



Book jacket - *Daddy, Please Love Me*, The Good Liars, 2019

The Good Liars

Savory Satire Pie

This holiday season, serve your family a warm Savory Satire Pie, the perfect entree to feed you and your extended family! This classic recipe is full of laughs and irony for all ages. It takes advantage of the general pessimism that permeates the current zeitgeist about the general fate of the human race and uses cringe humor to bring together this wonderful experience for the senses. Treat your taste buds to a night of over the top antics and political charge of this flavorful and delicious dish. Your guests will thank you!

Serving Size:

Dozens of satirical comedy sketches over the past decade

Ingredients:

- 2 comedians
- 7 heaping tablespoons of satire
- 1 morally and/or politically corrupt target
- 1 sprig of willingness to commit to a bit (optional)
- 1 absurd premise

Utensils:

- A camera
- A microphone
- Editing software
- A website

Directions:

1. Take your morally and/or politically corrupt target and combine it in a bowl alongside with your two comedians and let it sit for 15 minutes.
2. Once done, add in an absurd premise and combine using a camera and microphone.
3. When well incorporated, add your heaping spoonfuls of Satire. Season to taste. The more you add the more pronounced the flavor of the final sketch.
4. Put the entire mixture into the Editing software and bake until funny and sharply ridiculous.
5. At this point you may optionally add the sprig of willingness to commit to a bit, to further elevate your Savory Pie to another level of exaggeration.
6. Serve upon a website for maximum effectiveness and taste.

The Good Liars

>> by Mitchell Kim

The Good Liars are a satirical comedy duo that focus on hot button issues that tackle social, economic, and political issues by performing what is considered “extreme satire,” often portraying themselves as the very thing they are poking fun at, whilst spouting the very absurd rhetoric their targets hold to be true. The two members, Jason Selvig and Davram Stiefler, started their career in 2013 where they first responded to a Coca Cola ad that claimed it was directly responsible for offering healthy beverages toward their consumers, by offering a large variety of “low to zero calorie” options. In a scathing rhetoric, the two redubbed the ad with their own script. Titled “Honest Coca Cola Commercial,” the new ad says lines like, “these diet beverages still pose serious health risks...[they] can still cause kidney problems, obesity, metabolic syndrome, cell damage, and rotting teeth.” They go on to mention that the number of diet drinks is vastly overshadowed by their full sugar counterparts, 180 to 470—and these sugary beverages are a clear and obvious factor towards obesity, stroke, accelerated aging, and even cancer. The Good Liars drove home the absurdity of a company whose main product is high sugar products elevating themselves as a paragon of good health by comparing them to a cigarette company claiming to be doing something responsible to protect their consumers. The Good Liars end on the line, “Don’t drink Coke. It is killing you and your family,” a line that perfectly embodies the type of humor and content these two would produce.

While this initial skit had some success after major outlets such as the Huffington Post and the New York Times picked it up, the pair first caught widespread notoriety during the “Occupy Wall Street” movement where they donned business suits and approached the protesters, giving the impression that the two of them were members of the 1%. The two gained media attention from this stunt as both shouted how the protesters would “cost them their house in the Hamptons,” or that this financial loss would “force them to kick their cocaine habits.” The two were interviewed on television as they escalated their claims to what they considered completely unbelievable proportions. In a talk show later on they admitted that they were shocked that these claims were being taken seriously at all by anyone citing how incredibly stupid it was that someone somewhere not only believed what they were saying, they saw it fit to be broadcasted on a major network.

It is a common theme for this dynamic duo to go after people or organizations of power, like when they targeted terrible reputation of Time Warner Cable’s (TWC) frustratingly slow and inadequate services in their skit “What can we do worse,” where the two pose as TWC employees asking customers how they could worsen their experience, to creating fake book covers for the president’s son, Donald Trump, Jr., that sport the title *Daddy, Please Love Me* alongside a photo of Trump, Jr. wearing a sad frown—to then proceed to go to a Barnes and Nobles to slip them over the actual book (titled *Triggered: How the Left Thrives on Hate and Wants to Silence Us*).

So it comes as no surprise that the current election cycle is a proverbial gold mine of material for both Jason and Davram to work with. As of this writing, within the past 48 hours the duo has released an avalanche of content onto their twitter handle, @TheGoodLiars, concerning the recent news of President Donald Trump’s defeat at the hands of Joe Biden. There is a video currently uploaded of the two of them showing footage of a MAGA hat burning within a firepit set to the tune of the Village People’s “YMCA.” A screenshot of a campaign email sent to all Trump supporters asking for financial support to fund (a frankly ridiculous attempt) to sue states for

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counting votes cast after “the polls were closed,” was posted alongside the caption, “unemployed man begs for money. They call Trump “a small man” for refusing to concede and accept his defeat with the grace and civility that would normally be associated with the President. Once again, Donald Trump, Jr. is the target of satirical ridicule when he tweeted “we went from 4 years of Russia rigged the election, to elections cant be rigged really fast didn’t we???” This ludicrous tweet earned the response, “This guy is really triggered. Such a snowflake. Sad!” with The Good Liars getting a two-for-one as they allude to both Donald Trump, Jr.’s book title as well as adopting the stunted speech patterns of his POTUS father.

Ivanka Trump is not exempted from the duo’s mockery as she tweets the positives of continuing a Trump presidency, citing that her father’s “policies of lower taxes, deregulation, and reciprocal trade had worked, that “638,000 jobs were added” and as such, “the unemployment rate fell to 6.9%.” With no bars held back, the two savagely shot back with “637,999. Your dad just lost his.” US Attorney General Bill Barr also gets his fair share of jokes when the two call him the “Presidential Lap-Dog,” going so far as to make a fake dog food label with Bill’s face alongside the slogan “For ‘Good Boys’ like Bill Barr!” This was created as a response to the recent decision that Barr made, giving prosecutors the authority to, “probe and investigate voter fraud claims,” undoubtedly at the request of the soon to be ousted POTUS. But perhaps the crowning jewel is a clip they posted concerning the most recent top story that surrounds voter fraud. With all the unsubstantiated accusations surrounding democratic voter fraud, the pair have footage of a Trump supporter openly admitting to the camera that they were convicted during the 2016 election of voter fraud for attempting to vote for Trump twice during the same election. The clip is so innocuous in its start, with the two of them asking the Trump supporter if they have ever seen any evidence of voter fraud. To their incredible surprise, the supporter unprompted, readily admits that they have and that they themselves were the example of voter fraud. The duo is taken aback a bit and ask what exactly it was that the supporter did and sure enough the voter confirmed that they indeed tried to vote twice and were currently still on probation for doing so. They end their questioning by poking fun at the expense of the voter by asking whether or not they “wore a [fake] mustache or anything,” in their attempt to undermine the democratic process.

Jason and Davram have an impressive work resume. Working for nearly a decade, these two have brought awareness to topics that are of the utmost importance by utilizing hilarious satire and absurdist comedy. A couple of my personal and noteworthy favorites are their mockery of famous chicken sandwich chain Chick-Fil-A, and the Church of Scientology.

They ridiculed Chick-Fil-A for its notoriously outspoken view against the LGBTQ community by posing as closeted southerners as they enter a Chick-Fil-A restaurant brandishing a homemade fake coupon for a free chicken sandwich as long as they trade in their homosexuality. Not only was this bit successful in the two getting two free original chicken sandwiches, they were also guests on a Christian radio show where they pretended to be spokespersons for a fake foundation called “Chick-Fil-A Cares” where its sole purpose is to get free chicken sandwiches for “traditionally married couples” whilst delivering the message of God.

With the Church of Scientology, the two paid their way into the upper echelons of the organization to a tier called “OT III,” costing the duo \$158,000 dollars in order to do so. They then received these notes detailing the beliefs of the group with outlandish tales of an alien called Xenu, a galactic dictator who brought his enemies to be executed on Earth, then known as Teejeeack, using hydrogen bombs. The two proceed to stop newly recruited Scientologists to give away this

information for free under the guise of “saving them a few bucks.” Afterwards, they pretend to get a call from the head of the church, asking them to step in before immediately cutting to one of them now in a neck brace, eloquently saying, “Turns out were not supposed to be saying any of that stuff...Oh no it’s all true, but it’s part of this whole money making thing? When he said it, it made a whole lot of sense,” perfectly encapsulating the purpose surrounding this religious cult.

After examining their work, it becomes clear that despite being a two man operation, both Jason and Davram have successfully accomplished their goal of shedding light on these frankly insane positions that some people have concerning hot button topics such as the presidency, gay rights, and religious cults. Armed with only their wit, these two have become an amazingly funny solution to the problem of misleading and often just wrong black propaganda.

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