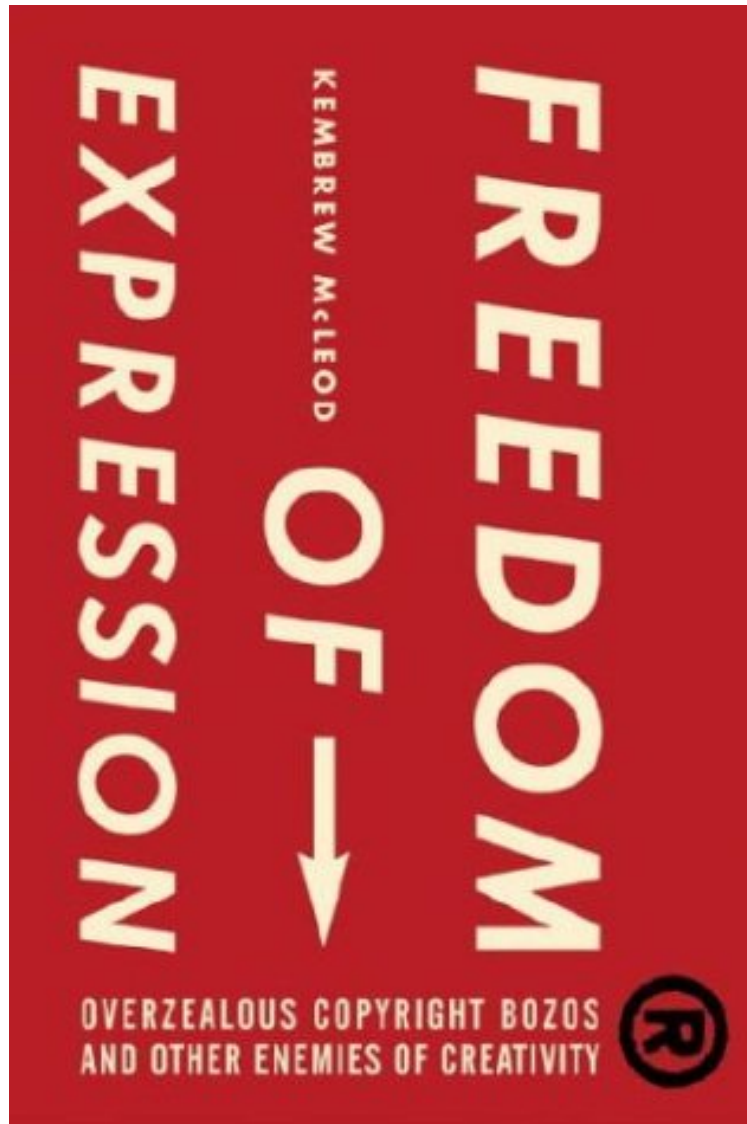


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Freedom of Expression (R): Overzealous Copyright Bozos and Other Enemies of Creativity

Kembrew Mcleod

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Kembrew Mcleod : Freedom of Expression (R): Overzealous Copyright Bozos and Other Enemies of Creativity before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Freedom of Expression (R): Overzealous Copyright Bozos and Other Enemies of Creativity:

Drop that quotation/sample/collage, sir! An enlightening, amusing, and frightening look at how the growth of intellectual property law is making us all less free to say and think what we want. In 1998 university professor and professional art prankster Kembrew McLeod trademarked the phrase "freedom of expression" as a joke, an amusing if dark way to comment on how intellectual property law is increasingly being used to fence off the culture and restrict the way we're allowed to express ideas. But what's happened in recent years to intellectual property law is no joke and has had repercussions on our culture and our everyday lives. The trend toward privatization of melodies, genes, public space, the English language means an inevitable clash of economic values against the value of free speech, creativity, and shared resources. Our irreplaceable cultural commons is being sectioned up and sold off to the highest bidders and the most aggressive litigators. In *Freedom of Expression*, Kembrew McLeod gathers topics as diverse as hip-hop music and digital sampling, the patenting of seeds and human genes, folk and blues music, visual collage art, electronic voting, the Internet and computer software. In doing so, he connects this rapidly accelerating push to pin down everything as a piece of private property to its effects on music, art and science. In much the same way Eric Schlosser's *Fast Food Nation* tied together disparate topics to paint an alarming picture of the food industry, and written in a witty style that brings to mind media pranksters like Al Franken, Ken Kesey, and Abbie Hoffman, *Freedom of Expression* uses intellectual property law as the focal point to show how economic concerns are seriously eroding creativity and free speech. It's later than we know.