



2005

Chicks with Sticks (It's a purl thing)

Gillian Streeter
gstreeter@fortbend.lib.tx.us

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Streeter, Gillian (2005) "Chicks with Sticks (It's a purl thing)," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 26 : Iss. 4 , Article 30.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol26/iss4/30>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Lenhard, Elizabeth. *Chicks with Sticks (It's a purl thing)*. Dutton Children's Books, 2005. ISBN 0525476229. \$15.99. 261 p.

Reviewer: Gillian Streeter

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: Knitting--Juvenile fiction; Friendship--Juvenile fiction; Interpersonal relations--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Scottie feels distant and isolated from everyone - even her best friend Amanda - since her Aunt Roz passed away. Her artsy parents have no time for her, her best friend Amanda has moved on to more popular friends at Olivia Stark School, and Scottie doesn't know where she fits anymore. Looking for a yarn store in the hippy part of Chicago she discovers KnitWit, a funky store where people gather just to talk...and knit. In KnitWit, Scottie finds a new hobby, new (and old) friendships, and a new sense of belonging. But things change, and Scottie is afraid of losing everything Knit Wit has given her.

Lenhard writes a light and friendly teen read with knitting lingo woven throughout. While more mature readers might tire of the "teen" perspective and slang, the story's aim of finding a permanent place in a changing world is a theme that appeals to all ages. Each chapter is begun with a snippet from knitting patterns, like "Join Yarn" or "Add Fringe" and readers will even learn a bit about knitting figures like Elizabeth Zimmermann. For those who don't know stitch from purl, this book might be hard to understand, but it also can spark curiosity. For readers who want to try their hands at knitting, Lenhard includes some patterns and knitting-related crafts at the end of the book.