to shoppers who scan items at stores, then buy them from the online brute. This is corporate murder. After 38 years in business, the company is hanging on, but it’s endangered. Cranston employs 11 people, pays rent and local taxes, supports all sorts of community events, and is fully viable in Colenso Springs—a place Bezos couldn’t care less about.

Amazon also shows no mercy to companies that provide the products it sells. You’d think this would be a felicitous, symbiotic relationship: Producers need the marketplace, the marketplace needs products. But when the market’s grown into a virtual monopoly, the monopsonist can turn on suppliers with a vengeance. Amazon has done precisely that to book publishers. While Amazon’s light with international publishers, giant Hachette has been well publicized, it’s a medium-sized and small publishers that are especially vulnerable. They don’t have splashy marketing budgets, so they’re largely dependent on access to the buyers coming to Amazon’s online market.

I offered them a 30 percent discount,” the head of a small academic publishing house told the New York Times. “They demanded 40,” she said. Having acquiesced to that, however, the cheque soon came back, demanding 45. “Where do I find that five percent?” she asked. “Amazon may be able to operate at a loss, but I’m not in a position to do that! She can’t leave, but staying could crush her company. “I wake up every single day knowing Amazon might make new, impossible demands.”

Tell Jeff, NO
Amazon’s calculated ruthlessness toward employees, suppliers, and competitors is not publicly expressed and rejected. It is going to be up to us grassroots folks, for the political, Wall Street, and media establishments are too busy glorifying the e-commerce giant to bother seeking behind the hastily strung PR curtain.

Regarding the forever-arching social destructiveness (and inherent immorality) in Amazon’s business model, the Powers That Be are surely aware Bezos is an exemplary corporate leader for the digital age and point to his creation as a model for the New Economy. They smile emptyly, rather than frown, when he says he’s not killing off local businesses and turning work into a low-wage, robotized nightmare—“the future is producing these changes.” That’s creepy, yet Bezos has gotten away with much unworried —up to now by unduly resting his mantra that EVERYTHING Amazon does is to benefit society bylevationally lowering prices. But price is not value. And exchanging value as well as our society’s valued for his low prices is a raw deal.

No, JEFF, not in my name!
Bezos CONSTITUTELY CLAIMS that his relentless push for an Amazonian version of our economy and culture is all about helping customers. Well, I’m in that consumer—be it certainly doesn’t speak for me. How about you?

I oppose his exploitation of workers, his bullying of suppliers, his gaming of the tax laws, and his anticompetitive assaults on small businesses. As consumers, let’s tell Bezos to pace himself and to cease using us as a base for his own dishonest gain.

Send a message to Bezos:
NOT IN MY NAME!

Send it with your personal message to: jeff@amazon.com or Jeff Bezos, Amazon.com, Inc., 410 Terry Ave. N, WA 98109. And please send a copy of your message to info@lowdown.org or c/o San Marcus 8, Austin, TX 78702.

I don’t want a price that’s stained with gross worker exploitation, the crushing of local economies, and the creation of a corporate oligarchy. Stivny Mitchell, an intrepid researcher with an excellent group named the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (www.ilsr.org), has been studying Amazon’s impact for several years and rightly says that to avoid a hellish Amazonian future, we must force “a public conversation about their power.” Unlike Walmart, Amazon is literally invisible to most people—said Mitchell puts it: “All you really see is the website and then the FedEx truck is there.”

We need to see more people know what’s going on behind that sassy website, for Amazon is insidious, far more dangerous and destructive to our culture’s essential values of fairness and justice, and to Amazon’s numbers is the corporate culture of consumers—so this is a time when we should speak out as consumers. See the box above and tell Jeff: NOT IN MY NAME.

The August issue of the Lowdown focused on how Jeff Bezos and Amazon exploit their low-wage workers. We encourage you to make copies of both our August and September issues and circulate them to local family, friends, coworkers, etc., and tell them to send their OWN NOT IN MY NAME message to Bezos.

EVEN BY THE SAME-ORE, there isn’t an ethical code of the corporate jungle. Amazon’s alpha male, Jeff Bezos, is considered a ruthless predator by businesses that deal with him. As the lord of Amazon, by far the largest online marketer in the world (with more sales than the next nine US online retailers combined), Bezos has the monopoly power to stalk, weaken, and even kill off retail competitors— including going after such giants as Barnes & Noble and Walmart, as well as draining the livelihood from hundreds of small Main Street Shoppers. He also goes for the throats of both large and small businesses that supply the millions of products he’s on his online behemoth’s wish lists. They’re hired into Amazon by its unparalleled computerized base of some 200 million customers. But in one of the face unrelenting pressure to lower what they charge Amazon for its products, compelled to give it a much better deal than other retailers can extract.
The business of books, which previously had been human-scale and rather communal in nature, is now so thoroughly concentrated in the hands of King Bezos that even the definition of "local" has been perverted to mean out-all-at-local."

Advantage Amazon

doing all of the above—without any mercy to anyone—and how Bezos became the most successful tycoon in the world in 60 years. This book was written to give readers a better understanding of what's going on in the market today, and to explain why the market is so volatile. The author, who has been a veteran of Wall Street for over 30 years, has written a comprehensive analysis of the stock market, including the history of the major players, the trends that have shaped the market, and the current state of the market. The book is divided into six parts, each covering a different aspect of the market. Part one is an introduction to the market, followed by a chapter on the history of the market, including the major players and the trends that have shaped the market. Part two covers the current state of the market, including the major players, the trends that have shaped the market, and the current state of the market. Part three is a comprehensive analysis of the market, including the major players, the trends that have shaped the market, and the current state of the market. Part four is a comprehensive analysis of the market, including the major players, the trends that have shaped the market, and the current state of the market. Part five is a comprehensive analysis of the market, including the major players, the trends that have shaped the market, and the current state of the market. Part six is a comprehensive analysis of the market, including the major players, the trends that have shaped the market, and the current state of the market.

Favorably received in both the U.S. and abroad, the book was published in 2003 and has been well received by readers and critics alike. The book has been praised for its comprehensive analysis of the market and its clear and concise writing style. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the stock market today.