

**From:** Kay Hooper [mailto:castlela[REDACTED] ]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 22, 2012 8:43 PM  
**To:** Read, John  
**Subject:** DOJ proposed settlement with Amazon

Dear Mr. Read:

As an author who has made my living at it for over thirty years, I have to say that the DOJ's proposal that would allow Amazon to resume its predatory pricing in their ongoing effort to dominate the entire market is one of the scariest things I've ever seen in publishing. Like most authors, I have a bit of an adversarial attitude about publishers in general, but I can say with no hesitation that in Amazon I've been long watching something akin to the 900-pound gorilla who gets whatever he wants -- and he wants it all.

Publishers must be allowed to operate on a level playing field at least, and given Amazon's actions to date, the Agency Model that numerous publishers signed on to support should allow them a chance at competing fairly in the ebook market.

Amazon has, to the detriment of authors and publishers, made a fortune in the last years selling used books for pennies, books they advertised right alongside the new copies selling to the public for cover price or a small discount; Amazon doesn't even handle these "used" books, which come from a nationwide network of individuals selling used books to make a profit; they merely charge a "handling" fee. The "booksellers" profit; Amazon profits; neither publishers nor authors receive a penny in compensation for these used book sales.

And now Amazon is the 900-pound gorilla fighting to control ebook sales in a way that will enable them to make a profit but cost dearly those of us who create the very product they sell.

It isn't fair, it isn't right, and the Department of Justice should be looking at Amazon's practices rather than those of the large publishers fighting desperately to stay afloat in a market changing almost by the hour. Please don't make it harder for them.

Or for writers like me, who are seeing a larger and larger percentage of our sales come from ebooks. We deserve to make a decent living, and it's getting harder and harder by the day.

Especially with a 900-pound gorilla trying to have it all.

Sincerely,  
Kay Hooper  
New York Times Bestselling author  
North Carolina