

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