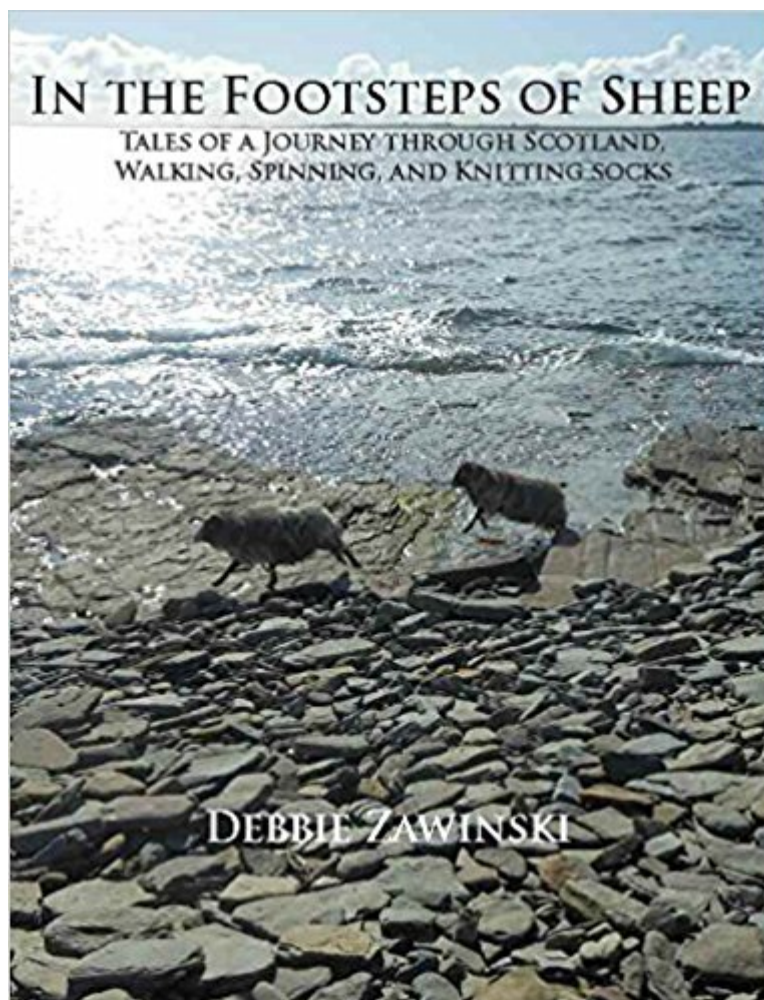




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In The Footsteps Of Sheep: Tales Of A Journey Through Scotland, Walking, Spinning, And Knitting Socks



Synopsis

In the *Footsteps of Sheep* details the completion of a mission the author, a Welsh-born Scot, set for herself: to travel and camp throughout Scotland, find cast off tufts of wool from 10 Scottish sheep breeds, then spin the wool on her spinning stick while walking (or waiting for ferries), and finally design and knit one pair of socks to represent each breed...all the while writing about her adventures and taking plenty of photographs. Debbie has written beautifully about her journey; the hills, shorelines, and bogs explored; the sheep and people she met along the way; weather both foul and fair, and a particularly exciting chapter about the intriguing St Kilda archipelago and its feral Soay and Boreray sheep. The eleven sock patterns, one at the end of each chapter, are a bonus and, for those of us unable to gather and spin our own fleece, all were test-knitted with commercial wool. The designs are knitted from top to toe with different motifs, among them color-patterns, cables, spirals, stripes, Kilt Hose with top-turnovers, and a pair of baby booties.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The author is an intrepid Scottish woman who, after earning a medical degree and raising her children, packed her rucksack with bare necessities, and set off to camp and walk throughout Scotland. I confess that I looked at the pictures first, and they enabled me to travel with the author, from my armchair. The photos of the seascapes are lovely, the author's cozy camping locations romantic (even the cold and rainy ones), and the steep cliffs and rock outcroppings plunging into the

sea are dramatic and exciting. Of course, there are sheep everywhere, and a helpful map at the beginning of each chapter which allows you to follow the author's path. When I began to read the text, I was further enthralled. Debbie's prose eloquently captures the spirit of her adventure, during which she sought tufts of fleece on fences, on the ground, and caught in the bushes. She spun the wool (as she walked) and designed ten pairs of socks celebrating ten Scottish breeds of sheep, along with one pair that includes all ten varieties of wool. Instructions for each pair of socks are at the end of each chapter, test knitted in commercial wool. Through her story, Debbie ties together knitting and adventure, giving away her socks to people who helped her along her way. Debbie's writing is both a lyrical and a riveting story of her trek, augmented by plenty of photos of the landscape shared by both people and sheep. --Meg Swansen, author of Handknitting with Meg Swansen

Published in October of 2015 this is a beautiful book in concept, design and execution. The inclusion of so much information about the routes walked, the various locations, the types of sheep, and similar plus the patterns, and the gorgeous photographs makes this a very valuable book for anyone interested in knitting, socks, or Scotland! My only reservation would be that many of the wools shown, although I understand the reasons for knitting socks from each type of sheep, are not likely to be the most suitable for socks. Fortunately Mrs. Zawinski has thoughtfully included instructions for commercial wool, and she may write address this issue in the book -- I've only just received it. Socks are very utilitarian as well as lovely, and get a lot of wear and tear in addition to needing to be washed thus yarns have been developed that are used for socks, or some recommend knitting some nylon or very durable fiber in with the yarn on the heel. Now that winter is approaching, this book will make you get out your knitting needles, find some yarn and cast on!

Found this book from reading about it from a knitting magazine. It tells the story of one woman's mission to gather wool from every breed of sheep found on the various islands west of Scotland. She not only spun the wool fiber but knitted a pair of socks from each breed. Sadly, the main sock photos were done with an equivalent commercial yarn. The originals had a fluffier, woolly quality of unknown gauge, and this being a knitting book, the author's gauge details were rather sketchy. Beyond that, each chapter detailed her adventures camping, visiting, spinning, and knitting - which prompted me to pick up the needles, knit some socks, and dream of traveling to far off lands!

I love this book and am so glad I bought it. I do not knit but I love sheep and spinning and wanted to

read about her journey i do agree with some of the other reviewers that this would have been nicer had it been a hardcover book. This is such a gorgeous book and will be read and used allot so will be difficult to keep the covers in good shape. I also agree with some of the reviewers that since this is a book about her journey gathering up wool and spinning there were no photos to show that-a little thing but should have been included and disappointing as it is the premise of the book Other than that I love this book and would highly recommend. I really debated about giving this book 4 stars as explained or the 5 stars-In the end I gave 5 stars since it is such a beautiful book

I'm not sure quite what I was expecting from this book, nor why it didn't quite live up to it, but I finished it somewhat disappointed. I did want to see a picture of her "spinning stick", and I think it was included but half-covered by other objects in the photo.

Beautiful book. Lost one star for not offering a hardback version, or at least a more durable cover. Lots of sock knitting projects too.

Beautiful photos and interesting travel journal with knitting patterns thrown in. So far I have been savoring this book a chapter at a time.

I've wanted to read this book ever since it came out in 2015 but sadly, I couldn't afford it. I finally got to buy it & received it today!! I sat down & spend the next 3 hours just reading it, it was so worth waiting for. Not only is it a Walker's travelogue but it's also a Spinner's gem of Scottish sheep & wool. I love the little maps that show where each walk took place & how she got around - train, bus, boat, truck, foot!! The pictures of the sheep & the scenery itself are glorious. The patterns are good to have but the walk, the stories, the people & the sheep were worth the cost of the book. Not just another craft book or travelogue but a terrific combination of both.

It was completely wonderful--a travel guide in additional to knitting patterns, a new way of spinning, plus other valuable information. I've put visiting the Shetland Islands on my bucket list. I hope Debbie goes to Ireland next.

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