Melvin the Misunderstood Monster

by Karissa Cole

*H*e's a nice guy. Nicer than nice. He bakes cupcakes for everyone he knows, helps little old ladies cross the street, always says 'please' and 'thank you' and is never one to make a fuss. He never says no to someone in need, and always has a smile and a cheerful thought from the bottom of his big 'ol heart. Why, he'd even balance your checkbook if you asked! (He's really quite good with numbers.)But even given all this, everyone still calls Melvin a monster. And for the life of him, he can't figure out why. He's cute, he's little, he's sweet. So where do they get monster in that?

*P*erhaps Melvin will never know. But in the meantime he keeps his positive disposition, taking comfort in fresh coloring books, caramel apples and watching the Olympics.

Use main color unless otherwise indicated.

E A R S (x2)

Worked back and forth

ch 5 (5th ch counts as turning chain; at the end of all future rows ch 1 to use as turning chain)
RW 1-3) *sc* (4)
RW 4) sc, 2inc, sc (6)
RW 5) 2sc, 2inc, 2sc (8)
RW 6) 3sc, 2inc, 3sc (10)
RW 7-21) *sc* (10)
RW 22) 3sc, 2dec, 3sc (8)
RW 23) *sc* (8)
RW 24) 2sc, 2 dec, 2sc (6)
RW 25) sc, 2dec, sc (4)
RW 26) 2dec (2)
RW 27) dec (1)
FO

Using the finished ear as a reference cut out an inner ear shape from felt. Attach to ear. Crochet around outside of ear to form a neat edge.

H O R N S (x2) *[Use secondary color]*

MC 3
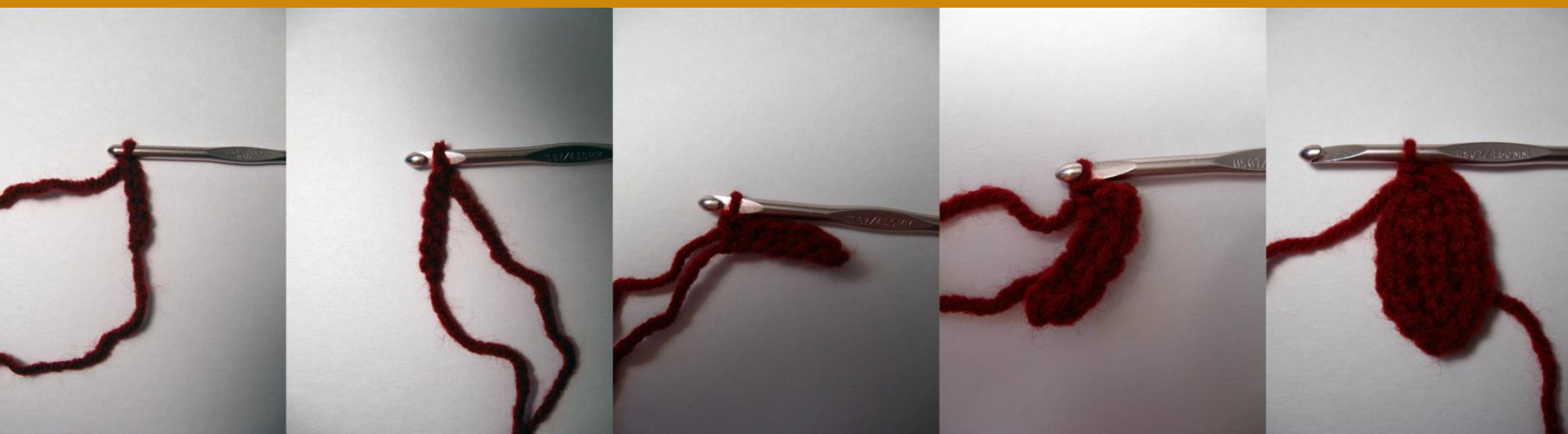RND 1) *inc* (6)
RND 2) *sc, inc* (9)
RND 3) *sc* (9)
FO

H E A D (x1)

The head is started with a foundation chain, then worked in the round. It is not recommended that you create a tight foundation chain. For neater stitches I recommend staggering increases and decreases.

ch 6
Working in the back loops of the ch and starting in second ch from hook sc 5, ch 1, working along the other side of the 5 sc just made, sc 5, ch 1. You should now have 12 sts (this includes the 10sc and the 2 chains) From now on work in the round. Do not join rounds. (See photos below)

| Chain 6 | Flip the chain over and work in the back loops | Create 5 single crochet stitches (then ch 1) | Do not turn. Continue around with 5 more sc (then ch 1) | Work in the round for the remainder of the piece |

(H E A D cont.)
RND 1) *sc, inc* (18)
RND 2) *2sc, inc* (24)
RND 3) *3sc, inc* (30)
RND 4) *4sc, inc* (36)
RND 5-9) *sc* (36)
RND 10) *5sc, inc* (42)
RND 11) *6sc, inc* (48)
RND 12) *7sc, inc* (54)
RND 13) *4sc, dec* (45)
RND 14) *3sc, dec* (36)
RND 15) *2sc, dec* (27)
Attach eyes, horns, and ears. See photos for suggested positioning.
RND 16) *sc, dec* (18)
Stuff firmly
RND 17) *dec* (9)
FO

A R M S (x2)

MC 3
RND 1) *inc* (6)
RND 2-4) *sc* (6)
FO

T A I L (x1)

Create a pom-pom
Easy pom-pom how-to: Wrap yarn of your choice around two of your fingers until you have a sizable bundle of yarn (be sure to wrap loose enough so as to not cut off circulation!). Cut yarn end. Remove wrapping of yarn from your fingers. Taking another piece of yarn (same color) tie a knot around the bundle. Cut off the edges (loops) or yarn bundle until you have an almost pom-pom. Take a brush and brush out yarn until fluffy.

B O D Y (x1)

The body and feet are worked as one piece, starting from the top (with a foundations chain that is joined once) and then worked down. Do not join rounds unless otherwise stated.

Ch 24, join and work in the round on 24 sts.
RND 1-3) *sc* (24)
RND 4) *5sc, inc* (28)
RND 5-6) *sc* (28)
RND 7) *6 sc, inc* (32)
RND 8-9) *sc* (32)
We will now start making the legs by splitting our 32 sts into 2 sets of 16 stitches. Place a stitch marker at the beginning of the next round (I use the tail end of my piece)(note that this would be round 10 if we were continuing the body). Sc in the first 8 sts then, without breaking the yarn, skip all the way around to the first of the last 8 sts (see photos)

PHOTO **A**

PHOTO **B**

PHOTO **C**

PHOTO **D**

P H O T O **A**: I've crochet the first 8 stitches. (Yarn in foreground is my stitch marker, showing the beginning of the round; yarn in background is my working yarn.)

P H O T O **B**: I've turned my work around, so the 8 sts I just created appear to be in the back. Starting at my marker and working in the opposite direction of the sts I just made (which would be to the right), I counted 8 sts

P H O T O **C**: With my first 8 sts done and still at the back of my work I now insert my hook into the first of the 8 sts I counted out in photo C.

P H O T O **D**: Now instead of working one big circle with 32 sts, I can work two smaller circles with 16 sts each. For the rest of this leg I will work in the round, just on these 16 stitches.
The 16 scs I just made count as round 1.

RND 1-3) *sc* (16)
RND 4) *dec* (8)
RND 5) *dec* (4)
FO (leave long tail for finishing.)
For the second leg simply work the remaining 16 stitches in the round, repeating rounds 1-5 as above.

Once finished both legs use a tapestry needle and sew up hole between body/legs and on the bottom of the feet if necessary.

Attach arms. See photos for suggested positioning.

Cut out an egg shaped piece of felt and attach to the body. If attaching the tail via needle and thread, attach to the body now. If gluing the tail, I suggest first attaching the head to the body, then adding tail. See photos for suggested assemblage.

Once complete, be sure to give your Melvin plenty of love! And crayons. Fresh crayons. They're important too.

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