

**Book Club Questions for
The Matchmaker's Gift by Lynda Cohen Loigman**

1. "The Matchmaker's Gift" alternates between Sara and Abby's narratives. Did you feel a stronger connection to one character's perspective? Why?
2. Sara works as a matchmaker, while Abby is a divorce attorney. How do these contrasting careers shape the story and the development of the characters?
3. Let's discuss Abby's father. How do you think he influenced Abby's life choices and her views on love?
4. The story explores the importance of family and intergenerational relationships. How did the relationship between Sara and Abby evolve throughout the book, and what did they learn from each other?
5. Cultural and religious elements play a significant role in the story, particularly in the Jewish immigrant community. How did these cultural aspects enrich the narrative, and did they help you better understand the characters' motivations and choices?
6. The book combines elements of magical realism with a family saga. How did the inclusion of Sara's matchmaking gift add depth and uniqueness to the story? Did you find it believable within the context of the narrative?
7. On page 161, there's the statement, "Love is not always a straight, shining line. Sometimes, love is a shady path, full of unpredictable turns." How does this idea play out in the novel? Can you identify specific moments where love becomes complex?
8. "The Matchmaker's Gift" features several strong female characters who represent the two different time periods in the story. What qualities and strengths do these women exhibit, and how do they reflect the times and places depicted in the novel?
9. Sara says on page 246, "If you can't decide what you want to fight for, love is as good a cause as any." Which character in the book do you believe fought the hardest for love?
10. Consider the statement on page 231, "Tradition should never be used as an excuse to keep people from reaching their potential." In what ways does tradition hinder the characters in the story, and in what ways does it benefit them?
11. The story explores the idea of inherited gifts and talents, with both Sara and Abby having unique abilities. How do you think these abilities shaped their lives and the choices they made?

12. Sara's matchmaking gift is seen as a threat to the male-dominated profession of matchmaking in her community. How does this aspect of the story shed light on gender roles and expectations during that time? Are there any parallels in today's society?
13. The book touches on themes of love, destiny, and choice. Can you identify moments in the story where characters faced choices that significantly impacted their romantic lives? How did they handle these choices?
14. In your opinion, what is the most significant lesson or gift that Sara leaves Abby, both in her lifetime and through Abby's reading of her journals?
15. Throughout the novel, there's a sense of nostalgia and a connection to the past. How does the author use historical details and settings to create a vivid sense of time and place? Did this enhance your reading experience?
16. Abby's career as a divorce attorney seems to conflict with her grandmother's gift for matchmaking. How does her journey throughout the novel reflect the idea of following one's true calling versus societal expectations?
17. One of the central questions in the book is whether love is a blessing or a curse. How do different characters' experiences with love in the story shape their perspectives on this question?
18. Sara and Abby both go through significant personal growth and transformation. What were the pivotal moments in their journeys that led to their self-discovery and finding their true paths?
19. The novel explores whether the ability to find true love is a blessing or a curse. How did you initially perceive Sara and Abby's gift of matchmaking? Did your perspective change as you read the book? Can you point out moments when matchmaking felt like a gift and when it seemed like a curse?
20. How did the ending of the book affect your emotions? What do you envision for Abby's future? Do you think she will continue making matches, and do you believe she will find love for herself?