

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [info@copyrightalliance.org](mailto:info@copyrightalliance.org)  
**Subject:** Copyright infringement reaches a grand scale  
**Date:** Friday, March 19, 2010 11:55:26 AM

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Dear Ms. Espinel,

The Copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator. As a published author it is disheartening to discover that people freely post my copyrighted works on the internet and at “file sharing forums” using the excuse that not being allowed to do so is an impediment of *their* freedom of speech.

But what I find the most disheartening is legitimate business sites such as eBay turning a blind eye to copyright infringement on a grand scale by feigning ignorance and allowing arrogant thieves to profit from my creations.

**There is no such thing as a commercially published book that isn't protected by copyright. Period.**

Yet eBay, and other auction sites like iOffer, eCrater and webidz, makes it nearly impossible to stop piracy by following stringent reporting rules and only honoring reports of piracy if they are filed by each individual author. Is every author supposed to spend hours every day monitoring each and every ebook auction at all of these sites to report their individual infringements?

**Copyright infringement is copyright infringement, regardless of who reports it.**

This morning there were over three hundred bootleg ebook listings on ebay alone, and many of them collections of 5 to 20 books selling for as little as 2.99 for the lot. If people learn they can buy bootlegged copies easily and without repercussions, will they continue to buy books legitimately? If thieves learn they can resell my book without repercussions, will piracy ever end?

It is not legal to resell ebooks, or copy print books and redistribute them as ebooks. You may think I'm using a very broad generalization, but I'm not. Walk into a bookstore and open *any* book, and you will see a copyright page forbidding copying and redistribution.

Even as copyright owner of my own books, I cannot resell them on any venue; to do so would be a violation of my contract with my publisher. My ebook contract is boiler plate: you won't find much variation on it at other publishing houses. Even if I self-published my book through iUniverse or Lulu, I would not be permitted to resell my book. There are still contracts and copyrights in place with self-publishers.

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I urge you to create and enforce stricter laws for these so called legitimate sites and make it feasible for authors to protect themselves from piracy on a grand scale. Or books will cease to exist. Period.

Thank you,  
Pamela Fryer  
San Jose, CA  
Author of The Midnight Effect