



Where Underpants Come From

By Joe Bennett

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Where Underpants Come From By Joe Bennett

When Joe Bennett bought a five-pack of 'Made in China' underpants in his local New Zealand hypermarket for \$8.59, he wondered who on earth could be making any money, let alone profit, from the exchange. How many processes and middlemen are involved? Where and how are the pants made? And who decides on the absorbent qualities of the gusset? Where Underpants Come From tells you all you need to know -- in fact, probably more -- about this mystery of global commerce. Leaving his supermarket trolley behind Joe embarks on an odyssey to the new factory of the world, China, to trace his pants back to their source. Along the way he discovers the extraordinarily balanced and intricate web of contacts and exchanges that makes global trade possible -- and rapidly elevating China to the status of world economic superpower. He also grapples with chopsticks, challenges his own prejudices and marvels at the contrasts in one of the world's oldest, but fastest changing, societies. Funny, wise and insightful, it is another wonderful journey from the author of *A Land of Two Halves* and *Mustn't Grumble*.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

British travel writer Bennett informs and endears in his quixotic quest to trace the provenance of his underpants in order to learn something about the commercial and industrial processes on which [his] easy existence depends. • Despite his publisher's misgivings, the author travels to the outskirts of Shanghai, posing as an underwear buyer and scheming his way into factories and showrooms to piece together the (increasingly) mysterious origins of his underpants. He heads toward the cotton factories, where few Westerners venture and the population is ethnically closer to Afghan than Chinese, and sober accounts vie with marvelously silly escapades around Bangkok and rural Thailand in search of rubber trees (or more specifically, the origins of his elastic waistband). Bennett's education in the world of global commerce sparkles with humor and sharp observations on modern China's competing strains of enduring Confucianism, vestigial communism and the government's ruthless economic ambitions. (*July*)

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About the Author

Joe Bennett was born in Brighton and since leaving Cambridge University has taught English in a variety of countries including Canada, Spain and New Zealand. He lives in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Hose:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or even goal; it means that book has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. They may be reading whatever they get because their hobby is actually reading a book. Think about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book if they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you should have this Where Underpants Come From.

Jack Williams:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book titled Where Underpants Come From? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have other opinion?

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