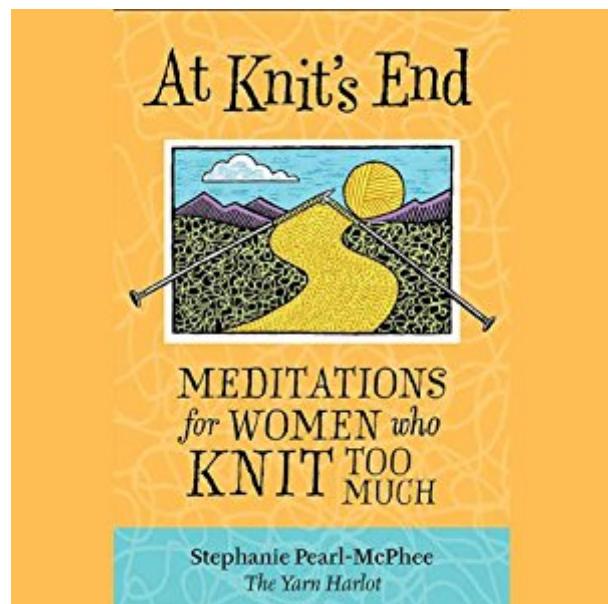


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# At Knit's End: Meditations For Women Who Knit Too Much



## Synopsis

The Yarn Harlot takes time away from her knitting to offer observations, meditations, reflections, and rants to soothe and delight the knitter's unraveled soul. Like golfing, fishing, and gardening, knitting is an obsession. It's an activity fraught with guilt, frustration, over-optimism, sly deception, and compulsion, along with passionate moments of creative enlightenment. Not to mention heaps of yarn you really think you'll knit someday. Stephanie Pearl-McPhee totally understands. In this hilarious collection of tangled reflections, she offers ample reassurance for anyone who has ever wondered, "Am I alone in my mania?" • Casting off with some of her favorite quotations, she muses on why it's impossible to knit too much, how many calories knitting burns (about 90 an hour, not counting the extra for retrieving your ball of yarn from under the couch), and when it's okay to stalk a man in the grocery store (not because he's good-looking, but because he's wearing an Aran sweater you want to know how to knit). The first step toward recovery is getting help—and having a good laugh at your compulsion. At Knit's End is a wicked and wickedly funny fix for any knitter. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 3 hours and 48 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: HighBridge, a division of Recorded Books

Audible.com Release Date: June 8, 2007

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B000RWCBSA

Best Sellers Rank: #59 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Lifestyle & Home > Crafts & Hobbies #294 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Humor > Essays #1864 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts > Knitting

## Customer Reviews

This small gem of a book is just a delight for anyone who knits (or who knows a knitter). It's filled with little essay-like "meditations" about knitting, obsession, family, stashes of yarn . . . all things that any person who knits can appreciate. Each entry is short and sweet--some only a paragraph long,

some a page or two--but they're unreservedly fun. Each is headed by a delicious quote, too, by knitters and non-knitters alike, and then summed up in Ms. Pearl-McPhee's own, sparkling way. It's a small little book, but easy to flip through, and I must for any knitter's library.

This little book is so much fun and every knitter who's a little bit serious (I would not call myself obsessed with knitting but I always squeeze some knitting in my schedule - even if my work week goes really crazy and beyond the 80 hours per week :)) about her/his knitting will recognise themselves and their thoughts while reading this book. I like the format in particular - you can pick it up, have a good time reading it, put it away for a while and then just pick up where you left off w/o an issue. Without a doubt, I would buy it again.

If you're just after surgery, stay away from this book. If you don't like laughing so hard that you can't breathe, just keep your mouse away from that "buy now" button. If you actually want to DO something between the moment you lay your hands on the book and the moment you finish reading the whole thing, spare yourself the anguish. If you've got appendicitis... ...NOT the book for you. But if you don't mind having a prolonged series of giggles at life's sublime ironies, buy a copy. Buy it because it's the funniest book to be published in 2005. Buy it to encourage Ms. Pearl-McPhee to keep writing. And knitting. Buy it - and drop by her blog to let her know you've done it. But only if you don't mind some hearty laughter.

This is a wonderful book. I can relate so much to her "meditations". Today, I was feeling a little down & decided I needed a little cheering up, so I picked up her book & I did literally laugh until I cried. I am not even finished it yet but I am trying to make it stretch because I don't want to read all her funny witticisms in just a few days. This book has been worth far more to me than what I paid for it. It cost me \$13.95 Canadian, but what I am getting from it is worth far more than that. What a terrific sense of humor. I would buy more of her stuff in a heartbeat.

Knitters rejoice! Here's a book just for you, small enough to carry in your purse. At Knit's End: Meditations for Women Who Knit Too Much by Stephanie Pearl-McPhee is an inspirational and humorous look at life through the eyes of a knitter. The brief vignettes offer insight into the "hobby" that often becomes an "obsession" with the people who practice the craft. The Craft Yarn Council of America states that 1 in 3 women know how to knit or crochet. Many of these knitters have crossed over from being well-balanced to an uncontrollable compulsion (what a wonderful compulsion!).

Pearl-McPhee's book is a refreshing and entertaining approach to recognizing and accepting this compulsion. Many of the stories will elicit ah-ha moments. Others will provide relief as you discover someone else thinks about knitting as you do. And still other musings will give you permission to continue the obsession that gives so much pleasure to you and those who receive your loving gift. My favorite musing is on page 297. You'll have to read the book to discover my ah-ha moment. The author begins the book with a bang as she discusses the miracle that knitting consists of only two stitches--knit and purl. Knitters know this but to read it is something else: "Know these two stitches; rule the world." Armchair Interviews says: This is the perfect gift for that knitter in your life. The problem is they will be reading rather than knitting. Well, we all need balance in our lives. We highly recommend!

With almost every page, I laughed so hard I had to keep dabbing my eyes with tissues. Ms. Pearl-McPhee's quick twists of wit are exquisite. Excellent gift, but you'll have to get one for yourself.

I have to respectfully disagree with the other reviews of this book. The following is my personal opinion; you don't have to share it. I enjoy the Yarn Harlot's stories very much. . . in context. This book has a new tidbit on nearly every page, so I found there to be little flow or cohesiveness that made her other books so pleasurable to read. Additionally, much of the content seemed to be recycled from previous books. I am not a big fan of "quotes," so I didn't feel that those added much to the recycled anecdotes and thoughts. I also question the use of the subtitle "Meditations for WOMEN who knit too much" (emphasis mine). We're all pretty aware that the knitting world is densely populated with women, but nothing about the content of this book struck me as particularly specific to women. I don't see a reason for the exclusion. Some of the stories do involve her husband and her motherhood experiences, but in my opinion, those seemed translatable to a female partner, or to fatherhood. (Obviously not all readers will be interested in opposite-sex relationships, or in parenthood--I'm merely venturing a guess as to why that subtitle was chosen.) The book isn't all bad. Its physical size makes it easy to carry in a purse, knitting bag, or even a large pocket, and its format makes it easy to read a few pages and easily put it down again. It might be a fun little stocking stuffer for someone who doesn't own the Yarn Harlot's previous works, or who can't bear to put down the needles for long reads. Personally, though, I would recommend her other books over this one.

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