

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 familial 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 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 enioing 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