



MORE THAN ENOUGH

Written by April Halprin Wayland

Illustrated by Katie Kath

When we sing "Dayenu" ("it would have been enough") during the Passover seder, we're singing about Torah, Shabbat, and freedom. In this story, we notice so many more things to be feel grateful for as we enjoy the springtime pleasures of Passover.

JEWISH CONCEPTS

More Than Enough offers a lighthearted interpretation of the essential liberation theme of Passover. The charming ink drawings and watercolors illustrate a story of freedom that is rich with symbolism, but far less worrisome than the full Passover narrative.

As the children in this story wander happily through the market with their mother, their heads are filled with thoughts of the holiday. They buy apples, walnuts, and honey to make *charoset*, a symbolic food for the Passover meal. They enjoy the effortless pleasures of freedom, appreciating colors at the market, running with their kite, and tasting the spring rain. They free a friendly kitten from the shelter and take the kitten home to share their celebration.

At Nana's house, the family's *charoset* appears on a beautiful plate, where the mixture of fruit and nuts symbolizes the mortar that Jews used when they were slaves in Egypt. The plate displays other symbolic foods (an egg, a roasted bone, bitter herbs, and vegetables to be dipped in salt water) that also represent the Passover story of freedom. The children perform many symbolic acts—asking four ritual questions that prompt adults to tell the story of the Jews' exodus from Egypt with Moses, opening the front door to welcome the spirit of Elijah to enter the home, and searching for the hidden piece of matzah called the *afikomen*—before settling down to sleep with a deep appreciation for the pleasures of their day.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Invite your child to keep track of all the activities in this story that are marked with the word *dayenu* in red. You might ask: Why does the book say *dayenu* for the rain? Why does it say *dayenu* when the children carry groceries into the house, and again when they dress up for dinner at Nana's house?

The Hebrew word *day* (pronounced dai) means "enough," and *dayenu* translates literally to "it would have been enough." Encourage children to think about some experiences and gifts for which they are thankful. Ask questions such as: If the children in the story got to keep the kitten, but didn't have a special dinner at Nana's, would that have been enough? If they enjoyed matzah balls and macaroons, but didn't sing Passover songs, would that have been enough?

The family in this story celebrates Passover with typical Ashkenazi (from Central and Eastern Europe) Jewish foods, including a classic Ashkenazi *charoset*. Try making *charoset* with dates instead of apples, or substituting a different type of nut for walnuts. Some cooks prefer a chunky version of the symbolic mortar, while others grind *charoset* until it becomes perfectly smooth. When it is flavored with grape juice and spread on matzah, every variation of *charoset* is delicious!