

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: Piracy
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 3:53:07 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel:

I would urge the federal government to require eBay and its ilk to ensure that the postings do not infringe copyrights. As things now stand, copyrighted material is routinely and illegally posted, and writers and artists have to approach violators (thieves) when we discover the infringements. This is time-consuming, unmanageable, and ineffective. If the burden were shifted to eBay, there would be far fewer instances of illustrations and whole chapters from our books being illegally posted on the Internet by sellers of used books.

Some rationalize copyright infringement on the grounds that the victim is a big, bad, faceless corporation. Not only is that the moral and legal equivalent of rationalizing shoplifting from Rite Aid, the fact is that the royalties that copyrights protect are the ONLY revenue writers, musicians, and other artists receive from our work. They are not paid to us IN ADDITION TO salaries and benefits, and they are paid for work created at considerable risk, including the risk that not all work will sell at all. If infringers make my copyright-protected work available for free over the Internet, that greatly diminishes the chances that I will be able to interest a publisher in a new edition. Copyright infringement of any kind diminishes the likelihood that creators of new work will be able to earn a living by contributing to the U.S. economy in a fundamental way--by what economists could call "creating wealth."

For that reason it is also imperative that copyright protection become a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy.

Sincerely,

Linda Rimel, Oregon
Writer & Editor
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