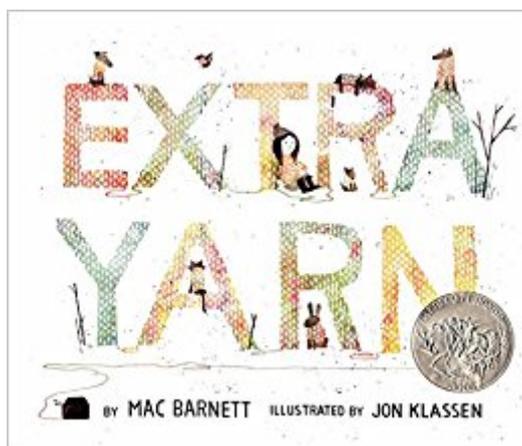


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# Extra Yarn



## Synopsis

From bestselling and award-winning author Mac Barnett and illustrator Jon Klassen comes *Extra Yarn*, a Caldecott Honor Book, Boston Globe-Horn Book Award winner, and a New York Times bestseller. A young girl and her box of magical yarn transform a community in this stunning picture book. With spare, gently humorous illustrations and a palette that moves from black-and-white to a range of color, this modern fairy tale has the feel of a new classic.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 620L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Balzer + Bray; First Edition edition (January 17, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061953385

ISBN-13: 978-0061953385

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.2 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 257 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #11,452 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction](#) #77 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature](#) #96 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Girls & Women](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Best Books of the Month for Kids, January 2012: A monochrome town gets a change of color and attitude with the help of a box of yarn and a girl named Annabelle. From the seemingly endless box of *Extra Yarn* Annabelle knits clothing for everyone around her, tempering the ill-tempered, and creating beautifully patterned warmth for people, animals, and objects, alike. When a greedy clothes-loving archduke tries to buy--then steal--the box for himself, he discovers that ill-gotten gains bear no fruit--or in this case, yarn. Mac Barnett's elegant and clever story is complemented by Jon Klassen's illustrations, and fans of *I Want My Hat Back* will enjoy the familiar faces that show up in this picture book about the magical properties of kindness and generosity.--Seira Wilson

**\*Starred Review\*** This understated picture book is certain to spark the imagination of every child who comes upon it, and what could be better than that? Annabelle lives in a black-and-white world, where everything is drab, drab, drab. So imagine her surprise when she finds a box filled with yarn of every color. Armed with the yarn and knitting needles, she makes herself a sweater, but after she finishes, she finds that she has extra yarn left over. After knitting a sweater for her dog, her classmates, and various (hilariously unsurprised) bunnies and bears, she still has extra yarn. So, Annabelle turns her attention to things that don't usually wear wool cozies: houses and cars and mailboxes. Soon an evil archduke with a sinister mustache who was very fond of clothes hears about the magic box of never-ending yarn, and he wants it for his own. Reading like a droll fairy tale, this Barnett-Klassen collaboration is both seamless and magical. The spare, elegant text and art are also infused with plenty of deadpan humor. Klassen (*I Want My Hat Back*, 2011) uses ink, gouache, and digital illustration to fashion Annabelle's world out of geometric shapes, set against dark, saturated pages, and against white as the town comes to colorful, stitched life. Quirky and wonderful, this story quietly celebrates a child's ingenuity and her ability to change the world around her. Grades K-2. --Ann Kelley

This book is truly a masterpiece. My daughters love it and so do I but probably for different reasons. They enjoy the sweet, funny story of the girl who knits sweaters for everyone and everything in her little town and then triumphs against a mean archduke with a long mustache in the end. Good stuff. I love the book too because it has so many layers; it is easy for adults to appreciate the yarn as a metaphor for happiness. Klassen's powerful illustrations show us a dark, snow-covered landscape at the start of the book. Then Annabelle finds the box of yarn amidst this dreary backdrop and sets about knitting sweaters for everyone. We see her kindness and joy transform the bully, Nate, and his dog and her grumpy teacher, Mr. Norman, and the rowdy class. We see the people she knits sweaters for attached to each other by strands of yarn. People look happier and connected. The landscape brightens. Then the archduke enters and tries to buy her happiness and then tries to steal it but of course that does not work. Then he tries to curse her so she will suffer from the same lack of happiness that plagues him and his family but of course that does not prevent her happiness from finding her again. I love that message and I love this book.

If you are a knitter then you should get this book. I first saw it in my local yarn shop. It is about a little girl who, in the middle of winter, finds a box filled with yarn of every color, so she knits herself a

sweater. When she was done she had extra yarn so she knit a sweater for her dog, Mars. Annabelle ends up knitting sweaters for just about everyone in town, except for Mr. Crabtree, who just didn't wear sweaters. He got a hat instead. News of Annabelle and her extra yarn spread and a cheeky Archduke tried to buy Annabelle's box of yarn. Well, she refused his offer. Rebuffed, he hires robbers to steal the box of yarn from her. The story ends well, however, for Annabelle. My daughter loves this story and Jon Klassen's illustrations are as good as ever. The text is simple and fun to read. This is an awesome bedtime story for all young children and parents alike.

As a knitter, I try to buy every good knitting book that comes along. Having heard about a children's book on the subject, my interest was piqued. I just finished reading "Extra Yarn" and was delighted. It is a story about a little girl named Annabelle who finds a box filled with yarns of every color. She knits herself a sweater and ends up knitting sweaters for almost everyone in her town. She even knits cover-ups for things that don't need sweaters - like cars, mail boxes, houses, etc. The box that the yarn comes from is a magic box and the yarn it contains is never-ending. The book reads like a fairy tale. There are the good people and the evil ones. Good prevails and this is a wonderful character study for children ages 4-8. It is also a wonderful ode to yarn and knitting that will charm every knitter who reads it.

Let me just say up front that I am a knitter with so much extra yarn I could furnish a small shop. I can't resist pretty yarn and just the title of this book intrigued me, as a knitter and as a preschool teacher. Without ever even seeing the book in its entirety, I was already planning activities to use some of my yarn in the classroom along with this story. For example, drawing letters or numbers in glue and letting the children cut pieces of yarn to make the shape of the letter or number or making my own and letting the children do crayon rubbings, seriating pieces of yarn by length or sorting by texture or color, weaving yarn through fruit baskets, colanders, etc. Creating a large web by placing sticks in a pyramid and letting the children weave various yarns through and around them. Finger knitting. For science, a lesson about making yarn from a sheep's wool. Using nursery rhymes such as Baa Baa Black Sheep. This list could go on and on. I did find another cute book to go along with this theme, Farmer Brown Shears His Sheep : a Yarn about Wool by Teri Sloat. "Farmer Brown Shears His Sheep. So...my book finally arrived and it is better than I imagined. The drawings start in black and white representing a rather cold and dismal place and are then "knitted" into color. It is about a little girl who finds a box of yarn, knits herself a sweater, and then knits sweaters for everyone and everything in her community. It is a book about imagination, kindness and sharing, a

little magic and intrigue, pretty much everything you want in a children's book! You could now include some contemporary social studies by showing the children pictures of yarm bombing and discussing whether it is beautiful or vandalism. Yes, even 4 year olds have opinions about social issues. I have not yet had the opportunity to use this story with my preschoolers, but I am hoping my enthusiasm rubs off on them!

Purchased as gift for adult daughter who has a serious yarn addiction. I don't (ahem!) know how that happened....

I cannot get enough of this book! I found it to be very sweet and I absolutely adored the illustrations. There is an illusion of a texture-like feel to the images with the illustrator's use of "cross-hatching, or crisscrossing of lines" (Temple, Martinez, & Yokota, 2011, p. 81). As you look at all the wonderfully colored yarn, you see that it is the only source of vibrant color to each page or double-page spread. Those splashes of color really pop against the drabness that surrounds it. The pictures are kept simplistic, which works well as the main focus is on the yarn that never seems to run out for the main character, Annabelle. This is a very special and engaging picture book, which is bound to spark the imagination of any child that comes upon it!References:Barnett, M. (2012). Extra yarn. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers.Temple, C., Martinez, M., & Yokota, J. (2011). Children's books in children's hands: An introduction to their literature. Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc.

Loved this story. Easy read, upbeat, clever little book. The pictures are great too!

Sweet story that is enjoyed by my 5 and 3 year old grandsons.

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