

# Read eBooks on the Cheap

## Books, Especially Paperbooks, Used to be Cheap

In my youth and early adulthood, I bought and read hundreds and hundreds of books. I especially like SciFi. Paperbacks were somewhat expensive at 45 and 50 cents each when I started buying. Then the price went to 99 cents. Then \$1.49. Then \$1.99. Then \$2.49. Then \$3.99. Then \$4.99. And on and on. Even though my pay had also risen, it was not rising at the same rate as paperback prices. And \$8 or \$10 for a paperback seemed to be getting excessive.

## Eyesight Impacts My Reading

I suffered a torn retina in one of my eyes. Surgery repaired the tear but I was left with some gel from the lining of my eye floating inside the eye and lots of floaters (those things that look like a flying insect or bird but when you turn to look they keep moving away). Shortly afterward, cataracts began developing in both eyes. Reading paperback print became more of a challenge as the size of the print is designed for the eyes of a ten year old. I did not want to pay \$8 to \$10 for a paperback and then have to read it with a magnifying glass. What was I to do?

## Kindle Fire to the Rescue

The solution for me arrived in the form of the Kindle Fire. It is a tablet that has a number of functions, but one of the main functions is that it displays pages from eBooks. I can adjust the brightness and the font size. I can see the print in a size that I can read. I can take the Kindle Fire with me when I travel and read eBooks that I have downloaded onto it. Very handy. The Kindle family of devices is made by Amazon and is strongly tied into the Amazon environment of eBooks. Sometimes not so handy.

## eReaders Abound

The Kindle Fire was the first commercially successful eReader on the market, arriving in 2007. Other eReaders predated the Kindle Fire but were not very successful. Since 2007, the eReader market has changed. There are a number of physical eReaders available supporting a number of eBook formats and eReader apps for phones, tablets and computers.

## eBooks, Not so Cheap at First

In the beginning, eBooks cost as much as paperbacks and sometimes more. Since the cost of buying paper, printing, and shipping were eliminated, it seemed that eBooks should cost less than physical media. This cost eventually came down, but works from popular authors still have a pretty high premium.

## Cheaper Places to Download eBooks

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