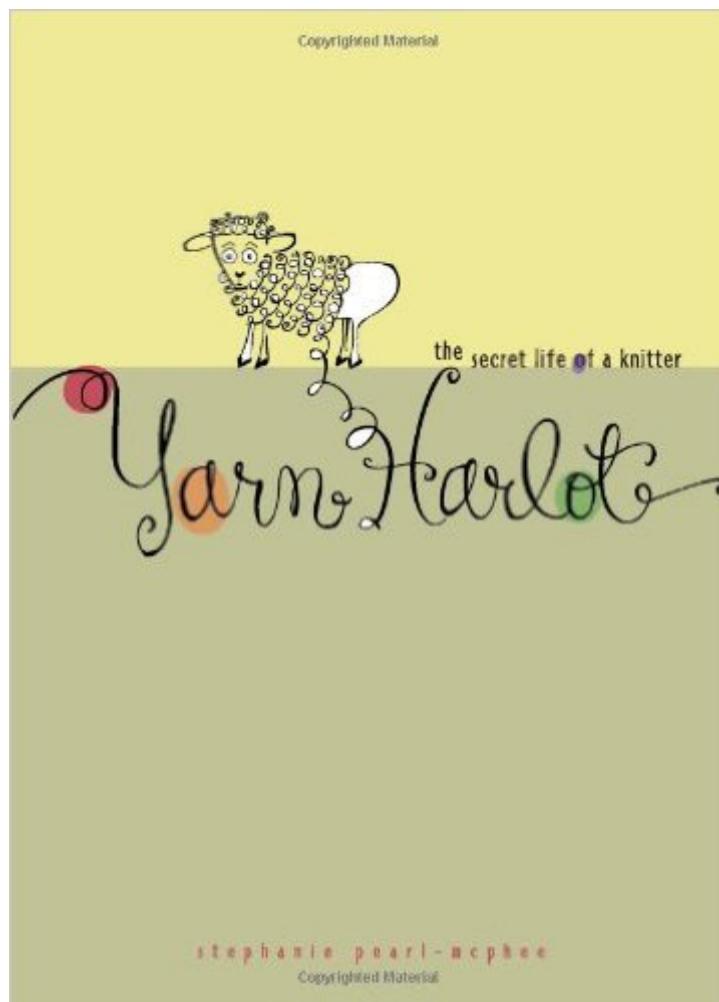


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Yarn Harlot: The Secret Life Of A Knitter



Synopsis

Stephanie Pearl-McPhee's deepest wish is that everyone understand that knitting is at least as fun as baseball and way cooler than the evil looped path of crochet. Every project, from a misshapen hat to the most magnificent sweater, holds a story. Yarn Harlot tells all those stories with humor, insight, and sympathy for the obsessed. Over 50 million people in America knit. The average knitter spends between \$500 and \$1,700 a year on yarn, patterns, needles, and books. No longer just a fad or a hobby, knitting has advanced to a lifestyle. *Yarn Harlot: The Secret Life of a Knitter* moves beyond instructions and patterns into the purest elements of knitting: obsession, frustration, reflection, and fun. Stephanie Pearl-McPhee's humorous and poignant essays find humor in knitting an enormous afghan that requires a whopping 30 balls of wool, having a husband with size 13 feet who loves to wear hand-knit socks, and earns her "yarn harlot" title with her love of any new yarn--she'll quickly drop an old project for the fresh saucy look of a new interesting yarn. Since the upsurge in knitting began in the early '90s, the number of women under 45 who knit has doubled. Knitting is no longer a hobby for just grandmothers--women and men of all ages are embracing this art. Describing its allure is best left to Stephanie who explains: "It is a well-known fact that knitting is a sparkling form of entertainment, as spiritual as yoga, as relaxing as a massage, and as funny as Erma Bombeck trapped in a PTA meeting."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's true--longtime readers of Stephanie's blog will recognize some of the material here, but it's like greeting old friends. You know, like a "Best Of" CD by your favorite artist. And the new comic pieces are very funny, and in her inimitable style that both understands/pokes gentle fun at all of us

obsessive knitters. The poignant pieces are very moving; one made me sniffle late into the night. If you've had the experience written about in this essay, you will be tearing up over your merino, too. The knitting essay is a lovely art; like knitting, it can be picked up for just a few moments and you feel satisfied. Stephanie does it the best!

If you have more than one knitting project started and have something small in your purse to knit while waiting at traffic lights or in doctor's offices, this book is for you. If you don't knit, I can't imagine why this book would attract you unless you have somehow wildly misinterpreted the "harlot" part of the title. Ms. Pearl-McPhee is a dedicated (obsessed?) knitter who is not afraid to admit to her reading public that she might have "stash" issues and that "Marital relations" do cut into her knitting time. Anyone who has been knitting for a while will recognize her lace shawl experience, coveting yarn that will probably never leave the "core stash," and the wild exuberance that makes one think that one can complete knitted gifts for their entire family if one starts in November. Nothing deep here, but provides lots of chuckles for the knitting addict.

Stephanie Pearl-McPhee has been a source of entertainment for years on her blog, and I'm happy to have her wisdom and obsession at my fingertips in not one, but two volumes, with the publication of this book. I actually laughed out loud over the story of the green afghan, and the DPN incident. I don't know if I could explain the stories to someone who isn't a Knitter, but for those who are, well, this book is for you.

When a friend of mine at the yarn store told me to read this book, I thought "There is no way I'll like a knitting book without any patterns." I was wrong. This book is refreshing. It was so nice to see someone write about knitting in such a funny, addictive, manner. I've since bought all of her other books, and read her blog on a daily basis. If you are looking for something light to read (and about knitting!!) you'll love this book. Although, you may want to read it alone (away from strangers) because you are sure to laugh out loud at some of her stories.

This is the book for every knitter! Great stories told by a funny and witty writer. The themes she explores are spot on and every knitter I know can relate to them. If you are looking for the perfect gift for the knitters in your life, buy them a copy of this book and some yarn.

I have only laughed harder when reading books written by Christopher Moore. Stephanie

Pearl-McPhee has a gift of making you want to knit with her and share in her humor and her perspective. She makes me want to learn more than how to knit squares in all knit or all purl and she makes me want to actually learn how to knit a sock *sob* must I? Yes, I must. Because she's inspired me, dammit. She's got a humor that makes it fun and helps you realize that you're human when you swear at your yarn and throw the skein and needles into a bag and leave it there for four years. Read this book, you will love it and want to call her at 2am for help with a slipped stitch.

I was looking forward to this book after reading "At Knit's End" by the same author and finding it quite hilarious. Though this book had some moments of chuckles, that was about it. The stories were okay and I would have only given it 3 stars but it's about knitting, which automatically makes everything better.

I loved reading this book. Steph's humor is right up my alley, and her knitting knowledge is amazing. I never tire of her antics. If you enjoy her blog you will enjoy this book.

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