Something Might Happen

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Twitchly Fidget won't shampoo, eat his cereal, or put on his sneakers. He won't even go to a parade (what if he got sucked up into a trombone?) or a marshmallow roast (might he get stuck?) or a Fourth of February party (would he be buried in confetti?). In Twitchly's imagination, each opportunity poses the threat of disaster. So he just sits alone in his dreary, windowless, doorless hut and waits for his fears to be realized. Then one day something does happen: Twitchly's Aunt Bridget Fidget drops in for a visit, and she can see right away that Twitchly needs a fixin'. But will Aunt Bridget be able to persuade Twitchly to confront his fears?

Helen Lester and Lynn Munsinger have collaborated on many funny and popular books for children, including the stories starring Tacky the Penguin and Wodney Wat, as well as the new Laugh-Along series. Helen Lester is a full-time writer who makes her home in New York. Lynn Munsinger has lived in Vermont and Connecticut, devoting her time to freelance illustration.

http://www.helenlester.com/

PreS. Little lemur Twitchly Fidget is afraid of everything. He refuses to wash his fur because the shampoo bubbles might not rinse out. He's afraid to put on his sneakers because he might put them on the wrong feet. Worst of all, he's afraid to leave his house to join his friends. Then bossy Aunt Bridget arrives, and when she scrubs Twitchly's fur and puts his sneakers on his feet, Twitchly can't believe that nothing bad happens. Emboldened, he strides out to try all the things that he used to dread. Lester and Munsinger combine talents once again in a winning story that perfectly captures a preschooler's fears of independence. Lester elevates the story's simple message with upbeat words and appealing rhythms, while Munsinger's ink-and-watercolor pictures create an irresistible character in fretful Twitchly, saucer-eyed with fear at first, then beaming with pride by the story's end. Pair this with Kevin Henkes' Wemberly Worried (2000) and give to anxious children who think their sippy cup is always half empty. Gillian Engberg Copyright

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Summoned to Jerusalem, 'February 1943: a crowded railway station in Haifa, Palestine. Crowds of people wait for a train to pull in. Through a winter of anguish the Jews of Palestine have longed for this train. It arrives and from the open windows hundreds of little hands wave blue-and-white flags. The train is packed with Jewish children who have been traveling war-ravaged Europe since the fall of Poland in 1939. Palestine is their journey's end. In front of the crowd is an official delegation, headed by an old woman not quite five feet tall. She is Henrietta Szold, and these children, the final contingent of ten thousand children, were saved from the Nazis and brought to Palestine because of her.' One could not have predicted from the beginnings of her comfortable, dependent life as the oldest daughter of a Baltimore rabbi the extraordinary accomplishments of Henreitta Szold. Even as she reached middle age, she was the dutiful studious partner of her father's scholarly researches, although she had behind her impressive accomplishments, such as the establishment of a pioneering night school for Russian Jewish immigrants. But each time she ventured, she retreated. It took two grave emotional crises to bring her into her own -the death of her father, and the more astonishing public emotional collapse that ensued after her intense love for a scholar thirteen years her junior ended when he took a young

German bride. Out of the ashes of this second bereavement emerged the Henrietta Szold who was to imprint her formidable accomplishments on American Jewry and the land of Palestine. That barren land, the needs of its population, and the courage of its pioneers shaped the course of her future, while back home in New York the small study group she had established, and which was called Hadassah, grew into the women's arm of the American Zionist movement. Zionism was full of factionalism, and the history of Palestine was bloody and divisive. It was Henrietta Szold's initiative and drive that established its health care system, shaped education, and began the social services that prevail today. In the 1930s a new mission emerged: the rescue from the Nazis of thousands of Jewish children who would otherwise have been lost. This Youth Aliyah was her last triumph. She was eighty-three when her indomitable body wearied at last, and she lies buried on the Mount of Olives, in the land she played so large a part in shaping.

2 2 2 2 2 3 . The doctor said something might happen at any minute, or it might wait until morning. There were hurried conferences with doctors and nurses over the possibility of releasing a statement to the press or radio at that point."