















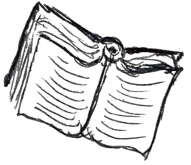









<p>watches, wind-up</p>		<p>Many-blossomed flowers,</p> 	<p>My sense of beauty loves complex things made of many small parts.</p>	<p>Complicated Beauty</p> 	<p>the true tale of how and why I started making so many fancy sparkly things</p>	<p>erikahammerschmidt.com theheathersmith.com</p>	
	<p>fancy jewelry,</p> 		<p>detailed stories.</p>	<p>They are all beautiful to me.</p> 	<p>This has always been true, even though complex things have also caused some of my worst problems.</p>	<p>Like my problems with people.</p>	<p>The rules to follow if you want to fit in...</p>
 <p>hurting myself.</p>	 <p>hurting others,</p>	<p>Guessing about where the rules might have an exception, guessing wrong, breaking them...</p>	<p>And it was never enough. I kept having to guess.</p>	<p>expecting me to fill in the blanks with instinct that I didn't have.</p>	<p>People tried to teach me the rules. Every rule they stated was too simple, leaving out all the exceptions and conditions...</p>	<p>they are so complex that people can't even really explain them.</p>	
	<p>The doctors said "Tourette Syndrome" and "OCD," then later "Asperger Syndrome." The rules of diagnosing are another complex system, with so many parts to break.</p>	<p>It isn't perfect at putting people in boxes, because people are even more complex. But it got me help that I needed, and I guess that's what matters.</p>	<p>There was never one single thing that changed my life all at once. Learning how to live in this world was a flower with dozens of tiny petals...</p>		<p>a watch built of hundreds of tiny pieces...</p> 		<p>a necklace made of thousands of tiny jewels...</p>
	<p>And they were beautiful to me.</p> 	<p>I taught myself to write stories of vast futures and complex alien worlds.</p>			<p>I learned to make things that are beautiful in the way I love. I taught myself to make complex, fanciful jeweled necklaces and earrings and crowns.</p>	<p>A complex thing, and a beautiful one.</p>	<p>a journey of millions of tiny steps.</p>
	<p>Because even though complex things are so hard to create, they are so satisfying when they're done.</p>	<p>Because the world, and nature, and people...</p> 	<p>are all made of millions of tiny parts,</p> 	<p>like the petals of a flower, or the gears of a watch,</p> 	<p>or the jewels of a necklace,</p> 	<p>Full of complicated beauty.</p> 	<p>This book was written by Erika Hammerschmidt, who also makes jewelry and many other things! Visit her websites:</p>