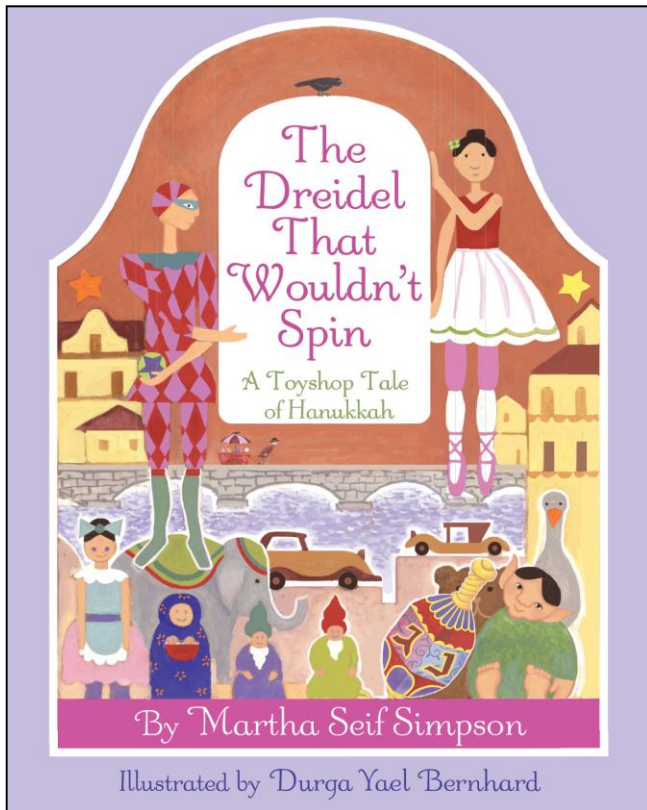


The Dreidel That Wouldn't Spin: A Toyshop Tale of Hanukkah

Written by Martha Seif Simpson

Illustrated by Durga Yael Bernhard



“This dreidel does not work!” the father had cried. “What do you mean?” the shopkeeper asked. “How can a dreidel not work?” It was certainly the most beautiful spinning top the shopkeeper had ever seen, with magical letters on its sides. But it just would not spin for two children who insisted on owning it! Later, the shopkeeper decided to try it one last time: would it spin for another child, one who carried the true spirit of Hanukkah in his heart?

This Book Contains

- ❖ A beautiful holiday story about the joy and happiness of Hanukkah.
 - ❖ The simple message that wonders can still occur for those who are ready for them.
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- ❖ A useful appendix that explains the meaning of the Hanukkah holiday.
 - ❖ Directions on how to play the dreidel game.

Publication Details

- ❖ ISBN: 978-1-937786-28-1
- ❖ Pub Date: October 2014
- ❖ Price: \$16.95
- ❖ Trim Size: 8”x10”
- ❖ Page Count: 32 hardcover
- ❖ Ages: 5 and up



Selections from the Book



Praise for *The Dreidel That Wouldn't Spin*

“Folkloric watercolor illustrations in a pale palette are appropriately soft in tone while images of the toys offering their own expressive impressions of the goings-on inject a bit of humor. A lovely choice for those wishing to circumvent the more commercial aspects of the holiday.”

—*School Library Journal*

“ [Author Martha] Simpson uses familiar European folk-tale motifs, which [illustrator] Bernhard matches with acrylic paintings of an Old World setting; both illustrate how humility outshines greed and arrogance. Backmatter [i.e. the Appendix] explains the real miracle of Hanukkah and the holiday’s significance as well as rules for playing dreidel. A sweet original tale with a timeless, though not holiday-specific message (Picture book. 5-7)”

—*Kirkus Reviews*



About the Author

Martha Seif Simpson is an author and children’s librarian. She has served as the Head of Children’s Services at the Stratford Library Association in Stratford, CT for the last twenty years. She is the author of five professional books for teachers and librarians and active in the American Library Association. Her first children’s book *What NOT to Give Your Mom on Mother’s Day* was released in 2013. She credits growing up in the Tifereth Israel Synagogue and helping out at her parent’s small variety store with her idea for *The Dreidel That Wouldn’t Spin*. Simpson and her husband live in Hamden, CT where she attends the Temple Beth Shalom Synagogue and is active in the Sisterhood. She has four grown children. Visit her online at www.martha-seif-simpson.com.



About the Illustrator



Durga Yael Bernhard began painting at the age of thirteen. She is an award-winning illustrator and author of many fiction and non-fiction books for children, including multicultural books such as *Around the World in One Shabbat: Jewish People Celebrate the Sabbath Together, While You Are Sleeping*, and most recently, *Never Say A Mean Word Again: A Tale from Medieval Spain*. Her lift-the-flap book *In the Fiddle Is a Song* was a *Child Magazine* Best Book of the Year and won the Please Touch Children’s Museum of Philadelphia Award. She is a children’s teacher of Hebrew, Judaica, and illustration. Ms. Bernhard is also a fine artist known for her religious and family-themed pieces. She has three children and lives in Shandaken, NY. Visit her online at www.dyaelbernhard.com.