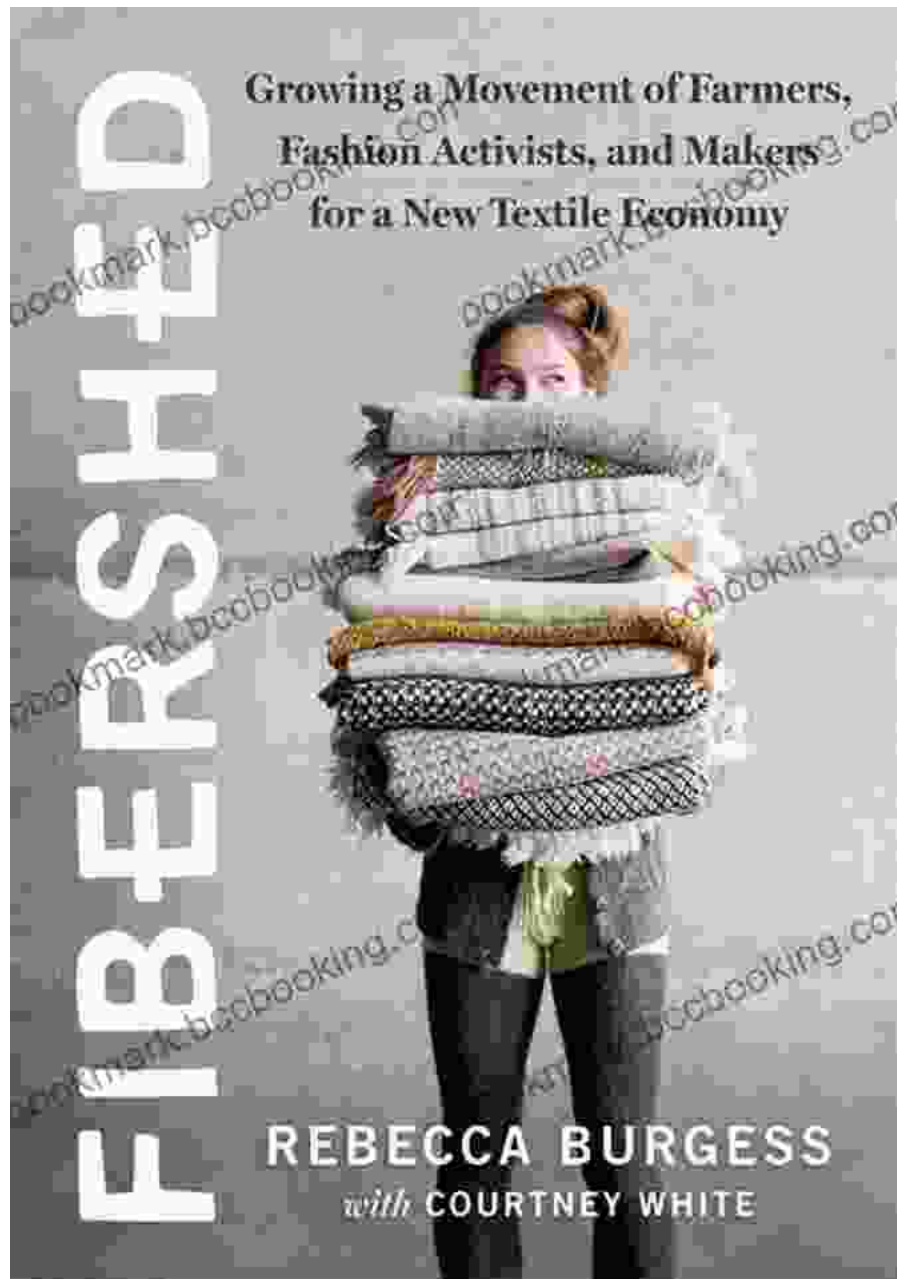


# New Textile Economy: Farmers, Fashion Activists, and Makers Unite for a Sustainable Future



The textile industry is one of the most polluting industries in the world. From the production of raw materials to the dyeing and finishing of fabrics, the

industry releases harmful chemicals into the environment, contributing to water pollution, air pollution, and climate change.



## Fibershed: Growing a Movement of Farmers, Fashion Activists, and Makers for a New Textile Economy

by Rebecca Burgess

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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But a growing movement of farmers, fashion activists, and makers is working to change the way we produce and consume textiles. These change-makers are advocating for a new textile economy that is based on sustainable practices and fair labor.

### The Farmers

At the heart of the new textile economy are the farmers who grow the fibers used to make clothing. These farmers are committed to using sustainable farming practices that protect the environment and their workers.

One such farmer is Kathleen Ashmore, who grows organic cotton on her farm in Texas. Ashmore uses cover crops to improve soil health and biodiversity, and she avoids using synthetic pesticides and herbicides.

"I believe that we can grow beautiful, healthy cotton without harming the environment," Ashmore says. "And I believe that consumers have a right to know where their clothes come from and how they were made."

## **The Fashion Activists**

Fashion activists are working to raise awareness about the environmental and social impacts of the textile industry. They are also working to promote sustainable fashion choices and to advocate for policies that support the new textile economy.

One such activist is Aja Barber, the author of the book "Consumed: The Need for Collective Change in the Fashion Industry." Barber argues that we need to move away from the fast fashion model, which is based on cheap, disposable clothing, and towards a more sustainable fashion system.

"The fashion industry is a major contributor to climate change, water pollution, and air pollution," Barber says. "We need to start making different choices about the clothes we buy and the way we consume them."

## **The Makers**

Makers are using their creativity and skills to create sustainable and ethical fashion. These makers are using natural fibers, upcycled materials, and traditional techniques to create beautiful, one-of-a-kind pieces.

One such maker is Bethany Williams, a London-based designer who uses recycled materials to create her clothing. Williams has worked with refugees and homeless people to create her collections, and she is committed to using her work to raise awareness about social issues.

"I believe that fashion can be a force for good," Williams says. "I want to use my work to create beautiful clothes that are also ethical and sustainable."

## **The New Textile Economy**

The new textile economy is a vision for a more sustainable and just fashion industry. This economy is based on the following principles:

- **Sustainability:** The new textile economy is based on sustainable practices that protect the environment and human health.
- **Fair labor:** The new textile economy is based on fair labor practices that ensure that workers are paid a living wage and work in safe and healthy conditions.
- **Transparency:** The new textile economy is based on transparency, so that consumers can know where their clothes come from and how they were made.
- **Collaboration:** The new textile economy is based on collaboration between farmers, fashion activists, makers, and consumers.

The new textile economy is still in its early stages, but it is growing rapidly. As more and more people become aware of the environmental and social impacts of the textile industry, they are demanding change.

The farmers, fashion activists, and makers who are leading the new textile economy are showing us that a more sustainable and just fashion industry is possible. By working together, we can create a future where everyone can enjoy beautiful, ethical, and sustainable clothing.

## How You Can Get Involved

There are many ways to get involved in the new textile economy. Here are a few ideas:

- **Buy less clothing:** One of the best ways to reduce your impact on the environment is to buy less clothing. When you do buy clothing, choose pieces that are made from sustainable materials and that are ethically produced.
- **Buy from sustainable brands:** There are many sustainable fashion brands that are committed to using sustainable practices and fair labor. When you buy from these brands, you are supporting their efforts to create a more sustainable fashion industry.
- **Repair and upcycle your clothing:** Instead of throwing away clothes that are damaged or no longer fit, try to repair or upcycle them. This is a great way to extend the life of your clothes and to reduce your environmental impact.
- **Support the work of farmers, fashion activists, and makers:** There are many organizations that are working to promote the new textile economy. You can support their work by donating your time or money.

By taking these steps, you can help to create a more sustainable and just fashion industry.



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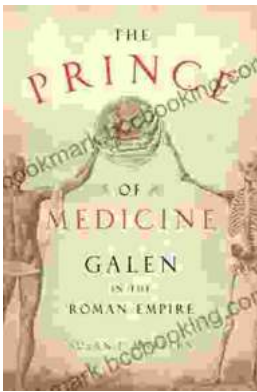
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