

Ugly is as ugly ...

by Angie

Part One

Mary and Annabelle regarded the huge pile of yarn on the seamstress' work table with horror. It was a wild mish-mash of colours and types that no one wanted.

"It's ghastly, but we must find a use for this," Mary declared, hating to see anything go to waste.

That gave Annabelle an idea. Halloween was coming up, surely they could use that.

"Why not have an ugly contest?" she suggested.

Mary laughed. "What a horrifying idea!"

They discussed details; a prize and silent auction. Pascal announced it - and the pile had all but disappeared a day later.

Part Two

For her contribution to the Horrible Halloween, Mary picked out all the chenille yarn and carried it back to her chamber. None matched, of course, but that meant she simply had to make an afghan.

She crocheted 20 large granny squares and sewed them together with yarn too thin to use for squares. Then she used some very gruesome super bulky for the border.

The result was actually quite attractive. Would it qualify? Perhaps the border would ensure it.

If someone wanted it, rules said she could demand a small task in exchange.

No problem, she thought, with a smile.

Part Three

The day of the Horrible Halloween Contest, everyone gathered in the dining chamber to examine the contestants. There were gasps of astonishment at the variety and imagination displayed.

Mary, watching the reaction to hers, decided it was too tame to win - but perhaps it might attract an admirer.

Not long afterwards, Vincent was running a big hand over it, obviously delighting in the furry feel, which reminded him of one of Catherine's pullovers.

"Don't worry, Vincent," Annabelle commented from beside him. He looked down at her, his eyebrows raised.

"In the dark all afghans are black."

Vincent groaned.



Part Four

Vincent approached Mary to discuss her afghan. It was unique, soft, undoubtedly warm, and he was sure it would prove useful when Catherine needed some warmth, besides himself. But what would she want for it? He complimented her entry, and all but held his breath as she smiled up at him.

She had just the task for him, she confessed. Indeed, no one else would do.

Mary told him, and he grimaced, while admitting it was the perfect job for Halloween.

Later, he fastened a rag to a long pole and expunged all the spiders and webs from her chamber.

END

Note: the granny square pattern is called a 'tilted square'.