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Never Say A Mean Word Again: A Tale From Medieval Spain



Synopsis

Never Say a Mean Word Again

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 480L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Wisdom Tales (May 7, 2014)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 0.4 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (18 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #425,605 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #131 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Medieval](#) #277 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe](#) #5756 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

This charming children's book walks just the right line between being an enjoyable folktale-type story and teaching a lesson without beating us over the head with such Lesson. The story begins with some unfortunate encounters between two boys – one rich, one not so much; one Jewish, one Muslim; one the son of the grand vizier, the other the son of the tax collector. The former seems to be a rather dreamy, awkward young man who doesn't seem to pay much attention to what he's doing. I suppose being the son of the grand vizier has its privileges. Unfortunately for Samuel, his status (and perhaps his proneness to mishaps?) makes him a rather lonely lad. Hamza, on the other hand, appears to be an outspoken young man who does not take kindly to being bumped into and stepped on, or to having food sloshed in his lap. Son of the grand vizier or no, Hamza tells Samuel off, using some rather mean insults. Samuel's father does not take kindly to such insults, but rather than take matters into his own hands, he orders his son to – "Make sure Hamza never says a mean word to you again." • Samuel takes this to mean that Hamza is to be punished for his insolence, but, being the dreamy, non-confrontational type, Samuel is not sure how

to go about that. But then, the grand vizier is not one to be disobeyed, so Samuel sets off to put Hamza in his place. He spends the night thinking of rather improbable ways to silence Hamza and eventually settles on making Hamza eat a lemon. Hamza, however, has a different idea what the lemon is for. The boys end up playing catch. Having failed in his first attempt to punish Hamza, Samuel comes back again the next day with a new idea. That doesn't work out so well either, so he must go back the next day. And the next. And the next.

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