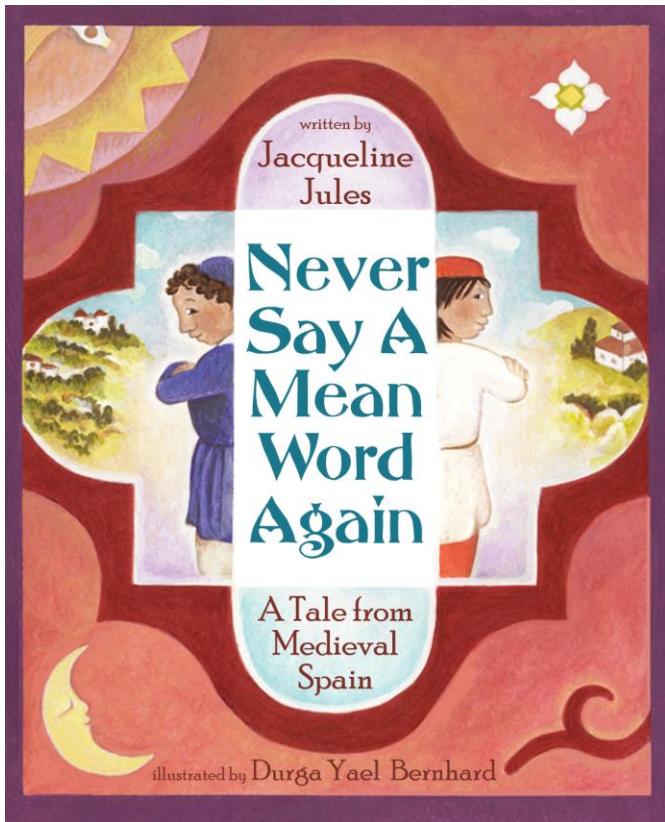


Never Say a Mean Word Again: A Tale from Medieval Spain

Written by Jacqueline Jules; Illustrated by Durga Yael Bernhard



Never Say a Mean Word Again is the compelling tale of two boys, one Jewish and one Muslim, trying to settle their differences. Based on a powerful legend from medieval Spain, its message of a peaceful solution is as appropriate today as ever.

This light-hearted look at the very serious issue of conflict resolution amongst children will appeal to children and adults alike. It illustrates how friendship and kindness can help settle some disputes.

About This Book:

- ❖ This multicultural book is the story of a boy who is given permission by his father, the grand vizier (highest royal advisor), to punish an enemy. “Make sure Hamza never says a mean word to you again,” he orders Samuel. What will he do?
- ❖ Inspired by the life story of Jewish poet Samuel Ha-Nagid (993-1056), who was the vizier in Muslim Spain
- ❖ Features 32 pages of colorful illustrations in a striking design, evocative of medieval Spain
- ❖ Explores the challenges of friendship across cultures and social status
- ❖ Addresses the question of fair punishment for name-calling
- ❖ Models behavior for turning an adversary into a friend

Publication Details:

- ❖ ISBN: 978-1-937786-20-5
- ❖ Pub Date: May 2014
- ❖ Price: \$16.95
- ❖ Trim Size: 8”x10”
- ❖ Page Count: 32 hardback
- ❖ Ages: 4-8

Praise for *Never Say A Mean Word Again*

“Jules’s down-to-earth narrative communicates Samuel’s subtle internal transformation as the unexpected, amusing, and touching outcomes of his attempts to obey his father turn a power struggle into a budding friendship. . . . Bernhard’s illustrations convey an elegant, multicultural castle environment. Energy and movement infuse the paintings.”

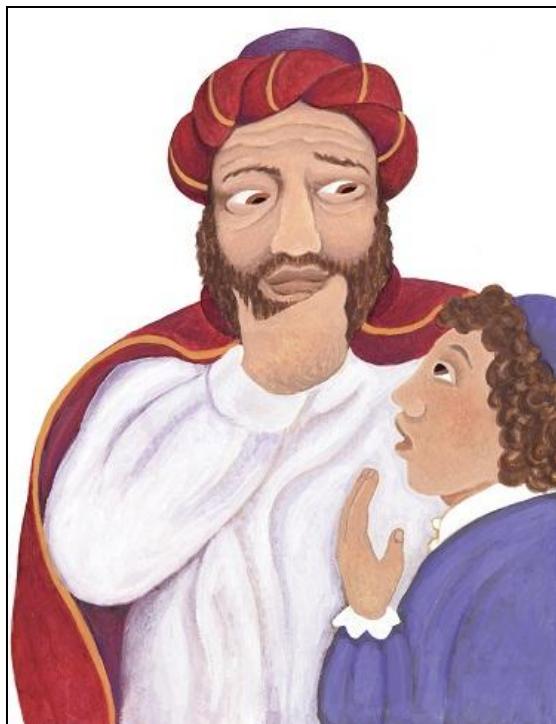
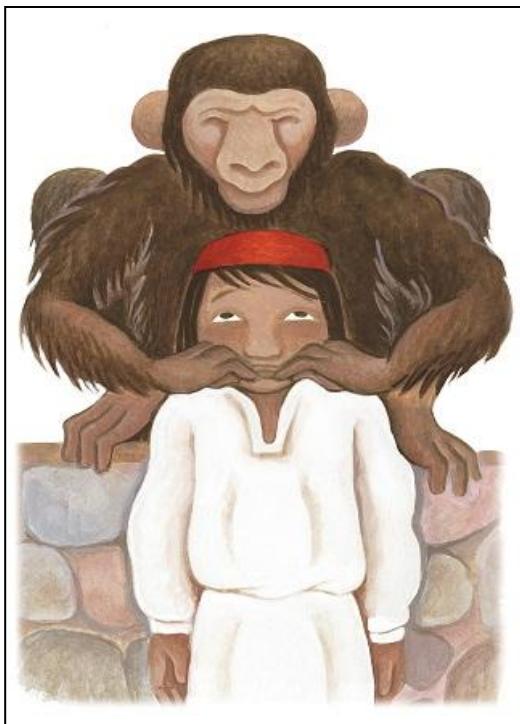
—*Publishers Weekly*, Starred Review

“A story of bullying, acceptance, and friendship, *Never Say a Mean Word Again* . . . is a delightful account of turning meanness and rudeness into kindness and friendship. . . . A moral tale of friendship, *Never Say a Mean Word Again: A Tale from Medieval Spain*, has an admirable story guided by marvelous illustrations that will inspire children and adults.”

—*Foreword Reviews*

Selections from the Book

Sample Pages



About the Author



JACQUELINE JULES is a former school librarian and teacher, and the author of over two dozen books for children, including the award-winning Zapato Power series. Many of her titles are of special interest to young Jewish readers, including *The Hardest Word*, a National Jewish Book Award finalist, and Sydney Taylor Honor Award winners *Sarah Laughs* and *Benjamin and the Silver Goblet*. Jacqueline's sensitivity to themes that engage children is evident in her choice of topics, such as being away at camp, starting at a new school and being unable to communicate in English, name calling, and being from a different culture in America. She lives with her family in Northern Virginia, near Washington, D.C. Visit her online at www.jacquelinejules.com.

About the Illustrator

DURGA YAEL BERNHARD was raised in New York's Hudson Valley and began painting at the age of thirteen. She is the illustrator of numerous award-winning children's books, including fiction and non-fiction, natural science titles, and multicultural folktales. Ms. Bernhard is also a children's teacher of Hebrew, Judaics, and illustration. Visit her online at www.dyaelbernhard.com.

