

"A thoroughly enjoyable novel,
both moving and astutely farcical."

– *Kirkus Reviews*

The Council of Wise Women

The Audiobook
by Izzy Abrahmson
Narrated by Kate Reading



We are thrilled! Kate Reading is the narrator of Izzy Abrahmson's latest novel, THE COUNCIL OF WISE WOMEN!

From the moment Kate Reading reads the first sentence of Izzy Abrahmson's THE COUNCIL OF WISE WOMEN, listeners are captivated:

"The child's eyes were beautiful. Brown, inquisitive, open already, and looking at her new world."

As the story unfolds, you'll hear about the family the child has been born into, the village she lives in, and the mysterious Council that works behind the scenes.

Audiobook fans know that Kate Reading is a master of narration. She was just named a 2024 *Audiofile Magazine* Golden Voice and has won numerous Audie Awards. Her warm and compassionate reading will make you smile, laugh, and maybe shed a tear.

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

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

The Council of Wise Women
by Izzy Abrahmson
narrated by Kate Reading
11 hr 17 min audio • 312 pages print
Fiction • Magical Realism • Humor
Audiobook: ISBN 978-1-940060-71-2
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More reviews of THE COUNCIL OF WISE WOMEN

"...[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 Abrahmson'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*

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 (author)

Izzy Abrahmson 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 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.

More about THE COUNCIL OF WISE WOMEN...

Set in a mythical 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 Mrs. Chaipul, 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.

About Izzy Abrahamson’s Village Life Series

THE COUNCIL OF WISE WOMEN is a stand-alone novel.

You don’t need to have listened to or read the other books in the series, but we hope you will...

The Village Life Series includes six books that can be read in any order, as well as numerous short stories and a short-run podcast.

WINTER BLESSINGS (Hanukkah stories) was the finalist for the National Jewish Book Award for Family Literature. Other books include: THE VILLAGE TWINS, A VILLAGE ROMANCE, THE VILLAGE FEASTS (Passover tales), and THE CRACKED POTTER. Short stories have been published in newspapers and magazines around the world.

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