



## Glamourie

*Alice Starmore , Jade Starmore (Photographs)*

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## **Glamourie** Alice Starmore , Jade Starmore (Photographs)

Glamourie is a Scots word meaning a charmed condition in which everything is invested with magical properties and possibilities. In this unique book, Alice Starmore leads us into the realm of glamourie and —like the witches of Gaelic folklore —casts spells with needles and a single thread. Taking her daughter Jade's supernatural stories as inspiration, she uses the art of hand knitting to bewitch and bedazzle, and illustrates the tales with elaborate costumes and accessories that portray fanciful and extraordinary ideas.? In creating these costumes, she has powerfully demonstrated the glamourie that can flow from the twin wands of a master magician.

While the first half of this book is an unrestrained flight of fancy, the second half contains full instructions for knitting beautiful garments based upon each costume, all written with Alice Starmore's trademark accuracy and precision.??

By developing each of these patterns from its associated costume, she has revealed how her mind works and how her imagination led her from the initial inspiration through to the final design.

Alice and Jade Starmore are from the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides, and its moody Celtic landscape is the backdrop to the stories, costumes and designs they have created. The final stage of *Glamourie* was to take their creations back out into that landscape to be photographed. They trekked to special locations, far off the beaten track, and Jade's spectacular photographs depict both the sweeping panorama and the minute detail of their beloved native isle. Three years in the making, this combination of photography and fable, of highly conceptual design and practical instruction, will enchant not only knitters but also those in the fashion and costume world and readers fascinated by Scottish and Gaelic legends.

## Glamourie Details

Date : Published February 14th 2018 by Calla Editions

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Author : Alice Starmore , Jade Starmore (Photographs)

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## From Reader Review Glamourie for online ebook

### Celeste Swanson says

I am absolutely in love with this book! The costumes and stories are fantastic! I can't wait to start knitting the Raven Collar.

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### Quickbeam says

I received an advance free copy of this from Net Galley for review. I have also purchased a copy as a pre-order. I have every Starmore book written. My most ambitious knitting projects have come from Starmore patterns. This book takes me back to my Scots childhood with the fanciful stories and astonishing costumes to accompany them. The photography is brilliant. The first half of the book is theatrical costumes while the back half are lovely and wearable designs of Starmore sophistication.

I did note that the largest chest size these patterns can accommodate is a 42". However there are a few loose wraps that would be plus friendly. I also REALLY want the pattern for the blue Selkie costume sweater. It is in my mind the pinnacle piece and I'd wear it all the time. Just saying, ladies Starmore!

I have pre-ordered this book and can't wait to have it with my Starmore collection. And there are several patterns here I will be making. A wonderful, fascinating addition to my knitting library.

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### Talia says

Alice Starmore designs. Amazing. The book is oversized and heavy. I think it is 3 lbs. The paper is thick and glossy. The costumes are fanciful and incredible which works against the patterns. There are so many patterns that I would love to knit but some of them were very dull next to their outlandish counterparts. Ms Starmore says in the book that the costumes were with zero limits put on her imagination and the garment patterns were the result of her putting them through her editing for pattern length size and other self-imposed restrictions. I think she may have restricted herself a bit too much on some of them. I do miss the less fitted designs of her other books but there is enough here to adapt. If I could change one thing, it would be to make another design using the Selkie collar with color-work on the front and that awesome cable on the back.

The book has styling like Tudor Roses (Dover edition) which some liked and some didn't but I have to say that I liked that the models are non-traditional. I also love people taking styling chances for a publication. We all love Westknits daring and I am glad that Jade and Alice Starmore keep to their artistic ideal.

I am sure the patterns are well written and easy to follow. I have read a lot of the text and find it reminiscent of Elizabeth Zimmerman with lots of personal meaning.

There is no denying the talent that produced this book and I hope they will continue. It is fascinating. I am looking forward to knitting many of these designs.

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## **Melissa Dee says**

Glamourie is a stunning book, and like no knitting book I have ever seen. This collaboration between Alice and Jade Starmore is a book of fairy tales, a book of costume inspiration, and finally a book of unusual and beautiful knitting patterns. I learned to knit with Alice Starmore's "Aran Knitting", "Book of Fair Isle Knitting", and "Charts for Colored Knitting." She inspired me to design and knit my own Fair Isles while I was an ambitious advanced beginner. With Glamourie, Starmore has totally reset my bar with respect to knit construction and design. Starmore's always fabulous color sense joins with knitting agility and whimsy to create brand new shapes and flourishes.

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## **Annie says**

Originally published on my blog: Nonstop Reader.

Take a look at any long term knitter's library and you're just about guaranteed to find one or more volumes by Alice Starmore. She's been an archivist and historian especially for the rich and traditional knitting of the British Isles, with occasional forays into other knitting traditions.

This book is decidedly different. It *is* a knitting compendium, full of traditional colourways and techniques. The masterful designs incorporate beautiful detailing and structural cables which support and refine the garments, however... the book also includes numerous fables and dreamlike prose vignettes which are haunting and provide backstory for the designs. The first half of the book includes these stories and 7 virtuoso artistic costumes. These are stylistic animal themed art pieces (I would call them almost shamanistic). They are amazing and very detailed and not at all practical (and they are clearly not meant to be so).

The second half of the book carries on with beautifully detailed and wonderfully complex patterns for 11 more practical versions of the costumes from the first half of the book.

I admire the authors for being willing to follow their artistic muse and produce art which doesn't adulterate their vision by trying to be practical and accessible or by pandering to a wider audience. Make no mistake, the simplest of the designs in the second half of this book are challenging. Some of the designs (especially the full on costumes in the front of the book) are odd and somewhat unsettling.

I don't think these patterns will be dated very quickly because I've never seen anything remotely like them.

As always Starmore's use of color, texture and structure are virtuoso. The yarns are scrumptious and worthy of the designs.

The book is very well named, the designs are bewitching and somewhat eerie.

Four stars, available in hardback from Dover publications 14th Feb, 2018.

Disclosure: I received an ARC at no cost from the author/publisher.

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## **Lindoula says**

*Disclaimer: I received a free copy from NetGalley in exchange for a review.*

If you think you know Alice Starmore's work, get ready to learn more about her amazing design skills. Most serious knitters will be familiar with her talent via her well-respected traditional colorwork knitting patterns, mostly for sweaters. Beautiful but no-nonsense knitting patterns. This book shows a completely different side of her knitting & design talent, as well as the stories and photography by her daughter Jade Starmore. I'm not usually a fan of knitting books that are largely inspirational, filled with outlandish garments that push the boundaries but would never be worn in real life.

This book contains fanciful costumes inspired by Scottish mythology around the Isle of Lewis where the Starmores are from. They showcase Alice's talent in creating knitted structures and textures. These are not simple sweaters by any means. The photographs (by Jade) are stunning, to put it mildly. Each design is accompanied by a story and design notes. Having studied Gaelic and Scottish culture in the past, I found the stories really fascinating.

Then I think the icing on the cake is that the last part of the book contains patterns for more realistic garments related to the art pieces in the beginning of the book. This gives the book practical value beyond the artistic appreciation.

This is a well-executed design collaboration showcasing the flexibility and creativity of knitting. Highly recommended whether you're the type who prefers art-for-art's-sake knitting design or patterns for things you can actually wear. The stories and photos sweeten the deal.

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## **Susan Stephens says**

I love this book. It is absolutely stunning. Two of my hobbies are knitting and photography and both are included in this wonderful book. The photography is superb and the scenery spectacular. The quality of the physical book is excellent.

The fantasy knitted items in the first half of the book are so interesting - they definitely are not something that you would knit for everyday wear but it does give you inspiration for trying different things in your knitting. I already have a few ideas from them. The second part of the book I really like as it gives some lovely designs and more fitted items than in traditional stranded knitting.

It is the type of book that when you have had a tough day and the life just seems too hard - you can escape for a while into another world and it certainly refreshes you. It is such a different book compared to the normal traditional knitting book - that is why I like it so much.

I have just about all of Alice's books and this one will proudly be added to my collection. I would recommend it to any knitter who is interested in opening their mind to new ideas. I am a very experienced knitter and will be using the book for inspiration but I think that any knitter of any level will find the book lovely to look at and it will open their minds to a world of possibilities that our wonderful hobby can bring

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## Robin says

The patterns in this book are inspired by traditional stories, giving each piece a rich story and background. I really enjoyed the stories. The patterns are absolutely gorgeous. I probably wouldn't knit many of them, but I appreciate the work that went into each design. The amount of detail and time that went into this book makes it a wonderful addition to any knitting or folk tales library.

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## Aoife says

This review can also be found on my blog

Alice Starmore's *Tudor Roses* featured patterns inspired by the Tudor women, each of which is introduced by a short text, told from the point of view of that women. It's a really nice idea and the short texts made me curious enough to look up some of the women. (Because my knowledge of the Tudors begins with *Divorced, Beheaded, Died, Divorced, Beheaded, Survived* and ends with knowing that Elisabeth I existed). Glamourie does something similar: every design is introduced with a short story about the creature that inspired the design, written by Jade Starmore. Additionally, Alice Starmore talks about her creative process behind the design and some of her own thoughts about the creature or her own experiences with them.

Here's the thing: Jade Starmore's fables are...nice. Cute, a bit cheesy and full of important morals like *everything must die, nothing always stays the same* or *having your heart broken is painful*. Now I'm not criticising the lack of literary merit in the intro-texts of a knitting book but they are a part of this book. And they are not that great.

Meanwhile, Alice Starmore's notes about her inspiration read a lot like those food-blogs where you have to suffer through the blogger telling you all about the first time they ever experienced snow when really, all you want is that Christmas cookie recipe they promised. I do not care about any person enough to be interested in their experience of completely ordinary things. And I definitely do not care what the ravens near Starmore's house use to built their nests.

But this is a knitting-book after all, and the important thing about that are the patterns and the photos. Because I have a few knitting books with very atmospheric photos that match the theme of the book but you barely recognize any details about the item because it's just a tiny part of a blurry photograph. Or the model is wearing so many other fancy clothes and the background is so busy that you can't really focus on what should actually be the focus of the picture.

This is definitely not the case in Glamourie. The photos are gorgeous. All are taken outside in front of a simple background (the sea, a field or a big rock) that perfectly matches the garment, without taking attention away from it. The same goes for the clothes the models wear with the knitwear: they perfectly compliment them but never distract from the actual garment. There's also a lot of pictures of the designs, giving you the possibility to see them from more than one angle and from closeup and further away. Some designs are even shown in two different colours, which gives you an opportunity to actually see how that looks like instead of just imagining it.

Now for the patterns... Well, first, you have to know that Glamourie is divided into two parts: Costumes and Designs. The costumes are directly inspired by the stories (and you can have a look at them here) and are

mostly...well costumes. Very few people would wear any of these things in everyday life. The costumes do not come with patterns. They are in the book to show off gorgeous photographs and some mediocre writing.

The designs are what Starmore describes as costumes 'with the usual constraints applied to them'. They come with a pattern and are more wearable than the costumes. And yes they are also very beautiful (you can see them here). I can also understand, that adapting some of the costumes (especially the Raven and the Lapwing) for different sizes would be hard and that not too many people would want to knit something so complex when it has very limited use as everyday wear. On the other hand, there are certainly a lot of people who would want to knit a nice cabled sweater, a pretty colourwork cardigan or a fancy poncho.

Only: Glamorie costs around £42. Do you want to pay that amount for a total of 11 patterns of nice cabled sweaters, pretty colourwork cardigans, and fancy ponchos? I'm not even saying that it's not worth that amount. Because I see those photographs and all the work that has obviously been put into the costumes, the designs and the photographs themselves (a few of the clothes the models are wearing with the knitted items are also handsewn). They mention that this book took three years of work and I believe that immediately. But at the same time: I just checked and if I put my last eight Ravelry purchases together I'll end up with slightly less than that. And two of those were actually not single patterns but whole books (one with 16 patterns, one with 4). So that gives me more than twice the amount of patterns for less than the price of this book. In other words, I can go and buy a book with nice patterns and pay for those patterns and lots of pretty things surrounding those patterns or go on Ravelry (or in my LYS) and look at some nice single patterns or perhaps a different book with nice patterns that costs perhaps half of that. And I'm much more likely to do the latter because no matter how gorgeous the photographs are, I can't do more than look at them and say 'well aren't they gorgeous?'. And while I do occasionally spend money on things that are pretty and nothing more, this is still a bit much for a book that will mostly be closed on a shelf somewhere.

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### **Cayenne says**

This book is gorgeous and stunning. I agree that it is disappointing that there aren't patterns for the amazing costumes because the marketing for the book made it seem like that was what the book contained, but the photos and descriptions are such that it wouldn't be that hard to figure out how to knit the costumes on your own. The companion designs are beautiful and I enjoyed the stories very much. The credits at the end that described all the people who worked hard to make this book and the descriptions of the difficult photo shoots were interesting too. I think this book is amazing!

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### **Julie Barrett says**

#### **Alice Starmore's Glamourie by Alice Starmore**

Book starts out with a table of contents: projects and notes, then patterns, techniques and abbreviations.

Introduction where the author talks about where she grew up, story behind the stories and patterns.

Love what Glamourie is and how she weaves her stories and dreams into her knitting.

Have read other works by this author and this one I found so inspiring, no rules and so adjustable for any size.

Not only is this book about knitting but she weaves a story in the background so I feel like I'm getting two books in one.

Very high quality photos showing not only the designs but the landscape where they meld into one but have

enough contrast to show off the designs and patterns in the garment. Super photography! So many different types of animals, my favorite would be one of the birds, Like a bit of everything from each one.

Each of the costume patterns start out with designer notes, about the animal they are representing in the knitted garment and a bit about them.

Pattern starts out with color photos from various angles showing the angles and flare. Sizes are given, knitted garment measurements, materials: yarn and needles, tension measurements and then the start of the actual knitting. Easy to work on, as each row is described. Love chart where it has the decreases marked out in cell form that you can check mark off once you've completed them.

Diagrams show finished dimensions so you can line them up to finish the final seams.

One thing I did not notice was the level of experience you'd need. I'd suggest high rating as it's going to take a bit of time to do and keep everything straight.

Some of the patterns are using charts for color changes so be sure to read through at least once before making them.

Credits and resources close out this book. What a treasure.

The pictures shown do not all have corresponding patterns.

Received this review copy via Dover Publications via Netgalley and this is my honest opinion.

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## **Nostalgia Reader says**

5 stars.

Absolutely gorgeous in every single aspect--the designs, the stories, the photographs, the styling, I loved it all. It was so pretty to look though, as well as to read, and I got some serious *Vikings* vibes from a few of the styled costumes which just made it all the more awesome.

While I was disappointed that the costumes pieces themselves were not the patterns (nor were most of the accessories, like the Sea Anemone's purse, kerchief, and kelp or the Cailleach's needle sheath), the designs that were inspired by them took most of the main elements from the costumes pieces and incorporated them nicely into garments that would be practical for everyday wear. I do wish there had been the pattern for the Sea Anemone skirt, because with a few mods, I could see it making the perfect Morticia Addams skirt; the pattern for the shawl/wings for the Damselfly also would have been welcomed.

Each tale is relatively short, but is a great introduction to the legends of the Scottish area, and they provide an excellent segue to the designs and costumes. The stories have a designers note at the end, discussing the inspiration for the elements incorporated into the costumes. And did I mention the photography and styling and settings are AMAZINGLY GORGEOUS, it's so beautiful and does a perfect job of transporting you to the Scottish moors and lochs. If this just consisted of the pictures, I would be just as happy.

The patterns themselves are extensive and very well written, and many of the patterns have multiple color and/or style variations. I loved that the embroidery instructions were extensively detailed--colors, centered placement, order--but also completely optional. The designers notes provide many helpful pointers on how to understand some of the more complex parts of the design, as well as giving brief background on how the elements of the costume are incorporated into the garments,.

Very, very, very highly recommended, even if you might not ever make any of the garments in it--it's

definitely worth the price!

Thank you to NetGalley for providing me with a free copy to review!

(Cross posted on my blog.)

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### **DR says**

Well....I've added a new word to my vocabulary : "Glamourie"!

Shades & patterns inspired by lichens on rocks, all beautifully photographed and presented; but designs more for gazing at, perhaps, than seriously intended for knitting - or for wearing...

I can see this being more of a 'coffee-table book' than a working book of patterns. (Which isn't to say it doesn't still have a place : realistically, I am more likely to savour the photos in Tudor Roses than to actually knit them - but I do love looking at them...)

Having read the introduction, I understand the reasoning behind such a volume. However, if I am investing in a book of knitting patterns, I do expect to at least intend to make some of them. These garments really do need the special yarns, & fabrics of the accompanying clothes, to look their best.

I appreciated the saga of the 3 years taken to do the photographs, being included at the end - a fitting closure to a book from the heart.

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### **Beverlyb says**

This book has truly gorgeous photography, but the patterns for the unusual costumes are not included. Not that they are wearable for most people, but there are techniques to be learned from every one of them, plus lovely embroidery charts I'd like to incorporate into designs one day. After the first half, with breathtaking designs and photos, the second half with patterns was a jarring let-down. I'd be returning it had I paid the original \$60; I paid \$8.23 so it's OK (although today the price is \$5.29 and I ordered mine only last week; food for thought about why the price is plummeting).

In addition, the patterns for which instructions are provided really pale in comparison to the costumes. Just look at Eagle, Otter, and Lapwing. Boring patterns; inspired costumes. Both versions of Selkie are gorgeous, and the pattern for Sea Anemone takes the bodice and gives you a nice sweater.

One more point is that Alice Starmore doesn't win me over saying that her knitting designs are beyond the capabilities of most knitters. That may be true for most, but there are many among us who are expert knitters, and who buy her books for their challenging and artistic designs. In fact, in Sweater Quest, the author noted that once she mastered Fair Isle knitting, making Mary Tudor was boring.

I own all her books, including both editions of Aran Knits, Tudor Knits, etc. I've made many of her cabled designs (I'm just not a Fair Isle knitter), and ordered yarn to make Sea Anemone from this book. I'd make the Selkie costume in a minute (with modifications to the cuffs, so they look like normal cuffs), had she given the instructions-- it's a sharp-looking double-breasted jacket and I'd like to learn how to do the linings for collar and cuffs.

Jade Starmore's stories would be interesting if they were actual retellings of Celtic myths, rather than Jade's

made-up tales, so these don't add value to the book for me as a buyer. I didn't care for her fictional prose in the re-release of Tudor Knits; I preferred the history in the original version.

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### **Heather says**

Alice Starmore, what is there to say about this wonderful designer? I am amazed at the costumes she designed & a little sad she didn't include the patterns for the actual costumes, but the patterns that are in the book live up to her wonderful explanations & designs. I have already seen about six of them that I want to make. My only issue is that I wish she would make some of her sweaters & clothing plus size.

The story that was written to go along with the costumes were well worth the cost of the book itself. It kept you enthralled & well written. I love mythology style writing so I adored it. I read the entire thing in one night cause I could not put it down.

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