

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](mailto:FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty)  
**Cc:** [info@copyrightalliance.org](mailto:info@copyrightalliance.org)  
**Subject:** Intellectual property rights  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 23, 2010 12:25:39 PM

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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.

My name is Jacqueline H. Kessler. I live in Delmar, NY, and I am a novelist. My fiction for adults is written under the name Jackie Kessler, and my fiction for teens appears with the byline Jackie Morse Kessler. To date, I have seven books published (or about to be published) by Kensington, Random House's Ballantine Spectra, and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's Graphia Books.

Like any business, publishers want to make money. Before they acquire new books, they run a P&L to see whether they think a new work is commercially viable. Once that book is published, authors are under pressure to meet those numbers. If they don't, simply put, they will most likely be dropped by the publisher. In effect, authors are fired if their books don't earn what their publishers have projected.

Whenever someone uploads a pirated e-book to a torrent site, that person has stolen the book from the author. Whenever people download a pirated book, they have stolen from the author. These actions directly affect the author's bottom line -- and again, if that line isn't reached, the author will be fired.

Some people argue that e-piracy is acceptable because of libraries and used book stores. This is a false argument. Libraries purchase the books that they borrow -- and they loan a book only to one person at a time; used book stores resell books that had been previously purchased. A pirated digital copy of the book was never purchased. It was stolen, and then made available to thousands of people.

Every time someone steals my work, it affects my paycheck.

I completely support libraries, and I acknowledge that used book stores serve a purpose. I completely support people sharing a legal copy of my work with one person at a time. But e-piracy is inexcusable. E-piracy is nothing but greed and laziness on the part of those who download such books, and malicious intent on the part of those who illegally upload them.

I urge you to better protect the rights of creative Americans.

Sincerely,  
Jacqueline H. Kessler

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Hunger by Jackie Morse Kessler  
Harcourt Graphia, fall 2010  
<http://www.jackiemorsekessler.com>