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# Strange Material: Storytelling Through Textiles



## Synopsis

Strange Material explores the relationship between handmade textiles and storytelling. Through text, the act of weaving a tale or dropping a thread takes on new meaning for those who previously have seen textiles—quilts, blankets, articles of clothing, and more—only as functional objects. This book showcases crafters who take storytelling off the page and into the mediums of batik, stitching, dyeing, fabric painting, knitting, crochet, and weaving, creating objects that bear their messages proudly, from personal memoir and cultural fables to pictorial histories and wearable fictions. Full-color throughout, the book includes chapters on various aspects of textile storytelling, from "Textiles of Protest, Politics, and Power" to "The Fabric of Remembrance"; it also includes specific projects, such as the well-known and profoundly moving Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, as well as poetry mittens, button blankets, and stitched travel diaries. Offbeat, poetic, and subversive, Strange Material will inspire readers to re-imagine the possibilities of creating through needle and fabric. Leanne Prain is the co-author (with Mandy Moore) of Yarn Bombing, now in its third printing, and the author of Hoopla: The Art of Unexpected Embroidery. A professional graphic designer, Leanne holds degrees in creative writing, art history, and publishing.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (6 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

If I had to pick one favorite book of 2014 it would have to be Leanne Prain's Strange Material: Storytelling through Textiles. It looks at textiles, including a few pieces of crochet, and how various artists have transformed them into narrative-based artworks. I believe that everyone and everything

has a story. I believe that there is power in sharing those stories and in re-shaping those stories. This book does that in such a unique way for a niche topic. I love it. This is a smart book that is intended to inspire the reader to tell their own story through handmaking. I believe it succeeds in this goal.

After only a quick look-through I can't wait to read in depth. Thought provoking and creativity stirring!

More information than I expected.

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