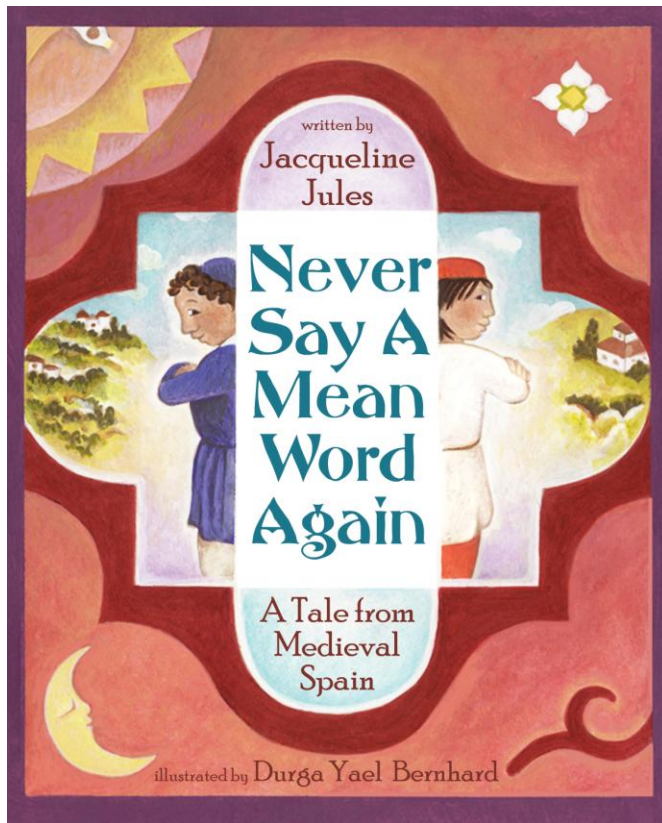


# *Never Say a Mean Word Again: A Tale from Medieval Spain*

*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*

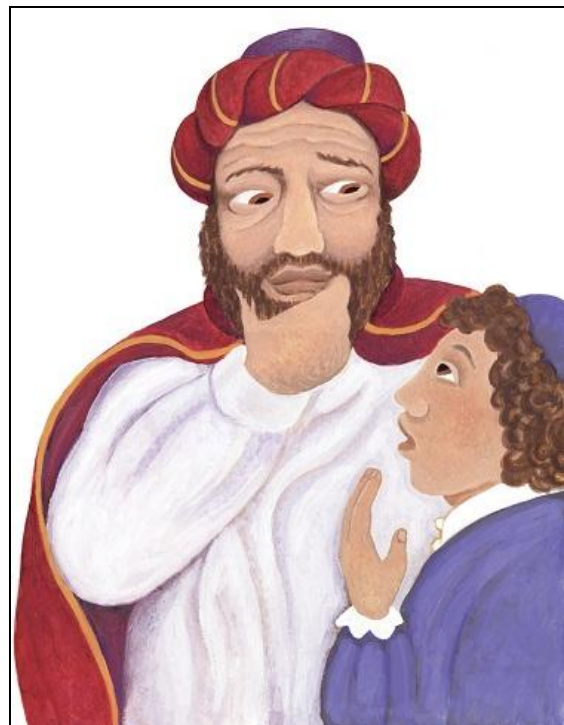
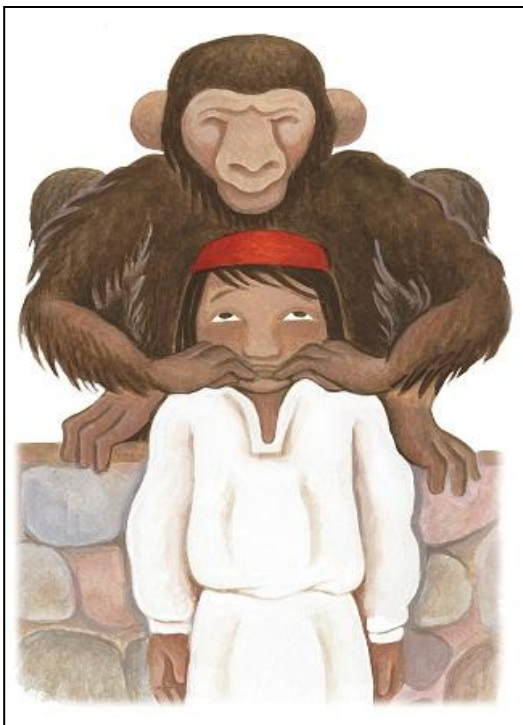
“Jules’s down-to-earth narrative communicates Samuel’s subtle internal transformation as the unexpected, amusing, and touching outcomes of his attempts to obey his father turn a power struggle into a budding friendship. . . . Bernhard’s illustrations convey an elegant, multicultural castle environment. 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](http://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](http://www.dyaelbernhard.com).

