Dear Mr. Read:

I am sure that you have received many letters from agents, book sellers, publishers and other interested parties, condemming the deal between the Publishers and the DOJ regarding e-book pricing. I think that one of the issues that has been misconstrued is the one that says consumers have been cheated by paying "too much" for e-books as a result of the development of the agency model for the selling of e-books. However, in order to read the book on a Kindle or a Nook or any other device the consumer had to buy the device, whereas to buy the book all they had to do was buy the book and it is theirs. The only device needed is eyesight.

There is no doubt that the original price that Amazon was selling books for, a price below what they were paying for the books, by the way, was only viable as long as they were selling Kindles. How long would a bookstore stay in business if it sold every book it stocked at a loss? We are talking apples and oranges here.

Is the public interest served if the proposed settlement  put bookstores out of business? If it put lots of publishers out of business? And if it discouraged many authors from becoming authors? All because of the distorted economics? And if the diminution of the publishing universe does come to pass, does that help consumers?

The book publishing world is changing rapidly and will continue to do so for a while, why not let the competitive market (and it is still very competitive) play out, as it is going, and see where things settle in a year or two?

Thank you for your time.


Respectfully yours,    William C. Blumer


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