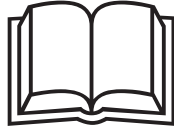


# *Tunjur! Tunjur! Tunjur!*

## *A Palestinian Folktale*

by Margaret Read MacDonald, Alik Arzoumanian (Illustrator)

a book review by *Pat Peterson*



A woman wishes for a child to love, “even if it is nothing more than a pot” — and her wish is granted. The title of this tale comes from the sound the pot makes as it rolls its way out to explore the wide world. She leaves with her mother’s cautionary words to remember right from wrong. Along the way, she is filled with amazing things — honey and jewels - and she rolls right on home with them. She is told to return the stolen goods and for her punishment is filled to the brim with “muck” and “yuck” from the goat pen. Little Pot is told to stay home until she is old enough to know right from wrong.

Margie has written this book with the storyteller in mind. The rhythm of the pot tumbling along and the repetition of the phrases move the story right along and invite audience participation. A few read-throughs and a teller is ready to share this tale with listeners.

I suppose a high-minded reviewer might laud this as a strong moral lesson; just the ticket for character building. That it does. Fine and dandy. I can hardly wait to tell this story for the sheer delight of watching the reaction of the children when Little Pot gets her comeuppance.

The story of Margie’s quest to find a publisher for her book is a delightful story in itself. Let’s just say that if the pot had been filled with plain, old mud, it would have found a home sooner. Storytellers are glad that the author was true to the tale — — and held out for a pot filled with poop.