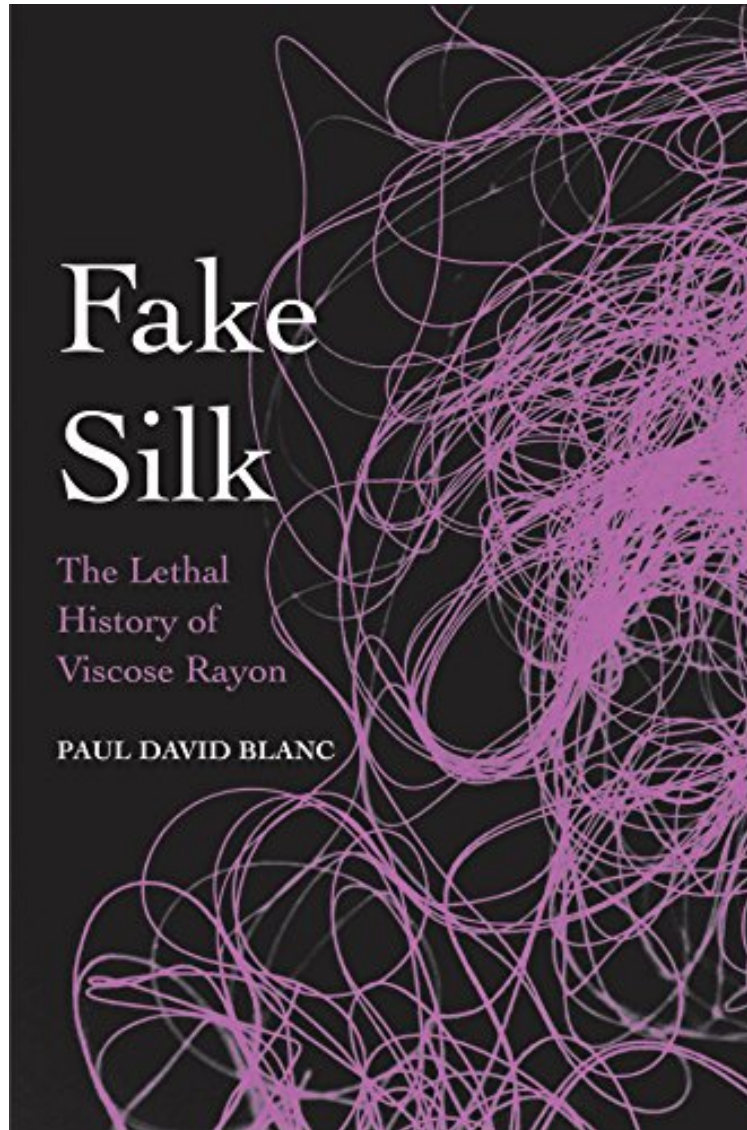


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Fake Silk: The Lethal History of Viscose Rayon

Paul David Blanc

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Paul David Blanc : Fake Silk: The Lethal History of Viscose Rayon before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fake Silk: The Lethal History of Viscose Rayon:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Eye opener!By Laura JayThis book is a tour de force - a meticulously researched story of how the health hazards of carbon disulfide have been discovered and covered up. It includes aspects of the story related to chemistry, medicine, industry, politics, economics, culture and fashion, while sketching colorful characters and digging up fascinating side facts. It's a real eye-opener; read it and you'll understand SO much more about the processes that shape consumer products and the lives of the workers who manufacture

them.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. but you might just really enjoy it tooBy BookishMarginaliaThis 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!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A comprehensive historical overview of the Viscose Rayon industry, ...By shilpaA comprehensive historical overview of the Viscose Rayon industry, this book is very well written and a must read for anyone interested in occupational health!

When a new technology makes people ill, how high does the body count have to be before protective 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 "fake silk," 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. 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 "greenwashing" 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.

"Paul Blanc's book compellingly chronicles the all-too-real dangers behind the production of "fake" silk. A terrifying expose of what happens when the textile business puts profits before health."—Alison Matthews David, author of *Fashion Victims: The Dangers of Dress Past and Present*