

BEFORE YOU MOVE YOUR STORE

Don't waste your time, or your catalog.

New platforms are launching fast, and most are built by people who mean well. These are reasons to slow down and ask, not proof of a scam, and the list isn't complete. It applies to every platform, including any built by people connected to this collective.

Your work

Your files used to build competing AI

You might hear: "We may use content to improve our services."

AI that catches infringement or improves search helps sellers. AI trained on your files to make competing resources does not.

Ask: Will my files ever train AI that creates resources, or be licensed to anyone who would?

Upload everything before it's open

You might hear: "Get your whole catalog in before launch."

An unvetted site holding thousands of your files is a risk even if it never sells one.

Ask: Is the site taking real sales yet, and can I delete my files if I leave?

Previews that give away the file

You might hear: nothing. Just full pages anyone can download.

Previews should be watermarked or low-resolution, or anyone scraping the site gets your work free.

Ask: How are previews protected, and can I choose which pages show?

No export, no exit

You might hear: "We're working on that."

If your listings and files can't leave in a usable format, you're renting, not selling.

Ask: Can I export everything today, and in what format?

Words to stop on in any seller agreement

Train, machine learning, artificial intelligence, derivative works, sublicensable, perpetual, irrevocable. None of them is automatically bad. Each one is worth asking about, and the answer should be in writing.

Money

Zero fees, no plan to pay the bills

You might hear: "Keep 100% of every sale."

Card fees, refunds, storage, support, and sales tax all cost money. With no fee, someone pays later, or the work doesn't get done.

Ask: What pays for refunds, support, and storage?

A fee "just for the test round"

You might hear: "Only \$27 this round."

A temporary fee with no stated number for after is a fee that will change.

Ask: What's the fee after the test, and how much notice will I get?

A rate that only works if you go exclusive

You might hear: "Keep more when you sell only here."

An exclusive option can be fine. A non-exclusive rate too low to live on is a forced choice.

Ask: What do I keep without exclusivity?

Sales tax never comes up

You might hear: nothing at all.

Platforms are responsible for sales tax in nearly every state. If they haven't registered, the bill lands somewhere.

Ask: Are you registered as a marketplace facilitator?

Proof

A demo presented as a launch

You might hear: "Payments aren't connected yet."

A mock-up is a design. Ask when real money switches on and what gets tested first.

Ask: When can I make a test sale and get a test payout?

Nobody you can name

You might hear: nothing. The About page has no people.

Someone has to answer support and sign payouts. If you can't find out who, you can't hold anyone to anything.

Ask: Who's on the team, and who has run payments before?

No terms to read

You might hear: "Terms are coming."

If you can't read the seller agreement before you apply, you don't know what you're agreeing to.

Ask: Can I read the seller terms first?

Security described as a feeling

You might hear: "Friends in tech looked at it."

Security is specific: a real card processor, private file storage, downloads that only work for logged-in buyers, and a plan for a breach.

Ask: Who processes cards, and can someone download without buying?

■ Pressure

Thirty spots, four days

You might hear: "Applications close Tuesday."

A platform that's ready for you will still be ready next month.

Ask: What changes if I apply next month?

Your sales history as the price of admission

You might hear: "Upload a screenshot of your dashboard."

Proving a store is yours is fair. Your revenue doesn't belong in an application to a company setting your rates.

Ask: What exactly do you need to see, and who sees it?

Anyone asking for your TPT password

You might hear: "We'll move your store for you."

Never share it. TPT's Virtual Assistant access lets a helper use their own login, and you can revoke it anytime.

Ask: Nothing. Close the tab.

Refunds nobody mentions

You might hear: nothing at all.

If no one has said who decides refunds and who pays disputes, assume it's you.

Ask: Who decides a refund, and who pays the chargeback fee?

■ A safer way to try any platform

- 1 Read the seller terms first, especially the license and how they use AI.
- 2 Move your catalog in batches, checking that files open and previews look right after the first one.
- 3 Post one free resource and download it as a buyer to check that files open. Ask sellers already there whether their payouts arrive on time.
- 4 Keep your originals. Deactivate products in your current store instead of deleting them, so you can switch them back on if the new platform falls short.
- 5 Check that you can export and delete your files.
- 6 Ask these questions in writing, and save the answers.

What a good answer sounds like

Specific, dated, and in writing. "Stripe processes cards; we never see a number." "Export is a button on your dashboard." A good answer can be checked. A vague one asks you to trust.