

# Looking Ahead

by Angie

This Halloween, Samantha decided, she was not going to be a witch or a ghost. She was too old for that. She wanted to be different ... and she had a kind of plan and had been keeping a careful watch on the scrap clothing the tunnel seamstress had been gathering to take apart, or re-use.

There were no lack of possibilities there, she decided, after a look one day, so that aspect of her costume would not be difficult, but she needed an accessory, something unique that she could make, preferably crocheted.

Naturally, she approached Mary, who kept all the yarn, books and tools in her chamber, since she was the most prolific of the tunnel crafters and also taught anyone who wanted to learn knitting, crocheting, or any other yarn craft.

"I want to make something spooky for my Halloween costume," Samantha, confessed to the older woman.

"A scarf?" Mary suggested.

Samantha's eyes lit up. "Yes, that would be great," she said enthusiastically. She had often made items she could wear.

Mary pointed her at a box that Samantha had not noticed before. It looked like a tall cardboard crate, because it had handholds – and it had 'EGGS' printed on the side. Most importantly, it seemed to be bulging with yarn.

"There are patterns there in an envelope too," Mary told her. "I've been saving them for Halloween."

Samantha eagerly went to the box and peered in. *Wow, she thought, lots of this stuff wouldn't be good for everyday wear – but it had definitely possibilities for Halloween.* As she rummaged through it, she also realized there wasn't much of any one kind of yarn either – but it was all wild colours.

She sighed and detached the envelope that had been clipped to the outside of the box. Almost immediately, she found a pattern she liked, and looking at the yarn again, decided what she would do. She did need some black though, and there didn't seem to be any of that in the box.

"Do you have any black yarn?" she asked Mary.

Mary pointed to the box where she kept black, white, and other neutral coloured yarns. They were much in demand, so she always kept them separate.

Samantha, rooted through to find black, and smiled. The pattern, a kind of granny square, could use almost anything in the middle, and it didn't need much yarn, she could tell. She picked out some bright colours from the Halloween box. The outer round was black.

Going back to the envelope, she leafed through the other options, wondering if she would be able to make one of these too. Later, she decided. She loved the idea of wearing something

no one would recognize as spooky unless they looked closely. But for now, the spooky granny square would be perfect.

She placed the yarn in one of the shopping bags Mary kept on hand, thanked her for her help, and headed back to her chamber to get started. It being Sunday, she had no duties, and could make a good start.

That's what she did for the next several hours, stopping only for lunch. The resulting squares were all she could have wished. She attached them together, another hour's work.

*Hmmmm*, she thought, she might have to revise her costume plan a little. She wanted the scarf to be very obvious. Back at the clothing scrap box, it didn't take her long to find something that met that requirement.

Now all she had to do was wait for Halloween.

