

Village School's book of the month review: 'Extra Yarn'

By **SONYA SHAW WIRTANEN**

For the Athol Daily News



"Extra Yarn" by Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen is a whimsical tale of a young girl who finds a box of never-ending yarn

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Annabelle takes up knit-

ting with her found box of yarn in the dark and dreary town where everything is covered in snow and black soot from chimneys. Starting off with a sweater for herself and her

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Book

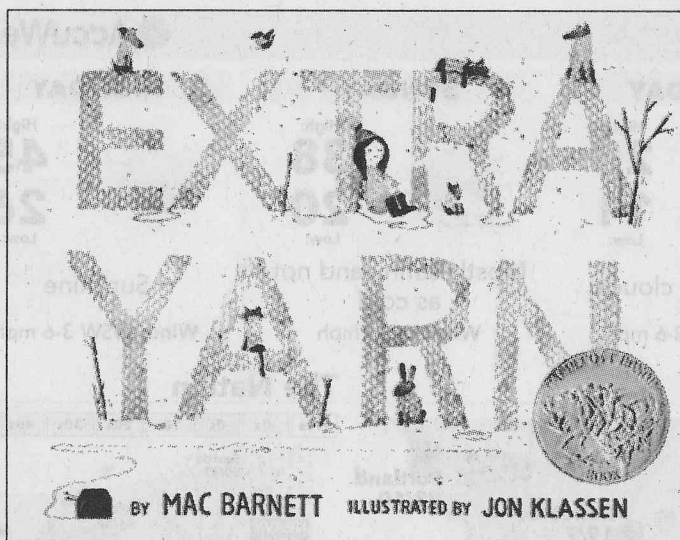
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dog, she precedes to knit sweaters for everyone in town, except for Mr. Crabtree who, "never wore sweaters or even long pants, and who would stand in his shorts with the snow up to his knees." He receives a winter hat.

Soon, Annabelle begins knitting for things that don't even wear clothes and the town turns from lonely gray and white to a cozy and colorful, where even the trees and trucks wear sweaters.

The news of magic travels far across the icy waters and an archduke comes to the small town and offers Annabelle \$10 million for her box of magic yarn. The little girl declines and the archduke is furious. That evening, he steals the box and sails back to his castle, only to find the box empty!

He throws the box out the window, cursing the little girl and her whole family. Luckily, the box lands on an iceberg where it safely floats back to



Annabelle in her town covered in colorful yarn. She opens the box to find it filled with yarn, where she continues to knit her town into a colorful and cozy place.

Jon Klassen, who illustrated "This is Not My Hat," continues to please his reader with simple shapes, shifty eyes and colorful prints of knitted yarn that pop from the white and gray backdrops. A double-spread with vacant images represents the vastness of the sea with just a

small box and the word, "but" thoughtfully placed on an iceberg, effortlessly creates suspense and curiosity for young children.

Cozy up this winter with a warm sweater, a box of yarn and this sweet book with just a touch of magic. This picture book will warm the hearts of children ages 3-8.

Sonya Shaw Wirtanen, a first-second grade teacher at the Village School in Royalston, reviewed this book.