

Beware of E-Book Scams



A Program with the
Colorado Attorney General
and the AARP Foundation



Colorado Attorney General
John W. Suthers



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These incredible gadgets and their applications enable us to store thousands of digital books on a single device and read them wherever we like.

However, here are the 7 main types of e-book scams that have been identified so far:

- Worthless e-books filled with useless and often badly written information sold for a couple of dollars. Malware can also be attached which can obtain your credit card information.
- Cheaply priced books where, "authors" can "spin" the text, merely duplicating the material but selling it under a different title or author's name.
- Theft and plagiarism (copying) of other people's material from websites and blogs, which is then put into an e-book and sold.
- E-book scams dressed up as competitions, in which "winners" get their work published digitally. The organizers charge a fee for entry, but, of course, it costs next to nothing for them to publish the works digitally.
- Spamming readers with ad-laden works and hotlinks to both commercial and malware sites which will load viruses on your machine.
- Using e-book purchases and sales to build up credentials for bogus sellers and buyers on auction sites.

How to Avoid eBook Scams

- If you buy e-books, stick with authors you already know or those who have an established reputation.
- If you decide to buy from an author you don't know -- see if you can download a free sample (Amazon lets you do this) first to test the quality.
- Don't be taken in by great reviews that accompany cheap e-books. They may be genuine or the writers may have been paid to produce them.
- Do a search on the book name or author to see what other people say or how many other books they supposedly have written.
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