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WHAT DO RECONCILIATION, FREE WILL AND WORK-LIFE BALANCE HAVE IN COMMON?

(ST. PAUL, MN) Obligations to family and work collide head-on in this compelling debut novel from author Sheyna Galyan. Set in Minneapolis, Minnesota, **DESTINED TO CHOOSE** examines what happens when a conflict between a passionate college freshman and her grandfather ignites a debate about free will and awakens their rabbi to growing crises in his family and his congregation. The novel focuses on the impact people have on one another, while also touching on issues of morality, mental health, and the power of memory.

In a break with tradition, the protagonist, Rabbi David Cohen, is not Orthodox and solves no mysteries. Instead, Galyan offers readers an intimate view of this rabbi's humanity, presented in the context of contemporary, egalitarian American Judaism. While many – but not all – of the characters in **DESTINED TO CHOOSE** are Jewish, the book remains accessible to readers with little or no knowledge of Judaism.

Galyan has chosen a variety of supporting characters, including a secular, Israeli-born Minneapolis cop, male and female rabbinical colleagues, the rabbi's wife and children, members of the synagogue staff and local community, and a synagogue president with questionable respect for women. Each of the major characters has a choice they must make. "That's really what this book is all about," says Galyan. "It's the intersection of past and present, of history and choice."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Sheyna Galyan was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and holds a degree in psychology from the University of California at Santa Cruz and a counseling certificate from San Jose State University. She has also done graduate work in elementary education at the University of Minnesota. Sheyna has worked as a counselor, consultant, journalist and Jewish teacher. She lives with her husband and two children in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she is currently at work on her next Rabbi David Cohen novel.

DESTINED TO CHOOSE was released directly to trade paperback in consideration of the current economic climate. It is available for \$15.95 at Amazon.com, BarnesAndNoble.com, bookstores, and can be ordered from Yaldah Publishing, PO Box 18662, St. Paul, MN 55118. For more details, please visit the publisher's web site at <http://www.yaldahpublishing.com>.

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