



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR *DESTINED TO CHOOSE*

1. To which part(s) of the story do you think the title relates? What is the choice, and why is it destined? Is there more than one choice, and if so, which ones are inherently required?
2. How does free will play a role in the story? Do you think it adequately explains the issues raised concerning how people treat one another? Why or why not? What other explanations might you give?
3. With which character could you most identify? Why? Which character motivated you the most? In what way?
4. One of the themes of the book is reconciliation. To what extent do you think reconciliation is important today? What limits do you think should be placed on attempts to reconcile?
5. If you could spend a day with one character from the book, asking any question you wanted, with whom would you spend that day, and what would you ask?
6. In the book, David struggles with balancing work and family life, which is a common problem for congregational clergy, who are always on call. What solutions would you suggest for someone in this position? Have issues of work-life balance affected you, and if so, how have you dealt with it?
7. How does the presentation of egalitarian Judaism make *Destined to Choose* different from or similar to other works of Jewish fiction you've read?
8. In what ways does the book address the assimilation of difficult experiences, such as child abuse, bullying, mental health issues? How does it address the integration of the Shoah into the psyche of the Jewish community?
9. How does the book's setting in Minneapolis affect the story? In what way might the story be affected if it took place in a bigger city such as Los Angeles or New York? How might it be affected in a small town?
10. Does *Destined to Choose* support or challenge your idea of Jews and Judaism? How?