Welcome, exciting upcoming events, what I have been reading, monthly book read

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GGOBC Newsletter #41

Welcome to another exciting edition of our Newsletter!

Two Lifetimes by Lynne Golodner

Two friends. Two lifetimes. One unfinished promise.

On the first night of Hanukkah, a brick crashes through the window of Adara Cohen’s home, breaking a sacred, defiant night of celebration. Inside, three of her children are badly injured. Outside, a small Midwestern community is forced to confront the repercussions of an act of hatred that echoes a bloodstained past.

For Adara’s closest friend, Lily Sullivan, the attack awakens more than anger.

A devoted Catholic, Lily begins to experience vivid dreams that feel like impossible memories: fragments of Nazi-occupied Poland, a Jewish boy moving through danger, and a Catholic priest making a promise that will be felt far into the future.

As Lily throws herself into stamping out hatred in her hometown, she becomes increasingly convinced her life—or her soul—is bound to Adara's.

But some histories do not stay buried. They repeat. They reshape the future. Because some souls are destined to break the patterns of the past—if not in one lifetime, then in the next...

A sweeping, emotional novel set across dual timelines in modern-day Michigan and the Holocaust in 1940's Poland, Two Lifetimes is testament to the enduring power of human connection, a celebration of interfaith friendship, and a poignant reminder to learn from history's mistakes.

"Heartbreaking on the first page...and hopeful on the last. Lynne Golodner's TWO LIFETIMES beautifully weaves two powerful and emotional stories, bringing readers

right to every scene with her crisp, immersive prose. Memorable and moving and grounded in the message of love, this one will stay with you."

—Suzy England, Amazon Charts Bestselling Author of PERFECT

"Lynne Golodner's many gifts as a writer are on full display in TWO LIFETIMES. Deeply-felt characters, lyrical storytelling, and the power of family, friendship, and faith coalesce in a compelling mystery that asks, "How far would you go to do what's right?"

—Lisa Peers, author of Motor City Love Song and Love at 350°

"Courageous, heartbreaking, and a glimpse of the best and worst of humanity, Lynne Golodner's Two Lifetimes gives readers a powerful

story of a friendship so deep it goes beyond time and place."

—Nina Badzin, host of Dear Nina: Conversations about Friendship

"In TWO LIFETIMES, Lynne Golodner confronts antisemitism head-on, weaving a tragic present-day attack with a love story set on the eve of the Holocaust. The result is a deeply human novel about trauma, moral courage, and the fierce bonds that keep families and communities alive."

—April Dávila, author of 142 Ostriches

"Lynne Golodner delivers yet another poignant masterpiece in this dual-timeline story, proving that some connections transcend both past and present—and refuse to be confined by either."

—Heidi Shertok, USA Today–bestselling contributor and author of Unorthodox Love and Match Me If You Can

Click to buy Two Lifetimes - AU

Click to buy Two Lifetimes - US

Five Questions with Lynne Golodner

What do you like about Global Girls Online Book Club?

I love that there is an easy way for authors, readers, and great books to come together online in an accessible and supportive format! I've found great books and great authors through GGOBC, and I love the time and attention given to highlight great reads and interesting author careers.

What is the inspiration behind your latest novel?

Two Lifetimes was inspired by my friendship with my best friend, Katie Scott, who is Catholic and whom I believe was Jewish in another life. I started to imagine what it would be like if our souls were connected throughout time, what would that be like, and in fact the first idea I had for this book was about three lifetimes but it felt like two was enough -and considering that the book is more than 400 pages, I think I was right to stop at two!

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I just like the idea of people being connected to the past while trying to build a better future. I also feel strongly that we must learn from the past if we are to be better today, and tomorrow.

Katie and I met in our 20s and immediately bonded. She is like a sister to me, perhaps my favorite person in the world and the one who knows me best. I call her Rabbi Katie because she knows more about Judaism than many Jews! I began to wonder early on if perhaps in a former lifetime (if such a thing exists) I was Catholic and she was Jewish.

We are both very spiritual people, and devoted to our religions, and have lived out our faiths in very different ways over the years. I was raised Reform, spent a decade in the Orthodox community and ended up in a Conservative synagogue, but I say I'm "just Jewish." I take and reject from all denominations. That said, I am fascinated by faith and love to delve into Torah study and also to learn about how different faiths align and diverge.

Katie was raised Irish Catholic very devoted to her church until she fell in love with a woman and could not be married in the Catholic church. So, she had a wedding at an Episcopal congregation, but her heart is with the Catholic church. She's also pivoted and evolved over the years as I have and combined a variety of perspectives into her ongoing faith journey. I feel like she is one of the biggest allies for the Jewish community today, and I wanted to reflect that in this story. Especially in these times, we need people who see clearly.

What snack do you enjoy when you are writing?

A handful of semisweet chocolate chips with a handful of walnuts.

What was your last 5 star read?

Whistler by Ann Patchett—such a brilliant book!!!

What do you enjoy doing when you are not writing?

Playing tennis!!! And hiking. And watching tennis videos on Instagram.

Lynne Golodner Website