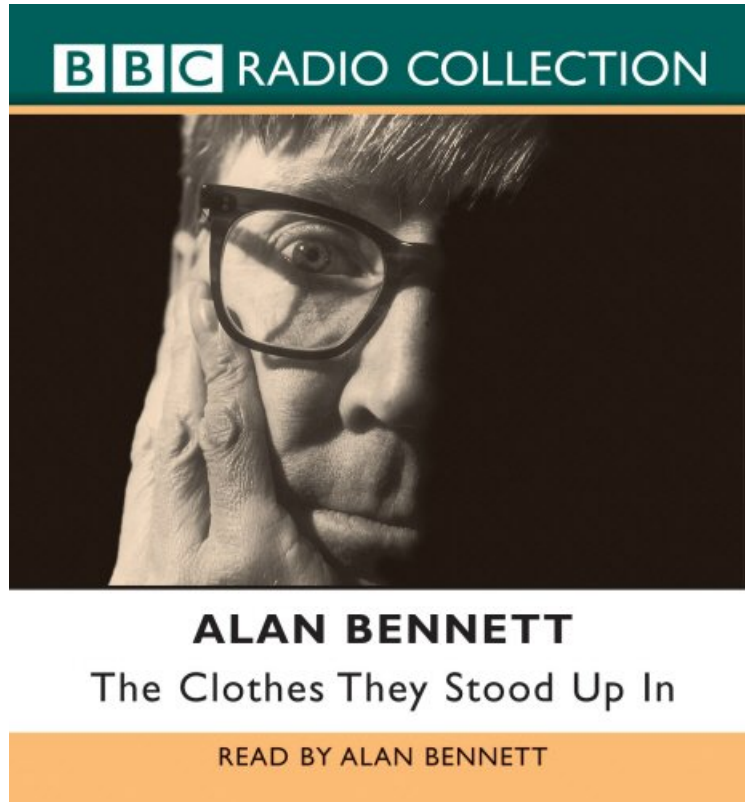


[Free pdf] The Clothes They Stood Up In (BBC Radio Collection)

## The Clothes They Stood Up In (BBC Radio Collection)

Alan Bennett

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#2657008 in Books 2001-08-06 Formats: Audiobook, CD, Unabridged Original language: English PDF # 2  
5.00 x 11.00 x 5.50l, .34 Running time: 8400 seconds Binding: Audio CD 1 pages | File size: 17.Mb

**Alan Bennett : The Clothes They Stood Up In (BBC Radio Collection)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Clothes They Stood Up In (BBC Radio Collection)*:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. unexpected gem  
By Constant Reader  
This book was a great surprise, suggested by a book club, I had never heard of Alan Bennett, but it turns out he is wise and knowing in the ways of what we now call "Minimalism" as well as communication between couples, and even an interesting take on death of a spouse and personal growth. If you find this book speaks to you about grief, "The Beginner's Goodbye" by Anne Tyler may also speak to you. The accompanying novella, "The Lady in the Van" also speaks to the dilemma of those who are diffident and just plain cowardly about refusing those who impose on them --and how that imposition sometimes plays out. (good film also with Maggie Smith)  
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Do our belongings define us?  
By Amelia Gremelspacher  
Bennett is a master of the cool, dry British narrative. This novella is pithy and perfect in its self possession. The story opens when the Ransomes return from their beloved Mozart "Cosi". In fact, but for Mozart would probably split up years ago". Stripped of their daily props, the Ransomes come to confront themselves. The wife finds freedom on a variety of levels, while the husband seeks comfort in stricter rigidity. We find them in their improvised home. She has a rocker found in a shop she would have never considered, while he sits erect at a card table and chairs. Given the half wished reality of stripping of the old, where would we find ourselves? This book enables one view of the answer.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Two great reads for the price

of one. Highly recommendBy J. McDonaldThe two stories in this little book are very good. This is the type of book I will keep and reread many times in the future. Highly recommend it if you like to read about how people think, if you just want amusement or adventure. These are stories about people in extraordinary circumstances. From two different perspectives. The first story is from the wife's view and the second story is from the view of a man doing a good deed somewhat against his will. The author is gifted, certainly. I would buy more of his work should I find any.

The Ransomes had been burgled. 'Robbed,' Mrs Ransome said. 'Burgled,' Mr Ransome corrected. Premises were burgled; persons were robbed. Mr Ransome was a solicitor by profession and thought words mattered... The fact is that the Ransomes have been cleaned out. Everything has gone, even the toilet paper; and for the stuffy solicitor and his downtrodden wife it marks a turning point, a kind of liberation. Nothing will ever be quite the same, even when their possessions mysteriously turn up again, exactly as they left them... Sad and funny, poignant and perceptive, this is Bennett at his brilliant best.2 CDs. 2 hrs 20 mins.

From Publishers WeeklyWhen life is pared down to the bare essentials, one can grow spirituallyAor 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 connectionsAfirst 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. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalBritish 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 possessionsDrigh 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 Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. "'Welcome to the wonderful world of Alan Bennett, deliciously enriched by the voice of the master himself'. (The Sunday Times)"