Escapist by Mary Keenan

Though Victorian (and earlier) times were undoubtedly hard for many English women, period dramas in film and on television paint them with romance. I find the little knit shawls that accessorize so many simple dresses especially comforting, purposeful, and appealing. Just how you'd like life to be - especially when it's not.

Materials

Twisted Fiber Art 'Tasty' self-striping, (80% superwash Merino, 10% cashmere, 10% nylon, 380 yds/100g), 165g or about 630 yards

St-Denis 'Nordique', (100% wool, 150 yds/50g), 210g or about 620 yards of this sport weight yarn
 4 stitch markers
3.5mm, 100cm circular needle or size for gauge

Gauge

Stocking Stitch: 28 (21) sts,/30 (26) rows = 4", before blocking in fingering (sport weight)

Notes:

Use 1-4 solid, self-striping, or variegated yarns. Recommendations are given in each part for the location of colour changes; in the two-colour version, Parts 2 and 3 could be done in the second colour, in the three-colour, Parts 3and 4.

Yardage Guide for Tasty or other fingering

Part 1 – 165 yards
Part 2 – 165 yards
Part 3 – 135 yards
Part 4 – 145 yards

Abbreviations

K: knit
K2tog: K 2 sts together (decrease)
P: purl
P3tog: P 3 sts together (double decrease)
pm: place marker
m1: with left needle, lift running strand between sts from front, then knit through front loop
RS: right side
sl1: slip 1 st purlwise
ssk: slip slip knit (decrease)
st(s): stitch(es)

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Directions

Part One

Using 3.5 mm needles, cast on 5 sts to work flat.

Setup Row: K2, P1, K2.

Row 1: (RS) K2, yo, K1, yo, K2 – 7 sts

Row 2: K2, P3, K2.

Row 3: K2, [yo, K1] 3 times, yo, K2 – 11 sts

Row 4: Knit.

Row 5: [K2, yo] twice, K3, [yo, K2] twice – 15 sts

Row 6: K2, pm, P3, pm, P5, pm, P3, pm, K2.

Complete the following chart 18 times; 4 markers are slipped between each of the 5 columns. With each full repeat you will be increasing 8 sts (4 on each side of the central panel); each odd-numbered row adds 2 sts each side of each panel.

Trickiness Alert: don't miss the last yo in Column 2's ssk, yo sequence! Count frequently at the end of an odd numbered row to catch mistakes while they are easy to fix.

Row 1	K2	yo, K to marker, yo	K1, [yo, K1] 4 times - 9 sts	yo, K to marker, yo	K2
Row 2	K2	K to marker	[K1, P1] 4 times, K1 - 9 sts	K to marker	K2
Row 3	K2	yo, K1, *ssk, yo; repeat from * to 2 sts before marker, K2, yo	K1, P1, ssk, K1, K2tog, P1, K1 - 7 sts	yo, K2, *yo, K2tog; repeat from * to last st before marker, K1, yo	K2
Row 4	K2	K to marker	P1, K1, P3tog, K1, P1 - 5 sts	K to marker	K2

Final stitch count for Part One:

	2	75	5	75	2

wn: wrap needle - bring yarn from back to front over top of needle, then front to back underneath.
yo: yarn over (increase)

Part Two

Complete the following chart once; markers are slipped between each column. If you are changing yarn colours in Part Two, do so in row 4.

Trickiness Alert: watch for the bolded change in Row 6.

Row 1	K2	yo, K to marker, yo	K1, [yo, K1] 4 times	yo, K to marker, yo	K2
Row 2	K2	P to marker	[K1, P1] 4 times, K1	P to marker	K2
Row 3	K2	yo, K to marker, yo	K1, P1, ssk, K1, K2tog, P1, K1	yo, K to marker, yo	K2
Row 4	K2	P to marker	P1, K1, P3tog, K1, P1	P to marker	K2
Row 5	K2	yo, K to marker, yo	K1, [yo, K1] 4 times	yo, K to marker, yo	K2
Row 6	K2	**K to marker**	[K1, P1] 4 times, K1	**K to marker**	K2
Row 7	K2	yo, K to marker, yo	K1, P1, ssk, K1, K2tog, P1, K1	yo, K to marker, yo	K2
Row 8	K2	P to marker	P1, K1, P3tog, K1, P1	P to marker	K2

Stitch count on completed chart:

	2	83	5	83	2

Complete the chart on the following page twice, then repeat rows 1-4 inclusive one more time; markers are slipped between each column. Stitch counts for the side panels are given at the end of the instructions, separated by commas for each repeat.

Part Two cont'd

Trickiness Alert: Don't forget the last yo in the 'ssk, yo' sequence in rows 3, 7, and 11; watch for the bolded change in Rows 6/8.

Row 1	K2	yo, K1, *yo, K2tog; repeat from * to 2 sts before marker, K2, yo - 85, 97, 109 sts	K1, [yo, K1] 4 times	yo, K2, *yo, K2tog; repeat from * to 1 st before marker, K1, yo - 85, 97, 109 sts	K2
Row 2	K2	P to marker	[K1, P1] 4 times, K1	P to marker	K2
Row 3	K2	yo, K1 *ssk, yo; repeat from * to 2 sts before marker, K2, yo - 87, 99, 111 sts	K1, P1, ssk, K1, K2tog, P1, K1	yo, K2, *ssk, yo; repeat from * to 1 st before marker, K1, yo - 87, 99, 111 sts	K2
Row 4	K2	P to marker	P1, K1, P3tog, K1, P1	P to marker	K2
Row 5	K2	yo, K1, *yo, K2tog; repeat from * to 2 sts before marker, K2, yo - 89, 101 sts	K1, [yo, K1] 4 times	yo, K2, *yo, K2tog; repeat from * to 1 st before marker, K1, yo - 89, 101 sts	K2
Row 6	K2	**K to marker**	[K1, P1] 4 times, K1	**K to marker**	K2
Row 7	K2	yo, K1 *ssk, yo; repeat from * to 2 sts before marker, K2, yo, - 91, 103 sts	K1, P1, ssk, K1, K2tog, P1, K1	yo, K2 *ssk, yo; repeat from * to 1 st before marker, K1, yo, - 91, 103 sts	K2
Row 8	K2	**K to marker**	P1, K1, P3tog, K1, P1	**K to marker**	K2
Row 9	K2	yo, K1, *yo, K2tog; repeat from * to 2 sts before marker, K2, yo - 93, 105 sts	K1, [yo, K1] 4 times	yo, K2, *yo, K2tog; repeat from * to 1 st before marker, K1, yo - 93, 105 sts	K2
Row 10	K2	P to marker	[K1, P1] 4 times, K1	P to marker	K2
Row 11	K2	yo, K1 *ssk, yo; repeat from * to 2 sts before marker, K2, yo - 95, 107 sts	K1, P1, ssk, K1, K2tog, P1, K1	yo, K2 *ssk, yo; repeat from * to 1 st before marker, K1, yo - 95, 107 sts	K2
Row 12	K2	P to marker	P1, K1, P3tog, K1, P1	P to marker	K2

Stitch count after two complete chart repeats plus repeat of rows 1-4

2	111	5	111	2

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Part Three

Part Three will not seem very different from Part Two. In much the way that period dramas retell the same essential Boy Meets Girl story, it's the details that count.

Complete the following chart once; markers are slipped between each column. As before, you are increasing 2 sts on each side of the center panel (4 sts total) per odd-numbered row. If you are changing yarn in Part Three, do so in row 6.

Trickiness Alert: Watch the changes in the side panels of the even-numbered rows.

Row 1	K2	yo, K to marker, yo	K1, [yo, K1] 4 times	yo, K to marker, yo	K2
Row 2	K2	K to marker	[K1, P1] 4 times, K1	K to marker	K2
Row 3	K2	yo, K to marker, yo	K1, P1, ssk, K1, K2tog, P1, K1	yo, K to marker, yo	K2
Row 4	K2	P to marker	P1, K1, P3tog, K1, P1	P to marker	K2
Row 5	K2	yo, K to marker, yo	K1, [yo, K1] 4 times	yo, K to marker, yo	K2
Row 6	K2	P to marker	[K1, P1] 4 times, K1	P to marker	K2
Row 7	K2	yo, K to marker, yo	K1, P1, ssk, K1, K2tog, P1, K1	yo, K to marker, yo	K2
Row 8	K2	K to marker	P1, K1, P3tog, K1, P1	K to marker	K2

Stitch count on complete chart:

	2	119	5	119	2

Complete chart on the following two pages once; markers are slipped between each column.

Part Three cont'd

Trickiness Alert: Keep checking for the last yo in the 'ssk, yo' sequence in Rows 3, 7, 13, and 17.

Row 1	K2	yo, K1, *yo, K2tog; repeat from * to 2 sts before marker, K2, yo - 121 sts	K1, [yo, K1] 4 times	yo, K2, *yo, K2tog; repeat from * to 1 st before marker, K1, yo - 121 sts	K2
Row 2	K2	P to marker	[K1, P1] 4 times, K1	P to marker	K2
Row 3	K2	yo, K1 *ssk, yo; repeat from * to 2 sts before marker, K2, yo - 123 sts	K1, P1, ssk, K1, K2tog, P1, K1	yo, K2, *ssk, yo; repeat from * to 1 st before marker, K1, yo - 123 sts	K2
Row 4	K2	P to marker	P1, K1, P3tog, K1, P1	P to marker	K2
Row 5	K2	yo, K1, *yo, K2tog; repeat from * to 2 sts before marker, K2, yo - 125 sts	K1, [yo, K1] 4 times	yo, K2, *yo, K2tog; repeat from * to 1 st before marker, K1, yo - 125 sts	K2
Row 6	K2	P to marker	[K1, P1] 4 times, K1	P to marker	K2
Row 7	K2	yo, K1 *ssk, yo; repeat from * to 2 sts before marker, K2, yo - 127 sts	K1, P1, ssk, K1, K2tog, P1, K1	yo, K2 *ssk, yo; repeat from * to 1 st before marker, K1, yo - 127 sts	K2
Row 8	K2	P to marker	P1, K1, P3tog, K1, P1	P to marker	K2
Row 9	K2	yo, K to marker, yo - 129 sts	K1, [yo, K1] 4 times	yo, K to marker, yo - 129 sts	K2
Row 10	K2	P to marker	[K1, P1] 4 times, K1	P to marker	K2
Row 11	K2	yo, K1, *yo, K2tog; repeat from * to 2 sts before marker, K2, yo - 131sts	K1, P1, ssk, K1, K2tog, P1, K1	yo, K2, *yo, K2tog; repeat from * to 1 st before marker, K1, yo - 131sts	K2
Row 12	K2	P to marker	P1, K1, P3tog, K1, P1	P to marker	K2

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Part Three cont'd

Row 13	K2	yo, K1 *ssk, yo; repeat from * to 2 sts before marker, K2, yo - 133 sts	K1, [yo, K1] 4 times	yo, K2, *ssk, yo; repeat from * to 1 st before marker, K1, yo - 133 sts	K2
Row 14	K2	P to marker	[K1, P1] 4 times, K1	P to marker	K2
Row 15	K2	yo, K1, *yo, K2tog; repeat from * to 2 sts before marker, K2, yo - 135 sts	K1, P1, ssk, K1, K2tog, P1, K1	yo, K2, *yo, K2tog; repeat from * to 1 st before marker, K1, yo - 135 sts	K2
Row 16	K2	P to marker	P1, K1, P3tog, K1, P1	P to marker	K2
Row 17	K2	yo, K1 *ssk, yo; repeat from * to 2 sts before marker, K2, yo - 137 sts	K1, [yo, K1] 4 times	yo, K2, *ssk, yo; repeat from * to 1 st before marker, K1, yo - 137 sts	K2
Row 18	K2	P to marker	[K1, P1] 4 times, K1	P to marker	K2
Row 19	K2	yo, K to marker, yo - 139 sts	K1, P1, ssk, K1, K2tog, P1, K1	yo, K to marker, yo - 139 sts	K2
Row 20	K2	P to marker	P1, K1, P3tog, K1, P1	P to marker	K2

Stitch count on completed chart:

2	139	5	139	2

Part Four

Complete the following chart once; markers are slipped between each column.

Row 1	K2	yo, K2, m1, K1, m1, K2, *yo, K2tog; repeat from * to 2 sts before marker, K2, yo - 143 sts	K2, m1, K1, m1, K2 – 7sts	yo, K2, *yo, K2tog; repeat from * to 5 sts before marker, K2, m1, K1,m1, K2, yo - 143 sts	K2
Row 2	K2	P to marker	P to marker	P to marker	K2
Row 3	K2	yo, K2, yo, K3, yo, K2, *ssk, yo; repeat from * to 2 sts before marker, K2, yo - 147 sts	K2, yo, K3, yo, K2 – 9 sts	yo, K2, *ssk, yo; repeat from * to 7 sts before marker, K2, yo, K3, yo, K2, yo - 147 sts	K2
Row 4	K2	P to marker	P to marker	P to marker	K2
Row 5	K2	yo, K3, yo, K5, yo, K3, *yo, K2tog; repeat from * to 2 sts before marker, K2, yo - 151 sts	K2, yo, K5, yo, K2 – 11 sts	yo, K2, *yo, K2tog; repeat from * to 11 sts before marker, K3, yo, K5, yo, K3, yo - 151 sts	K2
Row 6	K2	P to marker	P to marker	P to marker	K2
Row 7	K2	yo, K4, yo, K7, yo, K2, *ssk, yo; repeat from * to 2 sts before marker, K2, yo - 155 sts	K2, yo, K7, yo, K2 – 13 sts	yo, K2, *ssk, yo; repeat from * to 13 sts before marker, K2, yo, K7, yo, K4, yo - 155 sts	K2
Row 8	K2	P to marker	P to marker	P to marker	K2

Stitch count on completed chart:

	2	155	13	155	2

Nordique shawl shows Border Option 1; Tasty shawl in semisolid and self-striping yarn shows Border Option 2.

If you wish, the puffy edge of Border Option 1 can be diminished either by drawing out the curved scallops to a point when pinning to dry, or by replacing each pattern repeat marker with a yarn over in Row 8 and casting off just as described.

The castoff for this shawl is very elastic and creates a boxy edge. Here are its abbreviations again for your convenience:

sl1: slip 1 st purlwise
ssk: slip slip knit (decrease)
st(s): stitch(es)
wn: wrap needle - bring yarn from back to front over top of needle, then from front to back underneath it.

Part Four cont'd

Border Option 1 – 3-dimensional lace with scallops, Anne of Green Gables puffs, and Nancy Drew flips

Complete the following chart once; remove markers in Row 1, then add more between each of the 13 lace repeats in Row 3 if desired.

Row 1	Knit.
Row 2	K1, P to last st, K1.
Row 3	K1, *K2tog 4 times, [yo, K1] 4 times, K1, [K1, yo] 4 times, K2tog 4 times; repeat from * to last st, K1.
Row 4	K1, P to last st, K1.
Row 5	K1, *K2tog 4 times, [yo, K1] 4 times, K1, [K1, yo] 4 times, K2tog 4 times; repeat from * to last st, K1.
Row 6	K1, P to last st, K1.
Row 7	K1, *K2tog 4 times, [yo, K1] 4 times, K1, [K1, yo] 4 times, K2tog 4 times; repeat from * to last st, K1.
Row 8	Knit.

Border Option 2 – flat, no scallops

Complete the following chart once; remove markers in Row 1.

Row 1	Knit.
Row 2	K1, P to last st, K1.
Row 3	Knit.
Row 4	K1, P to last st, K1.
Row 5	Knit.
Row 6	Knit.
Row 7	Knit.
Row 8	K1, P to last st, K1.

Stitch count on completion of either chart: 327 sts.

Cast off as follows: ssk, *wn, sl1, work all 3 sts on right needle together as if to ssk; repeat from * to end of row, cut 8" tail, pull through last remaining st.

Finishing

Run in ends and wet block, blotting shawl dry in a towel before stretching and pinning it to 56" along garter edge, 29" along spine, and 42" along bottom border (or as large as you can stretch it along any side.). Air dry. If space or difficulty achieving symmetry is an issue, fold the blotted shawl down the middle of the spine – the rhythm of increased and decreased sts forms a natural fold line – and pin it out as a double layer (28" along garter edge, 29" along spine, and 42" along bottom border.) Shawl will shrink slightly once unpinned.