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Elizabeth Zimmermann's Knitter's Almanac (Dover Knitting, Crochet, Tattling, Lace)



Synopsis

"One of America's most ingenious and creative knitters." — Barbara G. Walker, author of *Treasury of Knitting Patterns*. Elizabeth Zimmerman once wrote, "So please bear with me, and put up with my opinionated, nay, sometimes cantankerous attitude. I feel strongly about knitting." Perhaps her passionate opinions, as well as her love of wool craft and her delightful style, hark back to her English upbringing or long residence in the Wisconsin woods; in any case, the "Busy Knitter," as she calls herself, is one of the most charming and informative, as well as "un"ventive (her word) knitter-authors anywhere. This book gives full scope to her tireless imagination through a year's worth of projects, fitted to the seasons, moods, and needs of knitters who would like to design their own work. The year begins with an Aran sweater and proceeds to February baby things, a March Shetland, April blanket, May mittens, and so on through the months, completing the zodiac with November moccasin socks and a December last-minute wishbone sweater. Projects are completed in the midst of canoe trips, fishing expeditions, travel, and snowstorms. The author continuously comments on the project, its history, other ancient and modern customs, and personal beliefs. Mrs. Zimmerman works step by step with the reader, suggesting alternative methods and ideas as she goes. Her patterns are "classic," historically suited to wool, thus remaining ever-fashionable as well as tasteful and attractive. The knitter may easily adapt the designs at will, creating new, individual projects. Mrs. Zimmerman's hints (such as how to measure gauge when working a pattern and tips for baby's items) help ease the way and will instruct even the most experienced knitter. This corrected edition of the Knitter's Almanac will provide at the very least a year's worth of knitting pleasure to intermediate and advanced knitters and may even help stimulate a knitting passion.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"One of America's most ingenious and creative knitters."--Barbara G. Walker, author of "Treasury of Knitting Patterns." Elizabeth Zimmerman once wrote, "So please bear with me, and put up with my opinionated, nay, sometimes cantankerous attitude. I feel strongly about knitting." Perhaps her passionate opinions, as well as her love of wool craft and her delightful style, hark back to her English upbringing or long residence in the Wisconsin woods; in any case, the "Busy Knitter," as she calls herself, is one of the most charming and informative, as well as "un"ventive (her word) knitter-authors anywhere. This book gives full scope to her tireless imagination through a year's worth of projects, fitted to the seasons, moods, and needs of knitters who would like to design their own work. The year begins with an Aran sweater and proceeds to February baby things, a March Shetland, April blanket, May mittens, and so on through the months, completing the zodiac with November moccasin socks and a December last-minute wishbone sweater. Projects are completed in the midst of canoe trips, fishing expeditions, travel, and snowstorms. The author continuously comments on the project, its history, other ancient and modern customs, and personal beliefs. Mrs. Zimmerman works step by step with the reader, suggesting alternative methods and ideas as she goes. Her patterns are "classic," historically suited to wool, thus remaining ever-fashionable as well as tasteful and attractive. The knitter may easily adapt the designs at will, creating new, individual projects. Mrs. Zimmerman's hints (such as how to measure gauge when working a pattern and tips for baby's items) help ease the way and will instruct even the most experienced knitter. This corrected edition of the "Knitter's Almanac" will provide at the very least a year's worth of knitting pleasure to intermediate and advanced knitters and may even help stimulate a knitting passion.

Elizabeth Zimmermann is famous for revolutionizing modern knitting with her books and for an instructional series on American public television. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This is a great book. I have it for my kindle and wanted a hard copy so I purchased one. This format is terrible for knitting from. It is a small book, about the same size as a short story anthology usually is and it's thin, so they put all that information into small print. Also, the back is glued, so when I

spread the pages apart so the book would lay flat the pages came loose. I took it to have spiral bound and that made it much better to read from, but it still isn't a book to have on a side table and read the knitting instructions from while you knit. I have to put the knitting down, pick up the book to read, put the book back down, then try to remember what I read to knit it. I'll stick to my kindle one and just save this as an example of why I should pay attention to ALL details before I pay for something.

Its great to see this knitting classic updated in a larger hardback version, with larger print, color pictures, and some things re-knit in todays yarns. EZ fans everywhere will want to have this new version! The Almanac features lovely things to knit for each month of the year with accompanying story and instructions from Elizabeth. It feels like sitting around and knitting with your beloved grandmother. Stephanie Pearl-McPhee writes the new introduction and EZ's daughter adds some relevant clarifications here and there. Otherwise, its the same EZ instructions we've come to know and love, the long written out version and the "pithy" version. The charts are still hand-drawn, I'm surprised they didn't update those too.

This would be a full five star review if I hadn't bought the kindle edition. I feel like I have spent a day with my granny talking about knitting, having had a lot of my own views validated by the queen of knitting - wonderful. But the format does not suit the kindle at all, the pictures are badly placed and it is hard to set bookmarks right so you can go back and find what you are looking for in patterns etc. I went right along and bought it in paperback today and now feel that I have wasted the price of the kindle edition - I could have bought yarn for that!

This book is a wonderful deal. The projects are interesting, the text is witty, and I am actually setting out to follow the Almanac for the entire year of 2002 (it is January and I am almost done with the January project). This is a knitter's paradise. HOWEVER, there are two things you should know before buying:1) I would be lost if I did not also own E Zimmerman's *Knitting Without Tears*. Her instructions in the Almanac are somewhat abbreviated, and I need the other book as a cross-reference. *Knitting Without Tears* has the pictures and the more elaborate descriptions to help me understand what she means in the Almanac.2) The binding of this book is extremely flimsy and cheap. I purchased my book new in October, and, by December, pages were already falling out! It is now not even four months old and it is full of tape (I used clear packing tape to bind the pages in so that I did not lose any of the precious instruction!)

I am really only a middling knitter, at best. Still, I want to make virtually EVERY SINGLE THING in this book. If you are married to step-by-step patterns, this isn't the book for you. EZ's whole point with these books was to encourage knitters to think for themselves and learn the basic construction of garments so that they could freehand items. This really IS suitable for novice knitters, but not ones who want to cling to that novice status. If, like me, you can't look at a pattern without making a mental list of changes and winding up winging it ANYWAY, you'll love this book. But EZ will not hold your hand. I crochet far more than knit, and I dearly wish the crochet world had books like this.

So very thankful to find one of Elizabeth Zimmermann's books on Kindle...especially this one, as it's my favorite. I look forward to the day when they are all available in this format. It reads wonderfully on my Fire HD, including the pictures. I hope that very soon all the knitting and crochet books I want will be available for Kindle. Please, please..."Knitting Without Tears" next!

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