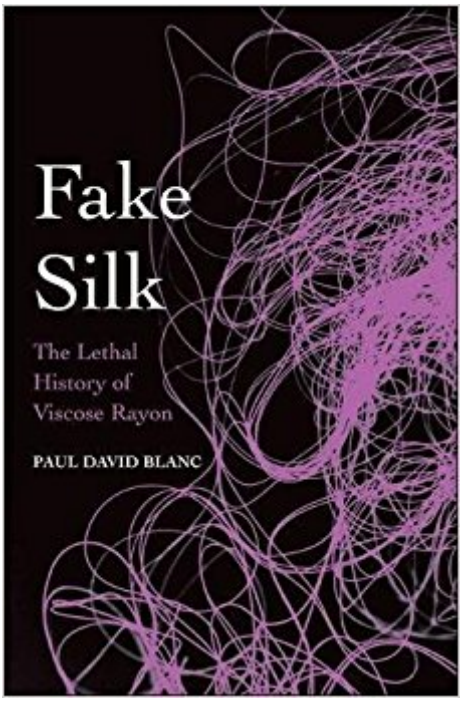
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Fake Silk: The Lethal History Of Viscose Rayon



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Synopsis

When a new technology makes people ill, how high does the body count have to be before protectives steps are taken? This disturbing book tells a dark story of hazardous manufacturing, poisonous materials, environmental abuses, political machinations, and economics trumping safety concerns. It explores the century-long history of Ã¢â ¬Å“fake silk,Ã¢â ¬Â• or cellulose viscose, used to produce such products as rayon textiles and tires, cellophane, and everyday kitchen sponges. Paul Blanc uncovers the grim history of a product that crippled and even served a death sentence to many industry workers while also releasing toxic carbon disulfide into the environment. Ã Â Viscose, an innovative and lucrative product first introduced in the early twentieth century, quickly became a multinational corporate enterprise. Blanc investigates industry practices from the beginning through two highly profitable world wars, the midcentury export of hazardous manufacturing to developing countries, and the current Ã¢â ¬Å“greenwashingÃ¢â ¬Â• of viscose as an eco-friendly product. Deeply researched and boldly presented, this book brings to light an industrial hazard whose egregious history ranks with those of asbestos, lead, and mercury.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Paul Blanc's book compellingly chronicles the all-too-real dangers behind the production of Ã¢â ¬ËœfakeÃ¢â ¬â„¢ silk. A terrifying exposÃƒÂ© of what happens when the textile business puts profits before health."Ã¢â ¬â •Alison Matthews David, author of Fashion Victims:The Dangers of Dress Past and PresentÃ¢â ¬Å“This is an essential read for all interested in the history of

occupational disease and of our increasing knowledge, yet failure to implement, the controls needed to reduce the risk of preventable disease and premature death.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Sir Anthony Newman Taylor, Imperial College, LondonÃ¢â ¬Å“Blanc's meticulous research has yielded a calm and overwhelming indictment of the murderous treatment that rayon workers worldwide have endured at the hands of their corporate masters.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Eric Frumin, Health and Safety Director, US trade union federation Change to WinÃ¢â ¬Å“A shocking story. Blanc draws back the curtain on the corporate deceit and neglect connected to products that have come to epitomize modern life.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â • Frederick Rowe Davis, author of Banned: A History of Pesticides and the Science of ToxicologyÃ¢â ¬Å“A fascinating investigation into the colorful century-long history of a pernicious industrial hazard. A cautionary must-read for anyone who cares about eco-friendly living and integrity too.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Don Katz, founder, Audible.com

Paul David Blanc, M.D., is professor of medicine and holds the Endowed Chair in Occupational and Environmental Medicine, University of California, San Francisco. He is author of How Everyday Products Make People Sick and posts a Ã¢â ¬Å“Household HazardsÃ¢â ¬Â• blog for Psychology Today. Ã Â

This is an accessible, well-written book that deftly mixes cultural history, scientific treatise, reportage, and the narratives of illness and the cost of innovation. It should appeal to a wide cross-section of readers, from public health policy makers to medical practitioners and anyone interested in the practical and ethical considerations of technology and innovation. So, look beyond its intimidating title, and give this one a try. You'll not only learn a lot, but you might just really enjoy it too!

A comprehensive historical overview of the Viscose Rayon industry, this book is very well written and a must read for anyone interested in occupational health!

Super informative Eye opener

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