

*The Matchmaker's Gift* by Lynda Cohen Loigman

*"I see what I see. I know what I know."*

This is a beautifully told tale of a grandmother and granddaughter – both of whom struggle against societal career expectations and following what they know in their hearts to be true.

The dual story lines take place in New York – one in the early 1900s and one in 1994. In 1910 Sarah Glickman is 10 years old and immigrating to New York with her family from eastern Europe. On board the ship, she sees something magical which compels her to introduce a fellow traveler to her sister. This is the first of her marriage matches, a calling reserved only for married men in their traditional Jewish community.

In 1994 Sarah's granddaughter, Abby, is a divorce attorney working for a no-nonsense boss whose sole focus is the financial protection of their clients. After Sarah's death, however, Abby begins to sense there is something more important she should be paying attention to with regard to her clients and friends. With her grandmother's journals to guide her, Abby embarks on a journey similar to the one her grandmother made 80 years before.

I highly recommend this book. For me, it was a quick, magical read which easily transported me to a Jewish community in early 20<sup>th</sup> century New York as well as modern New York. I also really enjoyed learning about Jewish marriage and family traditions. It was one of those rare books I wished wouldn't end.

Cindy O'Neill