

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

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If You Want to Knit Some Mittens.

By Laura Purdie Salas. Illus. by Angela Matteson

Oct. 2021. 32p. Boyds Mills & Kane/Boyds Mills, \$17.99 (9781629795645). PreS–Gr. 2

In a picture book with a rural setting, a girl offers advice for kids who, like her, want to knit mittens. It's a surprisingly lengthy process that unfolds in 18 steps (ironically including no knitting instructions) beginning with "Step 1: Get a sheep." While her father purchases apples from an orchard, she talks him into buying a sheep as well. Other steps involve sheep shearing, fleece washing, wool carding, spinning, dyeing, and eventually, "Get some knitting needles and learn to knit. Let your fingers fly. Click-clack! Slip-snip! Knit some mittens." In the final scene, the girl wears her mittens as she and her sheep sled down a snow-covered hill together. Throughout the story, the girl works hard, diligently following instructions, while the artwork reveals the rambunctious sheep, a piglet, and some chicks carrying out a series of shenanigans, just for fun. Salas' text sets a playful tone, and Matteson makes the most of it in the colorful, occasionally madcap illustrations. An appealing picture book about mitten making, with a good deal of merrymaking along the way.

— *Carolyn Phelan*