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April 26, 2012

John Read, Chief
Litigation III Section
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
450 5th Street, NW, Suite 4000
Washington, DC 20530

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

Dear John Read,

I am writing to comment on the settlement of the DOJ and Book Publishers Harper Collins, Simon and Schuster and Hachette.

In my opinion whether there was price fixing collusion is immaterial to the effects of the remedy in this settlement on the book selling community. With a two year competitive reset period the effect is onerous not to the publishers who will continue to receive the same revenues as before, but to booksellers who had nothing to do with the alleged price fixing. In fact what it will do is give Amazon.com a two year period to put all competitive booksellers out of business. By allowing them to take the 30% they receive from publishers across all sales no competitive retailer can sell at the same discounted prices they set and survive. Two years is too long for any retailer, even Barnes & Noble, to survive. The net effect is an Amazon.com monopoly on book sales. Please consider a shorter period; it should be six months at the most.

Please reconsider the remedy so that book stores may survive. The culture depends on it!

Sincerely,



Carol Mann