



A COAT FOR THE MOON

Written by Howard Schwartz & Barbara Rush

Illustrated by Michael Lofin

Each of the wonderfully rich folktales in this collection relates a critical Jewish value. Stories come from many traditions and places, including Yemen, Israel, Iraq, and France.

People from all corners of the earth have treasuries of stories carrying messages of important truths about themselves. Some tales contain fantastical creatures performing magical feats, while others portray common folk living ordinary lives. Jewish folktales are no exception, where sources range from the epic narratives of the Torah—the first five books of the Bible—to the *midrash*, a story that fills in the gaps or clarifies a fundamental account from the Bible or other Jewish text.

For countless generations, folktales have played a major role in Jewish culture. Tales that have specifically Jewish themes have long been transported by Jews to their new homelands. For centuries, tradesmen and nomadic peoples carried stories from Asia and Africa to Europe; eventually, these stories came to the United States. Sharing folktales became not only a means of entertainment, but of remembering our history and of transmitting Jewish values and lessons to the next generation. This tradition continues with *A Coat for the Moon*.

READING THIS BOOK AT HOME

How wonderful that embedded in these short tales are such big lessons about such major subjects: loyalty, justice, truth, and honor. Consider the following activities to accompany your reading:

- With a brother, sister, or other friend, imagine yourselves the main characters. Share how you might have acted in the circumstances presented in each tale.
- Keep a written record of all the magical elements in the tales within this book. Consider why they were included in the stories.
- Create a series of illustrated bookmarks that state in just one sentence the important lessons to be learned from the tales. Pj

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