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overflade  
Dybde  
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Struktur  
Flade

Skala

Striber

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Taktil Tekstil Strik

Grafisk

Monster  
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Stemming Stil

Cool



08.33



10. august 2019  
09.47

Rediger













Strawberry  
from a 1980s

RELAX  
HEART  
ALIEN

RELAX

*just tie knots*

Hama beads  
i legofarver  
på hvid



Hama perler  
• hvid rib



• sort  
• Hvid  
• loop i  
med mu



skala  
rib på  
klat  
arme



• ribkrave  
• Leo i forskellige  
nuancer  
• loop stitch  
bærestykke  
• rib + leo  
bærestykke

• Loop stitch bærestykke  
+ ærmer + lysere  
leo



Lærke Bagger

close  
knit

15 Patterns and  
45 Techniques from  
Beginner to Advanced  
from Europe's Coolest  
Knitter

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Cover design by Luisa Klose, using photos by Peter Stanners (front) and Lærke Bagger (back).

The front cover shows a detail of the photo on p. 237. The basic instructions for the loop pattern used here can be found on p. 232ff. The instructions for this technique in one colour can be found on p. 238 ff.

The version shown on the cover was made by creatively combining different colours of yarn.

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## Foreword

# A bit about knit-shaming and insecurity, and — what the hell! — a LOT about knitting.

There were just three things I really cared about before I had children: knitting, parties and cool clothes. In that order, please note.

Since childhood, crafts have been a constant in my life, and I always dreamed of making my own clothes. But I didn't really like sewing and was too impatient to design things, as you have to produce numerous versions of a particular style before it is finally perfect. I wanted instant fun, so I picked up some needles and yarn and got started. But at the same time, I wanted to party and finish quickly so I could throw a bash in my cool new pullover. I've always been someone who could enjoy life to the full, and so knitting became my world.

It might sound easy to just start knitting, but it really wasn't — believe me. I would be a millionaire by now if I'd got a euro every time someone said, "You'll never make a living with that" or "Bad idea. Forget it." But all I wanted to do was knit. I just had to seize the opportunity and put all my eggs in one basket, no matter what the result would be.

This guy once described me as a totally pathetic "Knitty Nora". And he wasn't joking. He made the comment to hurt me. I was young and sensitive and had plucked up the courage for the first time to express out loud my dream of making a living from my knitting. At first, I was really upset. The words pathetic Knitty Nora gave me stomach cramps, quite apart from the insecurity and fear I was feeling anyway. Was I really so bad? Was he right, perhaps, and my dream was as impossible as it was stupid?

No, dammit! Gradually his words became more than ridicule and mockery to me. They became a statement I simply had to prove wrong, come what may. I wanted to prove — to myself, not to him — that I was not a totally untalented Knitty Nora. His words became a mantra that made me defiant. They were more important for my career than all the times I heard the words "well done!" It's crazy, I know.

This book is about finding the courage to stand your ground and use insecurity as a driving force. CLOSE KNIT is much more than just a knitting manual. It's about believing in yourself, not caring what others think and not wanting to be perfect and neat but having fun and accepting the mistakes you make when you enter unknown territory.

Oh boy, have I made mistakes! And I still make them now — every day. I was never the most talented, the best, the prettiest or the Number One in anything. Believe me. But I was prepared to apply myself and tackle the seemingly impossible and uncertain. In short, I was banking on success.

**1985**  
Born in Aalborg.

**1993**  
Starts knitting.

**2008**  
Intern with knitwear designer Isabel Berglund.

**2009**  
Starts at School of Design at Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Design, Copenhagen.

**2013**  
Intern with fashion label Sibling, London.

**2015**  
Master's in Design from Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts.

**2017**  
Creative Director with Hjertegarn.

**2020**  
100,000 followers on Instagram; nominated Newcomer of the Year by Elle Style Awards.

**2021**  
Debut as author.

This book is another project like that. I have dreamed of producing it for over ten years but have never actually dared to publish it. And I can't remember ever having shed as many tears as I did over the work on this book. It was hard, really tough – but awesome fun and great for me.

So, knitting. Obviously, CLOSE KNIT is about knitting, but it's not a typical knitting manual – because I'm not your typical knitter. Nor a knitting expert. I'm just an expert in being Lærke Bagger and knitting the way Lærke Bagger knits. So this book contains my thoughts, techniques, tips and my own abbreviations – and of course 15 of my designs.

CLOSE KNIT is a book for novices as well as dyed-in-the-wool knitters. You can read it from start to finish or use it as a reference book. The 15 patterns increase in difficulty, so you can improve your techniques step by step. So, even if you have an advanced degree in knitting and can probably knit better than me, you might still find a few useful tips here and there. My designs aren't that easy, so you might find them as hard to knit as this book was for me to write – because I don't have any precise instructions for techniques, colours and patterns.

But what CLOSE KNIT does have is plenty of suggestions and guidelines that will require you to take decisions and experiment yourself – so you also need the courage to make mistakes, because the mistakes are part of the design. In other words, they aren't really mistakes at all, because my designs are personal rather than perfect. Nothing is more boring than perfection. Our mistakes are the best things about us. They are what make us human.

My aim with this book was to create a framework for you to develop your own ideas. So you can vary all 15 designs in countless ways: with the various Scrap techniques, beads, in a single colour with embroidered stitches, or all of the above.

Create your own universe, based on your own aesthetics, preferences, yarn and abilities. In short, adapt all the instructions in this book as you like, to suit yourself. Take the techniques as suggestions you can combine. There's no right or wrong in knitting.

I want this book to inspire you, make you want to face challenges and try out something new. If you're interested in seeing how other people knit my designs, check out social media and the hashtags for my designs. It's incredible to see the variety and how different my designs look when they come from someone else's needles.

There's an absolutely fantastic knitting community on social media that offers encouragement and networks across all ages and nationalities. Let's keep on inspiring each other.

Carpe diem!

All the best, Lærke Bagger





# Chapter 1

# Knitting Techniques (the easy ones)

**“It’s basic stuff.  
Just go for it.  
Have no fear.  
And a bit about  
the knitting  
equipment you  
need.”**