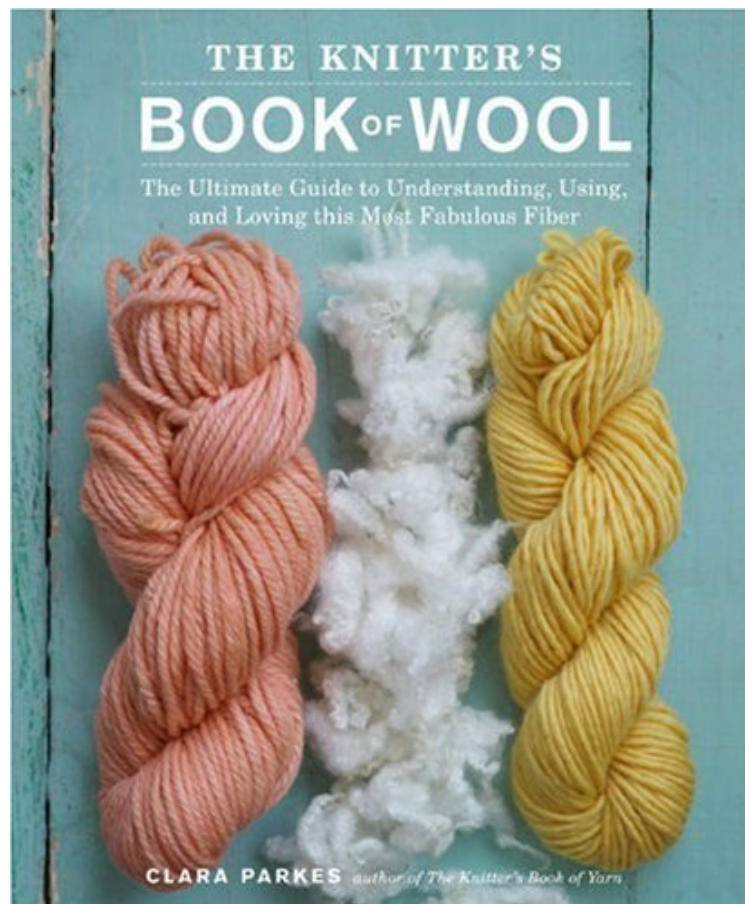


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The Knitter's Book of Wool: The Ultimate Guide to Understanding, Using, and Loving this Most Fabulous Fiber

Clara Parkes

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#288420 in Books Penguin Random House 2009-10-13 2009-10-13 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.30 x .95 x 7.70l, 1.87 #File Name: 030735217X208 pages This book will teach you everything you need to know about wool | File size: 69.Mb

Clara Parkes : The Knitter's Book of Wool: The Ultimate Guide to Understanding, Using, and Loving this Most Fabulous Fiber before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Knitter's Book of Wool: The Ultimate Guide to Understanding, Using, and Loving this Most Fabulous Fiber:

84 of 84 people found the following review helpful. Clara Parkes Writes a Second Wonderful Book for Knitters By Fairbanks Reader - Bonnie Brody Clara Parkes has written another sensational book for knitters, this one focusing on nine different types of wool. She calls this 207-page book a "love letter to wool", and indeed it is. Her book is based on her lifelong love of wool and her experience with spinning, knitting and observing wool. For many of us knitters, we look forward to Clara's regular KNITTER'S REVIEW which she sends over the internet. In it, she often reviews different yarns and their uses, along with providing knitting tips and resources. Clara has no favorites among the nine

wools that she describes in this book - - she loves them all equally. Each has their own hand, purpose, and texture for knitting. Beaverslide Dry Goods produces a wool that smells like flowers. Made in Canada, Clara says this wool is a joy to wear and work with. The Elsa Wool Company produces yarns from Cormo sheep. Originating in Colorado, the fibers in the yarn are "soft and vibrant". One of the patterns in this book, the Sweet Fern Fingerless Mitts, uses this yarn. Foxfire Fiber and Designs produces beautiful alpaca. The Nara Scarf in the book is made from this wool. Green Mountain Spinnery is one of Ms. Parkes' favorite yarn sources. I second that, having loved Green Mountain Spinnery yarns from my first encounter with them. Their new book, *99 Yarns and Counting: More Designs from the Green Mountain Spinnery* was recently published and it is full of wonderful patterns and information about their cooperative. Clara loves Nature's Palette Green Sheep Columbia Worsted Yarn. She describes the yarn as "plump, pure and colorful". It is durable yet also soft to the touch. The Comfy Cardigan pattern in the book is made from this yarn. Marr Haven Yarn is a knitters paradise for wool. The Allegan Cardigan pattern in the book is made from this yarn. The sheep raised at Marr Haven are Merino/Rambouillet and the wool is minimally processed and rich in lanolin. Rowan Purelife British Sheep Breeds is a "truly British yarn made from the fibers of four notable British breeds: the Bluefaced Leicester, Jacob, Black Welsh, and Suffolk". She describes these yarns as "full-bodied, the knitterly equivalent of rye bread". There is a wonderful hat pattern in the book that uses this Rowan yarn. Wellspring Woolens Poppi's Worsted comes from Icelandic Sheep raised in Minnesota. Ms. Parkes describes Icelandic sheep as a pure breed, not messed with genetically over the years. Ms. Parkes helps knitters understand how wool behaves and how particular yarns can be used in knitting. The book takes the knitter from the sheep's initial shearing to the transformation of this wool into beautiful yarn. Yarn becomes demystified in Ms. Parkes' hands. The knitter is shown the potential of each yarn to become what it wants to be. The patterns in this book are lovely. My favorites are the Flicka Hat, a Fair Isle pattern made from sportweight yarn; Bella Baby Ensemble, a sweet girl's sweater in blue sportweight yarn; the Baby Bear Pullover for children, made with bulky weight yarn in an aran white color color; and the Lillia Hyrna Shawl, a lace shawl knit with 2-ply laceweight yarn in a beautiful cream color. Whenever I purchase a knitting book I ask myself three questions: Am I likely to knit the projects in the book? Are the patterns easy to understand? Is the book a good resource? The answer to these three questions is a resounding 'YES'. Ms. Parkes has provided a wonderful book for knitters that will have a special place in my bookshelf and that I know I will read over and over. I've ordered more than one copy because I also plan to give it out as a gift to some knitter friends. Thank you Ms. Parkes!!! 16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Good Yarns! (clever foodie reference there) By CAM Clara Parkes explains wool the way Alton Brown explains food - expertly, and with obvious affection for the hows and whys of it, and with a light and easy style that makes the vast amount of information shared highly digestible. This book is far more than a collection of patterns, though the patterns are great and further the "lessons" in wools and their characteristics. You'll get down into the working parts of wool - where it comes from, why felt felts or doesn't, itches or doesn't, the various types of sheep and the wools they produce, and will help you understand the animals and fibers behind the wool you buy. But you don't have to be a total yarn geek to appreciate it; it is written in a light and very readable way. You can absorb all the wisdom and walk around like a wool guru, or use it as a reference. If you've ever been to, or fantasized about, a fiber festival, reading this first would add to your enjoyment immensely. "That's not just a sheep, that's a Wensleydale! And now I know what that means!" It's like watching the Yarn Channel - you'll get smarter without much effort. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not just for knitters! By S-DK This book is an excellent text to learn about different breeds of sheep and the wool produced from those breeds. I learned so much from this book (and also the guide to yarn book). I am able to make use of that knowledge immediately as I purchase yarns. It is a valuable addition to my library. I would recommend this book (and Parkes' guide to yarn) to fiber artists interested in using natural fibers. One thing though: I crochet and I purchased this book even though the title indicates it is for knitters. Even crocheters can be extremely interested in learning about wool and yarns! Therefore, I think the reference to knitters in the title should be omitted. Think more inclusively for the next edition.

In this complete guide to wool - the most popular yarn around - passionate wool expert Clara Parkes translates the vast world of sheep and their wool into the language and context of knitting. What is wool? Clara starts with the fundamentals: what wool is made of, how it gets off the sheep, and how it is transformed from a jumbled mass of dirty fluff into a gorgeous yarn that so tempts us at our local yarn stores. Who makes it? Parkes conducts an inspiring tour of sheep breeds from around the world - introducing us to the animals who give us their wool - and explains how to best knit with yarns made from their fibers. Which yarn do I use? If only there were a way to read a skein to know how it would behave and what it wanted to become. Now there is! Parkes demystifies the generic (non-breed-specific) wool yarn you'll find at your local yarn shop, showing you how to best determine what every yarn longs to be. What do I knit? Parkes went to some of the most creative and inquisitive design minds of the knitting world to provide more than 20 patterns that highlight the qualities of specific types of wool. *The Knitter's Book of Wool* teaches you everything you need to know about wool - and its journey from pasture to pullover. The next time you pick up a skein, you won't

have to wonder what to create with it. You'll just know.