

**From:** Christian Xavier [mailto:christian.t.xav[REDACTED] ]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 12, 2012 4:57 PM  
**To:** Read, John  
**Cc:** Fairchild, Stephen  
**Subject:** United States v. Apple, Inc. et al., No. 12-CV-2826(DLC) (S.D.N.Y.)

Proposed Final Judgment as to Defendants Hachette, HarperCollins, and Simon & Schuster

Hi John,

I'm an avid reader of books and I'd like to weigh in on the eBook 'price-fixing' issue from an impartial consumer's point of view (but full disclosure, I would like to write a book someday, but I have not yet done so).

As a consumer, I want the best quality product for the lowest possible price; however I can see how the publisher's would like to control their profit margins. Honestly, I have to admit at the confusion to why this is even making it to the Department of Justice. As readers we have access to plenty if self-published content (admittedly the quality on these vary greatly and the writing tends to be poor) and the self-published titles are inexpensive. This gives the publishing houses competition for their higher priced books. If traditional publishing houses set their material at too high a price, the market would soon let them know. They would then lower their prices in order to remain competitive. Also, eBook prices tend to be lowered after a while in order to entice new fans to make that purchase, this also offers readers a chance to purchase the material at lower prices, albeit with a wait.

I believe reading eBooks for enjoyment is a privilege, not a right; Publishers don't even have to make eBooks. Case and point: The Tower of Midnight is being relwased in January of 2013, and Tor has announced that an eBook will not be released until three months later. I would LOVE to have an eBook that first day, but the fact that I can't wait three months is my problem, not theirs.

I have both an iPad and a Kindle, and I simply refuse to buy books for the iPad. Partially because of the price (a very minor part), but mostly because of the reading experience. The dreading experience is just not good enough,. I've downloaded free books and STILL not read the book. I preferred to read that book on my kindle.

I say let the publishers set their own prices. Trust me, as readers we will let it be known if we disagree with the prices.

I would love to have lower prices, however, I respect the right of these companies to charge what they will for their products. The readers have alternatives with classics,

self-published books, and older books. I liken the eBook pricing options we have to any other consumer products. If buyers don't like the price tag on anything from a coffee-maker to a car, we either eschew the product category altogether or purchase an affordable alternative.

If this were about fixing the prices of food I'd be arguing a different story, but we will live without eBooks. The only eBook price-fixing that I think deserves any attention whatsoever are the prices set for college-related eBooks, as those publishers are in the process of trying to force kids to use their products with no alternative. I'd rather see the DOJ going after the pharmaceutical companies and THEIR price-fixing. Medicine is something we need.

~Christian Xavier