

Fugitive Denim: A Moving Story of People and Pants in the Borderless World of Global Trade

By Rachel Louise Snyder



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"A fascinating chronicle of the \$55-billion-a-year global denim industry." —David Futrelle, *Los Angeles Times*

Rachel Louise Snyder reports from the far reaches of the multi-billion-dollar denim industry in search of the people who make your clothes. From a cotton picker in Azerbaijan to a Cambodian seamstress, a denim maker in Italy to a fashion designer in New York, Snyder captures the human, environmental, and political forces at work in a complex and often absurd world. Neither polemic nor prescription, *Fugitive Denim* captures what it means to work in the twenty-first century.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Smart and ambitious, cosmopolite journalist Snyder maps the global garment industry, beginning in a New York loft where designers plot a line of ultra-pricy, socially responsible jeans that would ensure a fair wage for workers and not cause excessive environmental degradation. From there she visits cotton growers in Azerbaijan, denim specialists in Italy and factories in Cambodia and China. An excellent reporter, Snyder talks comfortably to both sophisticated designers and factory workers, conveying their very different motives as she paints a picture of an industry far more tangled than most consumers imagine. She notes that economic and employment shifts are felt globally, describing Italy mourning the loss of manufacturing to cheaper factories in Asia, where low-paying jobs represent unprecedented opportunity to many workers. If the prose occasionally verges on cuteness, it's preferable to the jargon of quotas and NGOs ubiquitous in most discussions of global trade. Snyder's investigation is an essential read for those curious about fashion or the globe-spanning business that produces their clothes. (*Dec.*)

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Review

Contains a number of surprises about the most ubiquitous of clothes. . . . Ultimately Snyder gets readers to think about the real costs of clothing, and it's likely they won't look at \$30 or \$200 jeans the same way again.

About the Author

Rachel Louise Snyder's work has appeared in the New York Times Magazine, Slate, and the New Republic, and on public radio's "This American Life" and "Marketplace." She lives in Cambodia and in Chicago, Illinois.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kim Townsend:

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