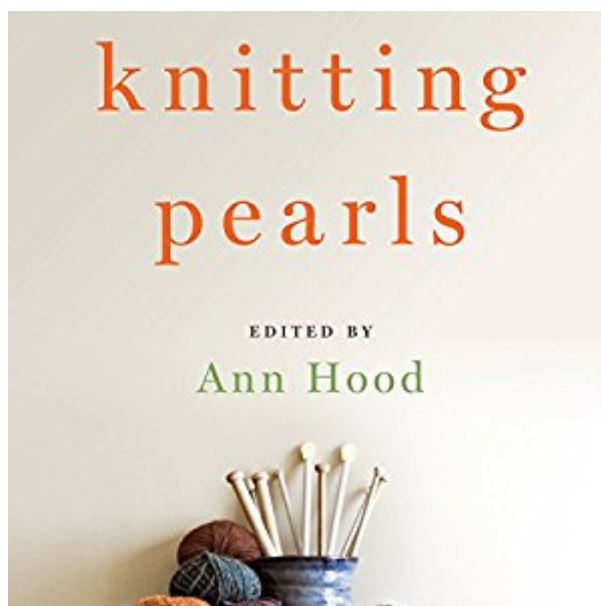


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# Knitting Pearls: Writers Writing About Knitting



## Synopsis

The rhythm, ritual, and pleasure of knitting are celebrated in this new collection for lovers of both knitting and literature. In *Knitting Pearls*, two dozen writers write about the transformative and healing powers of knitting. Lily King remembers the year her family lived in Italy, and a knitted hat that helped her daughter adjust to her new home. Laura Lippman explores how converting to Judaism changed not only Christmas but also her mother's gift of a knitted stocking. Jodi Picoult remembers her grandmother and how through knitting she felt that everlasting love. And Bill Roorbach remembers his freshman year in college when knitting soothed his broken heart and helped him fall in love again. Other contributors include Steve Almond, Ann Leary, Christina Baker Kline, Lee Woodruff, and knitting rock stars Jared Flood of Brooklyn Tweed and the Yarn Whisperer, Clara Parks. With knitting patterns from renowned stores such as Purl Soho, Hill Country Weavers, and Churchmouse Yarns, *Knitting Pearls* is by turns delightful and heartbreaking, joyous and wise. These personal stories by award-winning writers celebrate the moments of loss and love intertwined in the rhythm, ritual, and pleasure of knitting.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Many of us have encountered that famous Shakespearean line in English lit class about a *œsleep*, that knits up the raveled sleeve of care (Macbeth, Act II, sc. 2). Knitting is such a universal image that non-knitters relate to its metaphorical energy as deeply as those who seem to have been born with double-pointed needles, stitch-counters and multi-colored yarn in their hands. In

KNITTING PEARLS (the title is an obvious pun to those who actually knit-purl), editor Ann Hood lets the point prove itself by giving 27 writers, six of them male knitters, free rein to reveal how the art and craft of transforming fiber into apparel has shaped their lives. Ironically, the majority of her contributors don't knit well, used to knit and gave it up, are adamant about not knitting, are anxiety-ridden about it, or are even wholly disinterested in learning. That leaves only a few who actually knit and write. But this tangled collective relationship with yarn simply adds a bonus layer of charm to an absorbing collection of mini-memoirs. It's the elusive, unintentional, surprising, inconclusive and even ambiguous effects of knitting that capture one's emotions and imagination. Childhood memories of being abundantly knitted for are plentiful in KNITTING PEARLS, ranging from guilt over hating a garment into which much love and skill was invested, to poignant nostalgia over woolly gifts that symbolize long-ago good times and long-gone special people. A good deal of hard-won personal wisdom is also found amid a number of confessions about unfinished projects --- writers who seek deeper reasons when lack of time, ability or motivation just won't do for honest answers.

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