

#eBooksForAll



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Dear Library Customer:

As a valued Broward County Library cardholder, it is important to let you and your family know about upcoming, unsettling changes recently announced by Macmillan Publishers that will severely limit your access to the company's latest eBook titles.

Beginning November 1, Macmillan, one of the nation's largest book publishers, is launching an eBook embargo. This means that all public libraries – no matter their size – can purchase only one copy of a new eBook in the first eight weeks after its publication.

This embargo puts your access to eBooks at risk.

Macmillan's plan will significantly impact library users, especially those with more barriers and fewer resources. Readers with disabilities, such as poor vision and dyslexia, for example, are especially reliant on eBooks. Library users who rely on us for the latest books and materials will see longer wait periods just when demand is the highest.

This embargo is part of a growing trend among the nation's biggest publishers to charge public libraries higher prices for eBooks and eAudiobooks and to restrict their access. The publishers' reasoning is that they lose sales of eBooks to libraries as customers borrow titles instead of buying them. However, studies indicate the opposite. A study by Panorama Project showed that 50% of all library users report they "try out" books from the library, then buy their favorites as gifts or for personal libraries.

Right now there are an estimated 116,867 libraries in the United States. We're joining them in asking Macmillan to reverse its policy so that we can continue to meet readers' needs both online and in print. Tens of thousands of readers have already added their names to a petition launched by the American Library Association at eBooksForAll.org.

Make your voice heard on this issue!

- Sign the American Libraries Organizations' petition at eBooksForAll.org
- Email Macmillan and ask it to change its policy: elending.feedback@macmillan.com
- Provide feedback using the social media hashtag #eBooksForAll

Whether you are a customer with Broward County Library or any other public library system, we encourage you to stand with us and work toward a more just outcome for libraries and readers throughout the country.

Sincerely,

Kelvin Watson
Director of Broward County Libraries

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