

"A thoroughly enjoyable novel, both moving and astutely farcical." – *Kirkus Reviews*

The Council of Wise Women

by Izzy Abrahamson

Audiobook Narrator: **Kate Reading**

312 pages • 11.5 hrs audio • Fiction • Magical Realism

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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.

More Early Reviews...

"...[a] playful touch throughout, painting characters who leap off the page. Chelm's wise women are delightful and perceptive, their conversations a joy to read... Charming testament to Jewish traditions and the power of women." – *Publishers Weekly*

"The author combines slapstick wit with genuine literary inventiveness... a thoughtful reflection on the extraordinary pressures of domestic life that also does justice to its blessings; both are conveyed with hilarity." – *Kirkus Reviews*

"If you're looking for a warm and cozy read that can also make you laugh out loud and brighten your mood, look no further than *The Council of Wise Women*... Although the novel is steeped in Jewish history and heritage, the humor is universal and can be enjoyed by readers from all cultures. Between the pages of Abrahamson's latest book can be found an unforgettable cast of characters and a story that hits on both their hearts and funny bones...." – *Reedsy Discovery*

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 (author)

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 father”’s Hebrew name is Abraham and mine is Isaac,” Mark explains. “So... Izzy Abrahmson 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 Kate Reading (audiobook narrator)

Kate Reading is a multiple *Audie Award*–winning narrator who has recorded hundreds of titles in many genres. She was recently inducted as a 2024 Golden Voice, *AudioFile* Magazine’s lifetime achievement honor for audiobook narrators. She has received numerous Earphones Awards from *AudioFile* magazine, in addition to being named Narrator of the Year and Best Voice in Science Fiction and Fantasy. She has been recognized as Reader of the Year by Publishers Weekly and has appeared on *Booklist’s* 2019 Top of the List for the American Library Association.

About Izzy Abrahmson’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 Abrahmson 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.

More about 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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