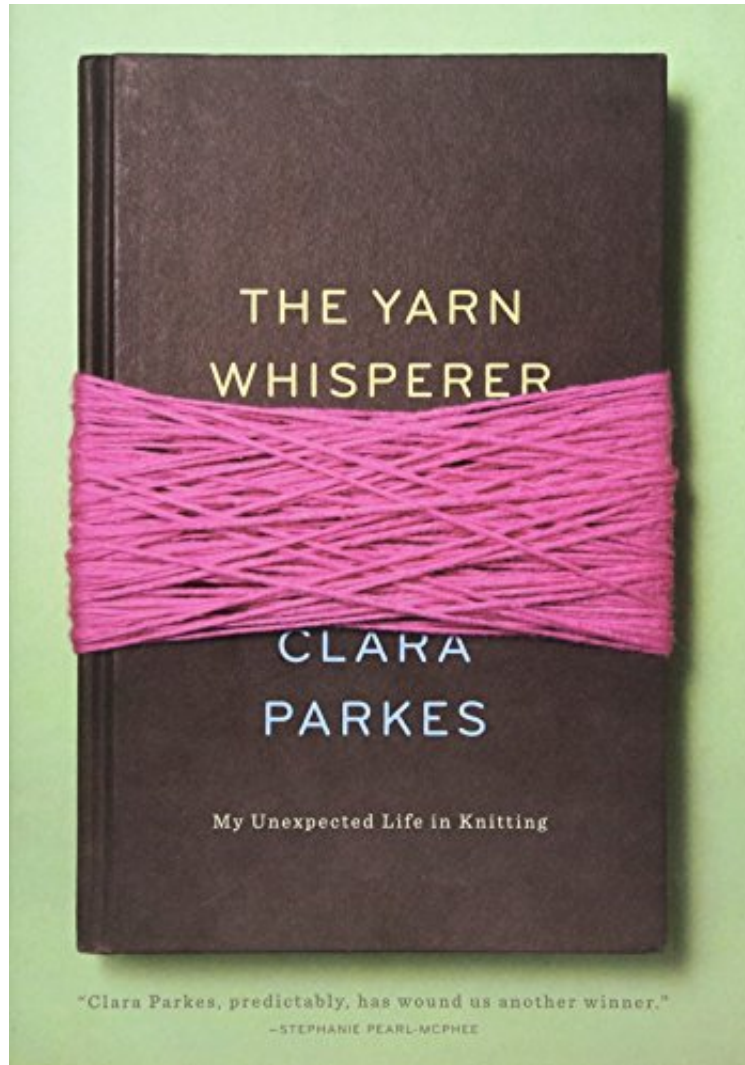


[Free and download] The Yarn Whisperer: My Unexpected Life in Knitting

The Yarn Whisperer: My Unexpected Life in Knitting

Clara Parkes

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Clara Parkes : The Yarn Whisperer: My Unexpected Life in Knitting before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Yarn Whisperer: My Unexpected Life in Knitting:

34 of 36 people found the following review helpful. Poignant, Down to Earth, and Filled with Knowledge and Wisdom By Fairbanks Reader - Bonnie Brody I have been a fan of Clara Parkes' Knitters Review forever and have loved her other three books. This one is no exception. It is written with the yarn lover and knitter in mind. The book contains no patterns, but rather is a collection of reminiscences or essays by Ms. Parkes. She talks about her life as it relates to knitting and yarn. "This book is a collection of my own musings on stitches - why we work them, what they do to fabric, and how they have contributed to the fabric of my own life. For life really is a stitch. It has a beginning, a

midpoint, and an end. It serves a purpose, and if we're lucky, it creates something beautiful and enduring." There is one essay that relates to steeks - sometimes we have to make a cut in something in order to give it a chance to become whole. In the chapter about the choreography of stitches she discusses her move to Tucson and the discovery of the rodeo. She also learns square dancing. She looks at myriad stitches and designers and compares them to different types of choreography. For instance, Kaffe Fassett is a modern choreographer and other designers are more traditional. There is a poignant essay about her parents' divorce and her trip cross-country. The essay on stashes really spoke to me. I have so much yarn that I could open my own yarn shop. Ms. Parkes discusses the need to cull stashes and compares them to gardens. "As hard as it is to say, I should point out that a healthy stash requires frequent and prudent weeding. It can easily get overrun before we notice what's happening". In her essay called Stitch Traffic she gives very sound advice, that "putting blind faith in anything is rarely a good idea, whether it's a GPS or a knitting pattern. It's far better to develop your own instinct, learn for yourself what works and what doesn't - and learn why". The discussions on swatching and slipped stitches are both humorous and poignant, pointing to the importance of connection and standing firm. In *The Great Whodunit*, Ms. Parkes talks about how "a good mystery book can be like a good knitting pattern. It takes you on an adventure, engages your mind, paints a pretty landscape, maybe even surprises you now and then, but always reaches the expected resolution." In *Coming Undone*, the author takes on the negative connotation of unraveling and provides a more positive definition like disentangling or solving a problem. I know that when I undo my knitting it is always to make it look better or to correct an error. I like the idea proposed in *Making Martha's Sandwich*, that any knitter is a real knitter, no matter how advanced they may or may not be. She writes with a serious, poignant and humorous manner, providing some history of knitting in several essays. As the book cover states, she "uses the metaphor of knitting to tell her own story". There are 22 essays that deal with topics such as divorce, leaving the bustle of dot coms for a more leisurely life in Maine where she lives in a town of 920 people with her partner, and the relationship of baking to knitting. I am an avowed knitter but do not read many knitting books. I read Clara Parkes for her wisdom, down-to-earth manner, knowledge and wisdom. I love it when she states that "'happily ever after' is a moving target. No matter how perfect any one sweater may be, it's only human to crave another. And another. And another." I would recommend this book to anyone who knits and loves yarns. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good before bed book By Heidi W. Each chapter in this book can stand alone, and they are not in any sort of order. Therefore, this makes a great book to read at night, just before drifting off. There is no temptation to read just a few more pages to see if the cliff hanger is resolved. I especially enjoyed the chapters referring to events or happenings in the author's life. I was less enthused about the chapters (of which there were several) that drew parallels between knitting and other unrelated things such as roads, baking, gardening, etc. It was during the chapter on roads that I seriously considered quitting without finishing the rest of the book. The only thing that kept me reading through that chapter was the fact that this was a book club read and low points make for excellent discussion. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun book for those who knit and love yarn By A. C. Wilson I so wanted to love this - it is ok if it's your first read ever about knitters and knitting - but if you have already read *SweaterQuest* or an of the *Purl-McPhee* books, this is sort of redundant. The book still looks cute in my knitting cabinet. She is a good writer and her books seem like essays from her online blog made into chapters.

Stockinette, ribbing, cables, even the humble yarn over can instantly evoke places, times, people, conversations, all those poignant moments that we tucked away in our memory banks. Over time, those stitches form a map of our lives. From the preface in *The Yarn Whisperer: Reflections on a Life in Knitting*, renowned knitter and author Clara Parkes ponders the roles knitting plays in her life via 22 captivating, poignant, and laugh-out-loud funny essays. Recounting tales of childhood and adulthood, family, friends, adventure, privacy, disappointment, love, and celebration, she hits upon the universal truths that drive knitters to create and explores the ways in which knitting can be looked at as a metaphor for so many other things. Put simply, No matter how perfect any one sweater may be, it's only human to crave another. And another, and another. Praise for *The Yarn Whisperer: Clara Parkes: The Yarn Seer*. *Interweave Knits* magazine If you are a knitter, or even if you are not, read this book for the sheer joy of her writing, for the way she strings ideas together and brings you into her world . . . I would compare her to Mark Twain because of her dry humor. Honestly, she's that good. *New Jersey Courier News* In *Stitches* blog Read this book to be reminded of how special it is to be a part of this warm and fuzzy community. *About.com* I see a lot of yarn books in this gig, and *Whisperer* is not only the best I've seen this year, it's one of my all-time faves. Seriously, it's that good. *The Oregonian* I don't want to stop reading. Each chapter is a little jewel. *KnitCircus.com* Parkes has a poet's appreciation for the interconnectivity of seemingly disparate aspects of life . . . I have a sense of affinity with the metaphors she chooses, which are drawn from music, gardening, baking, and of course, knitting. Her language dances and gallops, chuckles and sings. *Kangath Knits* blog *The Yarn Whisperer* weaves together knitting anecdotes and life experiences of the author in a way that I think we can all relate to. *Kelbourne Woolens* blog It's a fun book for curling up on a cool day with a cup of tea, knitting nearby, of course. *CraftGossip.com* It is seriously the best book about knitting experiences ever. I absolutely LOVED it! *Sweetly Made* If you haven't read *The Yarn Whisperer* yet, you should. It's sweet, funny and full of moments you'll recognize or aspire to. I recommend you get a copy. *Moth Heaven* In this charming series of

linked essays, Parkes metaphorically puts the fast whorl on her wheel and spins something entirely new, showing that she's not just a good writer but a great one. Funny, sweet, and trenchant and offered in twenty-two digestible bits, this book is not only the quintessential sampler afghan of knit lit, it is also the 'It' gift of the season. Buy a stack to stuff inside the handmade stockings of your knitting-circle friends. Vogue Knitting The creator of Knitters Review has created a collection of stories of her life of knitting, yarn, baking and overall appreciation for all things beautiful, and has woven them together like afghan squares with charm, grace and hilarity. Petite Purls Her writing is incredibly clever . . . this book will be dear to your heart. Knit the Hell Out Its my favorite new knitting book of the year. DallasNews.com

"...Clara Parkes has taken the common threads that join all knitters, and she's made them into a glorious patchwork blanket of a book. It's warm, it's beautiful, and there's love in every bit of it." - Mary Mooney, The Oregonian"Clara Parkes is the MFK Fisher of knitting: unflinching, all-seeing, mysterious--and also kind. In this collection of beautifully wrought essays, Clara explores the territory where knitting overlaps with a life well lived."- Ann Shayne and Kay Gardiner, Mason-Dixon Knitting"I was utterly captivated by the book." -Knitty.com"In this charming series of linked essays, Parkes metaphorically puts the fast whorl on her wheel and spins something entirely new, showing that she's not just a good writer but a great one. Funny, sweet, and trenchant and offered in twenty-two digestible bits, this book is not only the quintessential sampler afghan of knit lit, it is also the 'It' gift of the season. Buy a stack to stuff inside the handmade stockings of your knitting-circle friends." -Vogue Knitting"Even those who don't know anything about knitting can appreciate her assertion that all knitting stitches should be named after pastries or her observation that many knitter's yarn baskets are as colorful and overflowing as an English garden." - Kalee Youngquist, Shelf AwarenessAbout the AuthorClara Parkes, a celebrated raconteur, is the bestselling author of The Knitter's Book of Yarn, The Knitter's Book of Wool, and The Knitter's Book of Socks. She is also the founder and publisher of Knitters .com, a biweekly e-newsletter that explores the pleasures and subtleties of yarn. She lives in Maine.