



In a time when anti-Semitism appears to be on the rise, it is wonderful to have someone telling Jewish stories that are filled with love and joy.

The Council of Wise Women

by Izzy Abrahamson

312 pages • Fiction • Magical Realism

UK, EU Release Date: August 25, 2024

US Release Date: September 16, 2024

In stores and online

\$29.99 • £24.99 • €\$29.99

Softcover ISBN 978-1-940060-63-7

Author and Cover images available at

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Magical soup, a secret society, and a young girl wise beyond her years...

When Rachel Cohen is born, her parents' marriage begins to crack. As she grows, and her village teeters on the brink, it is up to her and The Council of Wise Women to cook up a plan and step in.

Family breakdowns, a town on the edge of famine, and the challenges of a beloved community...

How much meddling is too much?

With a warm sense of humor, Izzy Abrahamson spins a delightful tale of The Village Life that will make you smile, and maybe shed a tear.

Set in a mythical Eastern European village near the turn of the 20th century, THE COUNCIL OF WISE WOMEN is a spellbinding novel of love, loss, independence, reconciliation, and the power of women.

Previous Attention for Izzy Abrahamson's Village Life series

Abrahamson's prose savvily mixes the honey and the surreal... he's a master..." *—Publishers Weekly*

"Village stories that deftly lift a curtain on a world of friendly humor."
—Kirkus Reviews

“In the spirit of Sholem Aleichem... Wisdom is foolish, innocence is poignant, and the complex is simple.” –*AudioFile Magazine*

"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*

About Izzy Abrahamson

Izzy Abrahamson is the author of the award-winning Village Life series, which has been nominated for a National Jewish Book Award. Izzy is also the pen name for **Mark Binder**.

Mark Binder is a performing storyteller, and the author of more than two dozen books, audiobooks, and live audio concerts for adults and children. He was a nominated finalist for the Audie Audiobook Award for best original work.

The Village Life stories began when Mark was working as the editor of a regional Jewish Newspaper. These stories have been published in books and magazines, and performed around the world – from the Yiddish Book Center and London Jewish Book Week to the Sneem Storytelling Festival.

“My Hebrew name is Isaac, and my father’s is Abraham,” Mark explains. “So... Izzy Abrahamson was born.”

Izzy (and Mark) are engaging talk show guests, and have appeared around the world on stage and television, in festivals and podcasts.

About Izzy Abrahamson’s Village Life Series

On the edge of The Black Forest, somewhere between Russia and Poland, not far from Ukraine, near the intersection of reality, fiction and fable, is a small Jewish village called Chelm...

Izzy Abrahamson makes the village of Chelm his own in his multi-volume Village Life series of books, audiobooks, stories and podcasts. The stories have been published in newspapers and magazines around the world.

The Village Life series can be read in any order. It includes, THE VILLAGE TWINS, A VILLAGE ROMANCE, THE VILLAGE FEASTS (Passover tales), THE CRACKED POTTER, and WINTER BLESSINGS (Hanukkah stories) finalist for the National Jewish Book Award for Family Literature.

THE COUNCIL OF WISE WOMEN...

Set in Eastern Europe, around the turn of the 20th century...

The Village is isolated, but the villagers are never alone. You'll meet and spend time with Mrs. Chaipul the caterer, Oma Levitsky the complainer, and of course Rachel Cohen, who becomes known as "Rachel the Wise."

According to their history, THE COUNCIL OF WISE WOMEN was founded by Sarah, the Biblical matriarch, to atone for her behavior to Hagar, and reconcile her grandson's two wives.

With humor and compassion, and the help of her beloved community, Rachel Cohen saves the neighboring town of Smyrna, and forever changes the role of women in her traditional society. Even as it celebrates its Jewish origins, THE COUNCIL OF WISE WOMEN transcends specific cultural boundaries.

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Longer Bio information and Photos at markbinderbooks.com/media/

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audio • \$14.99 ISBN 978-1-940060-64-4

ebook • \$9.99 ISBN 978-1-940060-65-1

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