

# Passover Magic

written by  
**Roni Schotter**

illustrated by  
**Marylin Hafner**

## What's magical about Passover?

### “Let All Who Are Hungry Come and Eat!”

Passover may be the most welcoming of holidays. This celebration is all about hope, even when it's hard to keep hoping; freedom, not just for ourselves but for everyone; and family, because it's a blessing to be “rich in relatives.” It's also about *food*, of course — which the less fortunate may not have enough of. That's why at a Passover seder (ritual meal), we open our doors to everyone who might be hungry — not just for food, but for togetherness. And just as in this story, everyone plays a special role, and everyone deserves a seat at the table. To learn more visit [pjlibrary.org/passovermagic](http://pjlibrary.org/passovermagic).

### Search-and-Find Mission

In this story, the kids hunt for *chametz* (leavened food) through a ritual called *bedikat chametz* (Hebrew for “search for chametz”). Traditionally, this involves a candle, a large wooden spoon, and a feather. Try it at home: Leave a few crumbs of chametz (maybe a bread crust or a dry noodle) in easy-to-find places. The evening before Passover begins, search for the chametz, using a candle (or a flashlight) to illuminate dark corners. When you find chametz, use the feather to sweep it into the spoon. When the kids in this story finish, they pronounce their home “Passover-perfect,” but the blessing that accompanies the *bedikat chametz* ritual points out that no one is really perfect. We might not find every crumb in our house, but we try. All we can do is our best.

### A Magical Story

Uncle Harry's magic makes this family's Passover, well, magical. There's magic in the story of Passover, too. While Moses and Aaron use miracles from God to turn a rod into a snake, Pharaoh's magicians use magic to do the same thing. Guess what? Moses and Aaron's snake gobbles up the other snake. Magic is powerful, but God's miracles are more powerful still. And while there are both magic and miracles aplenty in the story of Passover, courage is what really saves the day — midwives protecting babies, Moses and Aaron bravely confronting Pharaoh, and enslaved people marching to freedom.

## TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

**H**ave you been to a Passover seder? What's your favorite part?

**I**f you close your eyes and think about Passover, as Uncle Max suggests, what do you see?

**D**o you know any magic tricks? How do they work?

# PASSOVER MAGIC



by Roni Schotter Illustrated by Marylin Hafner

## HANDS ON!

### Perform a Magic Trick

Want to wow your family at your next seder — or at any meal? Perform this spoon-bending trick — no special props required. Like most magic tricks, it's all about sleight of hand. Abracadabra!

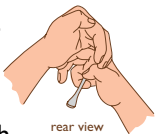
### Supplies

A spoon, two hands, and lots of showmanship

- 1 Announce that you will perform the awe-inspiring feat of bending a spoon with your bare hands.



- 2 Grab a spoon and hold it with the handle facing up and the bottom of the spoon resting on the table. Press the spoon down, showing “effort.” Grasp the handle with both hands; make sure the top isn't peeking out.



- 3 Now gently let the spoon tip back toward you, keeping the bottom against the table. Your hands will shield the view from spectators, and it will look like the spoon is bending.



- 4 Announce that you will now straighten the spoon, and gently lift the spoon back to an upright position. Voila!

