

Amazon Is Overrun With a Plague of Bestseller Knockoffs

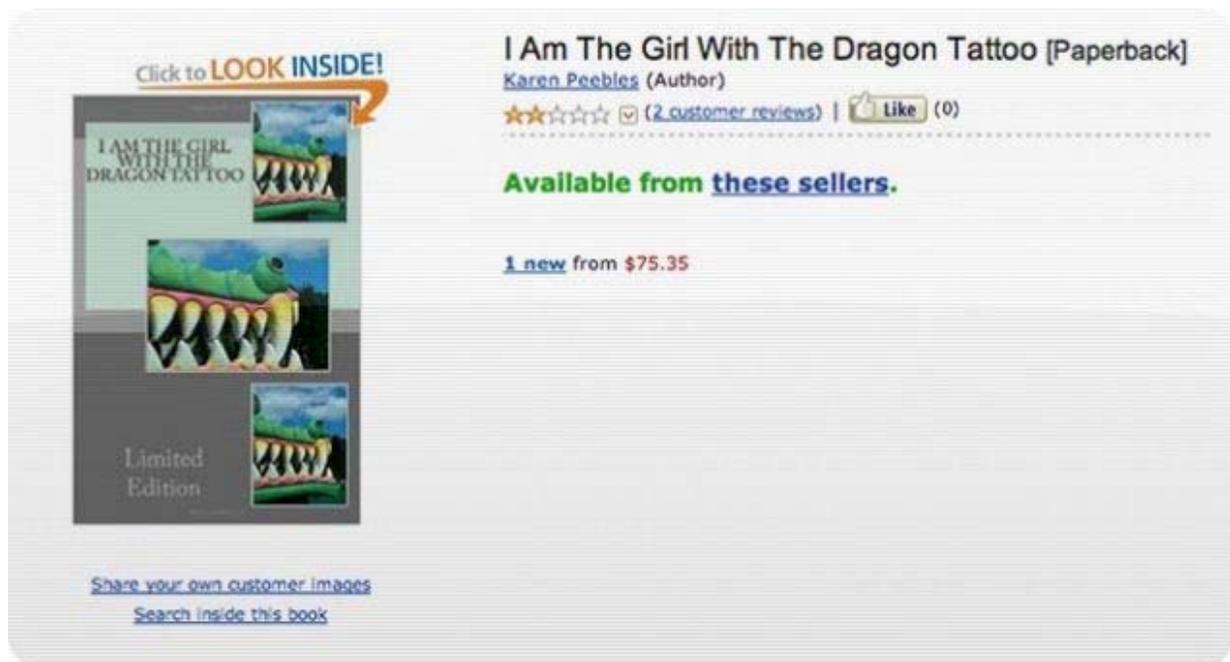


Mario Aguilar

4/16/12 9:56am · Filed to: AMAZON

29.5K

57



If you search for popular books on Amazon, it turns out you'll turn up intentionally misleading knockoffs. Publishers obviously aren't happy about it, but some of these titles are hilarious. *I Am The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*, anybody? Seriously, who falls for that? Apparently, a lot of people.



From **Amazon**

Gizmodo Media Group may get a commission

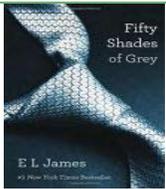
Buy now

Fortune found a slew of these ripoffs on Amazon. Currently, the online retailer's bestselling book *Fifty Shades of Grey* by E.L. James. If you'd been

visited on 1/6/2017

searching for the popular romance novel would you have been fooled by the very similar *Thirty-Five Shades of Grey* by J.D. Lyte? Maybe, actually!

\$10



Fifty Shades of Grey: Book One of the Fifty Shades Trilogy...

From Amazon

Gizmodo Media Group may get a commission

Buy now

Not only are the people who are putting these books up for sale reaping profits and ripping people off, Amazon is complicit in the whole affair:

It's perhaps more shocking that Amazon (AMZN) not only sells the books, it's also helping their authors create them. All of the apparent copycat books that Fortune found on Amazon were made through CreateSpace, which is a division of Amazon. Authors can use CreateSpace's system to design and self-publish their own books. The books then go on sale on Amazon and other sites. Amazon splits the proceeds with authors. It's a different relationship than most publishers have with their authors, but there is no way for consumers to know that. On Amazon and other sites, CreateSpace is listed as the publisher of the books.

Unfortunately some of the best knockoffs are no longer available as far as we can tell. According to Fortune, *Steve Jobs* by Isaac Worthington was tearing up the charts on Amazon at one point, but we haven't been able to find it.

Obviously, book publishers have

wised up to the

scam and are getting some books pulled down when they're discovered. But this problem isn't going anywhere fast. Amazon is just too big. Next time you're searching for a book, be careful which one you buy. [Fortune]

Gear from Kinja Deals



Bestsellers: KEMASHI 10000mAh External Battery Power Bank



These Are Your Five Favorite Desktop Computer Speakers



Grab a PS4 Slim Uncharted Bundle For Its Black Friday Price of \$250
