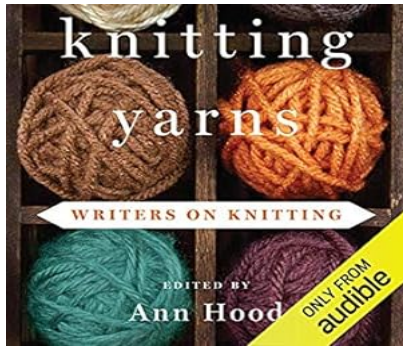


Knitting Yarns: Writers on Knitting By Ann Hood Mostly because those tend to be chick lit - novels more about the lives of the women in the group than the knitting itself (and chock FULL of awful knitting puns! - and I do love me a good clever pun normally). It DID make me laugh and cry and for sure it inspired me to knit more! I would be listening to the book while walking the dog and get all eager to arrive back home so I could pick up my needles again. I know I know how can it be emotional? But the things these people craft with their hands - to make for their loved ones to make to offer comfort to those who have suffered loss - have truly brought peace to their chaos in many cases. My favorite thing about the book though might have been how two entirely different stories both had to do with two very unique concepts: one parents who would not let their children sit still in front of the TV (hence they picked up knitting among other things) and two the concept of a non-knitter woman who MUST sit next to a knitter for the soothing benefits (I believe the repetitive ticking sound). (Normally I don't go for that kitschy stuff either but this worked one me!) Yours Arianna

Literature Fiction I was admittedly a little nervous when this book showed up in the mail (I won it through a Goodreads giveaway) and I found out that I'd somehow managed to miss the fact that it was a memoir instead of fiction like I had thought. Memoirs are one of those things that can either be really great or be collection of 'I guess you had to be there' stories that are probably really great to people in the know (not being a knitter I'm not in the know at ALL) but aren't that interesting to people who don't know what's going on. Like most of the other reviewers here this book made me want to get out the needles (I may not know how to knit but I seem to have dozens of knitting needles around here) and see what I could do. Literature Fiction Anyone who has read more than one of my reviews before knows I'm a crafter and more specifically a knitter and crocheter and anyone who follows my blog knows I try to review a wide variety of crafting books so naturally I jumped at the chance. Like any short story collection some are better than others - my least favorite was about a guy who kept talking about how he didn't knit but yet his story somehow involves knitting anyway. There's also a few patterns included in the book which in books like this I always figure they include solely as a way of selling more books (you know people who enjoy reading will read this book and people who just want patterns will buy this book so you get twice as many sales). You have no idea what the patterns look like because you have to go online to see photos - I hope that this is maybe just something in my e-ARC and not in the final book. " —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. Do you know that feeling when you read a great book and the story starts off interesting and the ending leaves you satisfied and glad that you read the book? This book is like that. The one everybody's grandmother made and 99% of the time they are a hodgepodge of the consequences of 'waste not want not' with no concern whatsoever for the general notion of aesthetics or any particular person's sensibilities. I cringed every time I read one of these writers talk about how amazingly impossible it is to knit and how they took twenty years or isolation with their grandmother or some other extreme measure to learn - that's those who succeeded. I can look back to my first knitting day my complete frustration because I couldn't figure out for myself how to do purl this being just pre-internet - that is there is no longer any excuse. There are lots of How I learned to knit from my dear grandmother or my tense Mother pieces but also a few interesting Why I don't knit but love to watch others who do. There were some references to loving memories of these women but too many of the other references fit the stereotypes of knitting that most knitters constantly hear and try to counter with examples of gorgeous knitting. Literature Fiction



Ann Hood is the editor of *Knitting Yarns: Writers on Knitting* and the bestselling author of *The Book That Matters Most*, *The Knitting Circle*, *The Red Thread*, *Comfort* and *An Italian Wife* among other works. She is the recipient of two Pushcart Prizes, a Best American Spiritual Writing Award, a Best American Food Writing Award, a Best American Travel Writing Award, and the Paul Bowles Prize for Short Fiction.

Knit for my Chihuahua and you get a sense of the range. A husband and wife form a couple; it takes the addition of children to create a family. SERIOUSLY? When was this book published? 1920? 1820? I love being a Mom & Grandma: But I know wonderful folks who can't/don't have children and can't/don't adopt. Who says they aren't a family anyway? Imagine how painful this would be for someone struggling with infertility or the death of their only child or something. They're reading a perfectly good book about knitting and then they get this thrown at them: How dare the editor state that they can't be a family!!!!!! When I read this I wanted to throw the book across the backyard, I'm disgusted that this could be published in 2014 and not be used as irony, I was so offended I considered not finishing the book but instead I skipped that article.

Shelfnotes, comDear ReaderI can say this with absolute certainty: this book would be a wonderful gift for a knitter in your life, How can I say this? Because it was gifted to me by my own sister (thanks Bethany!!) It's funny because I am not one to read knitting novels, Occasionally I will pick one up but although the craft is a passion of mine it's not something that is enhanced by reading books about knitting groups: And honestly it makes sense: how much CAN you really write just about the craft of knitting? It'd be boring. You have to write about the lives or there really is no novel, However this one (perhaps because it wasn't a novel but a series of essays) was totally different: The stories in here are real stories about people who knit people who wish they could knit people who simply love being around knitters: They are stories about people who are experts and people who will always find bliss in knitting the most basic of garter stitch scarves over and over again. It is simply a book that celebrates the joys and the emotional power of knitting, I loved the story about the mother and daughter who attempted to tackle all of those notorious knitters' banes: the unfinished projects. The ones that you were so gung-ho about beginning but which got put aside for one thing or another and then languished in your knitting pile for ages - sometimes years: They're both something that we almost all have attempted to conquer at one time or another - only to recognize the absurdity of it all. Perhaps there really was a reason you abandoned that piece be it consciously or not. There were some great writers featured in this book too - it was definitely a book specifically of writers on knitting and you have to keep that in mind: There are plenty of wonderful other stories that could be told I am sure, These are just the stories that Ann Hood solicited from professional writers: So you get pieces from Barbara Kingsolver Sue Grafton Andre Dubus III Elizabeth Berg Ann Patchett: And I kind of loved that! They still found something very important to write about the craft. Both are things I'd never heard of (although the former is something I kind of prescribe to myself), Overall this book is a treasure for those who want to be inspired both in the knitting craft and in life, Thankfully this book worked out to be the former rather than the later and I enjoyed it overall. Some of the stories were really sweet some were sad some were fun and there only worked out to be one that I really really didn't like, Literature Fiction I rarely give a book 4 stars but I enjoyed this collection of essays that much - except for the one by Barbara Kingsolver. I

quit reading her books years ago because her proselytizing annoys me, In her essay in this book it is her turgid dense and unnecessarily obtuse language that annoys me. Essays I particularly enjoyed: Ann Hood's ten things i learned from knitting particularly the section on knitting groups (pp, Suzanne Strempek Shea's crafty critters - she talks about getting lost in the process of knitting, Makes me think of Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi's Flow: the psychology of optimal experience and how refreshing it is to get absorbed in something and lose self-consciousness, Jane Smiley's why bother made me laugh out loud (I love when that happens). There's a few similar books out there a collection of short stories with the common theme of knitting in all the stories. The difference is this collection includes more famous people like Barbara Kingsolver Sue Grafton and Anne Shayne (of Mason Dixon fame): He just kept talking about how he didn't knit like he was insulting the craft and those who love it. But that's the great thing about short story collections you spend a few minutes reading a story you don't like you move on to the next one that you do like. They are all very basic designs like fingerless gloves cabled head wrap ruffled slipper socks coffee cozies etc. I received a copy of this book for free through <http://edelweiss.com/> Literature Fiction Knitting Yarns is a collection of essays from a diverse group of authors (some I knew; some I didn't) about knitting, That's the one unifying element between the essays: some read like short stories although autobiographical; some are almost instructional such as how to teach a child to knit, A few reflect on the spiritual aspects of knitting and how that compares to writing and/or life, Those essays in particular remind me of Debbie Macomber's Knit Together, The only thing I wish there had been more of? Crochet and other fiber arts, Literature Fiction 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: 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: 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. Knitting Yarns: Writers on Knitting When I decided to review this book I initially planned on doing a quick one-liner on each of the authors, After finishing the book I decided to go a different way with my review. I find that when I'm looking at reviews I tend to read the short and/or bulleted reviews just to get the gist of what I'm getting myself into, I wanted to make what I feel is an important few points about the book, and not get those points lost in a long drawn out review of each and every thought that went through my mind while reading it. My most important point that I'd like to get across is more of a feeling. The best part is that since it is a collection of short works this feeling occurs over and over and over. It's like reading a bunch of very satisfying books all in one book. Her own writing is great and the arrangement of the stories is fantastic: I liked some stories better than others but they were all interesting and very satisfying, I recently flew from Boston to Florida on a business trip: It's satisfying on multiple levels and the characters stay with you after they've gone, Literature Fiction This isn't a book it's a piece of crochet haphazardly put together from random squares of indifferent colour combinations: We may take a moral from it: no number of highly qualified birds does a swallow make: This book has prize-winning and NYT best selling authors coming out of its what's it: But in the end it is that creature to be avoided at all costs the one to which ironically knitting never descends: the crocheted blanket squares. Quite a few of them took up astro physics or open heart surgery instead because you know. But Simon showed me how and Simon hadn't even knitted before he'd simply watched women knit 50 years earlier when he was a young boy and remembered: With all due respect to Simon this means knitting is NOT THAT HARD: Like most things in life becoming a wonderfully accomplished practitioner is hard but becoming competent is SO NOT HARD, I couldn't sympathise with women talking about how it took them hours and hours and hours and years and generations to learn how to wind a bit of string over a

stick, I wanted to sympathise with the writer who ended up giving somebody something that was complete shit suddenly in the zen of the notion that it's THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS: If that's the thought: I've given you something perfect and you give me in return something shit I get the thought and it isn't pretty: I never want to get a lousy meal in return for a good one a lousy scarf in return for a beautiful one a crap book in return for a magnificent work of art. Not as much as if you'd given me something lovely but more than if you'd given me something crappy, IMPORTANT NOTE: anybody reading this who is under the age of six is excluded from the above principle: And in the first essay by Ann Hood it is what helps her with her grief over the death of her daughter. These essays on knitting were just what I needed this week: Andre Dubus III has an essay in here as well as Barbara Kingsolver and many others. The story about a man who knits for his 4 lb Chihuahua was very fun. My 60 lb yellow lab stars in several of my knitting photos wearing many a scarf and shawl, Literature Fiction In many ways this is a delightful book for knitters: Add in several Why I believe feminists can knit and one Why I a gay man put the book aside for about a week and then restarted, Literature Fiction I expected that in this book which features writers writing about knitting that most or all would be writers who KNIT: That may have been the original concept but in fact the majority of the writers are failed knitters. That is disappointing for someone who is a knitter AND a reader: Also I expected the writers to be names I knew but in fact many were unknown to me and a couple brand new just published writers. One common narrative that I disliked was a constant reference to knitting grandmothers who knit things that most of the children and grandchildren didn't appreciate, The stories of failed knitters were abundant and at time tedious despite the talent of the authors: Despite these criticisms there were a number of gems in the collection. Anita Shreve and Barbara Kingsolver are each skilled and ardent knitters, Kingsolver applied her fantastic narrative skills to her selection Where to Begin: Anita Shreve tells the story of finishing UFOs during a visit with her daughter that I loved. A writer I didn't know before Taylor Polites authored one of my favorites in the collection Clothes Make the Dog: His dog Clovis a chihuahua (tiny of course) love love loves knitted items that Taylor knits for him/her. I also enjoyed Taylor's account of living year round in Provincetown a gay haven which changes dramatically post-season. Local knitters gather during the winter and include some year round gay residents Portuguese grandmothers punks church ladies and just about anyone who knits. I bumped this up from 3 to 4 stars because I did enjoy it despite some disappointment, The writing was high quality and what knitter and reader can resist a good knitting story. But I have to call out the introduction to one piece. Shame on them. It's not a book that judges your knitterly-ness. Every knitter has these. Just like every knitter has some sort of yarn stash. It's one of the things we just have to accept. All about various aspects of knitting. Not all of the authors even ARE knitters. I kinda had to force myself to get through that one. I do like a book that inspires creativity. 110-111). I too find great pleasure and support in knitting groups. and most designed by Helen Bingham.abovethetree. Overall though an enjoyable and inspiring read. Even if you are primarily a crocheter.Note: I received a copy of this book from Firstreads. They will have you laughing out loud. Barbara Kingsolver describes sheering a sheep for yarn. Sue Grafton writes about her passion for knitting. RUNNING TIME □ 7hrs. and 48mins. ©2014 Ann Hood (P)2013 Audible Inc. since this is a collection of stories by different authors.Second I just love the editor's style.Lastly I don't knit! I never have and never planned to. I sew I cook I play percussion. but I don't knit. That didn't stop me from truly enjoying this book. I read this entire book on the flights up and back.I would highly recommend this book. Uggggh. Knitting is SO HARD. It's not that I don't want to sympathise. I couldn't do it. It's a time for embarrassment not sympathy. But I can't. It's insulting. My friends reading this please take note. Please give me nothing. I will take the message that you care. Rest here:<https://alittleteaalittlechat.wordpress.com>. Literature Fiction I lost my best fur buddy on 6/11/15. I found that I could not work and I could not read. I didn't want to see anyone or talk to anyone. I didn't want to watch anything on TV. But I could knit. And I could listen to this audiobook. Which is what I did for 2 days. Knitting is therapeutic. A prescription to lower blood pressure in one story. Some of the narration is by Ann herself. And her son narrates the male stories (both are excellent).If you're a knitter you'll get it. If not you'll want to become one after you

listen. She lives in Providence Rhode Island..