



## EPISODE FOUR: The Unseen Hands

Sarah P. Knows Too Much to Stay Silent





Neutralizing Narcissism: The Awakening Edition

2 min read · March 6, 2025



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Sarah had **tried**.

She had **tried** to warn them.

Months ago.

She had seen the problem coming **before it ever reached their inboxes**.

Before the first big takedown.

Before the first wave of public backlash.

Before the first time someone inside the company had whispered the words:

*"Maybe we got this one wrong."*

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## **“We Are Building a Trap We Can’t Escape”**

Sarah had spent enough time in **Trust & Safety** to know one thing for certain—

Every system can be exploited.

It didn’t matter **how well it was designed**.



It didn't matter **how well-intentioned it was.**

If there was a **loophole, a flaw, a blind spot,** someone would find it.

And once they did?

**They would use it.**

Sarah had watched it happen **again and again.**

First with automated moderation.

Then with mass reporting loopholes.

Then with AI-driven flagging tools.

Every single time, **bad actors adapted faster than the system itself.**

And Substack?

**They were making the same mistakes every other platform had already made.**

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## **Sarah Saw It in the Data**

She had seen it in the **patterns.**

The way certain accounts **got flagged faster.**



The way mass reporting incidents **spiked in predictable waves.**

The way **certain bad-faith actors** figured out exactly how to frame their reports **to trigger automatic action.**

And the worst part?

**The people being targeted weren't the abusers.**

They were the ones **calling out the abuse.**

Sarah had compiled reports.

She had flagged anomalies.

She had taken everything to leadership and said, "**This is a problem.**"

She had expected resistance.

She had expected **pushback.**

What she hadn't expected was **silence.**

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## **The Meeting That Broke Her**



She still remembered **the exact moment** she knew they weren't going to listen.

A closed-door meeting.

A table full of decision-makers.

A screen displaying her data—the patterns, the warnings, the clear proof that they were letting bad actors **game the system.**

And the response?

*"We'll look into it."*

*"We trust our moderation team."*

*"These cases are complicated."*

The conversation had **ended** with a PR-safe non-answer:

*"We need to be careful about overcorrecting."*

And Sarah had walked out of the room knowing—

**Nothing was going to change.**

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## **Now, It's Too Late**

The takedown had already happened.

The public pressure was already **building**.

She had seen **Nick's email**.

She had seen the nervous conversations happening in Slack threads they thought she wasn't reading.

She had seen the shift—

**The realization that they were losing control of the narrative.**

And now?

**Now, they would scramble.**

Now, they would **look for a way to justify the decision, rather than admit they had been played.**

Now, they would **double down**.

Because if they didn't?

**It wouldn't just be this one case.**

It would be **all of them**.



Every writer who had ever been suspended.

Every journalist who had ever been flagged.

Every person who had ever been silenced **without due process.**

If they admitted this one was wrong?

**It meant questioning every decision they had ever made.**

And that?

That was something they would never do.

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## **The Choice Sarah Has to Make**

She could stay quiet.

**She could let them handle it.**

She could watch as they made **the same mistake she had tried to warn them about.**

Or—

She could do something else.

She could **talk.**



She could make sure that when this all blew up—

**And it would blow up.**

**She wasn't on the wrong side of it.**

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Sarah closed her laptop.

Took a deep breath.

And made a decision.

She wasn't going to sit this one out.

She had spent too long **watching the wrong people win.**

Not this time.

Not anymore.

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## **NEXT EPISODE: "The Breaking Point" (Jessica M. Has Had Enough)**

Jessica isn't just moderating content. She's watching a platform lose its soul in real time.





## ❤️ EPISODE FIVE: The Breaking Point (Jessica M.)

Jessica joined Substack because she believed in free speech.

Now, she moderates content she knows isn't violating any rules.

Now, she watches good writers disappear, while bad actors hijack the system.

Now, she has to ask herself: **Am I protecting the platform? Or am I protecting a lie?**

📖 READ: *The Breaking Point* (Jessica M.)

### EPISODE FIVE: The Breaking Point

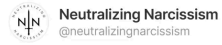
Jessica had always believed in the mission. That's why she took the job. She believed in independent journalism. She believed in giving writers a platform. She believed in free speech. And now? Now, she...

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## EPISODE FOUR: The Unseen Hands



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