

Wednesday, October 18, 2006

cheap stealer, that's me.

Heh heh, its been a while, no? I've got good excuses. Trying to plan when and where and how to have my wedding (a week after I graduate medical school, in the church where my parents got married, reception in a lovely garden...), trying and succeeding to apply to residency programs (interviews scheduled at 9/10 places that I applied to!), trying to shine like a star during my BUSY but AMAZING month with the Family Practice Hospitalist service. Turns out Family Medicine inpatient floors are WAY better than regular Medicine floors, or at least at my hospital they are!! Anyhow, I've been busy, but knitting. I'll do pictures later, but now I feel compelled to steal from Sarah, one of my maids-to-be and someone that I wish were closer to tell me how to do this whole wedding thing... Anyway, I always loved these things when they were emails, and couldn't resist sending them on.

48 Things You Could Care Less About
1. FIRST NAME? Mia

2. WERE YOU NAMED AFTER ANYONE? Mia means "mine" in Italian (and Spanish, but my parents didn't know that), and my dad is Italian. I was NOT named after Mia Farrow.

3. WHEN DID YOU LAST CRY? Uh...Saturday when I realized I had bounced my rent check. I hate being stupid and irresponsible!

4. DO YOU LIKE YOUR HANDWRITING? When I try it is pretty neat and legible, which is more than I can say for most doctors, and I'm determined to keep it that way, so yes. I do like my handwriting.

5. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE LUNCHMEAT? I like Tofurkey deli slices. Yes, that is tofu that tastes a bit like turkey, but really is good just because it makes a more filling and tasty sandwich. Tofurkey is the best of the veggie deli meat brands, the others tend to be slimy and not too flavorful. I also highly recommend Tofurkey for Christmas and Thanksgiving. It is SOOO good.

6. IF YOU WERE ANOTHER PERSON WOULD YOU BE FRIENDS WITH YOU? I hope so. Some of my friends are a lot like me, so I THINK so.

7. DO YOU HAVE A JOURNAL? No. I have some old ones, but sometimes I find them and rip up the stupid pages. I know that is counterproductive to keeping one in the first place, but that's the way I am. Sometimes the past embarrasses me.

8. DO YOU STILL HAVE YOUR TONSILS? Yeah. Despite having so much strep that I eventually got rheumatic fever in first grade, I do indeed have my tonsils.

9. WOULD YOU BUNGEE JUMP? No. I have a gut crushing fear of jumping from high places, and would be paralyzed with fear. Also, I have a bad neck/upper back from a run-in with a canoe and I don't need it to bother me any more than it already does.

10. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CEREAL? I go through cereal phases. But if nutritional value were not an issue, I would have to say Golden Grahams, although I NEVER eat it because it is JUNK.

11. DO YOU UNTIE YOUR SHOES WHEN YOU TAKE THEM OFF? Most of the shoes I wear daily (Dansko clogs) don't have laces. But sneaker and running shoes...nope, I just slide them off. Unlike Sarah, I have silly little feet.

12. DO YOU THINK YOU ARE STRONG? In some ways yes. Like in the hospital doing medicine things. But in some ways I'm a big wimp, just ask my fiancée.

13. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ICE CREAM FLAVOR? Ice cream I don't eat. But sorbet, I do. And favorite flavor? Ben and Jerry's Chocolate, or Emack and Bolio's Passionfruit. Also, in Italy they are kind enough to have soy gelato, and that I'll take in any flavor. Chocolate, pistachio, hazelnut...hmmm. I need soy gelato.

14. SHOE SIZE? 7.5.

15. RED OR PINK? Pink looks better on me, although for years I HATED it. Now I like it. 16. WHAT IS THE LEAST FAVORITE THING ABOUT YOURSELF? Although overall I'm organized, I occasionally royally screw up (see the part above about bounced checks), and although I keep the kitchen in our house clean, I tend to be a bit of a clutter bug in other areas of the house (my desk...).

17. WHO DO YOU MISS THE MOST? Right now, planning my wedding, I wish so much that my Nana was going to be there. She would have danced the Irish jig. I also really miss my college friends, you know who you are, because we were like PB&J for 4 years, and now I hardly see them, and there are some things that only they understand.

18. DO YOU WANT EVERYONE TO SEND THIS BACK TO YOU? Eh. I want to see it on more blogs...

19. WHAT COLOR PANTS, SHIRT AND SHOES ARE YOU WEARING? Shoes: Dansko "Cordovan" color-a reddish maroon. Shirt: white with pink stitching down front button placket. Pants: Grey with white and pink pinstripes.

20. LAST THING YOU ATE? An apple.

21. WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO RIGHT NOW? Disco Inferno by 50 Cent. I have a strange fondness for bad hip-hop.

22. IF YOU WERE A CRAYON, WHAT COLOR WOULD YOU BE? A green one, not too yellow-green, more blue green.

23. FAVORITE SMELL? Garlic in olive oil on the stove, Christmas dinner smells, wool with lanolin, Cape Cod beaches, my fiancé after he gets out of the shower, ginger.
24. WHO WAS THE LAST PERSON YOU TALKED TO ON THE PHONE? My dad.
25. THE FIRST THING YOU NOTICE ABOUT PEOPLE YOU ARE ATTRACTED TO? Eyes. Eyes. Eyes.
26. DO YOU LIKE THE PERSON you stole THIS from? I adore Sarah. I miss Sarah.
27. FAVORITE DRINK? Water, Odwalla Limeade, apple cider, recently Red Rose Tea.
28. FAVORITE SPORT? To watch: Baseball and then football, and college basketball but only if it is Indiana or UMass. To play: field hockey on a crisp fall day.
29. EYE COLOR? Blue.
30. HAT SIZE? Huge. I don't know mine, but it is huge. Huge.
31. DO YOU WEAR CONTACTS? Yes.
32. FAVORITE FOOD? Tofu, black beans, guacamole, my mom's stuffing, crusty bread, potato anything, brussels sprouts, broccoli, asparagus. Scallion pancakes. Pancakes. Chocolate soy milk from Trader Joe's. Can't choose just one. I love food.
33. SCARY MOVIES OR HAPPY ENDINGS? I personally like happy endings, and a good romantic movie always gets me teary eyed. However, my honey likes the scary movies, and I have to say that watching them with him is pretty fun, because he will simultaneously be very snuggly and protective, but also try to scare the crap out of me by startling me. Never gets old.
34. SENSE OR SENSIBILITY? I'm Elinor too, like Sarah.
35. SUMMER OR WINTER? Both please. I do hate when it is super hot and humid in the summer, unless I'm near the ocean, in which case I'm in heaven. Winter is fun, although this year I'm guessing that my 40 minute commute will make life less fun than usual...36. HUGS OR KISSES? Hmm. Hugs from friends, kisses from my fiancé. But I like his hugs a whole lot, too.
37. FAVORITE DESSERT? A nice fruit sorbet, or a piece of good chocolate.
38. WHO IS MOST LIKELY TO RESPOND? Oh, let's skip these next two. It doesn't matter.
39. LEAST LIKELY TO RESPOND?
40. WHAT BOOKS ARE YOU READING? The Jungle, by Upton Sinclair. A book on EKG interpretations.
41. WHAT'S ON YOUR MOUSE Pad? I had one from my mom that was a vase from Taipei. She got it while in Taiwan at a conference in her honor.
42. WHAT DID YOU WATCH LAST NIGHT ON TV? Last night was laundry night. TONIGHT we will watch Jericho, which we don't much like but are kinda hooked on, and LOST, which we adore and can't live without.
43. FAVORITE SOUNDS? Baby noises. The voices of my family. The click of the needles. Regular heart beats! When dogs "talk" to you. A fan at night to sleep with. Church bells around Christmas time. Christmas songs around Christmas time. When I make my fiancé REALLY laugh. Waves. Thunder. Running water. Guinea pig squeaks.
44. ROLLING STONES OR BEATLES? Beatles.
45. THE FURTHEST YOU'VE BEEN FROM HOME? Italy. Junior year.
46. WHAT'S YOUR SPECIAL TALENT? Knitting? Cooking random stuff that somehow turns out good? I don't know.
47. WHERE WERE YOU BORN? Chicago, Illinois. My poor little mom was in labor with me for 36 freaking hours.
48. WHO SENT THIS TO YOU? Sarahkins.

Posted by Mia in Ramblings at 18:30

Wednesday, August 23, 2006

getting hitched

Wanted to do a quick post to announce my exciting news that I'm an engaged lady now! This picture was taken only moments before the question was asked, on Pfeiffer State Beach in Big Sur California at the end of a wonderful 10-day vacation. I guess my mad skillz with a tent and Coleman stove really impressed him! I couldn't be happier, and my fiancée has really taken to his new role as well. We seem to have permanent smiles on our faces, and can't believe our good fortune. We are now already in a scramble to set a date, because I start my residency in July and want to be married before then. Fortunately, we've been dating for almost 5 years, so it doesn't feel like we are rushing the issue! Since I have one of the world's most HUGENORMOUS families, we are hoping to keep things fun and low key in order to afford having adorable little cousins running everywhere during the reception. As for a ring, my sweetie wanted me to pick one that I really love, so for now I have a silly cubic zirconia one from Tar-jay, oh la la. Today I'm off to check out some other options, but what really matters is asking the question and getting the right answer!

Posted by Mia at 07:55

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Posted by Mia at 07:55

Friday, July 28, 2006

I'm a Jaywalker

I know I'm the last person in knitland to make this pattern, but boy is it fun! I'm using Lorna's Laces "Carol Green Stripe," which Sarah got for me last year during my Surgery Rotation. Remember those good old days? Yeah, I didn't knit for about 2 months, which was the longest I've gone in several years! When I really need to sleep, and the decision is to sleep or knit, I choose sleep. Anyway, this yarn is custom-dyed for Purl in NYC, and man do I LOVE it. The pattern is super cute, and the yarn is also super cute, and together they are making a blindingly cute Jaywalker. The stripes are almost perfect, with a tiny bit of color overlap that I'm really liking. The folks at Purl have this concept in a plethora of colors, and I think I may be buying some more someday. I brought the sock with me to a meeting at the Homeless Outreach and Advocacy Program (get it, HOAP...pronounced "Hope") and I got lots of compliments, plus found out that several of the folks there are knitters as well. I'm using my new Knitpicks Options DPNs, which I really like. There's been a lot written about them already, so I'll just say a few things. They are pointy, they are a little bit heavy, but I like that, and although these are labeled as "1", they are actually a tiny bit bigger than 1s, but smaller than 2s. I also bought the interchangeable set, and was afraid that they would all be wrong, but the sizing for those is spot on. My other DPNs from Knitpicks (0 and 2) are also a teeny bit big. So now I have 0 1/2, 1 1/2 and 2 1/2 along with the regular sizes!

Posted by Mia at 11:07

Sunday, July 23, 2006

A Scanner Sadly...

So who out there has heard of the movie "A Scanner Darkly?" I went to see it on Friday night with my boyfriend and his friends, and I found that it was one of the most profoundly depressing movies I've ever seen. The rest of the group thought it was funny, and I think that most of it was SUPPOSED to be funny. But I'm on of those people who experiences movies (and books, too I guess) in a very personalized way. I internalize too much instead of just taking it at face value. Like the book Bridges of Madison County, which I will forever hate because of a bad association with an ex. Or, the movie The English Patient, which I hate deeply because of more bad associations with a different ex. Sarahkins remembers how much I hate that one, I think! Add a new one to my liste, but this one I don't hate, I just don't want it to exist. A Scanner Darkly is a movie about drug addiction in the future. The movie focuses on a group of friends and their use of the drug "Substance D," which has the unfortunate effect of destroying your brain when you use too heavily. Maybe if I were not currently doing an elective in which on a daily basis I interact with Worcester's most down-and-out heroin users, I would have thought the movie was funny. Maybe if I didn't see real people who lose their houses, their wives, their jobs, their lives because of addiction, I would have liked the scene in the movie where they are all high and can't figure out how many gears are on their new bike. Is it 6 gears plus 3 equals 9? ha ha ha. It was a funny scene, but it made me want to cry. Maybe if I didn't pretty strongly believe in the power of methadone and suboxone (the new and improved pill form of methadone), I would have thought the ending twist of the movie (I won't give it away) was interesting and compelling. Instead, I found it annoying and again, depressing. So if you go see this movie, take a step back from the gut reaction to laugh at the antics of people who are high, and to get caught up in the witty dialogues. Just think about what it would be like to LIVE that movie. The pictures, by the way, are of where my yarn stash and sewing machine now live. The bookcase needs a little work...

Posted by Mia in Ramblings at 22:18

Tuesday, July 18. 2006

(Log) Cabin Fever

I needed a new knitting project like I need a hole in the head, but then I bought Mason Dixon Knitting and was instantly hooked on the idea of the Log Cabin blanket. I hate sewing, so I'm making one BIIIG square, and I'm using up my random Lamb's Pride stash, plus two skeins that I bought to supplement. I don't know how far that will get me, but I'm enjoying the project so far. My boyfriend has given his blessing to me stashing the project in that nice wicker basket in the TV room. He said, "Hey, are you going to keep your yarn there? It looks really nice!" Awww! We are almost all the way moved in, with really just a few boxes of random stuff (his) in the middle upstairs room that need going through. However, since it is 95 degrees and wicked humid here in Boston, I don't think we'll be getting around to those tonight! Yeck. I'm happily adjusting to my new digs in Beantown, and adjusting to the commute to Worcester every day. I'm doing a great elective right now, "Health Care For the Homeless." I am really enjoying my time there, the doctor who is supervising me is wonderful and one of the few people I know who is truly not shocked by anything. I think this quality is of utmost importance in a population marked by severe drug abuse, poor reliability and lots of mental illness. Worcester is not a fun place to be homeless and addicted to drugs, let me tell you. Fortunately, those folks have this doctor as a very powerful advocate. Right now things are super interesting and very tiring while I'm there, but pretty sweet in terms of total hourage per week. This makes the whole commuting thing not bad at all, and coming home to a clean happy house inhabited by the man I love is SOOOOOO worth it!!! I am one of those drivers who likes to try out new routes and figure which one is the most time and distance efficient. It's an inherited condition that I get from my dad. So far I've come up with a new route home from Worcester that is pretty good. Ok, I'm off to try to take a practice board block of 50 questions, but I might chicken out because it is sooooo hot. Hm.
in

Posted by Mia in Knitting at 18:45

Saturday, June 10, 2006

Taking Stock, and Where I've Been...

So, I've been busy. My boyfriend and I are moving in together, and we have spent the last bazillion weekends or so looking for a place to live that suits us both. FINALLY we found a great one that is hugenormous with almost hilarious ammounts of storage. Good thing, too, because the other night I organized ALL my yarn (even the stuff lurking in corners) and found that I have a LOT. Here is the picture of my closet. The brightly colored buckets (orange, pink, turquoise and purple in the upper right corner) are all yarn. Then there are two small clear ones that are yarn and equipment (needles, etc). Beneath those are two large clear buckets that are yet more yarn. The darker purple and green bins on the right are NOT yarn. The bag that says "thanks" is an almost finished Lace Leaf Sweater that I think I'll finish tonight. I have as much yarn as some small stores that I have been to. Next year, NO NEW YARN. Yeah, right. Honey, if you are looking at this web page, just remember that our new place has 3 bedrooms and YOU PROMISED I COULD USE ONE FOR YARN. Another thing that was a big deal around here was the youngest sibling in my family graduating from college! Congratulations Baby Brother. As you can see, Baby Brother is, not unlike my new apartment, hugenormous. He is such a loveable guy, and he got the biggest cheer during graduation of anyone in his class. It was great. I'm almost done with my 12 week internal medicine rotation, THANK GOD. I'm almost done with Third Year, which is also a nice thing to think about. I'm tired. This has been a long year. Medicine was exhausting and hard, but ultimately very rewarding. I'm ready for fourth year, which everyone says is very, very fun. Before I started, I was concerned that I actually hated adult medicine and only cared about pregnant ladies and kiddos as patients. But I was wrong. What I've learned about myself is that I really love almost every patient that I've had. Sure, there are some nutcases, like the lady whose husband wanted us to give her all her pain medication in pill form to take home...I think he was selling it on the street. And then there was the middle aged guy who did nothing but lay in bed at his parent's house and drink vodka. Let me tell you, your liver is not happy when that is all you do. But for the most part my patients have been amazing, and I have learned far more than I thought possible simply by showing up every day and talking to the attending physicians. I also did lots of reading, of course, but the learning that has happened has mostly been on the go, which is the kind that really sticks with me. I'm working on some things, and will update the sidebar with pictures soon. Sorry about my epic absence. I missed the comments that I get, even though I don't really get that many!

Posted by Mia in Knitting, Medical School at 17:10

Blog Export: Minicia, <http://minicia.bluegarter.org/>

Tuesday, April 11. 2006

PS.

I should have put somewhere in that last post that my boyfriend does NOT agree in any way with the ways animals are treated by the meat industry. He's also always been REALLY supportive of my veganish-ism, and when his family takes us out to dinner he always checks the menu before to make sure I'll be able to eat something. Someone sent me a comment and said that he was wrong about rights being only a human construction. I'm not going to outline the details of our discussion, and besides, he's the philosophy major, not me. But I have to say that I agree with my BF on this one. I believe that humans ought to treat animals well because it is the correct thing to do. Anyway. Here is something I'm working on very sporadically, and this picture was taken before I ripped it out and started over on size 2 instead of size 1. But these are the Northern Lights Mittens, in my own interpretation of the colors. Green, more green, purples and some red. I haven't gotten too far on the new version because I've not had much time for knitting this past week. Tonight I will, and will have to decide what to work on. I am a bit obsessed with colorwork right now.

Posted by Mia in Knitting, Ramblings at 06:39

Monday, April 10, 2006

My main man

On Friday, while I was on stupid call in the hospital, the only person that I love as much as my immediate family turned 30! I MISSED his birthday because of medical school, and that is how life works. But, it was okay, because on Saturday night we went out to the Four Seasons in Boston with his family, and then we spent the whole day together yesterday! He's been so busy lately, that I hadn't seen him in 4 weeks. Needless to say, I'm a much nicer and happier person now that I've spent some time with my guy. I can't say enough wonderful things about him, he's the smartest person that I've ever met, and he always makes me laugh, even if I don't WANT to laugh--like when he makes fun of me (in a nice way), and I try to pretend to be angry, but it is so funny or so true, and I just end up laughing. The day after his birthday also happened to be our 4.5 year anniversary, a date that I think deserves recognition, but he thinks anniversaries are only for whole year dates. Whatever. I remember exactly when I knew that I was really hooked on this guy. We were at dinner on our second real date, after having spent the day at the Boston Aquarium. I was telling him about why I'm a vegetarian/mostly vegan. Most people don't know what to say when I tell them that, or they say something stupid like, "If you were in a desert and a cow died in front of you, and you were starving, would you eat it?" Well, my boyfriend asked why I was a veg, and I said, "Well, lots of reasons, but it started with my being interested in animal rights." And HE said, "I don't believe in animal rights, because rights are a human construction." Hmmmm. I was hooked from that moment onwards, and later I kissed him in the subway station so that he would miss his train. Who knew I was such a sucker for philosophy. Anyway, Happy Belated birthday honey!

Posted by Mia at 16:03

Love sweater is a success!

So I made this kick-ass sweater for my boyfriend's 30th birthday, and of COURSE, I was so stressed out about starting my Medicine rotation, and about whether the sweater would fit him, that I don't have a single picture of it!! I have this picture of the yarn, Bartlett 2-ply color Bronze, but not even one shot of it knitted up. Fortunately, my bf's mom took a picture of him wearing it, I'll have to get her to email it to me. It fits PERFECTLY (after an aggressive blocking to stretch what were originally too short sleeves), it looks really nice, and best of all he loves it. He said that it was amazing, very warm, and taht he was very impressed with my skills.

Posted by Mia in Medical School at 12:15

Blog Export: Minicia, <http://minicia.bluegarter.org/>

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

That's gonna be awesome

On Wednesday, at two minutes and three seconds after 1:00 in the morning, the time and date will be 01:02:03 04/05/06. Weird. I almost want to set my alarm to wake up.

Posted by Mia in Ramblings at 07:16

Monday, April 3, 2006

Knitting keeps me from RAGE BLACKOUTS, but just barely

Edited to add: Go see Laura's perfect new baby and wish her and her family congratulations! He's soooo cute. Before I get too angry, look at this freaking ADORABLE little sweater that I'm knitting. I have two friends in my class who are both pregnant. One is about 12 weeks along, one only 9. The 9 weeker wasn't supposed to leak the information, because as you might know, 9 week pregnancies are not always guaranteed to last, but she was super excited and cracked under the excitement of the other friend's pregnancy. Of course, I was thrilled for both of them, they will make wonderful mommies, and I was thrilled because this meant that I could go to WEBS while home on spring break and buy some cute yarn and a pattern. So I found the ladybuggies. This is a Dale of Norway Pattern, called "Marihone" Number 1005 knit in Baby Ull, which might be my new favorite yarn. The tricky part about this pattern, besides its almost crippling cuteness is the fact that there are rows with 3 colors at once AND long floats. I worked out a system in which I did some fudging of the placement of the dark blue dots and used 2 yarns in my right hand and one in my left. NOT elegant or pretty to watch, but seems to be working ok. The sweater will hopefully smooth out with some blocking action, and I wish I had one of those old-fashioned sweater stretcher boards, but it would need to be in tiny baby size. Funny story: I bought my skinny Addi Turbos in 24" without realizing that a tiny baby might not be 24" around. I returned them, and all is right with the world. Except for the rage blackouts. I swear, I live with some of the LEAST considerate people that I have ever met in my whole life. If you read a story in the paper about me stabbing someone in the heart with a knitting needle, I promise you that it will have been justifiable homicide. I could go in to details, but it is so exhausting and ridiculous to list it all, that I'd rather not. Just imagine the worst college roommate ever and multiply it by 7. I've been knitting like mad because I was home for 1 week on spring break, and all I did was knit and watch The West Wing on DVD. That's not quite true, I exercised as well, but still...Here is a sweater. I know this picture blows. Sorry. It will be a cardigan, inspired by the movie Brokeback Mountain. The color is lighter than Michelle Williams' sweater, but it is such terrific yarn (and was in the stash), that I'm really pleased so far. I'm calling it Brokeback Brioche, and it is knit in Peace Fleece "Lena's Meadow." The yarn is pale blue with a darker teal spun with it, with nubs of olive green, dark hot pink and dark teal. It also has a soft mohair halo. I LOVE this yarn. When I said before that Baby Ull is my new favorite, I meant that this yarn really was. I have 6 skeins in an awesome green just waiting for an exciting project...I love Brioche stitch too, and if you would like to try it, Interweave Knits Spring 2005 has a really nice article about the basics, and also it goes in to increasing and decreasing. Very helpful.

Posted by Mia in Knitting at 20:22

Friday, March 10, 2006

Time marches on

Things around here are changing! First of all, I bought this book: Happy Hooker and it turns out, I kinda like crochet! Maybe it is Debbie Stoller that I like. After all, Stitch and Bitch the original was what turned me from someone who liked knitting a lot to someone who thinks about knitting while I'm sleeping! I don't have great pictures yet, but I'm thinking of using my ridiculous Lamb's Pride stash to make some kind of granny square throw, or maybe a cute flowery scarf, or maybe both! I like the way crochet LOOKS more than I like actually crocheting, but it is something that I think I'll work on. My mom is trying to remember her old skills in crochet, so over my spring break my plans are to go home, hang with the folks and crochet with my mom! Yay. In true me fashion I have actually come to really like Psych! I hope I'm not disappointing all of you medical type supporters who wrote in and told me that you hated it too! Maybe it is because my attending is WONDERFUL. He is so kind to the patients, and is very reasonable in his treatment plans and what he is willing or not willing to do to these fragile patients. He also has that amazing ability to joke around in a way that is stress-relieving and funny, but not at the expense of our patients. We laugh more at the ridiculousness of the situations that we see on a daily basis. It is a protective measure, because although the locked ward has grown on me, it is still a difficult place to be. I have been knitting a lot, but most of it on a secret project that can't be displayed here just yet. I finally finished the bottom of Eris, but can't seem to get motivated to knit the sleeves! I'm working on this pattern in this yarn, and LOVE both. Pictures soon, I promise. I have been planning for next year a lot, and electives are starting to fall into place.

Posted by Mia in Medical School at 06:55

Monday, February 27, 2006

Brokeback Sweater

Has anyone else seen Brokeback Mountain and found themselves noticing Michelle Williams' knitwear?? I have developed an obsession with the blue cardigan she wears in the scene with the laundry line and while she is washing dishes in the sink. It is woolly and vintage-y and has a nifty looking rib pattern. I'm trying to replicate it right now with my Treasury of Knitting Patterns, Vol. 1. I've found something that I like ok, but I don't think it is the one from the movie. Anyone have any ideas? I've tried Googling to get better pictures, because the sweater goes by quite quickly, but have not had much luck.

Posted by Mia in Knitting at 21:24

Thursday, February 23, 2006

Homicidal Intent

I hate to say it, but today while at OUTPATIENT Psych, I found myself yearning for the fun times of the locked ward. I don't like my outpatient doc too much. He was one hour late, did not give reason or apology for said lateness, and AGAIN answered his cell phone while in the middle of a patient interview. NOT COOL. It actually makes me so mad that I had a hard time concentrating on other things. During the day I get more and more angry, and start to think about throwing things and hurting people. Psych is giving me psychiatric disorders. I came home sad and angry, so my roommate's boyfriend made me drink bourbon and dance around their room with him. It helped!

Posted by Mia in Medical School at 20:00

Tuesday, February 21, 2006

Allergies

Here is the inside of my recently completed Lopi sweater. I REALLY like the way it looks on the inside, almost better than the outside! I'm just so proud of my stranding work. I think I'll design a sweater that is intentional inside-out Fair Isle...Psych sucks somewhat less than before. This week I'm with the doc that I'll be with for the next 5 weeks, and he is very nice and friendly. However, the patients all still make me want to cry, so that has not improved. I had a funny conversation with my boyfriend last night, as I was describing visiting my parents. They are "babysitting" my cousins' guinea pig, who is very cute, but who causes me great allergic reactions after about 3 minutes of holding him. My boyfriend and I have been talking about the "future" a lot, but we often have funny ways of thinking about it. Case in point: Me: Yeah, so I was really allergic to the guinea pig, I almost had an asthma attack! BF: Oh no! What happens if you are allergic to dogs? How are we going to have a dog? If you are really allergic, we couldn't have a dog. That would be really bad, I think it would be all over between us! Me: Oh, that's nice. Look, I'm NOT allergic to dogs, and I don't think that I'll become allergic. But what if I did? It would be a deal breaker if I was allergic to dogs? BF: Think of it this way, what if I suddenly became allergic to children?

Posted by Mia in Ramblings at 19:21

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Day 2: No punches so far...

The red roses are from my boyfriend, he is SO wonderful, and not just because of the flowers. The white cyclamens are from my parents, and arrived yesterday in the FREEZING cold snowiness, which seemed appropriate to me. My roommate and I were trying to remember the name of these flowers, and all she could come up with was "Something that sounds like Chlamydia?" See what med school does to you?? Thanks to all of you for your words of support or "Hey, I've been there too!" This morning I arrived for morning report and one of the nurses started telling me about how many aides had gone to the ER because of Mr. Punchy. I thought that I might barf or cry, but then I was granted a reprieve, somehow, and now seem to be in charge of a nice lady who is suicidal. The ward I'm in is depressing and stressful. At one time today, there were three people all saying "Help Me!" in different but equally distressing ways. There was the guy YELLING it in a very rude way, punctuated by swears. There was the lady barking it over and over again. There was the other lady plaintively yelling it from down the hall. So far, the folks that I'm the most impressed with are the social workers, who manage the family members' total panic and stress. I also have to give a lot of credit to the nurses, who have a lot of hands-on contact with the patients, who can be anywhere from meek and sweet to punching and hitting. The attending in charge of me, as you may have gathered, is not the most attentive towards med students, although she does treat the patients with a lot of care and respect. I spent a long time today feeling out of place and awkward, unsure of my job. I guess this is part and parcel of third year, which is like having a brand new job every 6 weeks. However, confused and stressed is sort of my baseline in a locked psych ward! I need reassurance! Needless to say, when I was set free I went yarn shopping, then to the gym for some stress relief. And the flowers didn't hurt either! Supposedly the doctor who will be in charge of me for real, who is away on vacation, is great. I am counting the HOURS until he arrives... Here is some progress on Laralund (Silk Garden was purchased on 30% off sale, so how could I say no!).

Posted by Mia at 18:31

Monday, February 13, 2006

Psych Psucks

I have been dreading psychiatry. I get nervous around aggressive, unstable people, and for some unknown reason I often attract more than my fair share of attention from people like that. They can smell my fear, I guess. Today was my first day at my outpatient site, a locked ward in a small hospital. I walked into the ward, and it smelled like piss and some lady was screaming, "Help me" over and over again. Then, I was assigned to my first patient. Guess what his deal is??? He's been punching people. Some advice from my attending: "He's slowly getting better. He has not punched anyone in the last few days. You can tell when he gets mad, he gets a dark look in his eyes. Watch out for that look. Also, don't go within arms length of him. And if you wear glasses, take them off so if he punches you, he won't hit them and break them. And take your keys off from around your neck." Guess which future doctor career I WON'T be choosing?!?!?

ch

Posted by Mia in Medical School at 18:45

Saturday, February 4, 2006

Blah

Here is a picture of my newly discovered skill-I can actually do Fair Isle, and I don't have to learn to do it two-handed for it to work! I'm not sure if this is violating some sort of unwritten law, but I finally saw a picture in this book of how to use my right hand to hold both yarns, and it clicked!! My sweater has progressed a lot since this photo was taken, but my camera is acting up, so this is the best I can do. I've not felt much like blogging lately for a wide variety of reasons, but I have been knitting like mad. I finished my Kureyon sweater and really like it, except for some wonky parts on the sides that might need a little steam blocking to calm down. I couldn't get a good picture of it, but I will try to soon. I also finished knitting all the parts of Lace Leaf Pullover. I discovered that I HATE grafting with a bulky weight alpaca blend yarn. Then I discovered that I had grafted the top to the wrong side of the bottom, and promptly became so frustrated that I put it away in the closet. Soon I will tackle it again. The yarn is really lovely, soft and not terribly sheddy, but I just think Teva was crazy to have us grafting with ALPACA. It doesn't work well. I actually considered ripping the whole bottom and doing what others have done and knit the lace chart upside down, basically. We'll see...Medical school wise I've been having a crisis of decision making, and don't like it. I'm torn between Pediatrics, OB/GYN and Family Med. Since the beginning of med school I thought I would do Family Med for sure, and now I'm not so sure at all. Hm. Any advice? I have to make some of these choices pretty soon, which makes me feel queasy.

Posted by Mia at 17:18

Wednesday, January 4, 2006

Resolved: Exercise more, buy less yarn

Here are my two cute cousins and my uncle Rob (check out his band Boston Blackthorne here and on iTunes!) playing their instruments for us on Christmas day. I adore my family. I adore my boyfriend. Together, they made me so joyful and thankful during this holiday. I had a wonderful vacation, during which I did really nothing except buy yarn and open presents! I also started feeling a little stressed out about my stash, and about my lack of personal exercise motivation. I thought a lot about my goals for this year, and realized that they are analogous. I'm on a food diet and a yarn diet. I need to exercise more and knit more, which should make me happy! Category 1: FITNESS. Before I started surgery, I was really good about exercising. I wasn't about to run any marathons or win any fittest student awards, but I was in decent shape. Then, surgery hit me like a brick, and I was lucky if I worked out for 30 minutes a week. During OB I was no better, and just a tiny bit better during Pediatrics. Now for 6 weeks I have to report for duty around 9 am. Over Christmas break, I worked out almost every day, and I hope to continue this trend. I'd like to eat a bit better, lose some weight and become toned again. I plan to get up at 6 am and go to the sucky but free school exercise room--hopefully the smelly dude who sometimes is there will still be sleeping! :o)Category 2: STASH REDUCTION. Seriously, the stash is getting out of control. I knitted a truly heroic number of holiday knits, and somehow managed to give them away without pictures. One mistake rib scarf for my grandfather, a "lacey" pattern scarf for my great-aunt, a ziz-zag scarf from Modular Knits with matching mittens for my sister, Fleece Artist "Favourite Mittens" for my mom, some mittens for my grandmother...you get the idea. It was insane, but all presents were finished more or less in time for the big day. Since then I've made lots of progress on my Eris, and have started two new projects. Rosedale United: This pattern and yarn is ADDICTIVE! What you see there is about 1 full day worth of knitting. Most of this was knitted yesterday during a full day of lectures called "Interclerkship." Some more was done today in between orientations for Family Medicine. I forgot how much I LOVE Noro Kureyon. This is color number 162, and even though I can see the ball of yarn and tell which color is coming next, I keep on wanting to knit MORE and more and see what the sweater will look like! I'm almost done with the body and will move to the sleeves soon...Knitting this makes me think about that crazy sweater from Interweave Web patterns knit with Kureyon. Of course, I can't make it until I use up WAY more stash...but I do have the color picked out...maybe. Lace Leaf Pullover: From Teva Durham's book, also from Interweave Summer 2005. Ever since I saw this sweater I knew I had to have it. I found the yarn for it at WEBS, it is one of their new lines-Valley Yarns Shelburne. The picture does not do justice to the yarn or pattern, both are lovely. I've finished the lower part of the body and almost both sleeves. Hey, at this rate, I'll have room in my stash in NO TIME.

Posted by Mia in Knitting, Ramblings at 20:15

Monday, December 19, 2005

Santa got run over by my bedroom

My room is a MESS. It looks like Santa exploded in here! Yikes. I'm trying to wrap what I've got, pack my clothes and pack the holiday knitting that still needs to be done, plus some other knitting to work on after Christmas. Not going as smoothly as I want it to! Here is the hat that I made for my boyfriend's sister, using this pattern: Cozy Cabled Toque. The only thing I did differently was use size 10 needles instead of 10.5, because I'm a little bit of a looser knitter. The pattern is QUICK and looks very cute. I've been seeing lots of cabled hats in the store this season, so it is also in style! I look like an alien in this picture, I think, my eyes look big and googly. Oh well, once a doctor thought I had Graves' disease because of my big eyes. Up until then, they were the thing about me that I liked the most! Now my boyfriend and I joke about my disease a lot, but sometimes I still feel sad...sniffle. I finished my school stuff on Friday, we were supposed to have a practical exam, but it was such dangerous, icy weather that we were emailed the written part of the exam to do at home. Have a wonderful holiday season everyone! I have some serious knitting to get done before Sunday AM!

Posted by Mia in Knitting at 10:35

Blog Export: Minicia, <http://minicia.bluegarter.org/>

Monday, December 12, 2005

Yay surprises!

Today I came home from school later because I'd been in the library working on some research for a report I have to give tomorrow. I noticed that my bedroom light was on, and thought that I'd stupidly left it on, which is something I NEVER do. I'm all about conservation. But when I opened the door, I found my boyfriend was there, sitting at my desk! For those of you lucky enough to live in close proximity to your loved one, this may not seem so exciting, but for ME, this was about the best thing to happen in several weeks! It totally made up for the boyfriend-less football watching! It totally made my week! Thanks sweetie! In other news, I may have found the world's worst sweaters! This site is actually nice because they have knitting graph paper, but OH MY GOD, the sweaters: Sweaterscapes!

Posted by Mia in Ramblings at 20:50

Sunday, December 11. 2005

Oh Sunday...

Is it wrong to say that I usually hate Sundays? The last month of weekends (not including the last two) I've been spoiled, spending them in Boston with my man, hanging out and watching football together. Then I've usually stayed there, pretending that the weekend isn't quite over yet. At his house we get to order food for Sunday dinner (Sesame Tofu-YUM!), watch the Simpsons and Family Guy and have a nice time...Hey, Sunday isn't so bad! But the past two weekends he's been BUSY, and it is just not as fun watching football alone! Plus I live with the LOUDEST human being on earth, seriously, so watching TV can be a major frustration while she clomps, stomps and makes more noise that I thought one person could ever make. Then the worst part is going to sleep alone, here in Worcester, with the lights of the hospital blinking into my room. Sigh. So what did I do with this angsty feeling? KNIT, of course. Here is my version of the cable hat from the second *Stitch n' Bitch* book. I like my version better, because it actually fits over my big noggin, which I can't imagine the one in the book ever would! The hat is for my roommate Becca, it is a birthday/Christmas gift that somewhat matches her coat. I knit it in about 2 days of down time, but I don't know how many hours I spent total, and I ripped out some because it was too short. I used #7 needles and Cascade Quattro in a really cool red/pink/maroon/tannish blend. The picture does not do this yarn justice, it looks very nice all knitted up! I basically added an extra cable width-wise to compensate for the smaller gauge of Cascade Quattro, and then I added several cable repeats on to the length. I tapered the cables more than they bothered to in the book, and changed the decreases to something that I am more happy with. Hmm, is that 10% of a change in pattern? Maybe I'll write it all down for anyone who is interested. I think I might make another one for my mom, I have more Quattro in a blue. Here is Eris, which I hadn't worked on since the summer, but picked up last weekend on...you guessed it...SUNDAY. This is a bad, bad picture, but it looks really good so far! I'm done with the cable collar and am on to the part where you knit in the round for the body, which is good because I hate purling whole rows! This is also Cascade 220, in a really pretty blue/grey color. I have to say that right now, Cascade is way up on my list of favorite yarns. It is so soft, and it really makes crisply defined cable work! Important when you are making this sweater. I think this design is very fun and challenging, but Jenna's patterns have really well-written instructions that anyone can read! Rogue was my second sweater, and I had no problems at all...ok that's a lie, but I finished it!

Posted by Mia in Knitting at 17:17

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Salad spinner!

There has been some holiday knitting going on! Here I am demonstrating my newest brilliant idea for aiding in blocking of smaller pieces. This is a scarf I made for my BF's mom's surprise party this weekend. She does not read my blog, so I am safe! The pattern is a feather and fan with a 2 garter stitch edge border. The yarn is Atacama, a 100% alpaca that is hand-painted by the same folks who do Araucania wool. I used 2 skeins, the scarf has 40 stitches and is decently long. I like this yarn, and will use it again, because I have 4 more skeins in 2 different colorways. I did a quickie soak in the bathroom sink with my lavender Eucalan, and then some spins in the salad spinner! Perfect. Now I'm lazy blocking it on a big towel (yes, Sarah, its my Okoboji towel) in my room. I can't be bothered to put pins on the edges, and quite frankly I have a feeling that I would end up stepping on them....I can't believe that I actually had time for this! I have been working very hard at school, although I guess no harder than usual. Pediatric inpatient is BUSY right now. The other night my intern and my fellow med student and I were on call. We got to leave early, but by the time the night was over my intern had admitted 16 new patients! Tis the season for rotavirus and respiratory syncytial virus, but we also have a whole lot of really chronically ill and complicated kids, plus a few munchkins with newly diagnosed leukemias. The Heme/Onc docs are so wonderful that it makes me want to be one. Sort of. Kids with leukemia actually often do really well, which makes the doctor's job much easier. For those of you who know me and know that I have a baby radar wherever I go will not be surprised that many of the docs laugh at me and say, "So, you're going into pediatrics, right?" when they see how nuts I am about the kiddos on the floor. One of my favorites so far went home today, and I was actually hoping that he would stay another day so we could see him tomorrow!

Posted by Mia at 20:51

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

Sex Grafede Club

This Thanksgiving something HILARIOUS happened. We found my little brother's diary from when he was 7 years old. Many of the things he wrote in that diary were shockingly intelligent for a little guy, and all of the things that he wrote made me, my sister, my mom and my two cousins laugh so hard that we cried. One of our favorites was the "crush meter" that he drew on a page to compare Lauren and Whitney. Whitney got 50 out of 50, but Lauren only got 35 out of 50. When he was in first grade, he was in a "gang" called Cheetah. Their rival gang? You guessed it, the Sex Grafede Club (are you getting the 7 year old spelling of the word graffiti?). So of course, when we went out to the bars in Amherst and there were nametags from the ARHS Class of '95 10 year reunion, we made our own name tags that said "Sex Grafede Club Reunion 2005." My brother got one that just said Cheetah. Interestingly enough, Whitney was at the bar, and we really wanted my brother to tell her what all the hilarity was about, but he chickened out. In this picture, the tall dude with the beard is my brother, and the girl to the left of me is my sister. Yes, she has black curly hair and doesn't look much like me, but every now and then some stranger will tell us that they can tell we are sisters. I guess our mannerisms are similar, and so are our smiles. My cousins and I went to WEBS, where Noro Kureyon was on sale for \$6 a skein, so I got enough to make myself a Rosedale United sweater. The colorway (164) is new, I think, and is mostly greens and blues with some brown, yellow, grey and black thrown in for fun. Also purchased were some holiday knitting yarns, for which I can not show pics just yet. I'm also cooking up something for my BF's mom's birthday in a funkily dyed alpaca, but it needs to be done and blocked before I can show pictures!

Posted by Mia in Ramblings at 20:33

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Let's take a trip!

Sure it may have taken us longer to set up that tarp than it took God to create the entire universe, but I want to go back on that trip again! After my first year of med school, when I got back from the DR, the man and I went on a 2.5 week trip out West, to places that I'd never gone before. I remember this day so well, we were in Zion NP and had spent the day happily hiking. That night we watched as thunder and lightning struck the top of the canyon. We were safely at the bottom, together, and so happy. I think if you can camp with someone and be in the same car/tent/hiking space for more than a few days without dying it means that you are a good match for one another. Why am I writing this now, when our trip was a long time ago and now I'm happily immersed in third year? Well, I had an up and down day, one where for a lot of it I felt not that helpful and sort of in the way. I love the kiddos, I love Pediatrics overall. I guess I'm tired and a bit in need of a break. Instead, I'm on call in the Pediatric ER for 8 hours on Saturday. Sigh. I HATE Worcester, and I miss driving through the scorching desert with my best friend, drinking IBC black cherry soda.

Posted by Mia at 21:51

Friday, November 11. 2005

Veteran's Day

When I think of Veteran's Day, I think of my Papa and Nana. Here they are in younger years. My Nana died last year on October 13th, and after being married to her for 61 years, you can imagine that Papa gets lonely. Last year my Papa came over to my parent's house when my brother and I were home. My brother got on the computer and looked up Papa's regiment and found a website by a very angry man. This guy had written about his bad experiences in the war. Usually, Papa does not talk about the war at all. He had a tough time of it, he got shot and got trench foot and had all sorts of heroic adventures that involved carrying people on his back through French forests. But that night at my parent's house he started remembering all sorts of things that had happened to him because of some of the stories that the website showed. One was our favorite, which really shows that Papa had a charmed life. He was in training, still in the States, and it was a dark, cold, rainy night. His A company and B company were supposed to get in a raft and cross a raging river. Papa remembers seeing logs and lots of debris in this flooded river, and getting into the raft feeling much trepidation. Then, the commanders changed their minds and wanted B company in the raft instead, so A company got out, and B company got sent off. The raft flipped over, and the poor guys were weighed down with all their gear, and I think 22 out of 23 drowned!! Papa stood on the banks with the rest of the guys, they could hear the screams but couldn't see a thing in the dark storm. They could not help. These are the stories that my kind grandfather had never told us. When one of his children could have gone to Vietnam, he enrolled them in college instead, and had a serious argument with my Nana's brother about War and the benefits or lack thereof. Maybe Papa doesn't wear peace signs, but I know that he does not believe that war is good for this country and this country's children. My grandparents amaze me. They had such a wonderful life, full of so many blessings, eleven (!!) children, 29 grandchildren, 61 years of happy marriage...If my Papa had gotten in that raft, I would not be here today. Even though Papa is now 92, he's SO sharp, he remembers so many things about all of the grandchildren--did I mention that there are 29 of us?!! Thanks Papa, Happy Veteran's day! I'll try to work for peace for you.

Posted by Mia in Ramblings at 16:18

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Study Time Means...

We had our OB/GYN practical exam today, which went very well I think. I like talking to patients, and that was what this mostly tested me on. Tomorrow I have a big written test that is supposed to be very hard. So, I busted out my study essentials: Popcorn, my Beckman OB/GYN book, my iPod mini (Christmas gift from my BF) all decked out in its cute iPod mini sock (b-day gift from BF), and the diagonal scarf that I'm knitting for my sister's Christmas present. Lorna's Laces Worsted in "Bittersweet." Sadly, the colors do not show true at all, it is quite vibrantly pink, orange, yellow and purple. The pattern is from Iris Schreier's Modular Knitting book, which I can not recommend highly enough. The patterns are cool, but the techniques that she uses can be expanded into many other projects. I really like this book, and this scarf! I think I'll make mittens to match. Check out the needles: they are wooden #9s that my mom gave me from my grandmother's stash when she died. They are light and smooth, and when I first started knitting with them they smelled like my Nana and her house. I miss her, she's been gone for over a year now.

Posted by Mia at 17:54

Monday, October 31, 2005

I'm a hip hop ho

This weekend was one of the best I've had in a long time. I was on call Friday night, got to see four great deliveries and really bonded with two of the families. OB is so amazing. The baby comes out looking really freaky, and you think, "Uh oh, this baby is not right!" Then, you rub its belly a bit, and voila! The baby cries, opens its eyes, turns cute and pink and looks like a normal baby. I love it. They are so offended and crabby when they first come out, it just kills me. Today I met with the chair of the OB department to talk about what I should do to go into OB...still not 100% sure, but I'm getting there. THEN, Saturday night my boyfriend and I went to a Halloween party. I was a field hockey player, and he was Patrick Swazey's character from Roadhouse, Dalton. I had a cute plaid skirt, and he had a ridiculous wig. What's not to love? Still, at first I was tired, and wasn't sure how fun it would be, because I only knew a few people who were there. BUT, they had a DJ playing cheesy Hip Hop, which I love!! This plus some beer made me very hyper, and I really only ran out of steam about 5 hours later. My boyfriend thought I was crazy, because I busted out all my awesome slutty dance moves from before we got together. I used to go out in Boston with my roommates and dance the night away! I also seem to know a disturbingly large collection of trashy lyrics to various Snoop Dog songs about unmentionable body parts. I think the combo of the plaid skirt and the trashy mouth really made an impression, because he spent most of the night being incredibly sweet to me (he's always very nice, but this was EXTRA nice!), DANCING with me (again!!) and then told me I could put a picture of him on my blog! Wow. I guess the key to his heart is a little booty shake. I'll keep that one in mind for the future. It is so nice that we are still going strong after 4 years together, and that I can still surprise him! Anyway, there we are at Katharine's wedding, which is where he first realized that dancing with me is fun! Isn't he cute? Here is a glimpse at my secret project. I can't say any more about it. If you want to know, I'll discuss it via email only.

Posted by Mia at 20:18

Saturday, October 15, 2005

Maternal Child Health

UMass has a program that you can sign up for if you are very interested in OB and Pediatrics. You are assigned to a patient who is pregnant, you follow her through her pregnancy and go to all her prenatal appointments with her. You deliver her baby, and you go to the baby's pedi visits. So, of course, since I freaking LOVE babies and OB, I signed up for it. My patient had her baby yesterday! It was a SAGA. I was on call on Wednesday, it was busy, I was up all night long. I did get to do some suturing during a C-section in the middle of the night, which was really cool. More and more, I am thinking that OB is something I want in my life as a doc. Thursday morning I went home to sleep, but only got about 3 hours when my pager went off. It was my patient, and she was describing what sounded like breaking her water. I told her to head in to the hospital, and I met her there. She had indeed broken her water, but no contractions yet. We started pitocin. I was there ALL Thursday night, up all night except for 2 1 hour naps, with no real labor progress. All of the interns and residents were impressed with my determination at this point, but also concerned that I was losing my mind! So I got to go home and sleep for another 3 hours, then they beeped me again. This time, she was getting very close. I've already delivered a few babies, but this was really special, because I had gotten to know her, and I got to do almost the whole thing myself. She did a great job for a first time mom, she was a good pusher, and her mom and dad were wonderful assistants. I got some compliments for my work at the foot of the bed, supporting the baby's head so it doesn't pop out too quick and tear up mommy. Everyone was so happy, the baby is SOOO cute, with big baby eyes and a cute cone head that by today was already a lot better. Needless to say, I was delirious with tiredness after being awake for about 60 hours with a total of about 8 hours of sleep. NOT my usual way of doing things. It was SO worth it, and I can't wait for the first baby check-up on tuesday!

Posted by Mia at 19:19

Friday, September 30, 2005

The Placenta

Yesterday was better, I got to scrub in on a C-section and got to deliver the placenta. Now, I read Kristin's blog, and someone commented about how you don't "deliver" the placenta, you help the mom do it. Normally, I totally agree with that, but C-sections are not the most physiologic things on earth. In fact, they disrupt the benefits of birth. NOW, don't get me wrong, my mommy had me by C-section, thank GOD, so I have a deep admiration and appreciation for the women who go through this freaky procedure. But, having said all that, I do think it is fair to say that I delivered the placenta yesterday, since I stuck my whole hand inside the lady's uterus and "swept" the placenta out with my hand. Very weird, very cool. So far, I'm liking OB a lot. The one thing that really bums me out is that once the munchkins are born, I don't really get to pay a lot of attention to them. I wish I could HOLD them, they are SO freaking cute. one more thing: one of my patients is on bed rest until she delivers, which we hope is NOT soon, her baby needs to cook a little bit more. I went in yesterday afternoon and she was knitting a pink baby blanket! After rounding with the attending, I came back to help her figure out her pattern. She was picking up knitting after 20 years of not knitting, so she didn't know what YO and K2Tog means. I'm excited to see her progress today. Next entry: the Fall line up!!

Posted by Mia in Knitting, Medical School at 05:17

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

High Risk

Today was the first real day of my Obstetrics and Gynecology rotation. OB/GYN is something that is high on my list of potential careers, so I am very excited about the next 6 weeks. I am starting with 2 weeks (well, more like 1.5) on High-risk obstetrics, which as I learned today, could also be called "Sadder OB." The moms and/or babies have more issues, and as a result, you don't always end up with the result that we all imagine when we think of delivering babies. Happy mom, teary eyed dad, rosy fat baby bundled up like a little burrito in the bassinete. I saw a stillborn baby today. This baby was a twin. The other was healthy, this one was known to have an abnormality that is often fatal immediately after birth. The first baby came out yelling and turned a happy baby color right away. This kiddo was angelically perfect in every way. The room feels alert and energetic when a happy, yelling, healthy baby comes into the world. There is a buzz, and even the tough attendings will coo and sigh. The vibe totally changed for the next little munchkin, a silence fell over all of the doctors, residents and med students as they pulled the much smaller twin out. The fourth year med student valiantly suctioned, and we all were silent, as if willing this tiny creature to do something to break our hush. Almost reluctantly, the attending broke the silence to talk to the mom, telling her that the things we saw on ultrasound before the baby was born were visible on the baby now. She told her that she wasn't sure about a heart beat. The mom and dad began to cry. Although they were prepared, they were hoping that their baby would live for a few hours so that they could spend some family time together. Looking back on the fetal tracings, we realized that what were seen as two baby hearts beating was just the one, and that the little, sick twin was probably not alive when the mom came to the hospital today. Was it worse for the family this way, or easier to lose something you never saw and only felt moving? Would an aggressive monitoring have caused little baby to be born alive? Would it matter? I wish I could have spent more time with them, as a fly on the wall, to see how they managed their grief at the loss of one, but joy at the health of another baby.

Posted by Mia in Medical School at 20:30

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Wedding Bliss

The funny thing about me is that I've known all my life that I want to be married and have babies. Sure, I've wanted to be a doctor since I was thirteen, but since I was born, I wanted to be a mom. This past year has seen many of my nearest and dearest friends along with one family member get married. I worried a little bit about whether I'd feel sad and jealous at their weddings, because I'm not there yet. This weekend I went to my best friend from med school's wedding. She actually doesn't go to my school anymore, but that's a long story that involves discussion about why I was miserable last year...ANYway. Her wedding weekend was so great, even though it was totally inconvenient and stressful to get there. Once I saw her, I was happy. Once I saw her put on her wedding dress, I couldn't stop smiling because she looked so beautiful! Was I jealous, you ask? NO! I was full of an overwhelming feeling of love and joy and good will towards all. She is an amazing person, her new husband is an amazing person, and I'm so freaking happy for them! The whole day was so much fun, and at the reception my boyfriend WILLINGLY DANCED with me for many, many more songs that I ever expected! Even crappy ones! He even smiled while dancing! And then offered to TAKE DANCING LESSONS! Holy crap. And he wasn't even that drunk. The bottom line is that I love weddings, even if they are not mine! I wish I had a wedding to go to every weeeeknd. Watching two people profess their love for each other reaffirms my faith in my fellow creatures. And couldn't we all use a little bit of that these days?

Posted by Mia at 19:16

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Pedi Surgery: Love the Kids, the parents...not so much

I'm closing in on the home stretch with my surgery clerkship! I had my oral exam yesterday, which caused me some worry and nightmares (typical for me when I'm stressed), but was pretty straightforward. All the reading and thinking and staying up all night evaluating surgery consults in the Emergency room has paid off--I can think like a doctor now! At least for some things. I know how to make a differential diagnosis (list of what may be wrong), and what tests and studies I need to order for my patient. Of course, I'm best at the surgical cases, and I'm looking forward to learning about the same things from different perspectives. I was on call last night, which was very busy and exciting, and then this morning I went over to see a surgery on a newborn. I was tired, but it is not something you see every day. I can sleep later...right? Baby is doing well. So I'm doing Pediatric surgery right now, and it is a lot of work, just like all the other surgery rotations. I'm the only student on a service that usually has two, so I'm there extra early in the morning to write down all my little patients' vitals, med lists, etc. Here's a secret that is not so secret: I LOVE KIDS. I think they are hilarious and awesome most of the time. I'm having a lot of fun talking with these little guys in the clinic either on their way to a surgery, or recovering from a surgery. I also really like checking in on them, making sure things are fine, etc. I tend to worry about them when I'm not around, and I get really happy when they are doing well. Most of the time, their parents pick up on the fact that I'm in love with their kids. Some of the parents we see, however, are so ridiculous that it would horrify you all. Example: a kid came in to clinic after an operation last week. He was looking and feeling rotten, and we were pretty sure he had some kind of infection/abscess going on. He needed to be admitted (for serious antibiotics) and get a CT scan. When I first went into the room, his mom was really annoyed with me, and kept pointing out that he was feeling really bad. I agreed readily, and thought she was just very upset. THEN, when we told her that our plan was to admit him, take him to CT and find out what was wrong, she heaved a big old sigh and said, "You mean we have to wait around here again?!" Um, lady, your kid is SICK! You just TOLD me that! I care that he's sick! I want to fix it and make him feel BETTER! This weekend I'm off to a wedding 5 hours away! Sad thing is that I'll probably spend more time driving to it than actually with the bride, one of my best friends who is on a leave of absence from my med school. My poor boyfriend hates weddings, but he's being a real trooper and coming with me. I'm planning on sneaking in lots of study time between my bridesmaidly duties! Next week we have a big practical exam where we evaluate fake patients, then a written exam that is allegedly insanely hard. 50% is passing grade nationally. Yikes. Finally, socks are sooo close to being done. Can't wait to not be working on them. I like the yarn, I like the pattern, I like the IDEA of making them for someone else, I just don't like that I can't put them down to start something else because they are due...today!!

Posted by Mia in Knitting, Medical School at 21:58

Sunday, September 11. 2005

Warning: cutest baby EVER!!!

This weekend was GREAT. Great weather, great hike up a tough mountain, plus time spent with this little munchkin man. He is my boyfriend's cousin's baby, and he does many hilariously adorable baby things. When he laughs, he wrinkles up his nose in a very funny way that makes me laugh, and then he laughs again and...yeah, lots of laughing happens. Also, he can crawl like a normal baby, but instead he chooses to do an inchworm kind of crawling on his belly that just makes me want to kidnap him forever. It is SO cute. Plus, although he is only 8 months old, he is almost ready to walk, and if you hold his hands he will walk, only a bit crooked like a drunken sailor (also extremely cute). Someday I'll have one of my own...I'm almost done with my damn secret sock pal socks, and I have learned that I HATE knitting for a deadline!! Next post I will outline my fall line-up for projects! Oh the excitement.

Posted by Mia in Ramblings at 19:51

Wednesday, August 31, 2005

WTF, looters?

Last night I was talking to my boyfriend about the looting in New Orleans. I tried to keep faith in humanity, to say that maybe these were people who really had nothing else and needed that stuff they were taking. He was skeptical. He said there is a difference between stealing a TV and stealing food and water for your family. Turns out he was right. This morning I was listening to the radio and they were telling a story about police in New Orleans who are trying to stop some of the looting in the jewelery district. First of all, these people are clearly not going to eat the jewelery, right? The newscaster described how the looters are really organized, and have people on top of the buildings SNIPING at any cops that try to enter the area! That's right, they are shooting anyone in uniform. At this point, I'd let them have the damn jewelery and keep the poor New Orleans cops safe!! What a mess. I wish there were something more tangible that I could do, but for now a \$\$ donation will have to suffice.

Posted by Mia at 17:22

Tuesday, August 30, 2005

Med Students UNITE!

Look what I got in the mail from Kristen, that lovely Med Student Who Knits!! A really cute knitting bag that was made by her, in my favorite color-GREEN. Also, some perfect Regia "Mini Ringel Color" sock yarn in shades of green and blue. I assume Mini Ringel means little stripes or something, because based on the picture on the label, these balls will make socks with cute baby stripes on them. AND, as if that all weren't great enough, there is a really cool tape measure that clicks on the way out and has a retracting button on top, and a little crochet hook that I know will come in handy for sock knitting in the future. I LOVE it all, thank you Kristen!! I know how busy you are, and the color combo is really too perfect. Might need to bump that Regia up in the line of "Socks to be made" that I've got all organized in my head. I've never used Regia before, and I'm very excited. Now I need to put on my thinking cap to figure out a final awesome gift for my secret pal and also a present for Kristen in return. I've got some ideas already, and will try to execute them soon. And if anyone is reading from New Orleans, hang in there! :o(

Posted by Mia in Knitting at 20:39

Monday, August 29, 2005

What IS my destiny?

So, vascular surgery is over, and I'm actually sad about it. They really liked me a lot, and on Sunday after morning rounds, one of the attendings called me into his office. He started out by telling me that I did a great job, and then he told me that surgery is my destiny, and that I'm so good at it that not doing it would deprive the world of my surgical skills. On the one hand, this is a really wonderful thing to hear from someone who is clearly very quick to judge students. Hearing that I'm smart and hard working and talented is always really wonderful, and I'm glad that my work and studying have paid off. I went to my boyfriend's house later that day, and told him about what the doctor had said. He thinks it is great that they liked me so much too, but he asked me, "Are you sure THAT is your destiny? What about other things?" He's referring to the fact that I'm the kind of person who has always known that I want to get married and have children. I would like those things to happen sooner rather than later, I want to be young enough to really enjoy my kiddos, and although I'm sure child care will be a part of my life, I want to be around enough to watch my babies grow. I thought it was funny that my boyfriend, who hates thinking about babies and weddings, was the one reminding me of this! I DO like surgery, perhaps vascular in particular because the patients have very complex medical histories that need to be taken into consideration when planning for major operations. But do I LOVE surgery enough for it to be my life--more so than family? During our conversation, the attending mentioned another female surgeon at our school who I really like. She's tough but fair, is great at teaching med students, and really nice to her patients. She is 42 and just had her kids, by IVF. This is not how I dream of my future. I'm trying to keep my options open, and I have many other rotations to come. We'll see...In sock pal news, I've been scrambling to catch up after not knitting for the first 6 weeks of my clerkship. I made it this far:And then realized that I was totally delusional, and that the sock would only fit a midget. OOPS! Frogged that one and started again with this, one size up on the needles (2 instead of 1):Gotta stay focused on this, I can't ask for an extension, can I??

Posted by Mia in Medical School at 19:54

Monday, August 22, 2005

A terrible night, a day saved by presents.

Here I was thinking Vascular Surgery was going to be all tough. Well, it IS tough--get there at 4:30 am, don't leave until 8:30 most nights, stay post-call and do 5 hours of surgery. I've only been really yelled at once by the big head honcho, but everything he said was true, and now I don't do those things as much. Plus, I've learned SO much about being a better presenter of my patients, knowing many things about them and being definite with my "Plan" for that particular day of hospital life. I almost think that the two main docs LIKE me!! I'm interested and hard working, and they appreciate that. Still, at the end of next weekend I'm switching to anesthesia, which is like a mini-vacation of kindness and relative abundance of sleep! Last night, though, was awful. I was on call, and things were moving along smoothly, until my friend and I got emergency "get your asses down here" kinds of pages from the resident on call. There were 5 simultaneous traumas coming in to the ER. A drunk driver smashed into a family of drove them off the road, where their car rolled twice. The mom and dad were in the main trauma bay, the kids were okay enough to be in the pediatric ER, which is kinder and less scary than the trauma bay. The driver was also there in the trauma bay, so we were running three traumas at once! I've never seen so much organized chaos, and so many people. The drunk driver was pretty much just fine, the dad was not so bad, but the mom not so much. The thing about trauma is that you don't have time to feel stressed or upset or angry or grossed out. You just do whatever the trauma chief tells you--in my case I was in charge of recording the physical exam for the drunk--they yell out things rapid fire about his eyes, ears, spine, legs, and I write them all down. It is a good job for med students because it is hugely important, but doesn't require us to know exactly how to manage a bleeding head wound, for example. I was fine with all of this until I started to realize what was going on: the dude I was working on was the one who caused all of this chaos!! One of the chief residents, John, put me in charge of getting him to X-ray and then to the CT scanner. While he was getting some x-rays, I looked down the hall and saw the two kiddos sitting in one of the hospital crib things. The poor things were hanging on to the toys they give you for dear life, with vacant expressions in their eyes. Then their aunt and uncle came, which perked them up a bit, but they were still very focused on where mommy and daddy were. For the FIRST TIME yet during this clerkship I almost lost it. I really thought I was going to cry. My friend came over to ask if my patient was done in X-ray, and I looked at him and said, "I don't care!" I wanted to leave the patient in the middle of the hall and walk away. Of course, I didn't, but this morning after 1.5 hours of uncomfortable rest, I still couldn't get that feeling out of my head. Thank goodness then, for packages in the mail! My SP is the coolest! It all came wrapped in green tissue paper: Barbara Walker's "Treasury of Knitting Patterns," a big yummy bar of dark chocolate, some sour Altoids, a pretty card with a very nice note, and two bracelets from Working Assets and The One. Oh, and a really lovely lacey knitted bookmark that I think she made herself-IN GREEN! Oh the abundance of goodness, and how it soothes my sorrowed soul. Thanks SP, you ROCK! Then some stuff from Knit Pixie. I've not bought yarn for about a month, and had a yearning the other day. Some was on sale! And I think I had a hunch that I'd need some yarn love.

Posted by Mia in Medical School at 14:42

Wednesday, August 10, 2005

Chop, chop

Finally, a summer 'do to match the summer heat! I'm happy with my new haircut, my last one was more than one year ago, before I left for the Dominican Republic! So my hair, which is unruly under the best circumstances, was quite long. I'm really hair-style challenged, so I never do anything with it. Anyway, here it is, fresh from the blow-dryer at the salon. I wish I knew how to blow dry it myself, but I don't even own a blow dryer, and in reality, I don't have the patience. But it looks bouncy and summery and cute right now! Also, have you checked out the new pattern by Jenna, my hero? Eris. I'm already working on it, even though I have really not done much for the socks for my pal...I have to knit what I'm inspired by, right?? I'll confess, I like it so much that I think about it during surgeries! I'm using Cascade 220 in a nice grey-blue color that I had in my stash. Pictures will arrive when there is real progress. The design of this sweater is pretty interesting, with the collar being knitted first as two strips, then you pick up stitches around the collar and do a raglan sweater from there on down. I love Jenna's cables, they are the best around, and her instructions are so clear and helpful...I can't wait to get further into this one. Next week I start the most feared subspecialty surgery rotation at our school: Vascular. So far, almost all the surgeons have either been really nice, or just kind of ignored me. Either one is fine, I prefer being taught during a surgery, but I'll take ignoring over active aggression any day. The two vascular surgeons bring active aggression to the table (literally...) every day. They have been known to smack students' hands, squirt you with patients' blood on purpose, and generally make life miserable. Plus, no days off for 14 days in a row! I guess we do get weekend afternoons off, if we are not on call, but still. I'll see the inside of that hospital every day for 2 weeks. I'm ready for them. I've learned so much about how to work with the team and get things done in the past 6 weeks. I say, bring it on!

Posted by Mia in Knitting at 15:20

Monday, August 1, 2005

And the seasons, they go round and round

Sarah has meme'd me, "What are 5 things I miss about childhood"1. Family vacation on Cape Cod. I have a HUGE family, and most of the best memories I have from when I was young are of them and me, spending endless hours in tidepools looking at snails, making sandcastles, climbing on rocks and having big happy dinners where the kids got to eat on the porch. Afterwards, my musical uncles would play their guitars and fiddles and we would all run around and dance. And there were fireflies, and baby cousins galore. What more, really, can anyone ask for? 2. That terrifically excited, almost nauseous feeling I used to get when I REALLY believed in Santa. I would lie, painfully alert, for a long time, convinced that I could hear sleigh bells and hooves. Then, I was awake early on Christmas morning, trying to wait until the parentally approved hour of 6am to run down and tear into my presents. All the while with butterflies galore. 3. Like Sarah, I also miss falling asleep in the car, or faking it, and getting the royal treatment from my dad: carried up to bed and tucked in. 4. Drinking cold water from the hose in my backyard in Indiana and being totally certain that it was the most healthful and clean water I could possibly drink. 5. Playing Ouija board and scaring the crap out of myself and my friends at many and various sleep over parties. The worst is when you pop that plastic thing out of the middle, put a pencil in it, and have your grandfather's ghost write you letters. Man, that will put a damper on your night's rest!

Posted by Mia in Ramblings at 23:43

The Golden Weekend

In Surgery land, there is something mystical called the "Golden weekend." This is when the stars of the on-call-every-fourth-night schedule align themselves perfectly, and you are on call on Thursday night (which means, now that they fixed the rules here, that you get to go home and go to bed on Friday morning), you have the weekend days off, and then you are on call on Monday. The GOLDEN weekend, people! Can you feel it?? Do you realize that this is the first time in 5 weeks that I have not needed to be here at 5am on at least one weekend day??!! Of course, it being Monday night, I'm back here again...due to go to the OR at some point. I napped on Friday, drove to Boston to pick up my guy at work, where we loaded his new toy into my car. We got some dinner, watched some baseball, and set up the toy. I want one!! It is awesome. The next day we woke up early and headed downtown to the Long Wharf, to catch a ferry to the Boston Harbor Islands--George's Island in particular. You all should TOTALLY go there, but bring a flashlight. It has a huge cool old Civil War fort on it, with all sorts of scary, pitch dark tunnels, rooms and passages that of course, my boyfriend insisted on exploring, hiding in, and scaring me with. We had a blast!! Then, we went out to a very romantic dinner at Les Zygomates. MMMMMM. Delicious, and not too much of a bank-breaker, because my bf had a gift certificate! Sunday we actually SLEPT IN! I awoke feeling refreshed! We hung around the house, watched some more baseball, got bagels from my favorite place, etc. Then of course this morning I had to get up at 3:45am. My own fault for staying in Boston an extra night, but I'm a sucker for my boyfriend's extreme cuteness. Plus, I actually...started my Sockapaltwoza socks, friggin' finally.

Posted by Mia in Ramblings at 23:21

Monday, July 18, 2005

Hey, I know you, didn't you used to knit?

Oh wow, how did Sarah know that what I needed to perk me up from days and days of sleep deprivation was these AWESOME skeins of Lorna's Laces!? She's a keeper, that one! I LOVE LOVE LOVE the colors, green is my fave for those of you not in the know. Problem is I'm too tired to do anything when I come home at night. Surgery rotation is wiping me out! It is interesting most of the time, fun and cool some of the time, but exhausting absolutely all of the time. Today I saw a very cool surgery: a parotidectomy (look that one up), which was very different from the larger scale laparoscopic surgeries that I've been seeing. As far as knitting goes, I have all these projects in the cooker, but no energy for knitting them. Its 8:50pm right now, and I can't wait to go to bed! Gotta get started on my sock buddy's socks....I got a fun package from my SP too, and still have not mailed my stuff to my SP, because I'm never out of the hospital during normal business/postal hours. Tomorrow my post-hospital goal is to make it to Fed Ex before falling asleep. Can I do it? I'll let you know. Here is what SP sent me: This past weekend I was on call Saturday, which means get there at 5am, stay until 11 am SUNDAY, and only sleep for about 3 hours. Cool, there goes my weekend down the crapper. Actually, I had a really nice Sunday evening with my man in Boston. Well, it was nice until we ate sushi from our favorite place, and something in our meals did not agree with either one of us. I would have slept much better if my poor stomach hadn't been protesting so vigorously! At least he made funny jokes about it and made me laugh. My guy is so totally the best, he can always make me laugh a good belly laugh about something. If only I were fully conscious when I spend time with him! MUST SLEEP NOW.

Posted by Mia in Medical School at 20:46

Sunday, July 10, 2005

Paging Dr. Mia...

Wow, I have lived through my first week of Surgery rotation, and I'm actually LOVING it a lot. My boyfriend warned me that not all the surgeons will be as nice to me as the ones I've met so far, and I know that he's right! There are two in particular that I have to spend 2 weeks with, they are known for the nasty way they treat the students. But for right now, I have a great "team" and I'm really enjoying immersing myself in the world of surgery. I've scrubbed in on three cases so far: a laparoscopic/open hernia repair (3 hours), a hand-assisted laparoscopic sigmoid colectomy (5 hours) and a laparoscopic gastric bypass (7.5 hours!!!). For the colectomy I got to steer the laparoscope a bit, and for the laparoscopic gastric bypass, I got to steer the scope for the whole time! It is exhausting just standing in one place for so long, my feet feel like they are being poked with nails, but I am learning sooo much!

Posted by Mia in Medical School at 18:08

Saturday, July 2, 2005

He means the spinning that involves MUSIC!

So the other night my roommate and I went to see my brother DJ at a little bar in Worcester. It was funny because I overheard him telling someone that he was spinning, and my first thought was, "Hey, I didn't know you liked making your own yarn..." Then I realized the error of my ways, but it gave me a chuckle. He is a good DJ, blending the obscure songs together with cheesy favorites that make you smile. We have just completed two boring days of orientation that is supposed to prepare us for next year. Instead of telling us the really important things like what we will be actually DOING, it was a lot of "wash your hands" and "don't talk about patients in open areas of the hospital." We've heard it all before for the most part, and although I know its important, it is hard to be too attentive. On Tuesday, I am going to the specific orientation for Surgery, and I'll find out who will be on my team, where I'm going first, and what services I'm on. YIKES. Rumors are flying and everyone is a little jazzed up with nerves. Right now, I'm off to Washington, DC for my cousin's wedding! This will be my 3rd in I think 5 weeks. Hope you all have a great 4th of July!

Posted by Mia in Ramblings at 08:32

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Spin me a lazy day

Well, the wake and funeral for my roommate's brother were pretty tough to take, but I have to say that the priests did a wonderful job. The family is pretty religious, and they are well known in their church community. The priest who gave the homily talked about how things like this make no sense at all, and we can't understand. I'm a Catholic by birth, and often am incredibly frustrated by the ways of the church, but this time they really got it right. I was also very impressed by the support from our classmates, so many of them were off cavorting and having fun, and made their way to the wake or funeral. I know that when the family thinks back, they will be comforted by the outpouring of love for their special son. The rest of my mini vacation has consisted of me being really lazy and crafty, all at once. I bought a drop spindle and some "domestic wool top" at WEBS. Here is my first two ply yarn. Pretty pathetic-my drafting skills leave much to be desired, but I'm feeling like I might be catching on. I wish I had a magic spinning friend, like Kristen or Laurie to help me out, but I'm about to plunge into the wild world of my surgical rotations, and I'm not sure how much time I'll have for things like this. Anyway, tomorrow I'll set the twist and maybe dye this stuff in some Kool Aid. I think I might stop at WEBS on my way back to WOotown and get some more stuff to spin! :o) Yeah, I'm hooked. Also, for those of you who are interested, here is a little slide show that I quickly put together of Sarah's wedding and the short trip to the Olympic National Park. I'm leaving out the cute pics of me and my man, because I'm not sure he wants his photo on this page! I guess I could blur out his cute face...anyway, Sarah looks like an angel! Finally, I've been sewing a bit again, and I made a cool bag for...my knitting. What else? I found a great fabric store in Northampton, Valley Fabrics, and now I want to make a quilt. I made one once, in a fit of inspiration, but the finishing and sewing were not as neat as they could have been. Maybe I'll get some library books about quilting or something. Make no mistake about it, folks, for types like me, everything is clearly better in Western Mass!!! My guy told me, after hearing about my grand and craft-laden plans, that I'm a "premature grandma." I was initially annoyed, but then he turned it into a really funny song, and it's hard to be annoyed by his songs. He makes up really great ones about everything from movies he saw on TV to weird dudes who make sandwiches and have a "coke nail." That one is actually one of my favorites!

Posted by Mia in Ramblings at 20:20

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Hold tight to the ones you love

Sarah's wedding was marvelous. The weather in the notoriously rainy Pacific Northwest cooperated beautifully, and we had sunny warm weather for the ceremony and party afterwards. I'll post some pics once I sort through them all. Sarah looked like an angel in her dress, plus she was all lit up with love for her groom! We saw a pod of Orcas complete with babies swim by on the wedding and rehearsal days, which was really great. When Sarah and Adam were dancing I was so happy, because you can tell how well they suit one another. Adam's speech about why he loved Sarah was so cute, it also made me cry a little bit! But in a good way! The camping trip afterwards was great, the Olympic National Park has so many cool things, we really felt that we could have spent about a week of exploring, but duties at home call. We had great weather for that part of the journey as well, with sunny skies even for our hike in the Hoh Rain Forest. Sadly, while on the trip, I got some very bad news that my roommate's brother died suddenly on Sunday. He was so young, and it was very, very unexpected. I knew him well enough to be sad for my own sake, but my biggest concern is my roommate right now. She and her family are being very strong at the moment, but I'm sure things will get tougher once it all sinks in and the visitors have moved on. I hate seeing someone that I like so much feel so bad and really not being able to do a thing to help her out. I'm hoping that I can be there as a friend and just someone to talk to as time goes on. So my advice to you all is tell everyone around you how much you love them, because you really never know.

Posted by Mia in Ramblings at 10:35

Blog Export: Minicia, <http://minicia.bluegarter.org/>

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Oh thank heavens!

I feel like I need a cheesy eighties montage of me running through the streets in the rain or dancing along a beach--I'M DONE! No more First Aid for the Boards, no more studying for more hours than I sleep, all done! I think it went fine, I wouldn't say "great," but fine, and that is good enough for me. I'm off for a trip of fun for a week, then to hang with the folks for a week, then school starts again. But this time I'll be actually DOING things instead of reading them! Yippie!

Posted by Mia at 17:26

Blog Export: Minicia, <http://minicia.bluegarter.org/>

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

So close to a real summer!

In honor of Summer, I present you with a picture of Fenway Park. Going to the baseball game almost 2 weeks ago is really the only celebratory summer activity in which I have gotten to participate. The rest of my days have been ferreted away in the library learning silly things about the brachial plexus, the coagulation cascade, etc. Some of the things I've learned are so ridiculous that I don't know what to do! Evidently, there is a "classic presentation" for something called "rat bite fever." Caused by some bacteria that I've never, ever heard of, that is not in my books and that I actually can't even remember the name of now. Hopefully it won't be on my test tomorrow. After tomorrow, I'm going to bite me off a big old chunk of summer time love. Weddings and trips and then time at home with my family. Sadly, I only have 2 weeks of luscious freedom, and then WHAM. Rotations start. Still, I'm going to milk my summer for all that it is worth! Cross your fingers for me--8 hours of multiple choice questions lie ahead. BOOO.

Posted by Mia in Medical School at 18:45

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Poor guy

Life here is very blah. Board studying is getting me down. Also, not only did I manage to infect my boy with my terrible illness, but somehow he ended up sicker than I was. I stayed at his house on Sunday night, most of the night was punctuated by his super loud and terrible bouts of coughing. Then, in the morning he woke up and said, "Do I feel warm to you?" It was then that I realized the room was quite cool, and the heat I felt was radiating off of fevered boyfriend. Poor guy. He's finally on the way towards better, I think, but I hate when he's sick. It is especially bad because I'm here in Stupid Woo town, and he is there, in Boston, with no one to feel his forehead and make sure he rests! Even though I am incredibly bogged down with studying, I've managed to sneak in a new project: This is sweater #10 from the latest issue of Vogue knitting. Their version calls for Dale Svale yarn, but I'm using Knitpicks Shine in a lovely sky blue color. This yarn is really lovely, soft and yes, shiny. Another hit from KP. I got gauge on size 5 needles, and I'm liking it a lot so far. I had some eyelet issues the first time I started, and had to rip all of it out to start over, but since then I'm doing just fine. I work on it one row at a time, as a little reward. I only get to do about 3 rows a day, since most of my days are spent in the library...barf. I'm actually so inspired by the eyelet-ness of this sweater that I snatched up a copy of Rebecca 27 at my LYS (I was on a study brea, OK!) so that I can make Apricot. I'm trying to figure out if I can use yarn that I already own, because really, I'm a little out of control right now. My guy was here on Memorial day and looked at a basket of yarn in my room and said, "Wow, look at all that yarn!" He really has no idea...I made sure to keep him well away from the closet. Here is another little number that is in the washing machine right now: That's right, it's a Booga Bag. Noro Kureyon, colorway 88. I love this yarn, although its felting kinda slowly right now. This colorway is good because it has a lot of my favorite color, GREEN! Well, I should go learn more about herpes virus structure. Microbiology is one of my not so hot subjects, because it is so memorizationally intensive. I'm getting a lot better with practice exams and making some clinically oriented connections. Go me. As of tomorrow I have one week left until the Boards, then I leave to see Sarah and Adam!!!

Posted by Mia at 21:12

Saturday, June 4, 2005

SP5

I'm so excited, I just got an email from my secret pal! I also have to go email my own secret pal (the one that I'm sending secrets to). Here are my answers, O Secret Pal!

1. Are you a yarn snob (do you prefer higher quality and/or natural

fibers)? Do you avoid Red Heart and Lion Brand? Or is it all the same

to you? Yes, I am a yarn snob. Well, I actually like to get good deals on yarns, but I like natural fibers. So I love Knitpicks, because their stuff is inexpensive but not cheap! I do not like Lion Brand, it is too squeaky.

2. Do you spin? Crochet? I don't like crochet, I'm not good at it and it goes really slowly for me. I am dying to learn to spin, and might treat myself to a drop spindle after I take my Board exam on June 15th. Well, I guess it will be later than that, because I'm going to Sarah's wedding first!!!

3. Do you have any allergies? (smoke, pets, fibers, perfume, etc.) I am super cat allergic, and allergic to spinach in food. That's it!

4. How long have you been knitting? Since I was about 14, that's about 12 years! yikes.

5. Do you have an Amazon or other online wish list? I do, but it has some wacky stuff on it. I just added a bunch of knitting books to give my SP an idea of what I'm into right now.

6. What's your favorite scent? (for candles, bath products etc.) I like fresh scents--green tea, ginger, etc. I use Bath and Body Works White tea and Ginger, which is sadly discontinued. I like the natural smell of lilacs. I love the Henri Bendel candle scent "Quince." In the fall and winter I like candles that smell like homey baking things--cinnamon, pumpkin spice, stuff like that.

7. Do you have a sweet tooth? I wish I didn't, but I like chocolate and sour candies like Spree.

8. What other crafts or Do-It-Yourself things do you like to do? I like to sew. I like making bead-y things.

9. What kind of music do you like? Can your computer/stereo play MP3s? (if your buddy wants to make you a CD) I have an iPod, so I can MP3 till the cows come home. I like some weird stuff--Ryan Adams, Radiohead, Wilco, Son Volt and Uncle Tupelo. Um...Interpol, Pete Dinklage, Lucinda Williams, Neko Case, Dar Williams, De La Soul, Tribe Called Quest, etc. I like lots of stuff, but nothing too commercial. However, I do think that most bad hip-hop is really, really funny. Also, because of my time in the Dominican Republic, I have an undeniable fondness for Dominican music, which is pretty bad but makes me happy!

10. What's your favorite color? Or--do you have a color family/season/palette you prefer? Any colors you just can't stand? GREEN. Love green. Like orange, purple, pink, blue. But green is the best.

11. What is your family situation? Do you have any pets? I live in a duplex with 4 other roommates, within walking distance of my school. I have a boyfriend, but he lives in Boston.

12. What are your life dreams? (really stretching it here, I know) To get married and have babies. To become a wonderful doctor who works with underserved populations either here or in another country (the DR??). To own a home in a place that is not Worcester, and to have a good, big dog.

13. What is/are your favorite yarn/s to knit with? I'm a huge

fan of Lamb's Pride Worsted and Bulky, Bartlett Yarn, Noro Kureyon, all of the Knit Picks yarns that I've tried, Cascade 220, Koigu (although I've not knit mine up yet). I also love alpaca anything. I'm still deciding how I feel about cotton, but for now the cotton yarns I've used, I like (Knit Picks Shine, Lamb's Pride Cotton Fleece).

14. What fibers do you absolutely not like? I've never met a fiber I didn't like! Oh, except acrylic! I like all natural fibers!!

15. What is/are your current knitting obsession/s? Cables. I want to learn more about cables, and wish that I had the Alice Starmore library. And I want to be better at two color knitting. I've done just a little, and it has been ok, but I want to practice more.

16. What is/are your favorite item/s to knit? Mittens are great. I love socks right now, and a good hat is always nice, sweaters... I love knitting anything, let's be honest.

17. What are you knitting right now? Socks, a Clapotis, a cotton sweater from Vogue Knitting...

18. What do you think about ponchos? Hate them a lot.

19. Do you prefer straight or circular needles? Straights if I'm knitting something straight, circs if it is circular!

20. Bamboo, aluminum, plastic? I love WEBS Bamboo needles in straights and DPNs, but not their circs. I love Addi circs. I don't really like aluminum, and I'm not a plastic fan at all.

21. Are you a sock knitter? Yes. Love socks. Still on my first pair, but love them!

22. How did you learn to knit?
I learned at summer camp, and still have the first yarn I ever got--some hand shorn, hand spun wool that I tried to make into a hat. Didn't work because I didn't understand circular needles then...

23. How old is your oldest UFO? Couple of months.

24. What is your favorite animated character or a favorite animal/bird? Favorite animal: an orca, then any dog except little yappers. Favorite animated character: Kerokerokeroppi (a discontinued Sanrio guy).

25. What is your favorite holiday? Christmas!

26. Is there anything that you collect?
Yarn...

27. What knitting magazine subscriptions do you have? Interweave Knits and Vogue Knitting.

28. Any books out there you are dying to get your hands on? Barbara Walker's stitch books and Elizabeth Zimmerman's Knitting Around. Also, a good novel that I have not read.

Posted by Mia at 17:41

Tuesday, May 31. 2005

Grumble grumble

I guess this is done, but I'm a little cranky about it. First, I went back to make it longer, and I can't tell right now if that worked. Then, I screwed up the strap width so the front and back were off from each other by 2 stitches. Did I rip back and fix it??? Hell no. Too much sinus pain and pressure to go through that. In fact, I'm in too much pain to weave in my ends, take a picture of it on me, or start blocking it. So there. Now I'm going to bed, hopefully to rise well again. When my boyfriend asked me, "are you feeling better?" and I said, "No." His response was, "Come on!!" That at least made me laugh, he's very, very good at making me laugh when I'm at my most cranky. One of many reasons to keep him around for a while longer!

Posted by Mia in Knitting at 22:16

Trapped!

Oh man. Its 1:30pm, I've been here in the library since 7:30 am. I like getting up early and getting in about 6 hours of study time before my afternoon space-out begins. But today I'm feeling rotten and sick, I contracted something nasty while tending to my mom in the dirtiest hospital in the USA (Cooley Dickinson in Northampton, MA). I've used an entire roll of library bathroom toilet paper to blow my nose...where does it all come from?? My head hurts. But I have to do one more Q-bank block of questions before I can go home, otherwise I'm slacking on my schedule...In other news, I'm super close to being done with Soleil, finally. When I don't have 4 hours of boring classes to knit through, I don't get nearly as much done! Anyway, I'll finish later today I hope, unless I pass out from sicky exhaustion. Then I'll post some pics. Countdown: 2 weeks and 1 day until the boards. 2 weeks and 4 days until Sarah's wedding! And on Thursday I'm going to see the Red Sox. Life isn't so bad after all!

Posted by Mia at 13:24

Friday, May 27, 2005

And it goes a little something like this...

Oh, the end of the year celebration that we had--such fun. I have about 87 million pictures of me with various members of my class where I'm making my "picture face" as my boyfriend calls it, and my friends are making their drunk faces! Hee hee, that is Dan. He's a wonderful friend, we had a nice semi drunk talk about how we love each other so much. I must say, it pays to have a face that you always make, that way you often look normal in pictures. Finals are done, thank goodness, and I passed all my classes and tests. No retakes for me. I started studying for the boards on Monday, and was interrupted a little by my mom having surgery on Wed. No big deal, it was a planned surgery to correct some unplanned things that happened in another surgery. She's doing great, and is going home either tomorrow or the next day, she's a fast healer that one! My study goals are to do about 8-10 hours per day of really intense work, with some break time. I work well in the morning, so I start around 7:30 am, go until about 2:30 and then the afternoon is my witching hours where I do not that much. The evening I read some more and do online questions. My scores for the question blocks are getting better, but I know I'll have to go over stuff again because some of the more tedious pathology things are not sticking! As a result of this nutsness and famililal hospital stays, I have not been knitting as much as I want. I'm almost done with Soleil, and I'll post as soon as that is done. I ordered some Shine Twist from knitpicks, and I LOVE it. I'll post when I cast on for that too. For now, wish me luck in maintaining my focus for a while longer. Oh, I joined SP5, just now, so I have not heard from my SP. I'm excited!

Posted by Mia at 22:05

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

Two Down...

One more exam to go! The exam today was not so bad, I did fine and now I have to read a LOT about Psychiatry to prepare for the Mind, Brain, Behavior exam on Friday. I've been working on some mindless knitting-Booga Bag (with 2 skeins of Noro Kureyon #88 from my stash, which meant I only had to buy one more in the same dyelot from the store...I told myself this was "using up the stash") for reading notes and notecards, but I'll wait to show that until its ready to felt. I thought I'd show off a project that's been done for a while, but that I really love. Yes, I'm a sewer and a knitter. Once I made a quilt, but have no pics of it. I'd like to get back into sewing some more, but so far my little projects this year have been all that I've had time for. This is my DPN case, made out of flannel that I got from JoAnn's. I like using flannel to line cases for needles, because it seems to hold them into place. The case is really simple, and of course green because I love green! If you have the first Stitch and Bitch, I used the same idea as the pattern for the straight needle holder (I'll post my pic of my version of that later...). I just made more pockets on this one to hold lots of DPNs and other tools, like stitch holders. I really should make some sort of closure for it, but the top folds down and it mostly lives on top of the knitting stash boxes in the closet, so I'm not too worried about losing needles yet.

Posted by Mia in Sewing at 19:20

Monday, May 16, 2005

Lilac Sunday, Dermatology Monday

Every year since we started dating, my man and I have gone to the Lilac Day at the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain. We both love lilacs, and the Arboretum has a whole long path with lilacs in many colors. Their fragrances are all a bit different, so we have to smell each one as we walk along. It was great this year, we walked all through the Arboretum, even to some parts that we'd never been to before. Harvard may be crazy in some ways, but they sure got their shit together on that one--when you are in the Arboretum, you forget that you are in a city. We lucked out, too, because they forecast rain for the day. When we got there it was really sunny and warm, and then it cooled off and sprinkled a tiny bit, but was overall great weather for two fair-skinned folk to go strolling. Then I had to rush back here to study for the first of three exams this week. I'd done all my note cards ahead of time, but really found it tough to give a crap about the stupid pathological terms we were required to memorize for dermatology. If any of you hear me say, "Hmm, I think I want to be a dermatologist," I want you to poke my eyes out with a knitting needle. "Basaloid cells admixed with a polymorphonuclear infiltrate..." I'm not kidding, that's the crap we are talking about. The test was short, which is dangerous, and actually a few people failed. The main professor for the course seems to have forgotten that we are not pathology fellows, but only lowly second year med students. Luckily for me I guess right more often than not, and came out of the fray relatively unscathed. On to Rheumatology! In knitting news I finished one sock and am on the heel of the other. No pictures yet, I'll wait until I have the pair of them to show. Less than one month until the boards! Yack. Barf. Panic.

Posted by Mia in Medical School at 17:30

Thursday, May 12, 2005

I'm in heaven!

Last night and this morning have combined to put me in an excellent mood, despite the crushing weight of exams-to-be lurking in my mind. Exams, begone! Here are the reasons why I'm in an excellent mood:1. I met Stephanie and had her sign a copy of the bookbookbook, which I was finally able to buy! I was a little nervous before going, because I brought my roommate Emily with me. Emily knits, and she's pretty darn obsessed with it too. We sit next to each other in class and knit through all the blah blah blah. However, Emily's not really obsessed with the lives and times of other knitters. As we waited for Stephanie to appear, I found myself saying funny things to Emily like, "Oh, she always gets so nervous before she does these book things!" Also, when Stephanie told some stories about Hank, I had to fill Emily in on his love of the ball winder, etc. So I was worried that a trip into blogland via live action would freak Emily out. But she laughed as much as I did, which was a lot. Stephanie is FUNNY, and smart and kind and even remembered that I posted a message about burritos to her blog. I also had the pleasure of meeting Kristen, who was knitting her awesome sweater. I also met Laurie, a blogger whose blog I'd seen but never really delved into. I'm impressed with the title of her blog: Etherknitter. She is an anesthesiologist (get it? Ether?), but I'm sure there is a play on the idea of the ether net, the internet and knitting. Very clever. I wish we had been able to stay longer, but we needed to run home and make more notecards. 2. Becky left a comment on my blog! I'm starstruck. She's been a hero of mine since long before I got the idea of my own blog. I love her slideshows, and I love all the tips that I have picked up from her. Plus, her son is really, really cute. So thanks, Becky, for reading!3. My peace lily is blooming again! It goes through phases where it does not seem to want to bloom, and the latest non-blooming phase was realllly long, maybe 2.5 years. So now it has put forth a magnificent bloom that I've been watching for about a week and a half. The blooms last for a long time, and I'm hoping that the plant will put out more as this one fades. I've never seen it do more than one at a time, but this year my bedroom is very sunny, and the plant is enjoying the extra chances to photosynthesize. 4. My BF checked out my blog yesterday for the first time. I've been hiding it from him just a little, because...well, I don't know. But he liked it! He's extremely clever with computers, graphics and all of that stuff, so his approval means a lot to me! Thanks baby. I actually have more to say about that, but can't do it now because I'm out of my allotted time. Need to make note cards.

Posted by Mia in Knitting at 07:02

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

Sister Island Project

Since I don't have any finished knitting to show yet, and since I'm procrastinating, I'm going to plug an organization that deserves your love and support. This past summer I had the opportunity to travel to the Dominican Republic and live with a family in the remote village of Cruz Verde. While I was there I worked with an amazing grass-roots organization called Sister Island Project. Their goals are simple: give the people of Cruz Verde and the 6 surrounding villages hope for the future. In terms of comforts of daily, developed nation countries, these people have *nothing*. I mean that very, very literally. Electricity is sporadic at best. When the power goes, so does the "running" water, and water is carried from a town well for showering and cooking, and is not great for drinking. You can see Jennifer and Jessica, who called out to us every day as we walked by, asking that we take "Una foto, por favor!" They are taking their bath. Jobs in the area are non-existent and most of the men and women travel 3 hours on horrible roads every Monday to work for the week in Santo Domingo. Teenagers walk 3 hours each way to attend secondary school, but they had to walk at night, which got too dangerous for the girls. The children play baseball in the afternoons, dreaming of making it to the big leagues in the States like their heroes, Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz, among others. Victoria and Peter started SIP with the goal of building a learning center for the area, to act as a community space and to provide vocational training for the region. Eventually, they hope to develop microindustries that can support families in the area without forcing the parents to travel. Here I am at the construction site with my buddy, Tito. Tito is a very smart construction worker, who has never been formally trained, but instinctively knew how to lay bricks and mix cement to make our building strong. We worked in the ridiculous sun, humidity and sudden torrential rain storms for 4 weeks, doing manual labor that I didn't know I was capable of. More on SIP later, I'm off to stalk the Harlot. Please, if you have the \$\$ or inclination, consider making a donation to SIP. The money you give them really does benefit the community directly, I've seen it.

Posted by Mia in Ramblings at 17:09

Monday, May 9, 2005

copycat cop out

this is the edited for correctness version of this post. Turns out I can't subtract 10 from my age and figure out what that means...10 years ago:I was 16.I was a junior sophomore in high school!!I was probably still mourning the loss of the high school love of my life dating the high-school love of my life, who today is one of my best friends. I spent the summer babysitting for a crazy little dude on a cross-country train trip with my family. 5 years ago:I was 21.I was finishing my junior year abroad in Rome, Italy. I LOVED it. I was trying to extricate myself from an extremely unhealthy college romance that had dragged on for many moons. As soon as I got home, I finally cut the cord, and it felt great! I spent the summer doing research on microtubules in a lab in my hometown, where I ate lots of burritos. 3 years ago:I was 23.I was working in a research lab in Boston, living in a city for the first time in my life. I was dating the man I'm still dating today, and wildly in love with him, as I still am today!!I was on the verge of becoming totally obsessed with knitting. 1 year ago:I was 25.I was finishing my first year of medical school, thank goodness.I was getting ready to travel to the Dominican Republic to live in a remote village for a month, and then go on a great vacation trip with my boyfriend. I realized how much I had liked Boston, and how I didn't like Woo-town much at all. Today:I am 26.I am almost done with what has been the toughest year (in many ways) that I think I've ever had!! can't wait for June 15th at about 6pm, I'll be done with the boards and heading to Sarah's wedding with my guy. I can't wait for July 5th, when I start my clinical rotations as a third year.

This is my lazy post for post-exam day. Stole it from Kelly.

Posted by Mia in Ramblings at 11:05

Thursday, May 5, 2005

At least its not the area's finest smack...

That is what I tell myself that while I am buying more yarn than God would ever need. I know myself pretty well, and I have one hell of an addictive personality. So I stay away from things like cigarettes because I've tried one and liked it, and never want to smoke! I stay away from any kinds of harder drugs (click on "read further" to see my diatribe against politics messing with preventive health care) because I know that I'd be sucked in. I drink in extreme moderation. But when it comes to yarn, I have no restraint! Shown here in the photo are my newest friends, gotten from those devils at knitpixie. Missa will be the death of me. She seems to be able to read my mind, although we do not know each other. She seems to visit me in my sleep and look deep into my secret yarny wantings. Those are 2 skeins of Lorna's Laces Shepherd Sock in the colorway "Bittersweet," a tangy combination of pinks, purples and some yellow/orange. Delicious. And then we have 3 skeins of Southwest Trading Co. Bamboo yarn, and a free pattern. Don't worry, I have not forgotten those rockin' 70's socks, the first one is almost done. Would have finished sooner but we've been having some real crap classes lately, and I've been skipping class to study. Oh how rebellious that sounds! "Yeah, I totally didn't go to class today. I hung out in my study carrel instead!" Rad. Read on below if you are interested in clean needles...

Did you all know that the city in which I go to school is famous for its excellent heroin? Yes, here in the Woo-town we have the best heroin in the country, supposedly. So good that when docs and other social service workers who work with the homeless and injection drug using populations meet newcomers, they warn them to be very sparing in the amounts of heroin that they use, because the stuff here is better than anywhere, and it is easy to accidentally overdose. Sadly, my city also does not have a needle exchange program. In Woo-town, 57% of people who are infected with HIV/AIDS got that way from sharing needles. In Boston and Cambridge, which both have needle exchange programs, the rates of new HIV infection from injection drug use are in the 18% range. The cost of supplying an addict with a year of clean needles is about \$52. The cost of a year's worth of first-line (least expensive) antiretroviral meds is about \$15,000. Do the freaking math, people! When a group of socially minded doctors and others who work with the homeless in Woo-town came up with a great, comprehensive plan to institute a needle exchange program, the city politicians told them that it was useless to even talk about it ever again, and that it would never happen. I'm a firm believer in harm reduction as a medical care theory. When I'm a doc, if I have a patient who has high blood pressure, I'll give him or her some meds to reduce the chance that they'll have a heart attack. I think of clean needles, handed out with counseling, assistance in entering detox and education, fall under the same damn category as diuretics.

Posted by Mia in Knitting, Ramblings at 18:06

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

So-so Soleil

Here is the Soleil, but it will only look like this a little longer because I'm going to rip back to the armholes and have to add some length to this puppy, and even then I'm having some mixed feelings about it. It may in fact make me look squatter and shorter than I want or need to look right now, and that is a BAD thing. Plus, I have a belly button ring that may in fact end up poking through some of that lace at the bottom. Maybe with an extra inch...I guess I could block it first to see, but I have a feeling about this one. Part of the problem that I have with this sucker is the back and forth unevenness of my knitting. My purl stitches are often a little sloppy. I KNEW I needed a #5 needle to do the purling on the top, but did I get one? Nooo, I was a bad and lazy knitter and didn't. I have one now, and when I riiip I will use it to make my crappy purl stitches stand up for themselves. I do like the way the top part is, the V neck is a nice length and it all worked out up there. Sigh. Not much else progress to report, but I did buy some more yarn because evil Knitpixie got some that I wanted. I'll show you when it gets here, but that is IT for a long time, I swear!!!

Posted by Mia in Knitting at 13:28

Friday, April 29, 2005

In my city, Target is pronounced with an accent.

OOOH, I love Tar-jay (rhymes with satay). I went there today intending to buy a vaccum, but I was overwhelmed by choices and price, so I roamed around and found the perfect little knitting bag for my various accoutrements. It was in the "travel" section, along with matching smallish totes that would be perfect for a little project. I was tempted, but resisted the tote, and stuck with this, called "pencil case" by Tar-jay. It is a pretty silky fabric with lovely dragonflies on the outside...very nice. See, my scissors are in there, along with the 4(!) packs of Clover stitch markers. What?? There is one pack of small ones, one pack of big ones, one pack of awesome locking ones that look like little padlocks, and one pack that I don't really like-split ring stitch markers. They were a mistake. Also, see those cute sweater-looking things? Clover DPN holders, which are good when making mittens or gloves. What else.. Oh, my Chibi, of course. Most of my stuff fits in there, but I have a little box that my sweetie gave me as part of a Christmas present. He's very cute when he gives me jewelery--first he has good taste and picks out simple things that I always wear. Second, he puts them in interesting boxes of all kinds. I think this was a box that I got a silver necklace for Christmas, and I never take it off. Anyway, there are some more things in the box, and I am keeping it for sentimental reasons. I think the moral here is that I never need any more stitch markers, holders or any of that stuff again. But Clover's new color line is sooo attractive!

Posted by Mia in Knitting at 13:45

Thursday, April 28, 2005

That 70's Sock!

Here is a relatively unexciting picture of my sock progress. I realized that my sock colors are also pretty 70's, and I think they'd go great with my wacky sweater! Today in class I worked the heel, did the heel turning (my first) and then during a review session for Microbiology (not one of my favorite topics), I picked up the stitches for the gusset. Today was a frustrating day, school is getting pretty old at this point, I'm ready to be done. So I came home feeling beat and in need of some awesome diversions. I was hoping for a relaxing episode of the OC, and instead I got GWB's stupid White House press conference. I made use of the time by knitting, but finally had to leave when I realized there would be no Ryan, Seth, Summer and Marissa to ease my pain. Is it just me, or does our president seem to slur his speech? He's also a complete loser, and I got even more frustrated watching him talk. The rhetoric of this administration really bums me out. Its hard to listen to a rich, silver-spoon in the mouth person talking about hard working Americans. I'm sure he doesn't know people who work three jobs just to put food on the table, and doesn't really care about their problems.

Posted by Mia in Knitting, Ramblings at 21:22

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Its a bird, no a plane, no...a sweater that fell from the 70's!

This picture pretty well captures the crazy awesomeness of this sweater from the yarn from handpaintedyarn. It is a colorway of hot hot pink, lime green, yellow and some maroony bits too. It is thick/thin and I've been knitting it on size 15 24" Addis and the some pink Pony Pearl DPNs, plus a 16" size 15 bamboo circ. I'm creating the pattern from Ann Budd's awesome book, "Knitter's Handy Book of Sweater Patterns" She gives all sizes and shapes and types of sweaters and you just figure out your gauge and sleeve preference, and off you go. She even explains how to deal if your gague isn't one of the ones on the list--like mine, which is about 2.25 st/inch.

Notice the awesome pillow case in the background--from my Jordinian friend. Also, note the cool brown velour chair. My BF found it for me when we were at Salvation Army trying to furnish my apartment last year. For a while, that was the only seat in my pathetic living room, and I would sit in it and watch TV and be homesick for Boston. Sadly, progress on this 70's-tastic baby has ground to a halt

because I'm supposed to be writing up a "final exam" from our "Physician, Patient and Society" class that helps us practice our patient interview skills. We had a fake patient that we talked to, and now we have to write up all her problems, make a problem list, and then talk about what we would do to differentiate between possible diagnoses. Good times. Colon cancer vs. diverticulitis vs. Crohn's disease vs. UC. You med types out there know what I'm talking about!!

Did I mention that I had to frog my Flower Basket shawl?? Yep, its a mini baby shawl right now, and I've had no time to get it back to where it was supposed to be. I was working on it the other night, and realized that somehow I had screwed it up, and didn't know how to fix it. I may also have been in a cranky mood, and didn't want to take the time to reason out my errors. Instead I ripped. Oh well, I will get it back to good soon.

Posted by Mia in Knitting, Medical School at 20:55

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Do you Dulaan? I do.

Things here in Woo town are fairly non-thrilling. School marches on, and I'm stressing but trying to keep an even keel. I bought some more board review books, and I have been working on some hats for the Dulaan project. For those of you who have not heard of it, go to Mossy Cottage and read more, plus see a picture of the cutest little boy EVER, who I guess some stupid people think doesn't exist. Someone wrote to the blog owner and I guess accused her of making up poor people in Mongolia for personal gain. Yeah, awesome. Anne-Caroline suggested Step Up as a good supplement to my other board books, there it is hiding under my Dulaan hats. She was right, I like it! It is systems based, so I can do everything about say, the kidneys in one fell swoop. Hooray! I started a sweater in the crazy bulky yarn that I got from handpaintedyarn.com, and I'll show some pics of that soon, but I didn't want to blow it all in one day. I'm feeling like I need to chill with the knitting and kick it hardcore with the studying for the next month and 3 weeks. I went home this weekend, and brought with me these booties for my mom. I started them when she was sick in the hospital waiting for surgery, and that was a while ago! I'm a good daughter in a lot of ways, but these guys got put on the back burner. Anyway, my mom is fine now and home again. The good news for me is that she is always, always cold and so event though I want flip-flops all the time now, she wore these suckers all day on Sunday! I of course don't have an "after" picture, but the pattern is great and I highly reccomend it to any of you. They shrink down and get really warm and fuzzy. I have a pair myself, and I wore them a lot this winter.

Posted by Mia in Knitting at 17:19

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Just keep swimming...

Today we had a sort of practice test for the boards. It was the "basic science assesment test," Intended to be a little bit clinical, and to test things like biochem, anatomy, pathology, pharmacology, actually it was a lot like the real boards, only shorter. It was 200 questions, 4 hours of fun. Real boards? 8 hours, 350 questions. yowza. This was helpful. Except that now I feel like I'm going to fail the boards! It was HARD, and scary, and there were things on this test that I've never even heard of! Many of the questions I could at least say to myself, "Hey, I learned this once, its in there somewhere, I'll have to dig it out later." Those questions, surprisingly, made me more unhappy than the ones that I've never seen. Right now the amount of motivation that I have for school and school related things is less than zero (kind of like my yearly income--I'm making -\$35,000 a year! yeah.). I want to sleep or play outside or knit, but studying makes me want to cry. However, our final exam is on May 20th, and then I have a measly 26 days to re-learn everything that I've learned in the past 2 years!!! I have to make a schedule! I must study for about 9 hours per day!! I must be focused! I must use my online question bank to make up a fake board exam (8 hours of fun!!). Oh god. I must remain calm. Have you seen finding Nemo? When Dory says, "Just keep swimming, just keep swimming." That is my task. Until June 15th, I must just keep swimming in a very focused, medically relevant way.

Posted by Mia in Medical School at 21:30

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

IK vs. VK

Here is a pic of the sad state of my desk last night during study time. See the sock? It was abandoned there in favor of some intense review of female reproduction--did it pay off? Dunno, the test was stupid and picky in a way that I do not like!

I'm an Interweave Knits kinda girl, but this newest issue pretty much bummed me out. Check out the projects here if you don't know what I'm talking about. If there is one thing I hate in the knitting world MORE than ponchos, it is SHRUGS. And there are about 30,000 of 'em in the new IK. I mean, a whole staff project devoted to stupid shrugs?? I know some of you like shrugs, and that's fine with me. But I'm sad. I do like the Dibs on Ribs web project, the lace leaf pullover, the sketch book cover, the striped cardi...That might be it. So I bought Vogue Knitting, which I usually don't like, but this time I'm excited about a couple of the sweaters, especially the blue cabley thing (#10), the twisty hoodie thing, and some of the others too. The things I do like aren't shown on the website, so you'll have to look in the mag. In other news, I'm addicted to handpaintedyarn.com. I have some stuff from them already, some of the lovely, buttery soft merino that I'm using to make Clapotis with. It is an interesting colorway, but one of which I have become increasingly fond. I placed another order with them for some of their superbulky yarn, in the colorway Melila. OOH is it nice, not as silky soft as the other stuff, but it makes up for that by being so chunky. I'm thinking a crazy, thick-thin cardi, what do you think? I swatched a tiny bit with size 15 and think maybe I need to go up! Yikes. I also got some of their weird nubbly plied yarn, which I also adore. That I think will become some sort of drapey shawl for Sarah's wedding--I think it matches the bridesmaid dresses!

Posted by Mia in Knitting at 12:30

Monday, April 18, 2005

I love the picot.

Here is my newest project, which of course I worked on even though I'm theoretically studying for our Female Reproduction exam tomorrow. Oh well, I'm actually doing better than I thought I'd be at this point, all my note cards are done, now I just need to review and review until my brain falls out. Can you see my pre-test room disarray? Can you see the Kool-Aid dyed yarn in the back there? It needs another round with the Kool Aid. I have had this cute sock yarn (Sock Garden "Daffodil" from Knitpicks) and have not known what to do with it. I tried making some other patterned sock, and wasn't feeling the love. The new issue of Knitty has an article about figuring out your own sock pattern, an idea that appeals to me greatly. So last night I cast on with #2s and worked away, but my problem is that I HATE K1P1 ribbing on DPNs. Why? I don't know. I only ever do about 2 rows, and then the sock looks dumb. (this will be my first actual finished sock, the other got frogged for looking dumb) Plus, the sock I was making was big enough for someone with huge feet, as opposed to me, who has small feet. So I frogged it, and cast on again with my little #1 sock needles from Webs. Let me plug here for a sec: Buy any and all Webs bamboo needles, they are smooth and perfect, and the points are delightful. HOWEVER, do not buy their bamboo circs, they are ick. Anyway, I read on Claudia's blog about making a picot edge for socks, and I AM IN LOVE. No more ribbing for me ever, now I can make socks in peace. What I did was CO 60 st, then knit 7 rows. Next row: YO, K2tog all around. Then K seven more rows. Next row: knit the cast on row together with the row you are on, making a cute folded picot edge. Plus I can knit socks and read note cards at the same time, and my tank is getting to where I need to pay more attention. Here is the inside of the sock: After I did the knitting together of the top and bottom, I increased once every 5 stitches to bring me up to 72. Now the edge will hopefully be nice and snug, but the rest of the sock should fit well. Crossing my fingers. Last night I was telling my man that I'm working on a knitted tank top, and his response? "EW!" I thought this was funny, I think he was envisioning some sort of mesh thing that I might wear to the gym. Also, for those of you wondering, we here in MA have the day off. Why? Technically its "evacuation day," but we all know its "Marathon Monday." Sadly, I'll be indoors working away. Three day weekends in med school are not as fun as you might think.

Posted by Mia in Knitting, Medical School at 07:45

Saturday, April 16, 2005

One of the cool kids

This week for some reason, my knitting has become the topic of conversation in the rows near mine in the lecture hall. First, a guy in my class who does not seem the type to be interested asked me very seriously if the yarn that I had with me to work on Soleil would be enough to finish it. I explained that it wouldn't be enough, but that I had three more balls of it at home. He seemed relieved. Then, when I wore Rogue to class, I got the two fashionistas who sit behind me interested in the sweater. They really liked it, they speculated on how much I could sell it for (estimates were in the \$150 range), they wanted one for themselves. One of the girls even said, "That is the most incredible sweater I've ever seen." Yeah, the girl who spends oodles of cash on designer labels thinks that I'm cool. I so care. I'm being sarcastic. Anyway, the ongoing progress of Soleil really has piqued lots of interest, maybe I need to start a knitting class for the students around me! In other news, I had my first anxiety dream about the Boards, which I'm taking June 15th. In my dream I had forgotten to study Microbiology and Pharmacology, two subjects that I don't like because of the extreme amount of rote memorization involved. In my dream, the test was in a bathroom, and I only had a silver pencil, not a #2. Plus, I was sitting at a crowded table, and there weren't enough computers for me to have one. I know that I'll have more and more as the scary time draws near.

Posted by Mia in Knitting, Medical School at 07:43

Friday, April 15, 2005

My Clerkships, My Future...

Here is a quick progress photo of Soleil, I'm at the point where I split the front to make the V-neck. Cool. Cotton yarn shows some un-evenness that I'm hoping will block out. I don't think of myself as an uneven knitter. Also, I'm bad and really never check row gauge, but here it is actually important, since mine is bigger than the pattern calls for. I'm monitoring it and have made a change or two, no biggie...anyway, read on to hear about the major life changes that are afoot. For those of you who are not medical students, let me just explain that the selection for third year clerkships is a major part of life, one which many students freak out about. I tried to stay calm, because at our school the whole thing is run by a lottery computer program. We have 6 clerkships of varying lengths: 12 weeks of Surgery, 12 weeks of Medicine, 6 weeks of OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Family Medicine. There are all sorts of theories about when in the year you should do certain clerkships and why, blah blah. Anyway, we put our choices in about 2 weeks ago, and they came back today. We are allowed to swap around with others if we can arrange a switch, and right now I'm possibly working on a very minor one with another classmate. Overall, my schedule is practically perfect for me. The one bad thing is that I'm spending lots of time here in Worcester, which I don't love. However, I'm pretty convinced that the quality of education that I'll get here is going to be the best possible, and that makes me happy. Right now, here is how my third year will look: Block I: Surgery at University Campus Block II: Maternal Child Health Elective (this is OB/GYN plus Pediatrics, and is like a dorky extra credit thing for those of us like ME who are obsessed with women, babies and health!) Block IIIa: Family Medicine in Worcester, exact site to be determined Block IIIb: Psychiatry in Clinton Block IV: Medicine at Worcester Med Center, but may be switched to University Campus. See, from where I live, I can spit and hit University Campus, so in a way, I can roll out of bed and be at the Operating room in about 5 minutes. This is a good thing when you have to be rounding on patients at 4 am. Most people fear surgery at University Campus, its kinda a test of your strength and endurance. I say, Bring it on. I have nothing to lose, I don't want to be a surgeon, and I'm really excited and interested to learn as much as possible. I figure if I can make it through the first three months, the rest of the year will be a breeze, and I'll be a hardened survivor of trial by fire in the OR. I'm really, really ready to be done with all this lecture hall crap, and can't wait until next year! Whooooo!!

Posted by Mia in Medical School at 17:46

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Baby's first day out

Remember how I said that the bad thing was that I wouldn't get to wear Rogue? Never fear, it is freaking cold out again! I think its snowing in Boston, and here in the Woo its just gross and possibly going to rain. Blech. But, I did get to wear Rogue to the grocery store after a chilly run. I am a fan. The blocking did a nice job of making the sleeves just a little bit longer, and now they are pretty much perfect. The hood back where the decreases are is a tiny bit wonky, it sort of makes it look like I have little nubs on my head, but I'm pretty sure no one but me will notice. I also cast on and made some progress on a summery tank, despite the chilly clime. I am using the pattern from the new Knitty, and it is Soleil. Here is a picture: In real life this color is not red, its actually called provincial rose, and it is Brown Sheep Cotton Fleece. This is a new yarn for me, and so far I like it a lot. See those cute green and purple stitch markers?? They are by Clover, and they are my new crush. When I was little, I called green and purple the witchy colors (all Disney witches are green and purple), and they were (and still are) my favorite combo. I did all of this work today during classes, which is where I do a lot of knitting. People are surprised to hear that I can listen and knit all at once, but knitting actually makes me a better listener. I don't get as bored or frustrated. We had a whopping 6 hours of lecture, even though one was an exciting lecture on sexual counseling and disorders, complete with a porno power point. I'm serious. For those of you more interested in Rogue, I found this neat post project evaluation on split yarn, but she got it from here. Anyway, click below to keep reading and see the details. Here is one more Rogue picture.

1. Name of Project: Rogue
2. Pattern Source: Jenna Wilson's Girl From Auntie site
3. Yarn: Bartlett Fisherman, 210 yards, \$6 a skein

- 3a. Needles: Addi Turbo 24 inc circls, 6 and 7s, with a bamboo 7 dpn for a cable needle, and some bamboo straights from WEBS for the back and forth parts.
4. Fiber: 100% Wool
5. Color: Dark Jade Heather
6. Where did I get the yarn: Knitpixie, one of my favorite online stores. They are so nice.
7. Is it the yarn called for: no
8. How long did it take to knit: About a month to knit, but I put off finishing for a while.
9. Did I change anything: made the sleeves 2 rows longer at the top where there are straight knitted rows, and made the body longer by one repeat of the crossed cable part.
10. What would I have done differently: Made the sleeves even a tiny bit longer.

11. Were the instructions clear: totally.

12. What did I learn: tricky cable techniques, I had never done such wonderful things before, and now I only want to make Jenna patterns for the rest of my life. Her charting method is really cool and very intuitive after a few times through.
13. Was it worth it: yes!

14. Would I do it again: yes! I have the yarn, I might make one for my sis.

15. What seaming methods were used: grafting on the hood, set in sleeve seams.

16. Will I knit with the yarn again: Yes, I'm a total convert for life. I want all the colors of Bartlett NOW!

17. Do I think I'll wear it: I'm wearing it right now!

18. Process or Product: both.

19. Do I have shoes to match? no.

20. Final Thoughts: Buy this pattern and make it if you have not already! It is FUN, and cool and a really wonderfully written pattern. Jenna is my hero.

Posted by Mia in Knitting at 19:40

Monday, April 11. 2005

Transiently inhabited by fetuses

Here is a quote from my pathology textbook, which often makes me chuckle: "The uterus is stimulated continually by hormones, denuded monthly of its endometrial mucosa, and transiently inhabited by fetuses." The italics are added by me. I think medical language is so hilarious, but it can also be dangerous for the patient. I'm NEVER going to tell an expectant mother that her fetus is transiently doing anything. So there. ps. Sarah has told me how to make my mini pictures not so mini, so as soon as Rogue is dry I'm going to post a nicer photo! Goody gumdrops.

Posted by Mia in Medical School at 22:07

Rogue

I did it!! After our exam this morning on the liver, pancreas and gall bladder, I ran right home because I knew that I would have a chunk of time that I could use without feeling totally guilty. Immediately post-exam I try to treat myself well, because by tonight I'll be hitting the books again, playing catch up after last week's memorial type events. Anyway, I've had the pieces of Rogue done for a while now, but I've been dreading seaming the set-in sleeves, because I've never done such a thing. In fact, this is only my second sweater, and it's a big step up from the simple raglan that I did for the first one. The good news is that seaming set in sleeves was not a big deal at all! I used my new favorite book, *The Knitter Book of Finishing Techniques*, which has a whole section on tricky seams like this one. The bad news is that now it is very warm out, and I'm not sure when I'll be able to debut Rogue. That and the fact that the sleeves are a touch shorter than I wanted them. I'm hoping to be able to block them to a more perfect length. I guess I should have put some close-ups of the seams, but I've already plunked her in a bath to soak before blocking. Here she is with all the ends worked in and everything. Turns out that end-working-in is actually my least favorite thing about knitting, and that I really do like seams! As long as your selvages are pretty decent, it is satisfying to see everything zip together like magic.

Posted by Mia in Knitting at 12:25

Sunday, April 10, 2005

She Kept the House and Worked in Wool

In college I was a Classics and Biochemistry double major. Yeah, I'm a dork. I wanted the biochem to get me into medical school, and the Classics because I love the history and culture of ancient Greece and Rome. My total obsession with Roman views on life and death started with a first-year seminar entitled "Roman Death" at Bowdoin. Good times. The graveyards and houses of the dead from that time are unbelievably cool. This picture is of Gaius Cestius' tomb, a huge pyramid, which still stands in the middle of downtown Rome! He was a poor baker who made it rich and wanted to show off. Because I'm a woman, I've always been very interested in women's lives and place in their society. Makes sense that I'm an obsessive knitter AND that I want to be an OB/GYN or a family doc that mostly cares for women and their kids. Women in the ancient world are hard to figure out. The only real records we have of their lives are those written about them by the men who knew them-fathers, husbands, etc. We rarely hear their voices, but the information we have about them is truly fascinating, as are the contrasts and similarities between the descriptions in letters and the descriptions on funeral stones. This contrast became the subject of my senior thesis ('She kept the house and worked in wool': the commemoration of women in Roman inscriptions and literature).

One of the most glowing recollections is about my hero, Minicia Marcella, the daughter of Fundanus Marcellus. She became known because Pliny the Younger wrote a letter about her death, you can read it [here](#). The cool thing about Minicia is that we also have her funeral stone, something that didn't usually happen. Her inscription reads simply: "To the gods of the dead. The tomb of Minicia Marcella, daughter of Fundanus. She lived 12 years, 11 months, 7 days." This sounds like a different girl from the one her father's friend spoke so glowingly about. The Romans are weird like that. Anyway, I made this blog about her because she sounds pretty inspiring on paper. I need some drive and inspiration to get me through the next few months of board studying, finals and beginning my new life as a third year med student!! Some of the inscriptions are written like poems that the family wanted to leave for eternity. Check this one out, I love it as well: Friend, I have not much to say; stop and read it. This tomb, which is not fair, is for a fair woman. Her parents gave her the name Claudia. She loved her husband in her heart. She bore two sons, one of whom she left on earth, the other beneath it. She was pleasant to talk with, and she walked with grace. She kept the house and worked in wool. That is all. You may go. How great is it that back then, wool work was a sure sign of a good woman! This book is so fun and full of wonderful information about women's lives back then: WLGR

Posted by Mia in Ramblings at 15:00

Saturday, April 9, 2005

Should be making socks while watching Sox, but...

Last night I needed a reprieve from the insanity that has been my life for the past week and a half. A good friend and mentor of mine passed away and last week was totally consumed by sadness, memorial services, wakes and the like. Not fun. But last night I was able to watch the Red Sox beat the Blue Jays, get some studying done and start on the Flower Basket shawl (IK Fall2004). I've been thinking about this for a while, but now I have an intended recipient in mind--the wife of the friend who passed away. She seems like someone who would appreciate a nice pink shawl made from Frog Tree Alpaca. Size 6 needles. It is my first lacy attempt, and I like it so far! I've been very bad about buying yarn lately, knitpixie had a special sale for people who have created accounts with them--20% off all wool. How could I resist? Plus they are SOO nice, I love it. The size of the box is hilarious. I got myself a Thrummed Mitten Kit with Bartlett Fisherman in Raspberry Heather and red Peace Fleece Roving. It comes in a cute plastic zippered bag, yay! Also, some Bartlett Yarns Fisherman in Lilac Heather (6 skeins, enough for another Rogue, if I decided to knit it again). I also got 8 skeins of Bartlett Glen Tweeds in Bronze, with which I plan to knit a love sweater for my man. When asked what kind of sweater he would want, he replied, "one that does not bunch up at the bottom." He was falling asleep at the time, so maybe he has some more specific things in mind. I'm not afraid of the curse. I believe, like Julia that if it is meant to be, then it will be regardless of knitted items. Besides, he deserves it, he is so great. Next time I'll tell you more about Minicia and why I love her so.

Posted by Mia in Knitting at 11:13