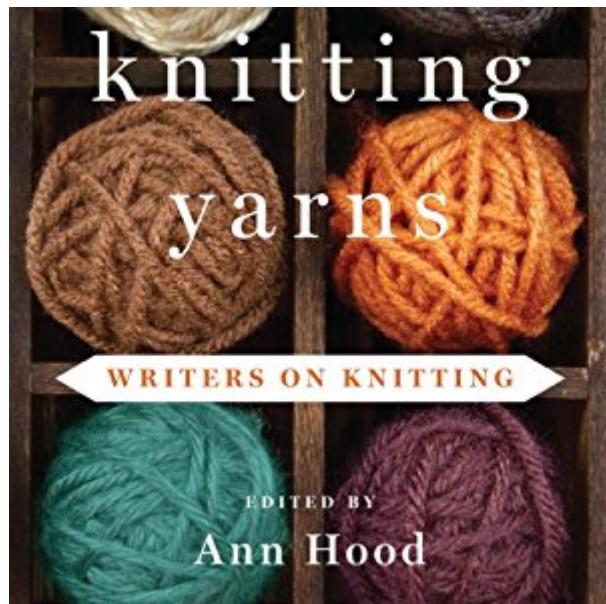


The book was found

# Knitting Yarns: Writers On Knitting



## **Synopsis**

A collection of poignant essays about the transformative power of knitting by twenty-seven extraordinary writers. "The impressive collection of writers here have contributed essays that celebrate knitting and knitters. They share their knitting triumphs and disasters as well as their life triumphs and disasters. . . . These essays will break your heart. They will have you laughing out loud." (Ann Hood, from the introduction) Why does knitting occupy a place in the hearts of so many writers? What's so magical and transformative about yarn and needles? How does knitting help us get through life-changing events and inspire joy? In *Knitting Yarns*, twenty-seven writers tell stories about how knitting healed, challenged, or helped them to grow. Barbara Kingsolver describes sheering a sheep for yarn. Elizabeth Berg writes about her frustration at failing to knit. Ann Patchett traces her life through her knitting, writing about the scarf that knits together the women she's loved and lost. Knitting a Christmas gift for his blind aunt helped Andre Dubus III knit an understanding with his girlfriend. Kaylie Jones finds the woman who used knitting to help raise her in France and heals old wounds. Sue Grafton writes about her passion for knitting. Also included are five original knitting patterns created by Helen Bingham. Poignant, funny, and moving, *Knitting Yarns* is sure to delight knitting enthusiasts and lovers of literature alike.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

As both writer and knitter, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Reading it was like pulling on a warm, cozy knit sweater on a winter day. I laughed, I cried, I knitted.

I liked this book. I loved some of the essays--such as "turning straw into gold"--while others (endless variations on "I cannot knit, so here is a lot of complaining about that") were less interesting. My complaint is that the Kindle version does not provide photographs of the included knitting patterns. A big omission....and so not enticing to make, which seems a waste. I went onto Ravelry to see project photos from some of the test knitters and readers of the book.

Reading a book about knitting should be entertaining, and I wanted to like this book. I did find it somehow dreary, and I guess it was more about the problems of the writers than the fiber craft. Granted, many of the stories told of how knitting helped through difficult times, but the fact that these were short stories just did not hold my interest. None of the stories were memorable for me personally. Again, I wish I had liked this better, but I found that I would have rather been knitting than reading.

This is a book that kept me reading despite the urge to put it down. How many ways can you explore the same theme? It seems each author is a writer who is all thumbs but has picked up knitting to try to solve some existential problem, knits copious amounts of misshapen items because, despite almost constant practice, the skill level never increases. Strangers make remarks on the poor quality of the knitted goods, but the intrepid writer soldiers on because the meditative quality of the physical act of knitting solves grief/lowers blood pressure/helps the transition out of bad marriages, etc. It's like the editor issued a template. Except for Barbara Kingsolver, whose prose is so purple as to be impenetrable. So why did I keep reading? Every few pages, there would be a sentence so brilliant as to give me chills. It would have been nice to cultivate contributors who were skilled in knitting and didn't use it as therapy. After all, everyone used to knit; men, women, children. I'm on the fence about passing this book along after I'm done. I think I will, with the proviso that it becomes bogged down once in a while, but it's ok to skip some essays. I'm unable to not read every work of a book I've purchased, but some others may be.

Lovely book! As a long time knitter and also an avid reader, I was intrigued to find a book about how writers who knit started their journey into knitting, and the book is absolutely amazing. Poignant, touching, at times funny, it is a look into the nuances that show how different writers found this art form and what it means to them. A must read. Thank you.

I loved this book! It combined my love of reading with my love of knitting. I look forward all day to sitting down in the evening when everything is finally done and getting out my knitting. Sometimes I am too tired to knit so I would read this book and it gave me the same relaxing feeling that I get when I knit.

These were interesting stories. They get you thinking about all the ways people can be. It reminds you that your own story is part of the big human picture. It's also a good book in that each story is rather short and tidy, so you can read a little at a time. It gives you time to absorb and mull over what happened in the story. When you're knitting, your mind can wander around exploring ideas (once you memorized the lace pattern for that set of rows!).

A fascinating book. Every chapter by a different writer and their experience with knitting. It is a great book that even non knitters will enjoy.

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