@Vodstok I understand. Again, I was incredibly wrong. You don't have to forgive me, but I offer it.



5 YEARS AGO

 **Travis Harder**
@travisharder

.@AuthorCDeLaune "I know I plagiarized yet AGAIN, but I'll stop this time. I promise" Bullshit




3:03 PM - Jan 22, 2013


♡ 👤 See Travis Harder's other Tweets

 **Travis Harder** 
@travisharder

.@AuthorCDeLaune you're like the abusive husband of writing "I promise this time it'll be different"



3:03 PM - Jan 22, 2013

  See Travis Harder's other Tweets 



 **TravisHarder** 
@TravisHarder2ND

@AuthorCDeLaune so you plagiarized as recently as five days ago, and you expect us to believe you cahnged?

3:05 PM - Jan 22, 2013




  See TravisHarder's other Tweets 



This recent plagiarism is referring to the Forbes article mentioned in [my original Terrell Mims Storify](#).

 **TravisHarder** 
@TravisHarder2ND

@AuthorCDeLaune @Vodstok @jaytechdad we shouldn't have to hold you accountable. You should write your own shit, or quit writing.




3:06 PM - Jan 22, 2013

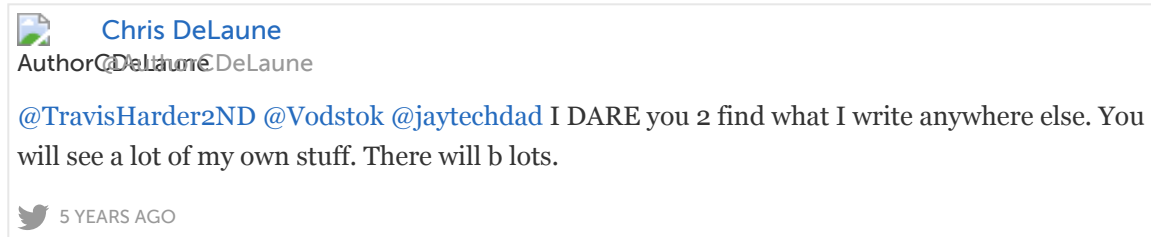
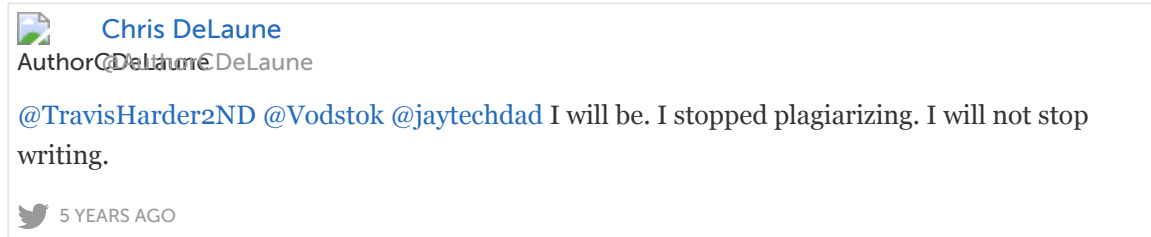
  See TravisHarder's other Tweets 

 **TravisHarder** 
@TravisHarder2ND

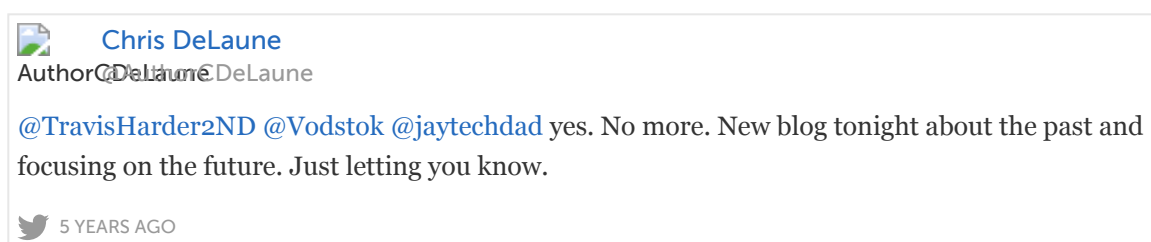
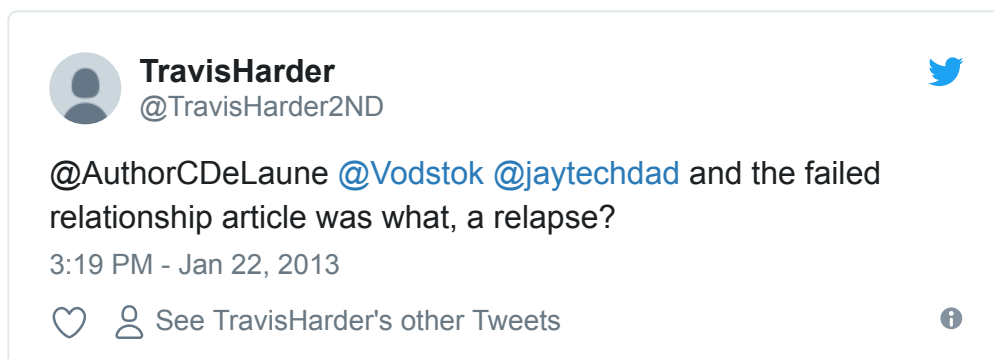
@AuthorCDeLaune @Vodstok @jaytechdad you act as though you're addicted to stealing. You're not a writer, and you never will be.

3:06 PM - Jan 22, 2013

  See TravisHarder's other Tweets 



This "dare" strikes me as rather arrogant for someone who, at this point, has gone all of four hours as an "affirmed" non-plagiarist.






Xenomorph Nazi Punch
@Vodstok

.@AuthorCDeLaune @TravisHarder2ND @jaytechdad yeah, I'm not in a hurry to give you pageviews. Your ego justifies too much in your mind

3:41 PM - Jan 22, 2013

♡ 👤 See Xenomorph Nazi Punch's other Tweets



Chris DeLaune
AuthorCDeLaune

@Vodstok @TravisHarder2ND @jaytechdad I'm not justifying. I admit to my wrongs.

5 YEARS AGO

At this point in the conversation, Terrell/Chris faces anger from another front. During his time as Terrell and then again as Chris, he gained the trust and friendship of many writers, including Gene. All those writers feel betrayed as well. No one wants to associate with a plagiarist. As Kristen Lamb once stated, plagiarism is like treason among writers.




Gene Lempp
@GeneLempp

@AuthorCDeLaune @JamiGold @KristenLambTX Is deception all you know? There can never be forgiveness without proven change.

3:53 PM - Jan 22, 2013

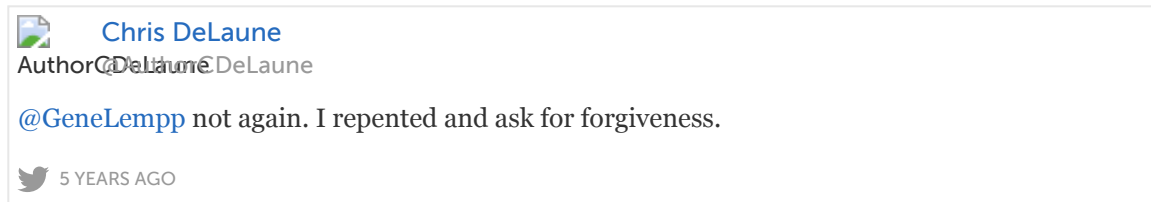
♡ 👤 See Gene Lempp's other Tweets



Chris DeLaune
AuthorCDeLaune

@GeneLempp No. I have changed and moving in a new direction.


5 YEARS AGO



I'm all for a good redemption story. I write them in my fiction all the time. But anyone who knows anything about truly making amends knows that you *cannot* ask for forgiveness. That is a right you do not have. People may *offer* forgiveness.






The confrontation with David, Travis, and Holy Taco then continues...


 **Travis Harder**
@travisharder

Replying to @Vodstok


[@Vodstok](#) [@authorcdelaune](#) "sorry", but keeps doing it... Why do people want to become writers if they aren't going to actually write?


4:06 PM - Jan 22, 2013

  See Travis Harder's other Tweets 

 **Chris DeLaune**
Author [@CDelaune](#) [@CDelaune](#)




[@travisharder](#) [@Vodstok](#) idk. I did it from laziness. I can't speak for others.


 5 YEARS AGO

 **Travis Harder**
@travisharder

[@AuthorCDeLaune](#) [@vodstok](#) if that's your attitude towards writing, maybe consider another career? Writing should be enjoyable.




4:09 PM - Jan 22, 2013

  See Travis Harder's other Tweets 

 **Travis Harder**
@travisharder


[@AuthorCDeLaune](#) [@vodstok](#) the only appropriate thing to do if you're too lazy to write is to just not write. Or get over it and be original

4:10 PM - Jan 22, 2013

  See Travis Harder's other Tweets 

 **Chris DeLaune**
Author [@CDelaune](#) [@CDelaune](#)

[@travisharder](#) [@Vodstok](#) writing is enjoyable. I felt I needed to make blog post dates so I got lazy.

 5 YEARS AGO


 **Xenomorph Nazi Punch**
@Vodstok

Replying to @travisharder

[@travisharder](#) [@AuthorCDeLaune](#) it's the desire to get the recognition and respect without having to do the work.

5:08 PM - Jan 22, 2013


♡ 👤 See Xenomorph Nazi Punch's other Tweets

 **Chris DeLaune**
AuthorCDeLaune

[@Vodstok](#) I'm glad you are perfect and never messed up. Hey, God is tweeting with me. He's perfect.

5 YEARS AGO


Here we see another glimpse of that arrogance. No one is perfect, but there's a big difference between being imperfect and being a thief and a fraud.

 **Xenomorph Nazi Punch**
@Vodstok

"[@AuthorCDeLaune](#): [@Vodstok](#) I'm glad you are perfect and never messed up. Hey, God is tweeting with me. He's perfect."
Am I too hard on you?

5:53 PM - Jan 22, 2013

♡ 👤 See Xenomorph Nazi Punch's other Tweets


 **Travis Harder**
@travisharder

Replying to @Vodstok

[@Vodstok](#) [@authorcdeLaune](#) plagiarizing is "messaging up", it's fraud. It also wasn't a one time thing, it's consistent

5:58 PM - Jan 22, 2013


♡ 👤 See Travis Harder's other Tweets

 **Xenomorph Nazi Punch**
@Vodstok

.@AuthorCDeLaune @travisharder if "not stealing and taking credit for other people's work" is perfect to you, your standards are awful.


6:31 PM - Jan 22, 2013

♡ 👤 See Xenomorph Nazi Punch's other Tweets

 **Chris DeLaune**
AuthorCDeLaune


@Vodstok @travisharder don't dodge. Perfect is never making a mistake. No matter how big or small. I accept my fault but don't act perfect.

5 YEARS AGO

 **Chris DeLaune**
AuthorCDeLaune

@Vodstok @travisharder all I'm saying is that you have secrets and sins also.

5 YEARS AGO

 **Xenomorph Nazi Punch**
@Vodstok

.@AuthorCDeLaune @travisharder I also have teeth and matching limbs. That's not an observation or point. It is, in fact, a dodge.

6:47 PM - Jan 22, 2013



♡ 👤 See Xenomorph Nazi Punch's other Tweets

 **Xenomorph Nazi Punch**
@Vodstok


.@AuthorCDeLaune @travisharder a woefully standard one as well. You can't even argue with originality. It's called false equivalency.

6:48 PM - Jan 22, 2013

♡ 👤 See Xenomorph Nazi Punch's other Tweets

 **Chris DeLaune**
Author  DeLaune

[@Vodstok](#) [@travisharder](#) so. I admitted I stole your work. I apologized. I admitted it. Dont act like you never hurt anyone. U lie if u say no

 5 YEARS AGO

 **Holy Taco**
[@holytaco](#) 

Replying to [@Vodstok](#)

[@Vodstok](#) [@AuthorCDeLaune](#) [@travisharder](#) this is all blocked from me

6:48 PM - Jan 22, 2013


  See Holy Taco's other Tweets 



 **Xenomorph Nazi Punch**
[@Vodstok](#) 

Replying to [@holytaco](#)


[@holytaco](#) [@AuthorCDeLaune](#) [@travisharder](#) I'll get you screenshots, it's worth seeing him try to turn it around like I'm now the bad guy



6:51 PM - Jan 22, 2013

  See Xenomorph Nazi Punch's other Tweets 

 **Chris DeLaune**
Author  DeLaune




[@Vodstok](#) [@holytaco](#) [@travisharder](#) you're not the bad guy. You never made a mistake


 5 YEARS AGO

 **Holy Taco**
[@holytaco](#) 


[@AuthorCDeLaune](#) [@Vodstok](#) [@travisharder](#) you're hilarious, dude. A mistake doesn't happen 20+ times, then come back under a fake name


6:57 PM - Jan 22, 2013

  See Holy Taco's other Tweets 

 **Chris DeLaune**
Author [@CDelaune](#) [DeLaune](#)




[@holytaco](#) [@Vodstok](#) [@travisharder](#) you come back to reestablish yourself. The mistake was the acting on bad character.



 5 YEARS AGO

 **Holy Taco**
[@holytaco](#) 

[@AuthorCDeLaune](#) [@Vodstok](#) [@travisharder](#) but you're a fraud. what are you re-establishing yourself as besides a fraud?




7:00 PM - Jan 22, 2013


  See Holy Taco's other Tweets 

 **Xenomorph Nazi Punch**
[@Vodstok](#) 


.[@AuthorCDeLaune](#) [@travisharder](#) and you act as if an apology is all that is needed and you should be forgiven. No dice.

7:01 PM - Jan 22, 2013

  See Xenomorph Nazi Punch's other Tweets 

 **Chris DeLaune**
Author [@CDelaune](#) [DeLaune](#)

[@holytaco](#) [@Vodstok](#) [@travisharder](#) a non fraud. I am coming back to go it right.

 5 YEARS AGO

 **Travis Harder**
[@travisharder](#) 

[@AuthorCDeLaune](#) [@holytaco](#) [@vodstok](#) you continued to plagiarize under the new name. You didn't admit you were wrong until you were caught

7:02 PM - Jan 22, 2013


  See Travis Harder's other Tweets 

 **Xenomorph Nazi Punch**
@Vodstok

.@AuthorCDeLaune @travisharder you display sociopathic behavior; you expect that you should get a clean slate because you apologized.

7:02 PM - Jan 22, 2013

  See Xenomorph Nazi Punch's other Tweets 

 **Chris DeLaune**
AuthorCDeLaune

@Vodstok @travisharder I gave you an apology. You don't need to give me forgiveness. I have it from those who matter to me.


 5 YEARS AGO

 **Travis Harder**
@travisharder


@AuthorCDeLaune @vodstok so you ripped off "those that matter to you", too?


7:04 PM - Jan 22, 2013

  See Travis Harder's other Tweets 

 **Chris DeLaune**
AuthorCDeLaune




@travisharder @Vodstok no. I hurt them. I never ripped off those I know. Just you guys I didn't. Now u talk to me more than those I hurt :)


 5 YEARS AGO

 **Travis Harder**
@travisharder

@AuthorCDeLaune you hear that, @vodstok? He only ripped you off because he didn't know you! That makes it better

7:08 PM - Jan 22, 2013


  See Travis Harder's other Tweets 

 **Xenomorph Nazi Punch**
@Vodstok

.@AuthorCDeLaune @travisharder I don't believe you are at all sorry. You just want me to back off. Not going to happen.


7:04 PM - Jan 22, 2013

♡ 👤 See Xenomorph Nazi Punch's other Tweets ⓘ

 **Chris DeLaune**
AuthorCDeLaune DeLaune

@Vodstok @travisharder no. Just know I said I was wrong. I mean it. You can do with it what you want. I don't care.

🐦 5 YEARS AGO

 **Chris DeLaune**
AuthorCDeLaune DeLaune

@Vodstok @travisharder don't back off. I promise after today you can only harp on my past. My present work will be original.


🐦 5 YEARS AGO

 **Xenomorph Nazi Punch**
@Vodstok

.@AuthorCDeLaune @travisharder you don't need or want to be forgiven, you just want the bad press to go away. It won't. Not ever.

7:35 PM - Jan 22, 2013

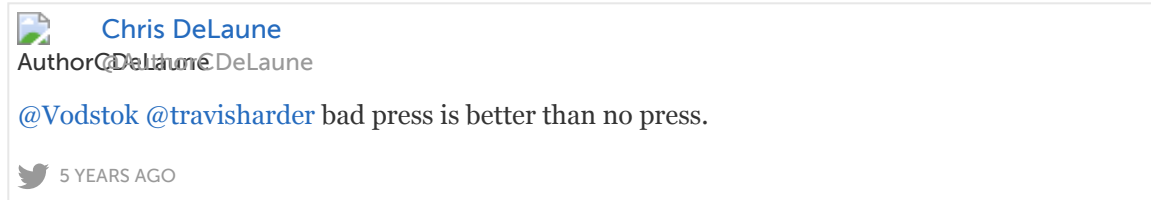
♡ 👤 See Xenomorph Nazi Punch's other Tweets ⓘ

 **Xenomorph Nazi Punch**
@Vodstok

.@AuthorCDeLaune @travisharder and like an unruly kid, you're getting attention. You aren't a writer. Period.

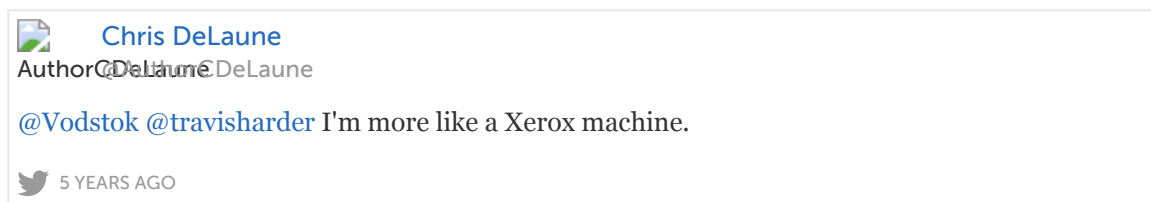
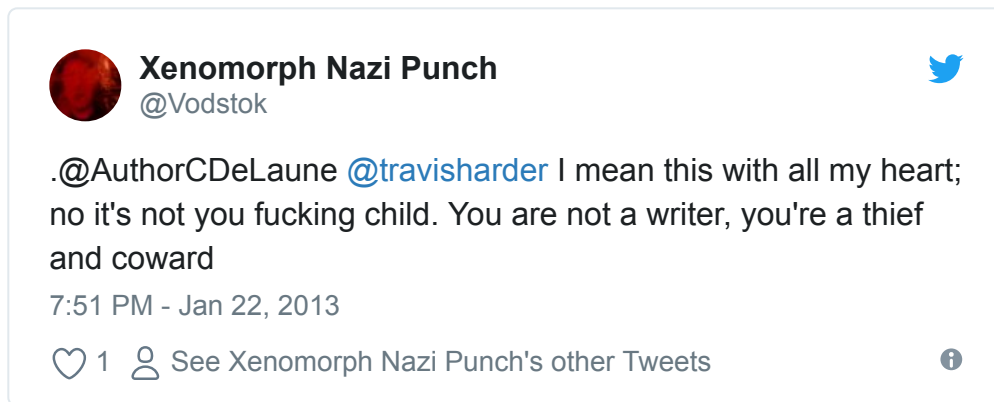
7:36 PM - Jan 22, 2013

♡ 👤 See Xenomorph Nazi Punch's other Tweets ⓘ





"Bad press is better than no press."

Hmm, I've seen words like "narcissist" used in reference to Terrell/Chris. If that's the case, would all this attention make everything worth it to him?






More arrogance? A thoughtless joke?


Note the present tense—not "I was more like..."

 **Xenomorph Nazi Punch** 
@Vodstok


"@AuthorCDeLaune: @Vodstok @travisharder I'm more like a Xerox machine." is that supposed to be a joke? You aren't funny.

7:52 PM - Jan 22, 2013

  See Xenomorph Nazi Punch's other Tweets 

 **Chris DeLaune**
AuthorCDeLaune DeLaune

@Vodstok @travisharder and I may as well be, but what do you do that you don't want the world knowing about?

 5 YEARS AGO



Everyone probably has things they don't want people knowing about. But there's a difference between hiding that embarrassing time you drank too much and hiding crimes. They aren't equivalent.

 **Xenomorph Nazi Punch** 
@Vodstok

.@AuthorCDeLaune @travisharder are you attempting to be profound? Don't, no one is going to buy your shit. We didn't do wrong, you did




7:57 PM - Jan 22, 2013

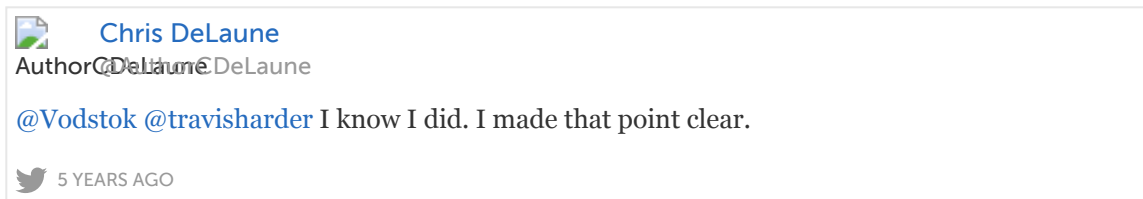
  See Xenomorph Nazi Punch's other Tweets 

 **Travis Harder** 
@travisharder

@AuthorCDeLaune @vodstok why do you assume we all have some deep dark secret? Do you feel better thinking everyone is as terrible as you?

7:58 PM - Jan 22, 2013

  See Travis Harder's other Tweets 



A few hours later, Terrell/Chris posted [his admission to his blog](#). Although he admits everything from 2011, he continues with this idea of equivalency, and he talks only about his behavior in regards the past plagiarism, not about the other things he's done—including last week's plagiarism.

I posted this comment:

Terrell/Chris,

This is a good first step—and I mean that. But if you're serious about making up for your mistakes, you have to recognize that your mistakes go beyond just the *behavior* of plagiarizing content. It's easy to say "Oh, I was on deadline and took shortcuts," but what about what happened next?

What about how you used the reputation you built with that plagiarized content to justify an editing service that you advertised among those who called you friend? What about how you charged money to those friends for that non-existent expertise? What about how you betrayed everyone with a false reputation? What about how you continued that betrayal by hiding behind the name change? What about how you went to that SAME group of writers you'd already victimized and added to the lies with this new, hidden persona?

Great. You say you're never going to plagiarize again—what about all those other character-defining crimes? Are you just changing your BEHAVIOR to not plagiarize? Or are you determined to change your CHARACTER? That's the real question. Because until you've changed that character, you're not by any means "cured."

I challenge you to do what I said on Twitter: label yourself as a (former) plagiarist on your blog banner, about page, Twitter bio, and every other platform. Don't hide it. If you hide it, you're saying that you can't really face what you did.

But if you admit it, *and* if you make true 12 step progress, including making amends to ALL those you wronged (not just those you stole the content from, but also those you betrayed), then I, for one, might be willing to forgive you.

That forgiveness isn't going to happen today, maybe not even this year. But eventually you could make a name for yourself as someone who freely admits their crime and moved forward from there. So for as much as you might hate me for "outing" you today, know that at least I'm willing to let you try to move forward. That's more than you'll get from others, I'm sure.

I know none of this is easy. It's especially not easy because I'm also going to ask you to include this link to the background of your crimes so everyone can see how this is bigger than just stealing content: <http://jamigold.com/2011/10/how-bad-is-plagiarism/> But there is a way past this, and it takes you being honest with yourself and others.

I hope you can get there. I really and truly do. Every one of my stories has a theme of redemption, so I believe it's possible. However, I'm not convinced you're serious about change. Maybe it will take you doing everything I laid out here as far as freely admitting your past, maybe it will take a year or more, or maybe you'll never convince me. But I'm willing to say you have the right to try.

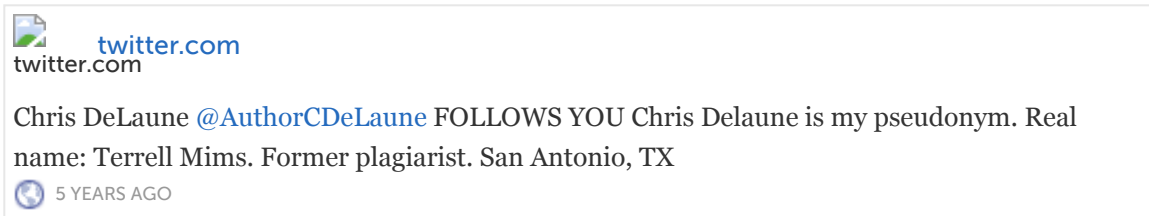
POSTED BY [JAMI GOLD](#) | [JANUARY 22, 2013, 10:48 PM](#)

Terrell/Chris replied:

Thank you. I know you feel as an author words are everything, but in this case mean nothing without action. I will take the steps you suggested and I thank you for outing me. That means there is nothing left to hide. I want to convince you and everyone else I changed and I know only time can do that, but my character has changed and I am not going back.

POSTED BY CHRIS DELAUNE | [JANUARY 22, 2013, 11:18 PM](#)

He did update his Twitter bio to include "Terrell Mims. Former plagiarist" (no mention that "former" means "as of last week"):

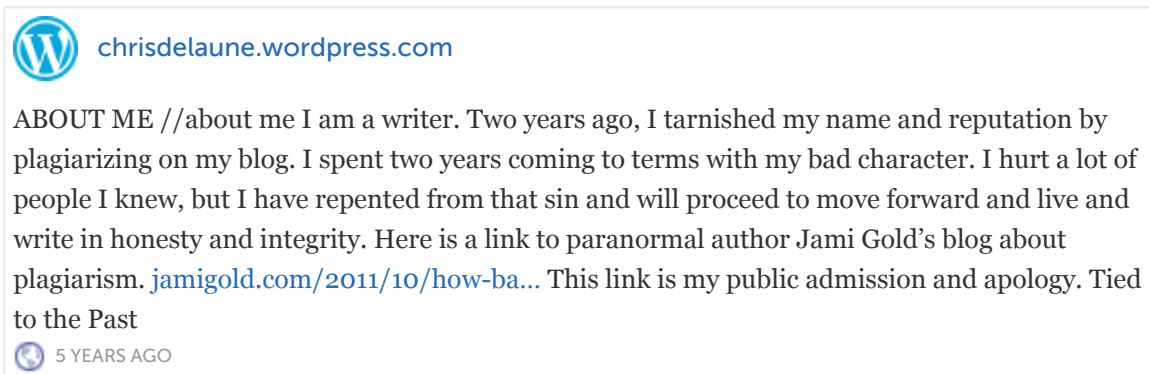


twitter.com
twitter.com

Chris DeLaune [@AuthorCDeLaune](#) FOLLOWS YOU Chris Delaune is my pseudonym. Real name: Terrell Mims. Former plagiarist. San Antonio, TX

5 YEARS AGO

And he did update his blog's About Me page to include his admission of plagiarism (but only of the plagiarism from 2011, not this recent Forbes "slip"):



chrisdelaune.wordpress.com

ABOUT ME //about me I am a writer. Two years ago, I tarnished my name and reputation by plagiarizing on my blog. I spent two years coming to terms with my bad character. I hurt a lot of people I knew, but I have repented from that sin and will proceed to move forward and live and write in honesty and integrity. Here is a link to paranormal author Jami Gold's blog about plagiarism. [jamigold.com/2011/10/how-ba...](#) This link is my public admission and apology. Tied to the Past

5 YEARS AGO

Will it stick? Will he continue to move forward? Call me a Pollyanna, but I honestly hope so despite my deeply-held doubt. Again, only time will tell. I will be [keeping my follow-up post updated with his current status](#).

I was not directly betrayed as many others were, nor was I plagiarized by him. So maybe I'm being too easy on him. However, I also know that people like [James Frey](#) somehow find a way to move on from their massive scandals. So as I told him in my comment on his blog, I'm willing to say he has the right to try.

Like Share