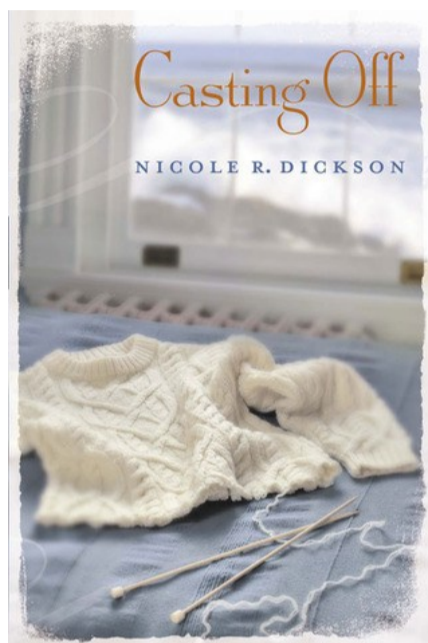




Two Sweaters for my Father by Perri Klass

Beyond the garments, scarves, blankets, and sweaters, knitting offers the kind of nonmaterial rewards discussed in these essays: the repetitive, rhythmic finger movements soothe, reduce stress, and bind a knitter to her community. Knitting's psychological dimension is celebrated in these personal accounts of one woman's experience knitting in the hospital, at a college reunion, and while making garments for her father and loved ones. These thoughtful reflections reveal that the real power of knitting has more to do with what goes on in the head and the heart than what happens with needles.

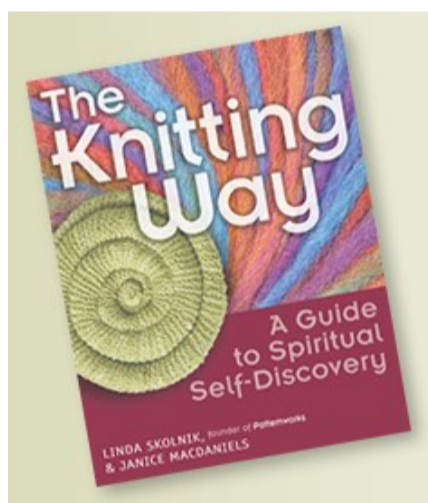


Casting Off by Nicole Dickson

On a tiny island off the west coast of Ireland, the fishermen's handmade sweaters tell a story. Each is unique—feelings stitched into rows, memories into patterns.

It is here that Rebecca Moray comes to research a book on Irish knitting. With her daughter, Rowan, accompanying her, she hopes to lose herself in the history of the island and forget her own painful past. Soon, the townsfolk's warm embrace wraps Rebecca and Rowan in a world of friendship, laughter, and love.

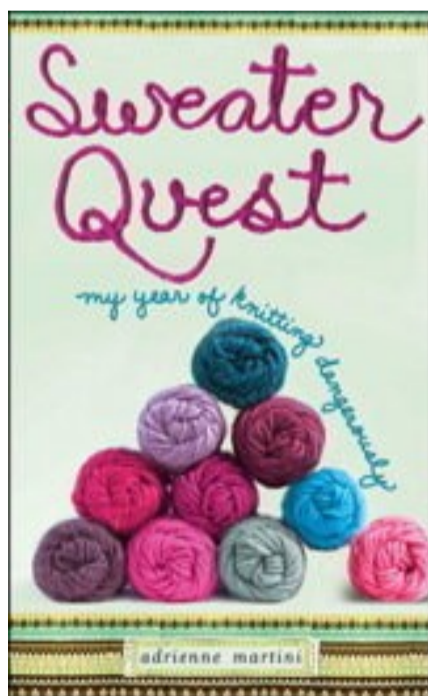
And it is here that young Rowan befriends Sean Morahan, a cantankerous old fisherman, despite his attempts to scare her off. As Rebecca watches her daughter interact with Morahan, she recognizes in his eyes a look that speaks



The Knitting Way by Linda Skolnik & Janice MacDaniels

Knitting is the miracle of creating new dimensions from a strand of yarn. Let it bring that miraculous transformation to your spiritual life too.

This book is about seeing and listening. It's about becoming aware that through knitting you can hear and give attention to what's in your heart and soul—that knitting can be a place of rest and thought and a place for the Divine. It's about connection—to yourself, to the world, to others and to the Holy. —from the Preface

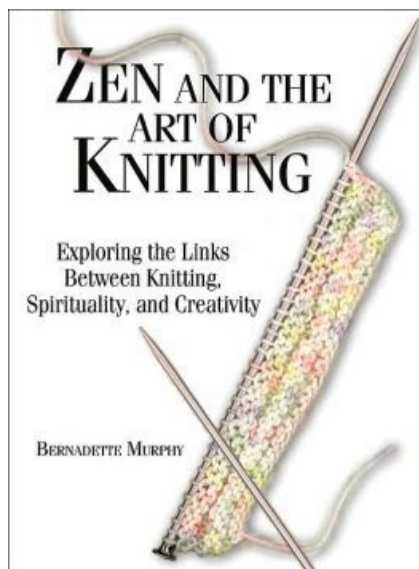


Sweater Quest: My Year of Knitting Dangerously by Adrienne Martini

"I knit so I don't kill people" —bumper sticker spotted at Rhinebeck Sheep and Wool Festival

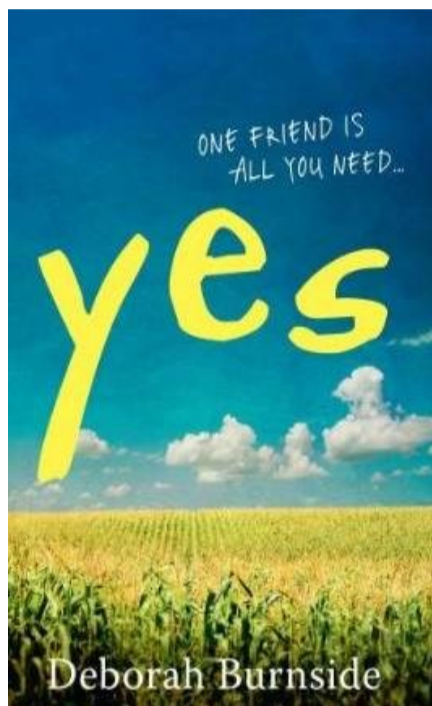
For Adrienne Martini, and countless others, knitting is the linchpin of sanity. As a working mother of two, Martini wanted a challenge that would make her feel in charge. So she decided to make the Holy Grail of sweaters—her own Mary Tudor, whose mind-numbingly gorgeous pattern is so complicated to knit that its mere mention can hush a roomful of experienced knitters. Created by reclusive designer Alice Starmore, the Mary Tudor can be found only in a rare, out-of-print book of Fair Isle-style patterns, *Tudor Roses*, and requires a discontinued, irreplaceable yarn. The sweater, Martini explains, "is a knitter's Mount Everest, our curse, and our compulsion. I want one more than I can begin to tell you."

And so she took on the challenge: one year, two needles, and countless knits and purls to conquer Mary Tudor while also taking care of her two kids, two cats, two jobs, and (thankfully) one husband—without unraveling in the process. Along the way, Adrienne investigates the tangled origins of the coveted pattern, inquires into the nature of artistic creation, and details her quest to buy supplies on the knitting black market. As she tries not to pull out her hair along with rows gone wrong, Martini gets guidance from some knitterati, who offer invaluable inspiration as she conquers her fear of Fair Isle. A wooly *Julie and Julia*, this epic yarn celebrates the profound joys of creating—and aspiring to—remarkable achievements.



Zen and the Art of Knitting: Exploring the Links Between Knitting, Spirituality and Creativity by Bernadette Murphy

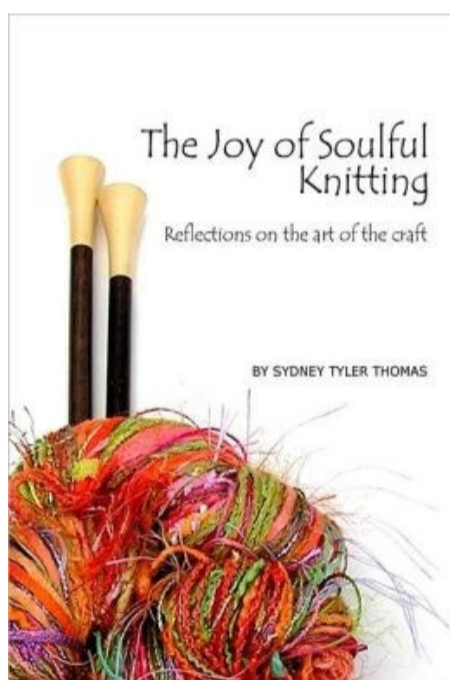
This book explores what, arguably, everyone's grandmother always knew, that when passionate knitters become one with the craft, amazing things can happen. In *Zen and the Art of Knitting*, Bernadette Murphy explores how knitting fits into the larger scheme of life itself as meditation, creative expression, a gift to express love, a way to connect, and much, much more.



Yes One Friend is All You Need by Deborah Burnside—This Book Features Crocheting

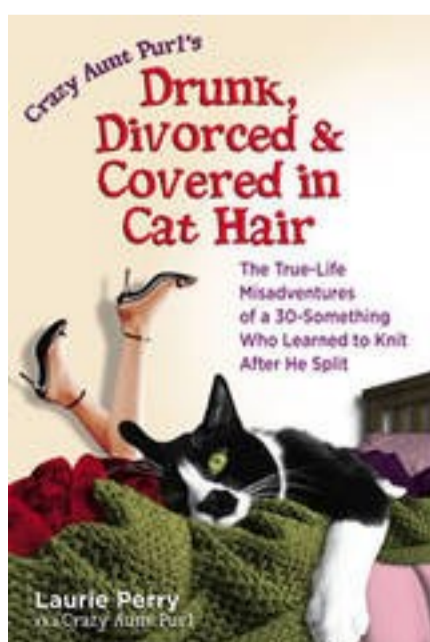
This engaging story is about a couple of teenage boys coming to terms with all that life throws at modern teenagers – girls, homework, and uncooperative parents. I am reluctant to tell you that the main character Marty has a mild form of autism, because although it is central to the way the story is told and to the way Marty sees the world, the book is not about “dealing with autism”.

Marty's best friend, Luke, is coping with his own issues – he's lost a lower leg to meningitis – and both get involved with a school based business young enterprise scheme (YES) in part to be close to the girls they are both besotted with. As in real life, Marty has to deal with a number of issues and personal challenges along the way. As their YES project progresses, life's challenges threaten to overpower their lives. The constant in Marty's life is his recently deceased grandfather – a rock whose influence was far reaching in the boy's life and whose absence is sorely missed.



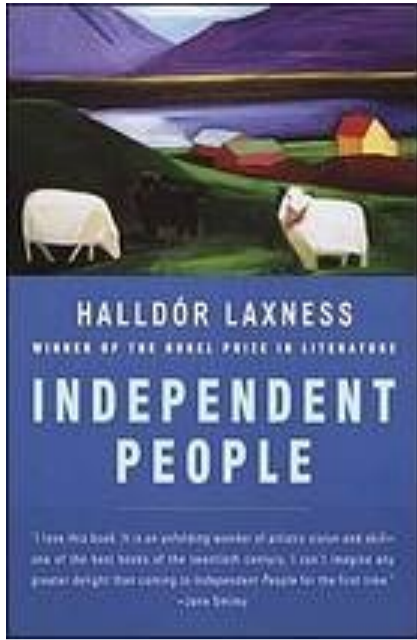
The Joy of Soulful Knitting: Reflections on the Art of the Craft by Sydney Tyler Thomas

The Joy of Soulful Knitting explores the often awe-inspiring parallels between spiritual life lessons and lessons learned from two sticks and some string. This insightful and thought-provoking book is a comforting companion for travelers on the road to "Soulful Knitting." In it you will discover how to infuse your knitting experience with peacefulness, power and purpose. Written from and for the heart, this up-lifting daily reader is a must-have for knitters who are passionate about the art of their craft and who truly want to experience the joys knitting, and life, have to offer.



Crazy Aunt Purl's Drunk Divorced & Covered in Cat Hair by Laurie Perry

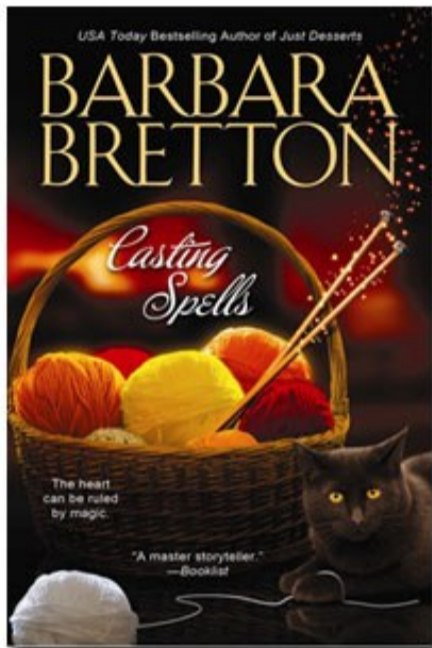
Drunk, Divorced, and Covered in Cat Hair is the irreverent first-person narrative of a contemporary, displaced Southern woman facing life after her husband leaves her to "get his creativity back." With infectious humor and heart, she explains how she gets her groove back after finding herself alone in a rented house with four cats, a mountain of boxes and a slight wine-and-Cheetos problem. Reeling from the sting of divorce, it is the hobby of knitting -- and the adventures it leads her to -- that keep her from "directing traffic in her nightgown."



Independent People by Halldor Laxness

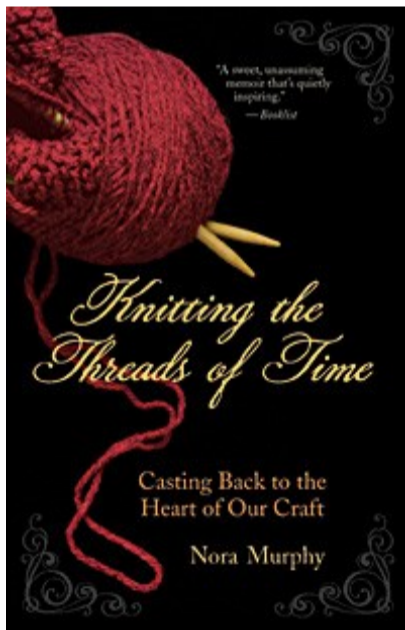
This magnificent novel—which secured for its author the 1955 Nobel Prize in Literature—is at least available to contemporary American readers. Although it is set in the early twentieth century, it recalls both Iceland's medieval epics and such classics as Sigrid Undset's *Kristin Lavransdatter*. And if Bjartur of Summerhouses, the book's protagonist, is an ordinary sheep farmer, his flinty determination to achieve independence is genuinely heroic and, at the same time, terrifying and bleakly comic.

Having spent eighteen years in humiliating servitude, Bjartur wants nothing more than to raise his flocks un beholden to any man. But Bjartur's spirited daughter wants to live un beholden to *him*. What ensues is a battle of wills that is by turns harsh and touching, elemental in its emotional intensity and intimate in its homely detail. Vast in scope and deeply rewarding, *Independent People* is a masterpiece.



Casting Spells by Barbara Bretton

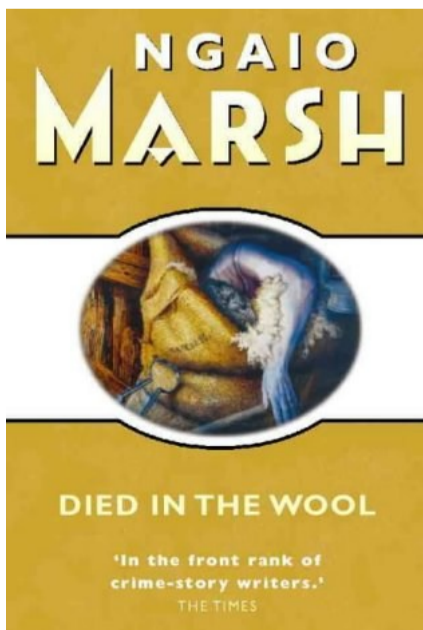
Sugar Maple looks like any Vermont town, but it's inhabited with warlocks, sprites, vampires, witches and an ancient secret. And Chloe Hobbs, owner of Sticks & String, a popular knitting shop, has a big secret too. She's a sorcerer's daughter in search of Mr. Right and she's found him in Luke MacKenzie, a cop investigating Sugar Maple's very first murder. Bad news is he's 100% human, which could spell disaster for a normal future with a paranormal woman like her



Knitting The Threads of Time: Casting Back to the Heart of our Craft by Nora Murphy

In an era of global warming, war, escalating expenses, declining income, and drugs and violence in schools, many mothers feel they have little control over their families or their worlds. Nora Murphy eloquently demonstrates that many women do control one tiny thing: their next stitch.

While tracing the frustrations and joys of knitting a sweater for her son through the course of one cold, dark Minnesota winter, Murphy eloquently brings to life the traditions and cultures of women from many backgrounds, including Hmong, American Indian, Mexican, African, and Irish. Murphy's personal stories — about her struggles to understand esoteric knitting patterns, her help from the shaman of the knit shop, and her challenges sticking with an often vexing project — will appeal to knitters as well as everyone else who has labored to create something from scratch.



Died in the Wool by Ngaio Marsh

One summer evening in 1942 Flossie Rubrick, MP, one of the most formidable women in New Zealand, goes to her husband's wool shed to rehearse a patriotic speech – and disappears.

Three weeks later she turns up at an auction – packed inside one of her own bales of wool and very, very dead...