

**NINE DIFFERENT ENDINGS!**  
**OVER 100 POSSIBLE STORY PATHS!**

**WHICH PATH SHOULD  
YOU CHOOSE?**

**YOU ARE A JEWISH CHILD**

living in Toledo, in the kingdom of Castile, in 1492.

Your mother is nurse to the grandson of Don Abarbanel, a wise  
Jewish scholar and the financial advisor to Queen Isabella.

Today, you are in charge of the little boy.

But as you walk him through the Jewish quarter, a  
strange man approaches you.

**WHAT DO YOU DO?**

**NO, REALLY, WHAT DO YOU DO?**

In The Spanish Plot, you, the reader, are the main character — and you  
make the decisions. Your choices might lead you into the royal castle or  
on the long road out of Spain. You might uncover a sinister plot and save  
the day . . . or you might end up in the castle dungeon!

**CHOOSE WISELY . . .**

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**YOU CHOOSE**  
AN INTERACTIVE ADVENTURE SERIES



# The Spanish Plot

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**Leah Sokol**

*Illustrated by Michael Biniashvili*



## **The Spanish Plot**

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YOU ARE WALKING UP the cobblestone street, keeping a close eye on Yitzchak, when you see the man for the first time.

He is not looking at you. He is leaning against a pillar and watching Yitzchak.

Yitzchak is running down the street ahead of you. Every few steps, he falls over. He is only a year and a half old, and advanced for his age, but he is still not that good at running. His little stockings are completely grass-stained, and you know your mother won't be happy — she's going to have to wash them. But he is giggling so much that you haven't made him stop.

The man pushes himself away from the pillar and starts toward you. You're on a narrow street in the Jewish Quarter, and right now, it's empty except for the three of you and a couple of chickens.

You are not easily frightened. But it's the year 1492, and the city of Toledo is not as safe as it used to be. Not for a Jewish child like you.

King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella are thinking of expelling all the Jews from their kingdoms. King Ferdinand rules the kingdom of Aragon, and Queen Isabella rules the kingdom of Castile. Now that they have conquered the kingdom of Granada from the Muslims, they control the entire Spanish Peninsula. They have the power to do whatever they want.

Everyone knows they won't really expel the Jews. Their court is *full* of Jews. Some people even call Queen Isabella "protector of the Jews." (They don't usually mean it as a compliment!)

These rumors are obviously just a way to get the Jews to pay a large bribe. But for some people, it's also an excuse to attack any Jew they see.

This man doesn't look angry or threatening, though. He smiles at you, and his blue eyes are friendly. He is wearing a fur-trimmed velvet cloak, and his fingers glitter with jeweled rings.

What does he want with a common child like you?

You turn your gaze to the spires of the Alcazar, the city's castle. Its towers rise against the swirling clouds.

Maybe this man has come from the court, where Don Yitzchak Abarbanel — little Yitzchak's grandfather — serves the king and queen. Maybe Don Abarbanel has sent him to give you a message.

Your mother works for the Abarbanel family as Yitzchak's nurse. The Abarbanels are rich businessmen, and Don Abarbanel is the financial advisor to the queen. He is also a rabbi and a scholar,

and a very kind man. Whenever he comes to see his grandson, you become so shy you forget how to talk. You certainly wouldn't want to embarrass yourself by running away from his messenger.

"Stay where you are, and keep the child with you!" the man calls. There is something in his voice that is not friendly at all.

.....

*To wait and hear him out, turn to page 8.*

*To grab Yitzchak and run, turn to page 11.*

*To call for help, turn to page 13.*



AS THE MAN COMES closer, Yitzchak falls down yet again, and this time he starts to cry. You pick him up, kissing the top of his head to calm him down.

"It's all right," you whisper. "Soon we will be home, and I'll give you an almond cake."

Yitzchak snuffles, but then he smiles. He loves almond cake more than anything. You put him down.

"You must come with me," the man says, stopping several feet away from you. He is breathing heavily. "There is a doctor from Salamanca staying at the castle. Don Abarbanel has convinced him to see his grandson. But you need to bring Yitzchak right away."

As if he understands, Yitzchak coughs.

He has been coughing for a while now, and waking at night.

You know this all too well, because you and your mother share a room with him. It has been weeks since you had a good night's sleep!

So you know Yitzchak hasn't been feeling well. But nobody told you it was serious!

Your mother *has* been very worried lately. You remember an incident from three nights ago. You woke to see your mother holding Yitzchak, and there were tears trickling down her cheeks.

"What's the matter, Mamá?" you asked sleepily.

"Nothing," your mother said. "Nothing. Just politics as usual, up in the castle. You know how it is when the king and queen are in residence."

King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella are always traveling, moving their court from one castle to another. Right now, they live here, in Toledo. It's good news for the merchants, because people from the court like to buy things! But it can also make the town squares too crowded for games.

"Don Abarbanel will take care of it, I am sure," your mother went on. "Go back to sleep."

So you did.

But what if your mother wasn't really worried about what was happening at the castle? What if she was worried about Yitzchak?

"Come quickly," the man snaps. He strokes his short, trimmed beard. "The doctor is a very important man. He does not make a habit of treating Jewish children. He certainly will not wait for you."

“I need to get my mother,” you say. “I’m just watching Yitzchak while she takes care of some mending.”

“That will take too long. You must come with me right now!”

.....

*To run, turn to page 11.*

*To go with him, turn to page 21.*

*To insist that you need to ask your mother, turn to page 31.*