

## Waste: reading

My friend Ben isn't a good cook, but he likes cooking. He cooks many different things. Sometimes it tastes lovely, but sometimes it tastes horrible! I'm very nervous when I go to his house!

Today is Saturday and Ben is cooking dinner for me. We are in his kitchen. I don't help; I watch and talk with him. We talk about our families and our friends. We talk about what we can do tomorrow. While we talk he peels and boils potatoes and carrots. He chops and fries onions. He slices tomatoes. He steams rice. Now he puts everything together in a big pot. He adds some salt and pepper.



Ben tells me to sit down at the table. There are some flowers on the table and some candles too. Ben comes with two plates and the big pot of food. We eat the meal with some bread. The meal is strange, but it isn't horrible. Ben asks, 'Do you like the food?'

'Well, it's a strange meal but it's OK,' I say.

Then I ask 'Where's the meat?'

'No meat,' says Ben.

'Where's the fish?'

'No fish,' says Ben.

'Where's the recipe?'

'No recipe,' says Ben.

'Why are we eating potatoes and carrots and onions and tomatoes and rice? Was there a problem in the supermarket?'

'No problem *in* the supermarket. A little problem *outside* the supermarket.'

'What do you mean?' I ask. 'A little problem *outside* the supermarket? Didn't you go inside?'

'No I didn't go inside' said Ben.

'Where did you go shopping?' I ask.

'I didn't go shopping!' says Ben.

This is very strange. Ben didn't go inside the supermarket, and he didn't go shopping. Where did the food come from?!

Ben takes the plates and the big pot away. He comes back with two bananas and some oranges. We peel the fruit and eat them all.

'Tell me, Ben' I say. 'Where did the food come from?'

Ben is smiling. 'Well, I found the food!' he says.  
'You found the food! What do you mean?' I ask.

Then Ben tells me that many supermarkets throw away the food they don't sell. But some of the food is OK! And street markets too. They throw away food at the end of the day. It's possible to find good food in the supermarket bin, *outside* the supermarket! For free!

I am very surprised. And I'm a little worried.

'Don't worry!' says Ben. 'This is the first and only time. There are many poor people and homeless people who want the free food more than me. But it's strange that supermarkets throw away good food.'

'Yes,' I say. 'It is very strange.'