

***Kissing Kosher* by Jean Meltzer**

This book reminds me of Shakespeare's plays – a long-standing feud between two families and the unexpected love between two descendants. Now, set it in present-day New York in a Jewish neighborhood with both families owning Jewish baking companies and you've got *Kissing Kosher*.

Avital Cohen and her twin brother run their family's kosher bakery. Avital is a photographer, but returned to the family business when she developed a chronic pain condition. Ethan Lippmann is tasked by his grandfather to steal the Cohen's most guarded recipe – so he goes undercover as a newly hired employee so he can snoop on the side. You can guess where the story goes from there!

This is the second book I've read by Jean Meltzer, and I do recommend her. I love learning about Jewish traditions and food – and the books always weave in significant holidays and traditions. The books are geared toward a Jewish audience though – so there is not a lot of context on the hows and whys of traditions, but, luckily, there is Google for that.

Another thing I love about Meltzer's books is that the main character suffers from a chronic illness. Meltzer, who also suffers from a chronic condition, creates a truly human character who is not perfect and suffers mightily. Through her books, Meltzer is educating those of us who do not suffer and gives those who do a realistic romance and hope.

In this book, the main character suffers from chronic pelvic pain. Fair warning: it does cover the use of medicinal cannabis as a pain control method and creative intimacy between couples to mitigate chronic conditions. That said, it really is not an explicit book.