

The Never-Ending Sweater

ERIN WELCH



illustrated by
DOROTHY LEUNG



The comfort of home is never-ending.

WHEN PETER WAS LITTLE he asked his grandmother to knit him a big cozy sweater. So she made him a sweater with love knit into every stitch. Young Peter wore the sweater, with its drooping sleeves and oversized body, everywhere he went. Eventually, Peter outgrew his small seaside village and decided to see the world, with his sweater providing comfort and a reminder of home on every adventure. After traveling for many years, he returns home to find a new family next door. They too have traveled from far away, and Peter finds a connection with the young son, who also needs a comforting reminder of home.

A heartfelt story that celebrates the power of intergenerational love, connection and friendship, featuring the nostalgic imagery of a small East Coast village.

Originally from British Columbia's northern interior, **Erin Welch** moved to the East Coast in 2010. While she will always miss the mountains, she has come to know and appreciate the sublime beauty of the Acadian forest. Erin has a degree in English literature and is a mother to twins. She lives in Bear River, Nova Scotia.

Dorothy Leung is an illustrator from the suburbs of Toronto. She studied and worked in architecture before pursuing her illustration dream. She is the illustrator of *When the Wind Came* and *The Bird Feeder*. In her work, she strives to evoke empathy, nostalgia, sentimentality and wonder. Dorothy's work has been recognized by the Society of Illustrators and *American Illustration* and has appeared in publications such as *The Walrus* and the *Globe and Mail*.

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The Never-Ending Sweater

Author: Erin Welch

Illustrator: Dorothy Leung

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In this illustrated picture book, a young boy asks his grandmother to knit him a sweater, which he wears as he grows up and travels the world, before returning to his seaside village.

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KEY SELLING POINTS

- Peter's connections with his grandmother and his young neighbor, Little P., demonstrate the value of intergenerational friendship and connection.
- *The Never-Ending Sweater* celebrates family love in whatever form that may take.
- In our world of fast fashion and quick consumables, this story depicts how something as simple and necessary as a sweater could be made by hand so well that it lasts an entire lifetime, even to be passed on to the next generation.
- Dorothy Leung's warm illustrations depict the quaint seaside lifestyle of the East Coast and places from around the world.

PHOTO CREDIT: DAN FROESE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

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- Print and online advertising campaigns
- Promotion at national and regional school, library and trade conferences
- Extensive ARC distribution, including NetGalley
- Blog and social media promotion
- Outreach in Orca newsletters

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When young Peter was very young, he asked his grandmother to make him a sweater. Not just any old sweater. Young Peter wanted a VERY BIG SWEATER.

“How big?” asked his grandmother with a twinkle in her eye.

“Too big,” sang Peter.

So Peter's grandmother knit him a very big sweater. She chose a thick purple wool and her fastest needles, and on a chilly November evening, she began to knit.



She knit and she knit and she knit.



She made sturdy cuffs that would keep out the dampest weather, and a long body that would survive the most exciting of adventures.





When young Peter pulled on his sweater, he felt like he was wearing a royal cape. His arms ended just below the purple elbows, and his knees just barely showed beneath the thick hem.



Peter always wore his sweater when they went clamming or cranberry picking. In fact, he hardly took it off. But underneath its warm wool Peter continued to grow. He grew and he grew and he grew. Eventually his hands reached the bottom of the sleeves, and the sweater stopped at his waist.





Peter grew so much that he outgrew his village and decided to see the world. Peter packed a smoked-oyster sandwich, a tin of tea, three pairs of socks and, of course, his purple sweater. Then away he went, off to see the world. His grandmother's only request was that he send back to her stories from his travels.

Peter wrote home to tell his grandma about traveling with yak herders and eating delicious-tasting butter.





New Zealand was where he learned to shear sheep lightning fast, and he sent home clouds of wool to his grandmother.



In another country he played soccer with village children while their grandmothers on the sidelines knit as fast as they talked. At times he traveled so high into the mountains that the mist would roll in like an ocean tide.

Peter thought often about returning home, but there was always one more adventure waiting, one more language to learn. So in the end it was a long time before he made his way home, step by step, to his grandmother's village and his childhood home.



A nimble family lived in the house next door. They had journeyed a long way, and their travel stories were very different from Peter's. They had a son they called Little P.

Some things were still the same. The teapot and the porch swing that faced the sunset. The climbing tree was still there but bigger, which made the ocean a little harder to see.





Peter loved Little P's descriptions of what could be seen from the top of the climbing tree, and he greatly appreciated Little P's help when he planted out leeks in the spring or shelled peas in the summer.

Once, when they went clamming together, the fog rolled in toward the shore with astonishing speed. Little P. began to tell Peter about where he used to live and how he loved watching the mist roar toward the mountains like an ocean tide.

"I wish my grandmother could see me now," he said softly.

Me too, thought Peter.



One crisp September afternoon, Peter finished raking leaves and realized he was chilled. Summer was over. He put on his old purple sweater and smiled at the thought of how many years it had kept him company.





Soon he saw peaks of snowy mountains and heard the shrieks of children playing soccer. He remembered the taste of sweet mint tea and heard the early-morning sounds of a yak herder's whistle.

That afternoon, Peter sat on his front porch, watching the leaves change color, wearing his beloved sweater for what he knew would be his last time.



It was someone else's turn to be kept warm
and dry and reminded of home.



For P.T. and the original sweater story,
for grandmothers, especially mine—their love and warmth a lifelong
foundation—and of course for my mother and the grandmother she has become.
—E. W.

For my family.
—D. L.



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Summary: In this illustrated picture book, a young boy asks his grandmother to knit him a sweater,
which he wears as he grows up and travels the world, before returning to his seaside village.

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