

**From:** Rilla Askew [mailto:rjaske[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 23, 2012 10:46 AM  
**To:** Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]  
**Subject:** e-book settlement

Dear Sir:

I'm very concerned about the Department of Justice's approach to the e-book settlement issue. Please do not continue with the proposed settlement as it now stands! The proposal only abets one company, Amazon, in its predatory practices.

Healthy competition is vital to the marketplace and to the literary vitality of our nation. Ironically, the DOJ's siding with Amazon in this issue squelches competition and aids one company in dominating e-book and other sales.

I'm the author of four novels and a book of short stories, with a new novel forthcoming from Ecco in January. I know how long it takes to write a novel, and how vital traditional publishers and brick-and-mortar stores are to the process.

Amazon's predatory practices are already seriously damaging brick-and-mortar stores and harming the fiscal and literary health of the nation. Please do not allow the Department of Justice to abet them in this destruction. I ask you to please revisit and amend the settlement in a manner that will benefit, not destroy, competition.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rilla Askew  
author of *Kind of Kin*, *Harpson*, *Fire in Beulah*, *The Mercy Seat*, *Strange Business*