



# The Clothes They Stood Up In

*By Alan Bennett*



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The Clothes They Stood Up In is Alan Bennett's first story. Like Charles Dickens' novels which were first published in magazines, it originally appeared in the London Review of Books - which the author says 'seems to me (and not just because I occasionally contribute to it) the liveliest, most serious and also the most radical literary periodical we have'.

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## The Clothes They Stood Up In By Alan Bennett Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

When life is pared down to the bare essentials, one can grow spiritually or shrink into one's basic instincts. Though profound statements as such are not to be found in British playwright Bennett's charmingly subversive and very amusing cautionary tale, his characters illustrate the principle in surprising ways. Mr. and Mrs. Ransome return to their London flat after a performance of *Cos? fan tutte* (Mozart's comic opera about changing identities) to find the place totally stripped. Even the casserole left warming in the oven is gone, along with the oven, all other appliances and every stitch of clothing. Mr. Ransome, a stodgy, misanthropic solicitor who is fussy about correct diction, is mainly concerned about the loss of his CD player and the earphones with which he has always insulated himself from his wife. Formerly cowed and repressed, Mrs. Ransome is surprised at her pleasure in replacing their lost possessions with a few inexpensive items. The burglary liberates her personality, allowing her to inch cautiously toward new interpersonal connections. First with an Asian grocer, then with the man who, the Ransomes eventually discover, has been living with their furniture and clothing in a storage facility, then with another man who holds the key to the bizarre thievery. Her social awakening occurs in counterpoint with her husband's more selfish gratifications, until a funny and fitting denouement permanently turns the tables between them. Bennett carries off his terse, surreal comedy with witty aplomb, adding to risibility with apt comments about the foibles of contemporary society and the consumer economy. (Feb. 8) Forecast: English readers familiar with Bennett's plays (*The Madness of George III*, etc.) snatched up this novella to the tune of 140,000 copies. The premise of being left without any possessions is provocative enough to entice readers on these shores, and the small size of the volume (4x 6) reinforces the idea that simplicity can be liberating.

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From Library Journal

British playwright Bennett here proves himself to be a master of fiction as well. Rosemary and Maurice, long-married but childless, return from a night at the opera to find that they have been divested of all their possessions. Right down to the toilet paper holder. Months later, they find that their habitat had been meticulously re-created in a storage facility. Ostensibly, the story involves finding out the who and the why of such an extraordinary chain of events, but it also exposes the abrasions and contusions, the fabrications and evasions that are common to many marriages. Rosemary is an immediately lovable character. Her innocence and her responses are sometimes laugh-out-loud funny, but her attempts to improve her marriage are also very poignant. This charming novel deserves a place in all fiction collections; one can only hope that Americans will receive it as warmly as their counterparts did.

-DJudith Kicinski, Sarah Lawrence Coll. Lib., Bronxville, NY

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Review

"Few write sharper dialogue or probe more tellingly into the frailties and occasional strengths of the human psyche than Alan Bennett. None knows more about getting each scene just right or is as consistently witty."

—William Trevor

"Full of jolly, broad, and very English humour...a charm-filled holiday read."

—Alain de Botton, author of **On Love** and **How Proust Can Change Your Life**

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Elizabeth Wiggins:**

Here thing why this particular The Clothes They Stood Up In are different and trusted to be yours. First of all looking at a book is good but it really depends in the content of computer which is the content is as yummy as food or not. The Clothes They Stood Up In giving you information deeper including different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no publication that similar with The Clothes They Stood Up In. It gives you thrill studying journey, its open up your own personal eyes about the thing that will happened in the world which is probably can be happened around you. It is easy to bring everywhere like in park your car, café, or even in your means home by train. If you are having difficulties in bringing the branded book maybe the form of The Clothes They Stood Up In in e-book can be your choice.

#### **Eleanor Walker:**

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity that is look different you can read any book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day every day to reading a publication. The book The Clothes They Stood Up In it is rather good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book provides high quality.

#### **Dave Edwards:**

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#### **James Furlow:**

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