

Lynda Cohen Loigman's latest novel, ***The Matchmaker's Gift***, is a delight to read because it has an entertaining plot and fascinating characters. The story is told in the alternating viewpoints of Sara Glikman and her granddaughter Abby. Sara made her first match in 1910 when she was ten years old. She introduced her older sister to her future husband on their ship en route to America. Sara saw a filament of light between the couple which she later learned could be the light of soulmates reaching for each other. Sara covertly continues to make successful matches but the professional male matchmakers she is competing with threaten Sara. They won't allow her to take money for her services and Sara's family desperately needs financial support. In 1921, the beth din rules in her favor. The men must allow Sara formal entry into the profession. Sara makes hundreds of successful matches during her lifetime.

Abby's parents divorced when she was a child and Sara was instrumental to Abby's upbringing. In 1994 Sara passes away and leaves Abby her journals. Sara hoped that Abby might make a few love matches of her own, but Abby is single and working as a divorce attorney. As Abby reads the journals she wonders about her chosen profession, and senses she has a special intuition of her own. For example, an extremely wealthy woman who is divorcing her husband for no apparent reason is very distraught about the breakup. Abby wants to learn the truth behind this woman's request while Abby's boss's only concern is doing what the client wants. Could matchmaking be in Abby's future? Loigman has a special ability for writing heartwarming stories about fascinating families. ***The Matchmaker's Gift*** is a wonderful present for us all.