

From: Ashley Christman [mailto:a.christman[REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 10:27 AM
To: Read, John
Subject: Price Fixing

Dear Mr. Read,

As an author and small press owner, I feel that Amazon is way off base. Amazon continues to want to bully smaller publishers into selling books at cut rate prices (when most smaller pubs tend to sell e-books for under ten dollars anyway). This harms the people who write full time as a living. Lower prices mean smaller royalties received. Now I know it's ridiculous to sell ebooks for \$15 or \$20. As a consumer, I wouldn't purchase those books when I could get a paperback for far less. However, allowing Amazon to continue to cut the throats of the very people who provide them with their products is preposterous.

As a publisher, I have staff that need to get paid for producing quality books for the public to enjoy. Many of my staff are freelancers who earn a percentage of royalties. In order to make sure they are adequately compensated, I have to sell books at a price that will not make them a loss. I have to set a price point where some profit can be earned after places like Amazon take their cut. If marketplaces like Amazon were allowed to set their own price, I wouldn't be able to afford to produce books.

Please consider this position when making your decision. Amazon already gets a cut, they shouldn't get the whole pie.

Thank you,

Ashley M. Christman

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