

Favorite quotes from the Dowager Countess of Downton Abbey:

ISOBEL CRAWLEY

He is treating one of your tenant, John Drake, for dropsy, but seems reluctant to embrace some of the newer treatments.

ROBERT, EARL OF GRANTHAM

Drake is a good man, and far too young to die, but I suppose the doctor knows his business.

VIOLET, DOWAGER COUNTESS OF GRANTHAM

Not as well as Mrs Crawley, apparently.



August 1, 2014

It's time to talk about chickens.

Now, I've never owned a chicken. I had ducks as a kid. I think my dad thought it would be funny to give me a duck for an Easter present. I don't think mom thought it was as funny. Daffy finally went to live with a next door neighbor at the lake where my dad had his office. Mr. Christy took good care of Daffy and soon there was a whole flock of ducks. Daffy was probably responsible. But I was 7 and didn't really know about things like that.

And then as a grown up, I had ducks to teach my dogs how to herd cattle. I know, ducks and cows are two radically different animals, but it's easier to teach a dog to circle 'round to the right when you only have to contend with ducks. Plus ducks are a lot more scared of 8 week old puppies than cows are. And vice versa. And a lot cheaper to feed, although a little harder to keep alive. I had a neighborhood fox who liked my ducks.

But I was talking about chickens. Chickens peck, scratch, make lots of noise, and for what? An occasional egg. I know exactly where to get my eggs and they come clean and in nice cartons, a dozen at a time. So I don't do chickens.

But not everyone is as bright as I am. That's a joke, BTW.

So it came as no surprise that a friend of mine wound up with chicken troubles. Now this woman is bright-not so her house mates. She was living with 8 other volunteers in a house in the middle of a city. They were all community volunteers for the year, living on very limited funds. So collectively (all but my friend) made a variety of decisions to help stretch their dollars. First, they decided to go vegan. And that's a whole 'nother story about how to live on \$200 a month while experimenting with being vegan.

But they also decided to get chickens. They'd have free eggs and later they could eat the chicken. Remember what I said about them being vegan? And not being very bright?

Anyway, these kids came from solid, middle to upper class backgrounds, never having to worry where money, or eggs, came from. And naturally they get the bright idea to buy chickens. Don't ask. I have no idea how they thought this one up.

So one of the first things they had to figure out was how to house these birds. They are in the middle of a big city, further north than Cheyenne, in a big house on a lot with no garage. The answer, of course, was Craig's List. Yup. They found a coop on Craig's List. For free. Think about that for a minute. And I bet none of the kids had ever used a hammer or tried to repair anything in their short lives. Or wondered why the coop was free.....

Next, they needed chickens. Or maybe they needed the chickens first and then the coop. Such an age old question...which came first? The coop or the chicken? Anyway someone down the street had some chickens they were willing to give away. Makes you wonder, doesn't it? But not these kids. At least they didn't try starting off with chicks. Did I mention that they got this bright idea in November? And that they were only in the volunteer project for the year, and the year started in August? Yeah, buying chicks would not have been a good idea. Just about the time the chicks would be old enough to lay, assuming they bought the right sex, they might have eggs about July, just in time to pack up & leave.

So at least they were getting older chickens. Used chickens. Ones someone wanted to give away. There are so many things wrong with this picture, and it just gets worse.

Anyway, one day in early December my friend comes home, only to find the chickens had arrived. But one major ingredient for this project was still missing: the coop. Guess where the chickens were? In the basement. I mean, where else would you put them.

Turns out, these kids had a lot more problems to solve than where to put the chickens. They had not gotten permission from the volunteer corp project leaders. Nor had they gotten permission from their neighbors, which was a prerequisite to owning chickens in the neighborhood. When asked about that little detail, the kids stated they planned to forge enough signatures to make it look like the neighbors approved. I mean, honestly, who would know? Especially if the chickens lived in the basement for the next 8 months.

Now this story arrived to me week by week via my friend, who wanted no part in owning chickens. When the story reached the point about the forged signatures, I fell apart. These are college grads that exemplify the saying, You buy 'em books & you buy 'em books and all they do is eat the covers.

And then I watched a story on tv about rent-a-coops. This young couple rents out chickens for a month at a time to folks who think they might want to own chickens, but who want to test drive the idea first.

Or a mom & dad who want to buy a present for a high school teen who's been asking for a pet. I'm not joking. The cameras were live when the kid opened the box and out popped a chicken. Her expression was priceless dumbfoundedness. The chicken wasn't much happier. The chicken was reasonably tame and allowed itself to be held, reluctantly I'm sure by both parties, kid and chicken. And I should mention that the house looked like it was in suburbia, semi-country living. No one in that household probably had any idea that looking for eggs under chickens is no easy task.

But these rent a coops are all the rage. Typically you get 2 egg laying chickens (no guarantees), coop, bowls & feed for a month. Cost is \$180 a month, plus delivery fees at \$1 a mile. Obviously, you don't want to rent chickens from someone in Ohio if you live in Wyoming. If you're lucky, you'll get 1 egg per chicken per day. That's 60 eggs at \$3 an egg. A carton of 12 at the store costs about \$2. And don't get me started on how much it costs to raise tomatoes vs buying them at the farmer's market.

Because, of course, it is all about fresh, or if you're city kids trying to go vegan it's all about saving money, or if you're a suburbia kid and want a pet, it's all about ... well, probably not chickens.



**Bucking Horse and Rider News!
The fabric is here!**

All the fabric is cut and ready to be picked up! We still have Moss, Buckskin and Palomino on the bolt. We have about 2 bolts left of each color. If you need more, or haven't yet come in to see the fabric, drop by--it's gorgeous.

WHAT'S NEW!!

American Cowboy from Windham





Best of the West from Benartex



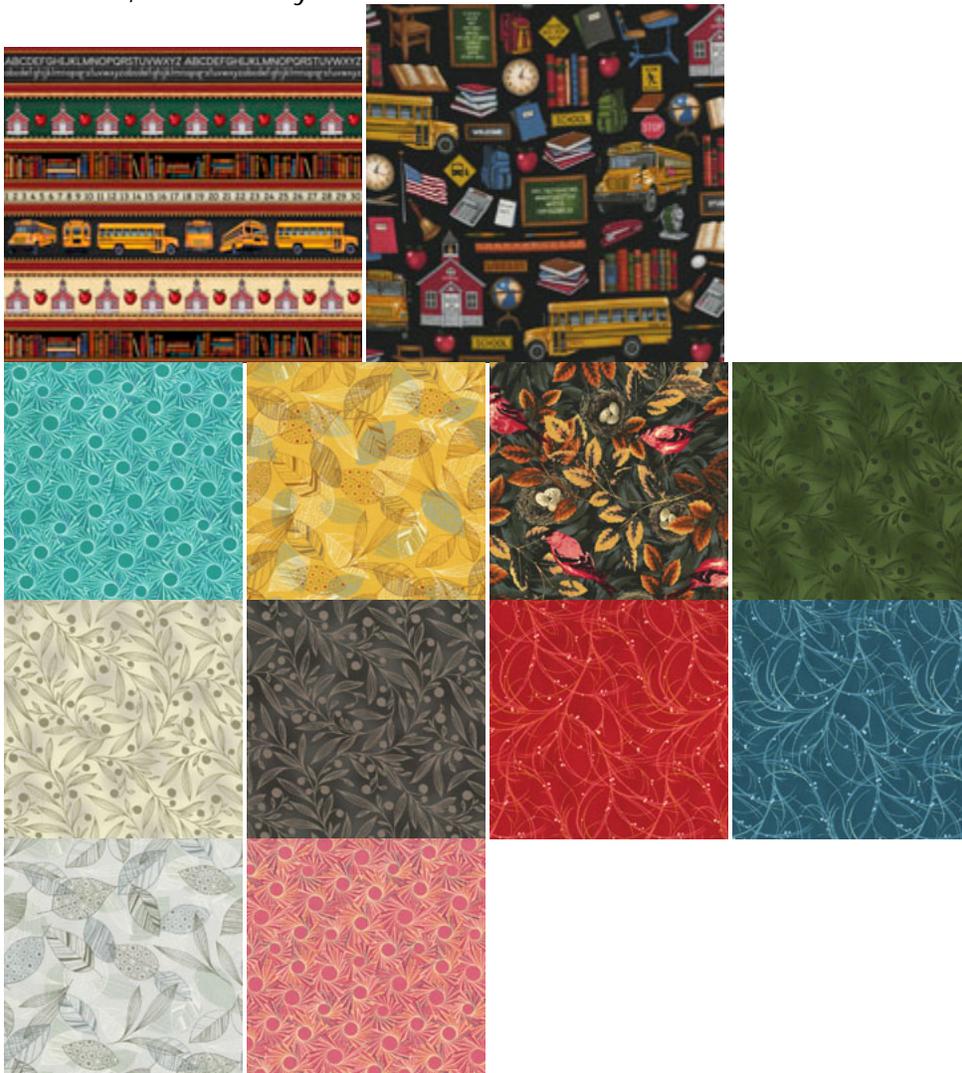
From Moda: Here Boy. And yes, the greens are different, just small prints.



From Kaffe Fassett:

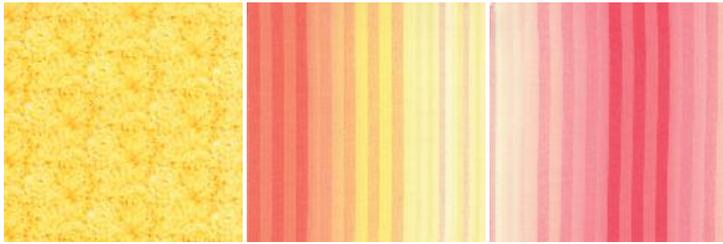


From RJR, Schools Days and Flutter:

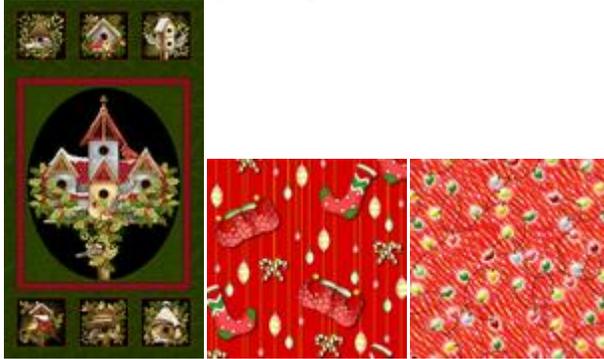


From Moda: Forest Friends and Chez Moi:





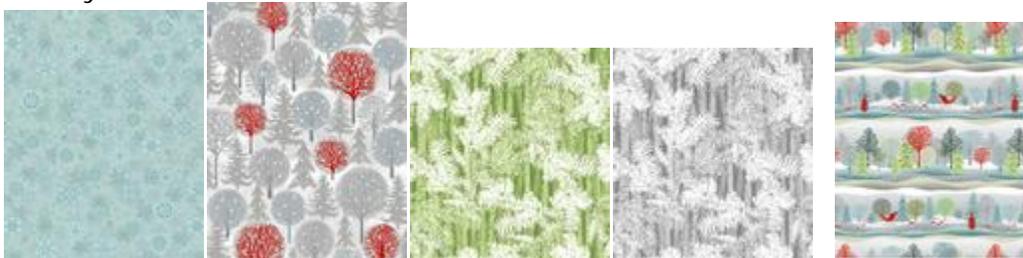
From Henry Glass:
Winter Sanctuary, Naughty or Nice:



Hometown Holiday, designed by Anni Downs, an Australian Artist:



Holiday Cheer:



Believe:

just sit and knit. You can start simply by making a dishcloth. Carol will teach you the essentials to get you started. For those of you who already know how to knit, you can still join the club--it's time for you to simply sit & knit & share ideas.

Cheyenne Heritage Quilt Show August 14-16 United Methodist Church

Knit Pickin' Club Thur. Aug. 14, 6-8:30

Every second Thursday, we're getting together to practice our knitting. The Club is open to all skill levels. We want to share what we've learned, find new patterns, and simply just sit and knit. You can start simply by making a dishcloth. Carol will teach you the essentials to get you started. For those of you who already know how to knit, you can still join the club--it's time for you to simply sit & knit & share ideas.

Downton Abbey Fix Mon. June 16, 30; July 21; Aug. 18, 25 1-5 \$20

Work on your Downton Abbey quilts, pillow cases, table runners - you name it. I'll provide assistance on the sampler quilt that I've provided patterns for, but you can work on any project you like.

Hand Applique Club

Thursday Aug. 21 6-8:30 free

Every 3rd Thursday, we're getting together to practice our hand applique skills. The Club is open to all skill levels. We want to share what we've learned, find new patterns, and simply just sit and sew. More and more patterns are showing applique work, and while sometimes you can just fuse it down, learning how to hand applique is a wonderful skill that can be carried anywhere you go.

Storm at Sea Aug. 23 10:30-5 \$20 Sue Frerich

This classic pattern is one everyone should learn. But we all hesitate because of the dreaded: Triangles. It's really not that hard. Let Sue walk you through making the storm at sea block and you'll have a beautiful, classic quilt for your bed.

Pillow Case Party Sun. Aug. 24 1-4 FREE

If you've never made a pillow case, or just want some time to sew a pillow case, this class is for you. This is a great mother/daughter styled class and pillow cases make great presents!

Friday Nighters Fri. Aug. 29, 5:30-9 \$10 (one time fee for year)

This class will help you get organized for Christmas 2014 -- or just help you get things done. You give me a list of your "to dos" or unfinished projects you want to finish and then each month I check off what you've completed. Trust me. If you need incentive to stay on track, this is it. You can bring your sewing machine or do hand work.

HAND APPLIQUE CLUB

This is a get-together & stitch class. Many of us are trying hand applique these days-- patterns are calling for a lot more applique. The club is designed for quilters who already do some hand applique, but beginners are welcome as well. We will share techniques, suggest patterns, talk about threads and, in general, just stitch. A little quiet time away from the distractions of home is what we need to get our projects done.

HAND EMBROIDERY CLUB

If you want to learn to hand embroider or just brush up your technique, join us on the second Saturday of the month from 10 to noon. We provide free vintage patterns, and this year we will have free patterns of girls with hats, that you can embroider, embellish and color. Each month Kathy Sconce shows us a new stitch to try, plus, she guides us through thread choices, how to knot, fabrics to use, and tracing techniques.

Knit Pickin' Club

This is another get-together class to sit & knit, work on our projects, share information and get some help. We will share techniques, suggest patterns, but mainly we'll sit & knit (or pick).

Toad Toters

On full moon days (as noted in the calendar) you will get 20% off all purchases (not otherwise discounted) that you can fit in your bag. You must bring your bag to participate.

Full Moon Days: June 13, July 12, Aug. 10

Discount Policy

We will honor only one discount -- whichever is largest. You can't combine a 10% with a 25% discount to get a 35% discount. On this we can't be bribed.

Color of the Month

June Flowers, July Christmas, August Black & White

August 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Open Sew1-4	2 BOM 10:30-11:30 Monthly Minis 4-6 One Block Wonder 1-5
3 Closed	4 Monday Morning Quilts 10-2 Pencil Box Quilt	5	6	7	8	9 Embroidery Club 10-noon Learn to Felt 1-5ish
10 FullMoon Beginning Quilt 1-4	11 1:30-3:30 or 6-8:30 Knitting TBA	12	13	14 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30 CHQ QuiltShow	15 Open Sew1-4 CHQ QuiltShow	16 CHQ QuiltShow
17	18 Downton Abbey Fix 1-5	19	20	21 Hand Applique Club 6-8:30	22	23 Storm at Sea 10:30-5
24 Pillow Case Party 1-4	25 Downton Abbey Fix 1-5	26	27	28	29 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?	30