

# mysterious galaxy

John Read

BOOKS

Chief, Litigation III Section  
Antitrust Division

U.S. Department of Justice  
450 5th Street, NW, Suite 4000  
Washington, DC 20530

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MAY 30 REC'D 2012

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

Dear Mr. Read:

As an independent retailer and published author and editor, I would like to add my comments regarding the current suit before you regarding publishers and the agency model.

As expressed by my colleague, Oren Teicher, "We believe as business owners that the agency model is an appropriate — and legal — business model that has helped make the market for e-books more competitive and more diverse. It has helped evolve a market in which one national online retailer held a monopoly into one in which many retailers are competing for e-book customers. The remedy proposed by the Department of Justice is almost certain to return us to a market controlled by one retailer, and, in the long run, such situations are never good for customers."

I am sure that the Department of Justice is concerned with the long-term consequences of your decision, and want to make the correct decision that will be of greatest benefit to consumers, as well as to writer and to the publishing industry as a whole.

Sincerely,



MaryElizabeth Hart

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