

From: Jon Krampner [mailto:bluewomb[REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 9:32 PM
To: Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: Your Proposed E-Book Action is A Genuinely Bad Idea

Dear Mr. Read,

If you're interested in restoring competitiveness to the publishing industry, then you should be going after Amazon, not helping them drive physical bookstores out of business.

Agency pricing deprives Amazon of the ability to set such a low price that it drives its competitors (who understand that authors such as myself are entitled to earn a living for their work) out of business.

So are you going after Amazon? No, of course not. You're going after Apple and bookstore chains for trying to set up an agency pricing model which will constrain Amazon's ability to complete the Wal-Mart-ization of publishing.

Please don't take this as an unfriendly question, but are you joking?

Publishing, like many cultural industries today, is in bad shape. One reason why is that it's difficult for authors to earn a decent return on our work. One of the main reasons why is because of Amazon's predatory pricing. Please drop your proposed action against Apple and the publishers. Then, if you'd like to do something useful and constructive, break up Amazon for violation of the anti-trust laws. I hope that's not too much to ask of you.

Jon Krampner

Author of "Creamy and Crunchy: An Informal History of Peanut Butter, the All-American Food," to be published in November by Columbia University Press (www.creamyandcrunchy.com)