

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: My opinion as an author
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Hello friends, the Copyright Alliance has informed all of its members of this opportunity to comment directly to the White House in regards to the egregious behavior of what are known as "pirates", or those who sell artistic creations not their own.

As an author who is just beginning to build my reputation and market my books to readers, I am horrified to think that all of my hard work might be for naught. If I get well-known enough that my books become popular, then I will be "on the radar" of the folks who assume that anything on the internet "belongs" to everyone, and is free. Then they will either steal a copy of my book, or buy it from a discount house, then offer it either as a free download on their own sites, or they will offer it for sale, often "bundled" together with many other e-books they have obtained the same way.

Who benefits from this? Certainly not the author, the one who put time/energy/sweat and blood into creating a work of literature. Those who think they are "stealing from *the man* who is rich enough already" are not aware, nor do they care, that most authors these days make only a pittance from their writing...and most e-publishers operate on a shoe-string budget. So it is the money that belongs in OUR pockets they are helping themselves to, while deluding themselves that this is their right.

What I feel the government can do is to publicize that this is stealing, and that it is illegal, and that there will be repercussions. As it stands now, when authors find their work listed on one of these sites, they have multiple hoops to jump through, just to get through to someone with a "cease and desist" order. Frequently this is ignored, or the site just changes slightly, with the same content still being offered. So now authors must be writers, marketers, publicity specialists, as well as law-enforcement agents? With no power behind our requests, it is no wonder they are universally ignored.

I'm not sure what the solution is...as I stated, I am just beginning my writing career, and don't seem to be on anyone's radar yet. But I hope to change that. I hope just as fervently that when I do, it will be to MY benefit, not to some pirates'.

Thank-you for your time, and good luck with this difficult issue!

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