

THE VILLAGE TWINS: “Wired Words – Electric Prose”

Izzy Abrahamson’s unforgettable classic returns

The first book to be serialized via email, Izzy Abrahamson’s THE VILLAGE TWINS has been updated and revised. This delightful and sprawling volume is both designed to be read alone, and completes the first four books in “The Village Life” series.

Abraham and Adam Schlemiel are trouble from day one. The twins are so identical that their parents, teachers and eventually their wives can’t tell them apart.

“In the spirit of Sholem Aleichem...
These stories of identical twins, confused from birth,
will charm with their simplicity and sincerity.” – *AudioFile*

Life in Izzy Abrahamson’s Village is rarely quiet or uneventful, but after THE VILLAGE TWINS are born, crazy goes to a whole new level.

“...a good story very well told” – *The Jewish Independent*

Adam loves to create elaborate pranks. Abraham usually takes the blame. As teens, they both love Rosa, a wandering princess. But the Russian army is looking for Adam, who falls for Rivka Cantor, but she thinks he’s Abraham.... Confused? Imagine how they felt.

Every chapter will take you deeper into the Black Forest. You’ll laugh and smile, and perhaps shed a tear.

The Village Twins is a wonderful novel set in a past that never existed and a place you’ll love to visit

A delicious and exciting novel of confused identities told in bite-sized chapters. You won’t want to put it down, but if you do, you will come back to it again and again...

“Wired Words/Electric Prose... Weekly installments... are short enough to read easily on the screen and they carry readers into an ongoing story.”
– *The Providence Phoenix*

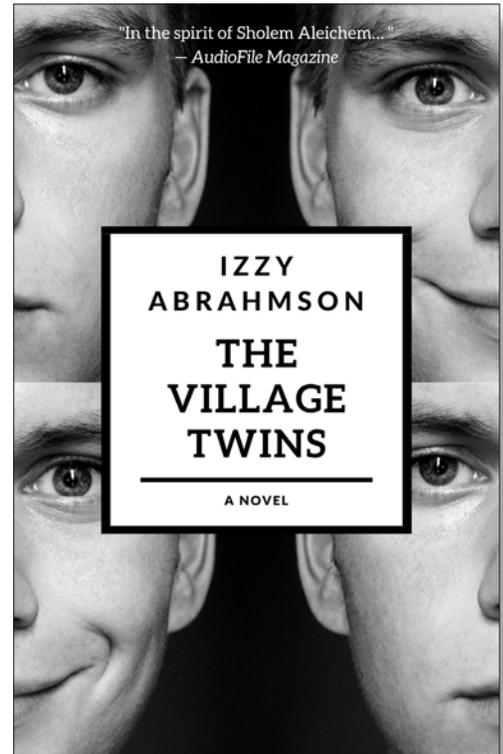
Originally serialized in print and one of the world’s first ebooks. **The Village Twins** is a timeless classic that resonates powerfully in today’s fast-paced digital society.

“...it’s clear from the start that there is nothing factual about this book, which traces the lives of the Schlemiel family and the community that surrounds them. [Readers] will really get the humor written between the lines.... the mix-ups are many and the potential for laughter abundant”
– *Jewish Book World*



Light Publications

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THE VILLAGE TWINS

by Izzy Abrahamson
414 Pages

Available October, 2022

Fiction • Humor

Softcover • \$29.95 ISBN 978-1-940060-46-0
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ebook • \$9.99 ISBN 978-1-940060-52-1

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About the Author and Narrator

Izzy Abrahmson is the author of the award-winning *Village Life* series, and pen name for Mark Binder.

Mark Binder is a professional storyteller, and the author more than two-dozen books for adults, children and families. He has been nominated for the National Jewish Book Award for Family Literature, the Audie Audiobook Award for Best Original Work, and won a Parents' Choice Gold Award for audio storytelling. He has toured the world delighting readers and listeners of all ages with his stories interspersed with his unique klezmer harmonica sounds.



Mark began writing “The Village Life” stories while working as the editor of *The Rhode Island Jewish Herald*. Over the years, hundreds of these stories have been published in more than 50 newspapers and magazines around the world. **THE VILLAGE TWINS** was originally serialized from 1999 to 2001 in *The Jewish Herald Voice (Houston)*. An early edition was published as *The Brothers Schlemiel (Jewish Publications Society, YA, abridged)*.



Mark Binder is a performer with more than twenty years of programs in theaters, festivals, schools, libraries, and community centers across the United States. He has twice toured in Europe and is featured in the Amazon/Audible series, “Story Party Live.”

A graduate of Columbia University, (BA, 1984) Mark studied mythology with *T.E. Gaster* and storytelling with Spalding Gray. He trained with the Adaptors Movement Theater (1985-87). He earned an MA in English and Writing, Acting and Directing from Rhode Island College and the Trinity Rep Conservatory (1990). He holds a third degree black belt in Aikido, has trained in centering and internal martial arts, and promises not to throw you across the room.

During COVID, Mark’s play, *THE RACE*, was produced by The Wilbury Group Theatre, and was the longest-running live theater performance on Zoom.

Mark has twice run for political office, and once came frighteningly close to winning.

For more info: <https://markbinderbooks.com> and <https://izzyabe.com>

For latest media kit, covers and images: <https://lightpublications.com/media>



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Press for “The Village Life Series”

“The Lethal Latkes is not a murder mystery. It concerns some awful-tasting latkes (potato pancakes) and what you might call another Hanukkah miracle: love.”
– *The New York Times*

The Village Twins (serial)

“Schlemiels in cyberspace... old-fashioned storytelling in a newfangled way.”
– *The Providence Journal*

“a good story very well told.”
– *The Jewish Independent, Canada*

The Village Feasts

“Readers young and old will be delighted ... Abrahamson’s prose savvily mixes the homey and the surreal, and he’s a master of the cozy bedtime story. **The Village Feasts**, with its often silly phrasing and emphasis on ritual and community, demands to be read out loud, shared at a gathering or relished by little ones before bedtime, when sleepy eyelids are beginning to droop. A glossary in the endmatter is both helpful and comic.” – *Publishers Weekly*

“...an entertaining comic celebration of Jewish life and tradition... wryly funny with dollops of heartwarming schmaltz.” – *Kirkus Reviews*

“Ten sweet, silly stories of life during the holiday [of Passover] in the little Eastern European village... As a performer, Binder brings a twinkle that makes the stories shine even brighter” – *Providence Journal Audiobook Review*

Winter Blessings

“...a delightful excursion this Chanukah... The Village is snuggled in an indeterminate past that never was but certainly should have been, a past filled with love, humor, adventures and more than occasional misadventures. And when you go, be sure to bring the kids... utterly charming... a large side order of whimsy... so right and so touching... This Chanukah, who could ask for anything more?” – *The Times of Israel*

“...brings together traditional style Jewish storytelling and contemporary Chanukah traditions. The stories are propelled by a cast of entertaining and humorous characters...”
– *AJL News and Reviews*

“...gentle tales... well worth a listen.”
– *Providence Journal Audiobook Review*

“a delightful collection of 11 stories and a novella celebrating the spirit of Chanukah (or Hanukkah)... a modern take on the traditional stories of this ancient holiday, and each tale is perfect for the entire family. – *Providence Monthly*

[Abrahamson’s] stories are simple, but not simplistic – stories to tell each other, to read to each other after a shared family meal, stories for the very young, for the not so young, for kvelling grandparents. Stories that contain at least a hint of magic. – *Jewish Rhode Island Newspaper*

A Village Romance

“joyful charm... troubled congregants... warm relationships, and the power of women... Abrahamson outdoes himself...” – *AudioFile*

“engaging tales... Village stories that deftly lift a curtain on a world of friendly humor and touching details of Jewish life.” – *Kirkus Reviews*



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About “The Village Life” Reboot

Why are we reissuing Izzy Abrahamson’s award-winning “The Village Life” series?

“Any book you haven’t read is a new book.” – Izzy Abrahamson

“Schlemiels in cyberspace... old-fashioned storytelling in a newfangled way.” – *The Providence Journal*

No, you don’t need to be Jewish to enjoy these stories! In a time of uncertainty, Izzy Abrahamson’s *The Village Life* books are timeless and therefore timely. Rich with vivid characters, they tell fun, heartwarming and powerful stories and take us to a place that we wished existed, and through the written (and spoken) word lives in our imaginations.

These are books that have won awards, and stories that have been enjoyed in live performance by tens of thousands of listeners around the world.

They are, it goes without saying, written to be enjoyed by people of all faiths and backgrounds.

Here’s the backstory on the new editions...

In March 2020, Mark Binder (more about the pen name in a moment) was on a storytelling and book tour in Europe promoting *A VILLAGE ROMANCE*. * Then... Covid.

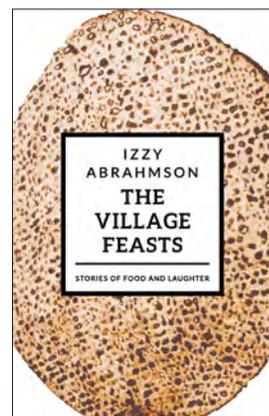
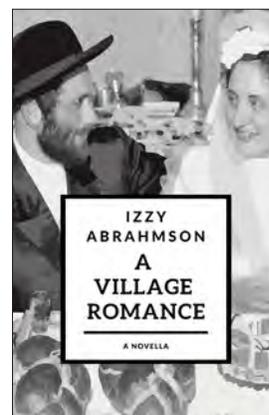
During the lockdowns, Mark went into the studio to work on the then-unrecorded audiobooks. In the years since publishing the originals, he’s become both a professional storyteller and an Audie Award nominated narrator. As he read, he began to pen changes in the original texts. He also rediscovered a “lost fifth book” called *COUNCIL OF WISE WOMEN*.

Mark proposed reissuing the books using a pen name to distinguish the series from his other work. By combining his Hebrew name, Isaac, with his father’s Hebrew name, Abraham... Izzy Abrahamson was born.

We hope you enjoy *The Village Life* as much as we do. Let us know what you think.

- Stephen Brendan, Light Publications

*See next page: **A Brief History of “The Village Life”**



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*A Brief History of The Village Life Series

Izzy Abrahamson's award-winning series returns

Like Dickens, Dostoyevsky, and Singer, Izzy Abramson's novel about identical twins living in The Village was first published weekly in the *Houston Jewish Herald Voice*, and simultaneously distributed using the latest technology.

"Wired Words/Electric Prose... Weekly installments... are short enough to read easily on the screen and they carry readers into an ongoing story. Modern readers unfamiliar with such classic serial writers as Dickens and Dostoyevsky may liken the experience to watching a TV sitcom or drama,"

— *The Providence Phoenix*

Light Publications is pleased to announce the republication of the first four books in Izzy Abrahamson's "The Village Life" series.

Many of these stories have been published in newspapers and magazines around the world. The audiobooks are brand new. The print editions have been extensively edited and revised.

The Village Life Books can be read in any order!

THE VILLAGE TWINS - a novel for adults (pub date September 16, 2022)

Original title: "The Brothers Schlemiel". Serialized from 1999 to 2001 in the *Houston Jewish Herald Voice*. Abridged YA edition from Jewish Publication Society, 2008. First unabridged edition, 2013

THE VILLAGE FEASTS (April, 2022)

Ten Tasty Passover Tales. Now with 20% more stories!

Originally published as MATZAH MISHUGAS by Mark Binder, 2009

THE VILLAGE LIFE PODCAST - Episodes available fall 2021. Interwoven between the other books.

WINTER BLESSINGS (October 2021)

10 Stories and a novella for families and children

National Jewish Book Award for Family Literature Finalist.

2022 Next Generation Indie Book Award, Finalist.

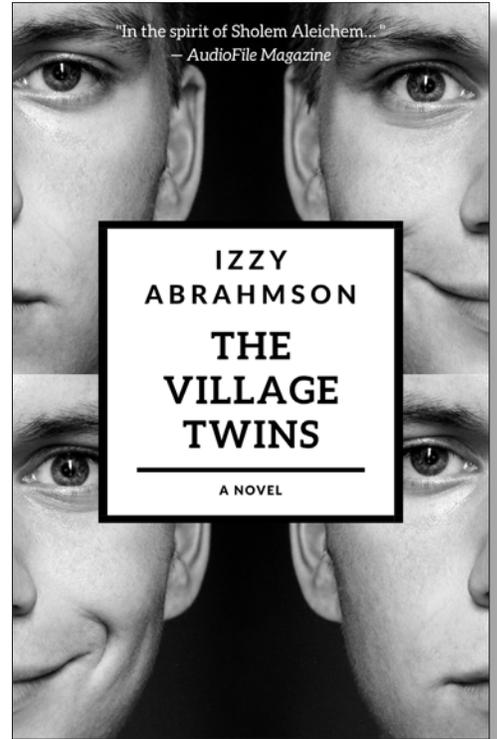
(Originally published as A HANUKKAH PRESENT (2008) by Mark Binder.)

A VILLAGE ROMANCE, a novella. (July 2021)

original title: "The Misadventures of Rabbi Kibbitz and Mrs. Chaipul" by Mark Binder, 2019

FUTURE RELEASE

THE COUNCIL OF WISE WOMEN



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