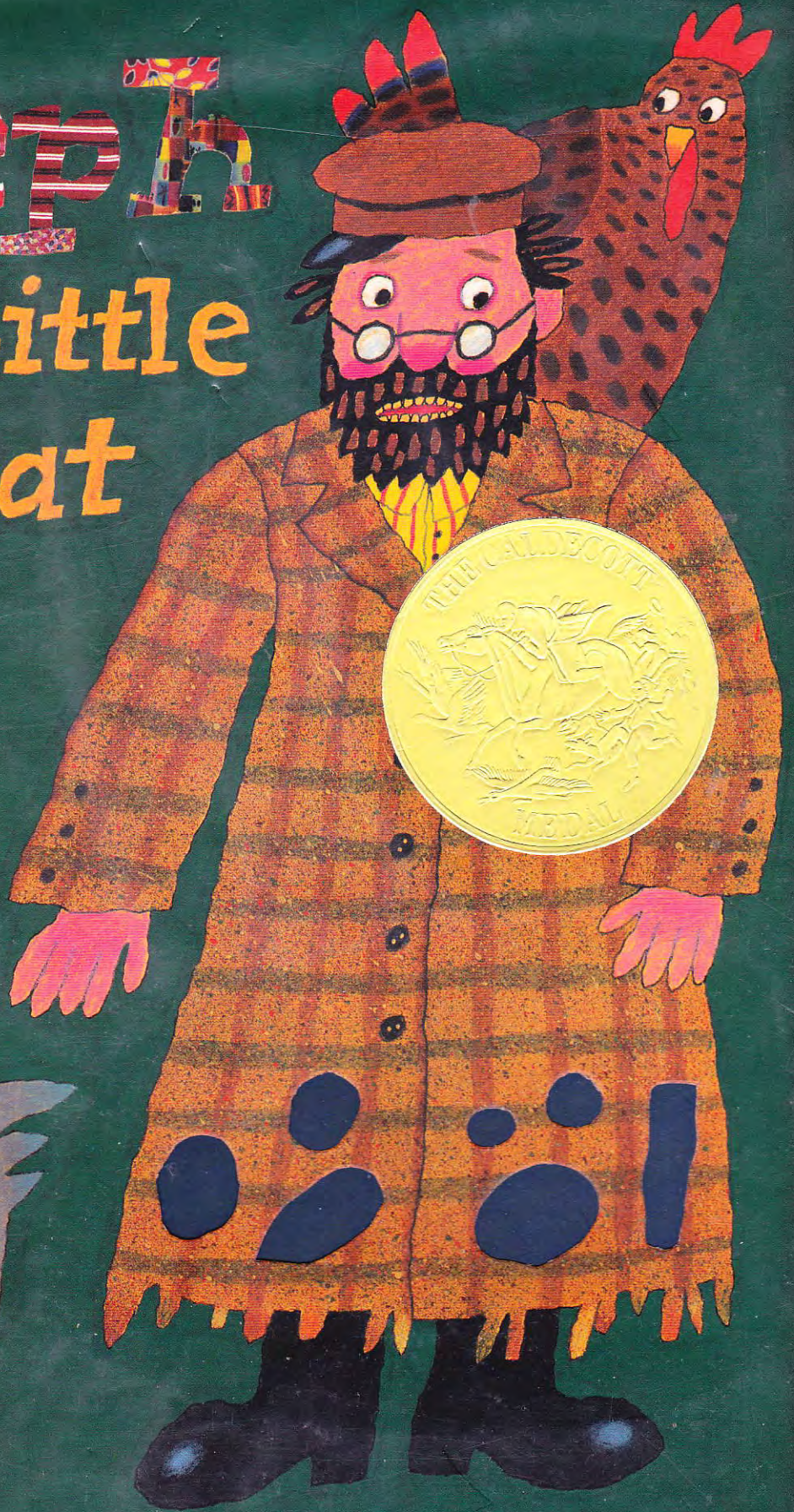


Joseph

Had a Little  
Overcoat

Simms  
Taback







Dedicated to  
Alex Cohen

The artwork was done  
using watercolor, Gouache,  
pencil, ink and collage.

VIKING

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Joseph  
Had a Little  
Overcoat

He wore the  
coat for  
a long time  
and then  
something  
happened  
to it.



(and there's a  
moral, too!)

Simms Taback

Viking







Joseph had a little overcoat. It was old and worn.





So he made a jacket out of it





and went to the fair.





Joseph had a little jacket. It got old and worn.









So he made a vest out of it





and danced at his nephew's wedding.

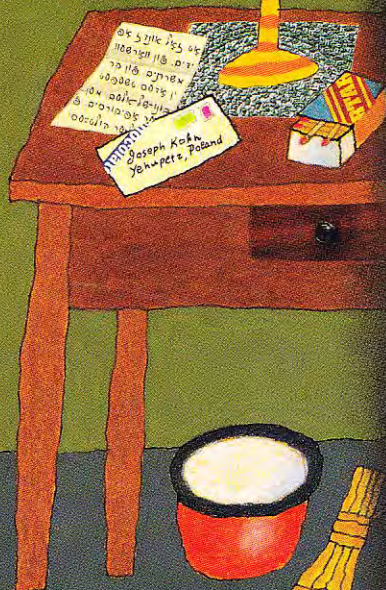




Joseph had a little vest. It got old and worn.









So he made a scarf out of it





and sang in the men's chorus.





Joseph had a little scarf. It got old and worn.









So he made a necktie out of it





and went to visit his married sister in the city.



MORNING FREIHEIT

FIDDLER ON ROOF FALLS OFF ROOF

MELAMED SELLS SHE-GOAT!

WAS BONTSCHE SCHWEIG ANEBISCH?

SEVERE ACCIDENT



Joseph had a little necktie. It got old and worn.







Hör ich mir a stümpel.



So he made a handkerchief out of it





and drank a glass of hot tea with lemon.

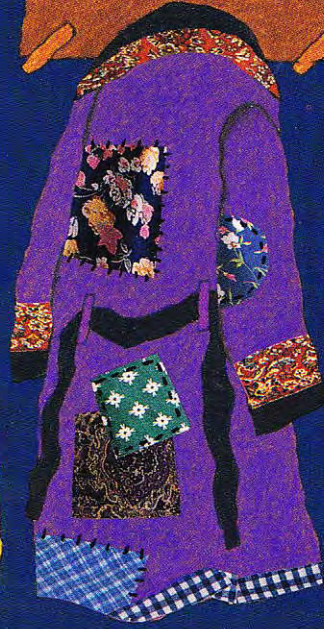
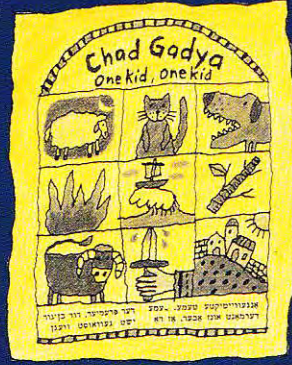




Joseph had a little handkerchief. It got old and worn.









So he made a button out of it





and used it to fasten his suspenders.





Joseph had a little button. One day he lost it.





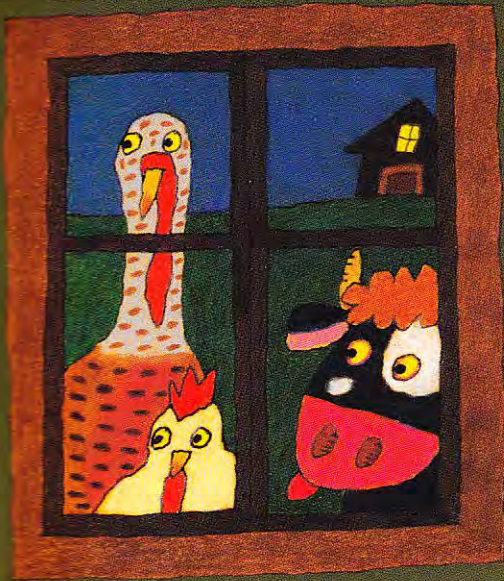




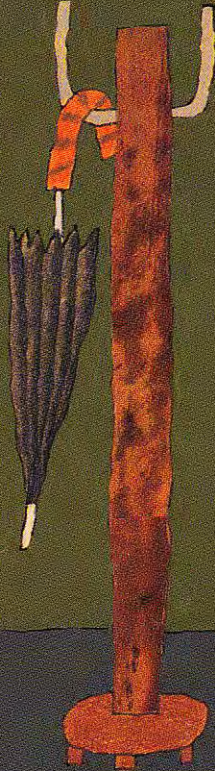
Now he had nothing.







What one has,  
one doesn't want,  
and what one wants,  
one doesn't have.





So Joseph made a book about it. Which shows...





you can always make something out of nothing.



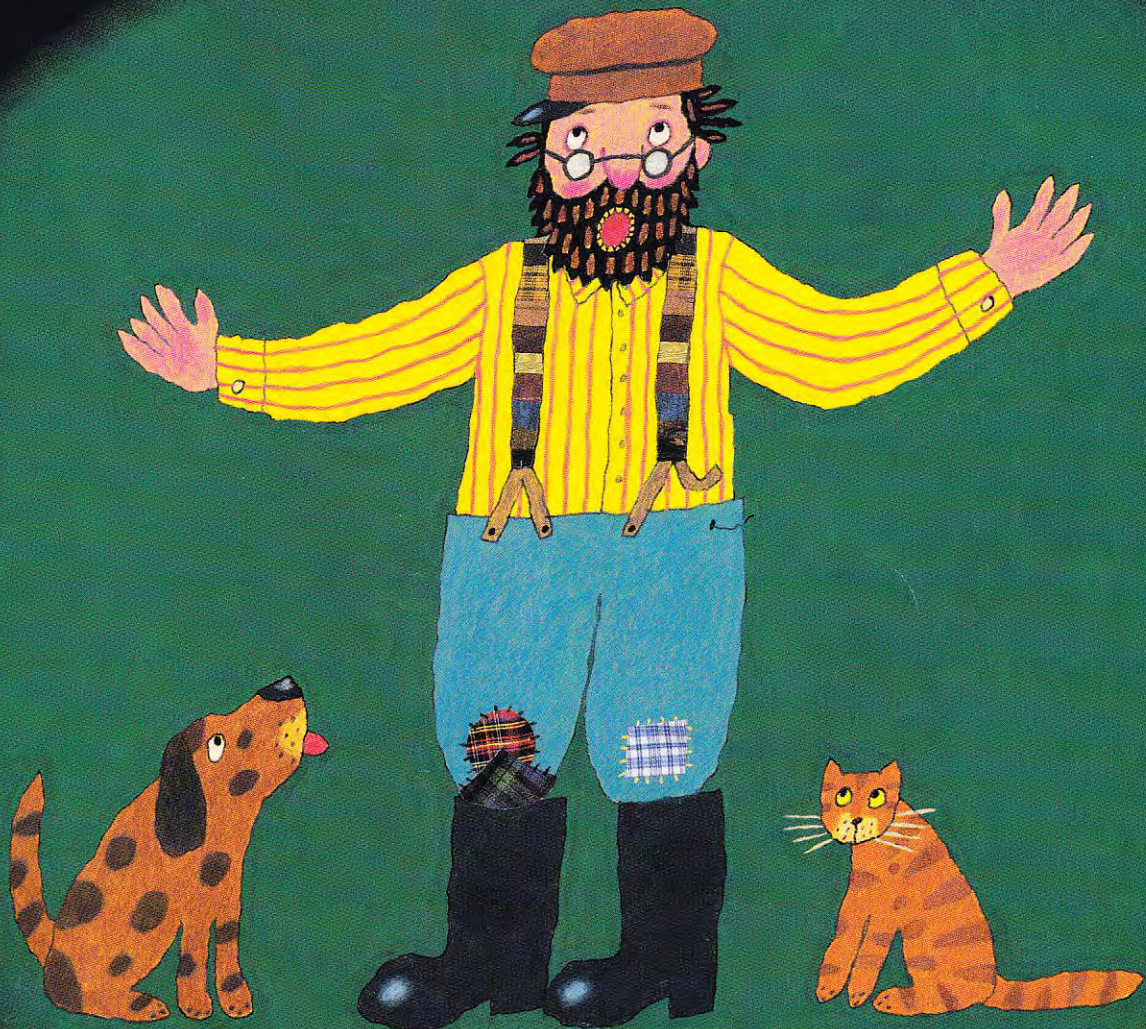


Dear Readers,

As a child I had a favorite song - a yiddish folk song called "I Had a Little Overcoat." Many years ago, I adapted the song to make a book and I called it Joseph Had a Little Overcoat. Some people noticed that Joseph looked a lot like me.

Now you know that no artist is ever satisfied with his work, but usually we don't get to do it over. So I am particularly happy to be publishing this newly illustrated version of Joseph. I hope that all of you who wrote to me about the early version will take this one to your hearts. That would prove that "you can always make something out of nothing"... over and over again!

Simms Taback





# I Had a Little Overcoat (Hob Ich Mir a Mantel)

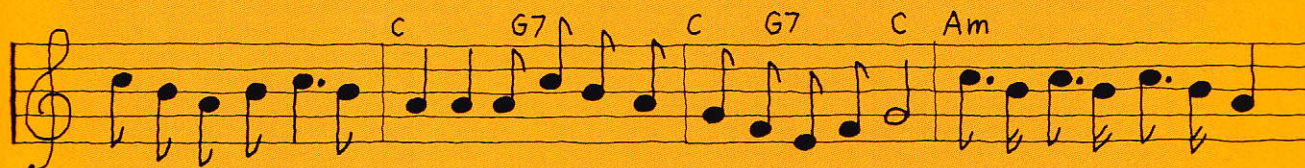
With some help from Evy Silverman, Lisa Deane, Bert Silverman, Janet Pascal and Sidor Belarsky



(1) I had a lit-tle o-ver-coat, much too old to sew, La la la la la la la la la la la la. (1) What-  
 (2) had a lit-tle jack-et, much too old to sew, (2) What-  
 (3) had a lit-tle vest, — much too old to sew, (3) What-  
 (4) had a lit-tle tie, — much too old to sew, (4) What-  
 (5) had a lit-tle but-ton, where ev-er did it go, (5) What-  
 (6) All I had was no-thing, and no-thing much to sew, (6) What



(1) ev-er could I do with it, I just did-n't know. La la la la la la la la la la, so I  
 (2) ev-er could I do with it,  
 (3) ev-er could I do with it,  
 (4) ev-er could I do with it,  
 (5) ev-er did I do with it,  
 (6) could I do with no-thing,



thought what could I do (1) and made my-self a jack-et that was al-most new, La la la la la la la  
 (2) and made my-self a vest — that was al-most new.  
 (3) and made my-self a tie — that was al-most new.  
 (4) and made my-self a but-ton that was al-most new.  
 (5) but all I had was noth-ing nei-ther old or new.  
 (6) and sang my-self a song and I sing this song to you.



la la la la la la la (1) made my-self a jack-et that was al-most new. I sing this song to you.  
 (2) made my-self a vest — that was al-most new. I  
 (3) made my-self a tie — that was al-most new. I  
 (4) made my-self a but-ton that was al-most new. I  
 (5) all I had was noth-ing nei-ther old or new. —  
 (6) sang my-self a song and I





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