

Book Synopsis

Bliss Adair and the First Rule of Knitting by Jean Mills

Bliss Adair is a math wiz, ace knitter, and good friend. Her extraordinary gifts as a mathematician set her apart from her high school classmates. She runs the Help Desk at her parents' yarn shop, String Theory, and designs unique patterns for knitting and crocheting projects. Bliss helps people with their math problems, their knitting mistakes and, sometimes, with their lives, too – always keeping in mind the first rule of knitting: *Don't look too far ahead.*

For instance, her friend Anderson is comfortable in his skin – which is large, even “fat” some would say. He's smart, caring, and has just been recognized as an amazing volleyball player. So should Bliss tell Anderson that a mean boy they've both known forever is suddenly showing signs of romantic interest in him?

She becomes a supportive friend for Sydney, who has transferred from another city in order to deal with the final months of her pregnancy. Although Sydney is strong and independent, she is struggling with the decision of whether to tell the baby's father what's happening. Bliss supplies the support – and some lighthearted comfort – as Sidney figures it out.

But Bliss's biggest challenge is an ethical one: should she tell nice-boy Finn that she overheard his mother laughing about an affair she's having with a younger man? And is it okay to have feelings for a boy who already has a girlfriend?

Bliss brings her quirky, wry voice to her friends' – and her own – problems in a story that ends with an unexpected moment of Happily Ever After.

“Jean Mills has written a moving, insightful, and funny tale that took me right back to the daily drama, confusion, and emotion of high school. She knits the story together with such care and a deep affection for her fully-drawn characters. *Bliss Adair and the First Rule of Knitting* packs a powerful punch. Storytelling at its finest.”

Terry Fallis, two-time winner of the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour

“Narrated in the first-person present tense by Bliss' warm, authentic voice, the story is notable for its depiction of acceptance and community even as things get a bit tense. Humorous, wise, and comforting.”

Kirkus Reviews

“An original, deftly crafted, and simply fun 'coming of age' read from cover to cover.”

Midwest Book Reviews