

5/30/12

John R. Read
Chief, Litigation III Section
United States Department of Justice
450 5th St. NW
Suite 4000
Washington DC 20530

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LITIGATION III, ANTITRUST DIV.
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

Dear Mr. Read,

As an author who has made his living as a professional writer for well over 25 years, I am deeply concerned about the DOJ's decision regarding ebooks. We are in a fast changing technological world and its impact on creativity is extraordinary.

I would ask only that you pause and give this issue more thought, this time from the creative artist's point of view. All of us want what we write to sell and be read, but hopefully few of us want to cheapen the process to the extent that great and inspiring creative work will not only be discouraged, but lose its intrinsic value.

There is great danger in discounting Einstein.

If publishers can no longer protect their motivation and intelligent search and production of exceptional literary achievements, the loss will be immeasurable to our society. This is surely what will occur if one entity such as Amazon can dilute the market, cheapen the words, and flood the attention of readers. Distinguished and works of talented creative writers will be lost.

I can't even begin to imagine what would have happened to Mark Twain, Ernest Hemingway or Arthur Miller. With no truly educated minds searching for them, where would they have gone? Where would American literature be today, but most important, where will it be tomorrow?

Surely, there is a more balanced and a more carefully thought out solution than the one being imposed on our

literary world today by the DOJ.

Please take a breath, a step back, and look at where this is heading and what will be the great loss.

It is not lost on me that there is irony in the fact that your surname is Read.

No, instead, I hope it is something serendipitous.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Neiderman".

Andrew Neiderman
Author of *The Devil's Advocate*

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