

Book Notes: Digital Copyright and the Consumer Revolution: Hands Off my iPod, by Matthew Rimmer

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Book Note**DIGITAL COPYRIGHT AND THE CONSUMER
REVOLUTION: HANDS OFF MY IPOD,
by Matthew Rimmer¹**

LISA WONG

MATTHEW RIMMER'S BOOK provides much needed insight into the current status of digital copyright and its relationship to the general purchasing public. His use of witty chapter headings that incorporate contemporary cultural allusions, such as "shizzle my nizzle: moral rights and mash-ups" and "hail to the thief: a tribute to kazaa," does not merely function as an attention-grabbing technique, but reflects the larger theme of how the tensions between copyright law and technology have entered into a realm that has become very personal to the average consumer.

Covering a wide range of new technologies that have quickly become integrated into everyday vocabulary, such as the iPod, Tivo, and peer-to-peer networks, Rimmer effectively delineates the legal controversies that have recently troubled courts and governments as a consequence of their emergence. A vivid illustration of consumer reaction to digital copyright laws is provided, especially the reaction to the *Copyright Term Extension Act* (Sonny Bono Act) and the *Digital Millennium Copyright Act*.² The judicial decisions focused upon are primarily from recent US copyright rulings, but the issues addressed are relevant to many countries, particularly Canada (which is perhaps due to the fact that Rimmer personally consulted many Canadian experts in the field, such as Michael Geist, Margaret Ann Wilkinson, and Myra Tawfik).

This book, which has a structure that flows with concinnity and concision, makes it easy to navigate some of the most complicated and controversial issues

1. (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2007) 368 pages.

2. U.S.C. 17 (1998); U.S.C. 17 (1998).

surrounding copyright law and the digital age. Rimmer makes a cogent argument for a growing consumer revolution against digital copyright law, depicting how the interests of the consumer can often be overshadowed in the legal arena.