



September 24, 2019

*Mr. John Sargent
Chief Executive Officer
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120 Broadway
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The Massachusetts Library Association advocates for the library community in the state of Massachusetts and we safeguard the rights of all library users. We are dismayed at Macmillan Publishers' plan to restrict either a library or entire library system to the purchase of one copy of a newly released title in eBook format, after which Macmillan will impose an eight-week embargo on the purchase of additional eBook copies to libraries.

We are appalled that Macmillan has decided to restrict access to eBook content for the sake of profit. This embargo will deny access to eBook content created by your authors to readers who lack the financial resources to purchase a new eBook title upon release. Macmillan is deciding that their newest eBook content should only be available to those people who can afford to purchase it.

Macmillan should view libraries as partners in efforts to make works written by the talented authors you publish available to the widest audience possible. Libraries not only purchase books in all formats; we promote them.

As one of the major publishers of content in this country, Macmillan should be championing ways to make all content available to all readers on an equitable basis. Macmillan must not go forward with this planned embargo.

MLA joins the American Library Association in denouncing this measure and calling for Macmillan Publishing to cancel the embargo and restore full access to its complete eBook catalog upon release to the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Esmé E. Green', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Esmé E. Green, President
Massachusetts Library Association

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