



At the Chemist | In the Wardrobe

Books Reviewed:

[At the Chemist](#) [1]

Books Reviewed:

[In the Wardrobe](#) [2]

Issue:

[79](#) [3]

Reviewer:

[Ted Percy](#) [4]

News & Choice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

0

The whole thing about our earthly environment is that it *is* a whole thing and whatever we do *in* it will have an effect on it. It is up to us to find out as much as we can about what this effect will be and, if it's harmful, to try to limit and compensate for it. So books that encourage their readers to investigate the green implications of someless obviously 'environmental' areas of life are much to be welcomed.

By discovering - via the chemist's - the difference in environmental effect between disposable nappies and washable ones, the green detective - encouraged at every turn to be objective and, if it helps, incredulous - can cover air and water pollution, fossil fuels and plastics, landfill, habitat loss and cash crops before deciding which type of nappy is environmentally preferable.

Cash crops are scrutinised again in **Wardrobe**. Should so much cotton grow on land where food could? How green are natural fibres when washing, bleaching and dyeing them pollute clean water? Again, the green detective must investigate before deciding.

By encouraging independent investigation rather than passive absorption of fact and opinion, and at the same time providing plenty of fact and opinion for active absorption, 'Green Detectives' are trying to do a useful job. I like to think that in spite of mundane typography and some scratchy artwork, they will succeed.

Running Order:

15

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Links:

[1] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/at-the-chemist>

[2] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/in-the-wardrobe>

[3] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/79>

[4] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/member/ted-percy>