



Guilty Me!

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SCHOLARONE™
Manuscripts

Guilty Me!

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6 Walking on the high street,
7 Wearing jeans and shoes from Debenham
8 Knitwear and jacket from Marks & Spencer
9 Scarf and gloves from River Island:
10 All are 'Made in Bangladesh'.
11 Browsing from shop to shop
12 To buy something for Christmas.
13 Inner soul asked me,
14 "You have already enough clothes.
15 Why do you need more?
16 Have you ever thought
17 Workers who made these clothes
18 Received their fair wages?
19 Do they have enough food to eat
20 During the Covid-19 pandemic?
21 Do they have warm clothes to wear
22 During the cold winter?
23 Can you guarantee that these
24 Workers were not bullied, abused,
25 Humiliated, sexually harassed, or
26 Beaten while making these clothes?"
27 Putting the clothes back in the rails,
28 Guilty me walked away.
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44 Looking at the display of chocolates -
45 Ferrero Rocher, Guylian, Godiva, and Lindt,
46 Tempted me want to buy some for myself,
47 Also for nephews and nieces.
48 Inner soul shouted,
49 "Do these companies ethically
50 Purchase all the cocoas?
51 Have they paid a fair price to
52 Cocoa farmers residing in Africa?
53 Can you ensure that cocoa farmers in
54 Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, or Cameroon
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3 Have not been enslaved by these companies?"

4 Putting the chocolates back on the shelves,

5 Guilty me walked away.
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9 Bewildered me, walking around

10 In the cold, among the crazy shoppers,

11 Craving a coffee to reflect on

12 All the questions I had been thrown.

13 Standing in the queue in Starbucks,

14 Waiting for a cup of Caffè Americano

15 With a worried face!

16 Thinking about Young's¹ paper

17 I had read in the morning,

18 'Responsibility and Global Labor Justice'.

19 The obstinate soul kept torturing!

20 "The coffee you just ordered,

21 Do you know where it came from?

22 Was there child labor involved in

23 The production or processing?

24 Were the farmers subjected to

25 Systematic violence?

26 If so, what has Starbucks done to

27 Eradicate normalised violence?"

28 The white British could not pronounce

29 My Asian name written in the cup.

30 Did not bother. Pretty much as expected!

31 Sitting on a comfy sofa,

32 I told myself,

33 "We must do something to improve

34 The life of workers around the globe."

35 But what can I do as a consumer?

36 What should I do as a researcher?

37 How can I hold companies responsible?
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58 ¹ Young, I. M. (2004). Responsibility and Global Labor Justice. *The Journal of Political*
59 *Philosophy*, 12(4): 365–388.
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Finishing my Caffè Americano

Guilty me walked home.

