

From: Ashley Shelby [mailto:bookofmoo[REDACTED]]
Sent: Saturday, June 23, 2012 4:56 PM
To: Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: Amazon settlement

Dear Mr. Read,

As an author and a reader, I shudder to think that Amazon will be my only option for both buying books by fellow authors and for publishing my own work, but that is the way things are starting to look. I was published by a small press, not by one of the so-called Big Six, but I have certainly been able to read the writing on the wall in the last few years as Amazon has become more and more aggressive in poaching authors and traditional publishing's best talent, while selling e-books at a loss. The last straw, for me, was when Amazon made certain publishers' books unavailable on the site because that publisher didn't want to agree to Amazon's draconian new terms. I am both an author and a consumer, and I do not want a future that gives me a single option when it comes to both buying books and selling my own work. In a world where Amazon can continue its predatory practices to the point of becoming a monopoly, there will be no more Hemingways, Toni Morrisons, or Zadie Smiths. Instead, we'll be surrounded by James Patterson novels--a writer whose success was grounded in the heyday of traditional publishing, when publishers could take risks--and countless self-published books. I urge you to take a broader view of this situation and to turn your attention to Amazon's questionable approach to "competition."

With respect,

Ashley Shelby

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