

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 SOOOOOOO 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.
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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

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 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

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 wooly 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

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

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

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

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 bridesmaidenly 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

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

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

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

Thursday, May 12. 2005

I'm in heaven!

Last night and this morning have combined to put me in a 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 enjoining 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

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 riip 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 gauge 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!! 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

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

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

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 its 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

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