

Sara's Treasure Forest Sock

presented with excerpts from Cat Bordhi's
Nautilus Award-winning novel,
Treasure Forest



Lily began to rummage through the hall cupboards where her mother had kept knitting and spinning supplies. She pulled out squashed bags of yarn that smelled like her mother, a mixture of sheep's lanolin and cedar.

"Mom?" Sara tugged at Lily's sleeve. "Dad and I set the table, and the soup's hot."

"I'll be there in a minute," Lily told her. "Call Ben." Suddenly her own mother's presence blossomed behind her, like the warmth of a summer day, and the sensation was so familiar that Lily turned around. But there was no one there.

Materials: 200 yds. sport-weight or dk yarn (for hand-spinners, 9 -12 wpi), two 24" size 6 circular needles (or size to get correct gauge), tapestry needle, cable needle if desired.

Gauge: 22 sts = 4" or 10 cm

Size: to fit Sara, age 12, with feet 8 1/2" (21.5 cm) in length. Adjust length of front foot up to 1" (2.5 cm) to fit other sizes.

Start at the toe with figure-8 cast-on

Holding the circular needles parallel to each other, make a slip knot and place it around one needle. Tightly wrap the yarn around the needles as if you are drawing a series of "8's", stacking them up on the two needles. Make eight figure-8's. Slide one needle so it hangs from the middle of its cable (we'll call this needle #2, or n#2).

When Ben lay down, the fabric snuggled around him with perfect ease. His fingers played in the spaces between the taut loops while he gazed at the blue sky through the notched green leaves of the great oak tree.

"Know what you've just learned, boy?" Rupert asked. The old man didn't wait for Ben's answer. "You, my boy, have learned how to knit a tree house."



is there?"

Ben stood in his knitted tree house, and studied the rows of loops. He supposed it did look like magnified sweater fabric.

Ben sat up in astonishment. An image of his mom knitting socks swam before him, and another of Grandma Daphne. "This was knitting?"

"Yup," smiled Rupert broadly. "Pulling loops through loops with one long thread, that's all knitting is. But ain't too many who've thought to knit a tree house, now,

Toe strap

Using both ends of n#1, knit the first 6 sts, and discard the extras from both needles. There should be 6 loops on n#2's cable. Now let n#1 hang and use both ends of n#2 to knit its 6 sts. Continuing on n#2 only, turn and p6, turn and k6. Repeat 5 times.

Pick up toe stitches

Continuing with n#2, pick up and knit 7 sts along the long edge of the strap. Pull out a length of cable so you can also knit the first 3 sts from the beginning of n#1, then pull the cable back into place. Let n#2 hang while you use n#1 to knit its 3 sts, then pick up and knit 7 sts along the second long edge. Pull out a length of cable so you can knit the first 3 sts from the beginning of n#2, then pull the cable back into place. You now have 13 sts on each needle. Knit one round.

Toe Increases

Round 1: N#1: K2, m1L, k8, m1r, k3, repeat on n#2.

Rounds 2, 4, and 6: K all sts.

Round 3: N#1: K2, m1L, k10, m1r, k3, repeat on n#2.

Round 5: N#1: K2, m1L, k12, m1r, k3, repeat on n#2.

There are 19 sts on each needle.

"Sit down, Mom," insisted Ben, and he handed her the socks. "Can I watch you?" he asked, eager to see another kind of knitting.

She nodded and picked up the needles. Her fingers picked up speed as she pulled loops through loops across one half of the sock, then let that needle dangle on its cable while she pulled loops through loops with the other needle. The yellow sock was growing upwards, with a branching fir tree design that grew from the foot up the leg.

"Sara wanted a tree," Lily told him. "She likes trees."

Tree Pattern (start it in the "foot" section below)

Round 1: K4, rt, ktbl, lt, k4.

Round 2: K4, ktbl, k1, ktbl, k1, ktbl, k4.

Round 3: K3, rt, k1, ktbl, k1, lt, k3.

Round 4: K3, ktbl, k2, ktbl, k2, ktbl, k3.

Round 5: K2, rt, k2, ktbl, k2, lt, k2.

Round 6: K2, ktbl, k2, k3tbl, k2, ktbl, k2.

Round 7: K1, rt, k1, rt, ktbl, lt, k1, lt, k1.

Round 8: K1, ktbl, k2, ktbl, k1, ktbl, k1, ktbl, k2, ktbl, k1.

To continue, repeat rounds 3-8 only.

Foot

On n#1, K8, k3 tbl, k8; k across n#2. Repeat 6 more times. On n#1, begin tree pattern on middle 13 sts, knitting all other sts, until sock measures 5" (12.5 cm) in length.

Gusset

Continue tree pattern on n#1 while increasing on *alternate* rounds on n#2 as follows: m1R, k to end of needle, m1L. Continue alternate increase rounds until there are 39 sts on n #2, with 19 remaining on n#1. K 1 round.

Lily finished knitting the heel of Sara's sock and got up to stretch. She'd forgotten just how satisfying it was to watch the shape take form like magic in her hands. And it gave her a good feeling of being in control.

Turn heel and work up the back of the heel

You will work rows back and forth on n#2, while n#1 hangs.

Row 1: K10, (s1, k1) 9x, ssw, turn.

Row 2: S1, p16, ssw, turn.

Row 3: S1, k1, (k1, s1) 7x, ssw, turn.

Row 4: S1, p14, ssw, turn.

Row 5: S1, (k1, s1) 7x, k1togww, ssktogww, turn.

Row 6: Sl 1, p 16, p1togww, p2togww, turn.

Row 7: S1, (k1, s1) 8x, k1, ssk, turn.

Row 8: Sl 1, p17, p2tog, turn.
Repeat Rows 7 & 8 eight times.

Ben was itching to try knitting this way too. It seemed so tiny after the tree house, where the yarn was rope and the needles were hoses. "Could I try?" he asked.

"Wait until I get to a plain spot," his mom responded. She handed the sock and needles to him and watched him curiously. It was a little awkward at first, but he knew what he was after – loops through loops – and he knit along to the end of the plain spot and handed it back to his astonished mom.

"You figured it out so fast!" she marveled.

"It's easy," said Ben. "Loops through loops, all with one long thread that never ends, right?"

"I guess so," said his mom, her needles clicking, "I never thought of it that way." She held the straw-colored sock at arm's length to admire it.

Leg

Round 1: Continuing with n#2, (s1, k1) 9x, k1, m1L in last st. Let #2 hang while you work with n#1: m1r in first st, k to end, working tree pattern, m1L in last st.

Round 2: N#2, m1r in first st, k to end. N#1, k1p1k1p1, work tree pattern, p1k1p1k1.

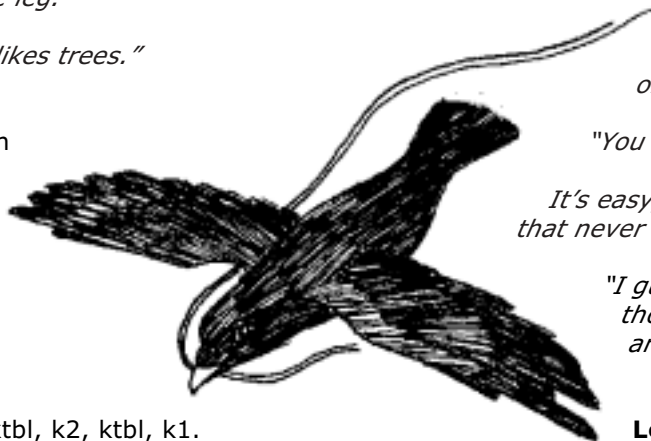
Round 3: N#2, p1k1 end p1. N#1, work as established. Continue as established for 9 more rounds. Then, on n#1, k1p1k1p1, work tree, and k around until you come to the tree pattern again. Maintain tree pattern, knitting all other sts, for 2.5 inches.

Ben picked up the sock and began knitting the tree section. "Mom," he said, "you'd better give me some help with this part."

Lily finished Sara's first sock and wove the end of yarn into the cuff. When she cradled the golden foot in her arms, it felt so alive, as if Sara's very being shimmered in the warm wool. When her mind snuck in and attempted to lure her with terrifying thoughts about Sara, she remembered what Ben had told her and just pulled loops through loops, watching the new sock take shape around her invisible daughter's foot.

Cuff

Work 10 rounds of k1p1 ribbing. Cut a 30" tail, and use tapestry needle to work sewn cast-on as follows: (Draw yarn through first two sts as if to purl. Draw yarn back through first st as if to knit, and remove from needle.) Repeat until all sts have been cast off, and weave the end down the inside of the ribbing.





The passageway ended in a spacious chamber in a warm amber hue, smooth and glowing, almost like a beach lit with gold at the end of a day. A spinning wheel with a crescent moon-shaped stool waited in the room, near a little mountain of sun-colored fiber.

"Sit down, dear," Esther invited Sara.

"I already know how to spin a little," Sara smiled. "Mom taught me."

"I know, dear," responded Esther kindly. "Thank goodness. The connection is already made, and this will be simple."

For a full explanation of the two-circular method, please see *Socks Soar on Two Circular Needles* by Cat Bordi, published by Passing Paws Press, ISBN 0-9708869-5-0.

Treasure Forest by Cat Bordi, winner of the Nautilus Award for young adult fiction and the first of *The Forest Inside Trilogy*, is published by Namaste Publishing and is available at yarn shops and bookstores. Ask for ISBN 0-9682364-8-0, or see www.namastepublishing.com

Abbreviations:

Note:

slip all sts purlwise unless instructed otherwise.

ktbl: Knit through the back loop.

tbl: Through back loop.

m1r: (make 1 right) pick up the right side of the st below the next st, and k into it.

m1L: (make 1 left) pick up the left side of the st below the st you just worked, and k into it.

rt: (right twist) K the second st tbl, then k the first st (the second st crosses over the first st, to the right).

lt: (left twist) K the second st, then k the first st tbl (the first st crosses over the second st, to the left).

Ssw: (slip, slip, wrap) Slip the next st to the right needle and bring the yarn forward (if knitting) or back (if purling) between the needles. Replace slipped st on the left needle. Slipped st is now wrapped and stored on the left needle.

Ssk: Slip 2 sts knitwise 1 at a time, and then k the 2 slipped sts together tbl.

ssktogww: (slip, slip, knit together with wrap) Slip the wrap onto the left needle tip, insert the right needle tip into it and the first st purlwise, and slip both onto the right needle. Slip the second st knitwise. Replace both sts on the left needle and k together tbl.

k1togww: (knit 1 together with wrap) Slip the wrap onto the left needle tip and k it together with the st tbl.

p1togww: (purl 1 together with wrap) Slip the wrap onto the left needle tip and p it together with the st.

p2togww: (purl 2 together with wrap) Slip the wrap onto the left needle tip. P it together with the st and the next st.

Knitters' reviews of Treasure Forest:

"This can't-put-down adventure will thrill knitters, and is sure to become a classic. It's the perfect gift to share with children and adults who have yet to discover how wonderful it is to knit." —Jen Conway, designer

"As a fiber artist, I was thrilled to see spinning and knitting "woven" throughout the story. The spinning wheel and knitted tree house have prominent and accurate roles in this tale, a rare find in fiction."

— Elaine Pretz, Associate Editor of Black Sheep Newsletter

