

**From:** tironesm[REDACTED] [mailto:tironesm[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2012 1:05 PM  
**To:** Read, John <b"FYUX4 5HF"l G8C>[ cj Q  
**Subject:** U.S. v Apple, Inc., et al.

Dear Mr. Read,

Re "Proposed Final Judgment as to Defendants Hachette, HarperCollins, and Simon & Schuster"  
United States v Apple, Inc. et al., 12-cv 2826 (DLC) (SDNY)

As the author of nine novels, one memoir, and smaller works (short stories, essays, etc.) and as a member of the Authors Guild since 1984, I will continue to leave matters of advocacy to the Guild and offer what support I can as they strive to protect writers from being deprived of income.

And so, I would just like to give you this anecdotal evidence of the first attempt by amazon to deprive authors of income, and in this case, book sellers and publishers as well, called "The Blue Box."

Some years ago, amazon would insert, at the very beginning of book pages of brand new books just published (or even pre-publication date), a high-lighted blue box that offered customers the opportunity to buy those books for as little as a penny a piece. These copies were often review copies (illegal to sell though perhaps not usually sold for reasons of morality and ethics, I don't really know), pirated copies, stolen copies, or copies early purchasers were selling used. This brought about a substantial drop in sales of new books, needless to say.

Through the efforts of the Authors Guild and their maligned authors, and the efforts of some big-name, best selling writers, Amazon finally dropped this practice. The offer is still made, but at least the blue box is gone.

What is happening now is so much worse. Amazon, as far as I can tell, is close to becoming a monopoly, deliberately losing money with highly discounted ebooks to gain control of the entire market, before going on to sell ebooks for whatever price they want once the competition has been destroyed.

I ask that the new technology be understood before making final judgments using traditional models that are no longer viable.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Mary-Ann Tirone Smith