



Step into 21<sup>st</sup> century Los Angeles and Rabbi Beth's reform congregation of mostly young attractive actors, producers, and screen writers. The author of this collection of short stories offered copies for free to the first five small synagogue libraries to request it. We figured we had nothing to lose. As it turns out, we had much to gain. The book is *Moving Waters* by Racelle Rosett, herself a television writer. Many of these stories were previously published in journals such as *New Vilna Review*, *Santa Monica Review*, and *Tikkun*. She is the winner of the *Moment Magazine*-Karma Foundation Prize for Jewish short fiction and the *Lilith* Fiction Prize.

Each of the stories begins with a great first sentence. Some examples: "Winter Bloom didn't plan to fall in love with the nanny of her son's classmate," or "Outside of Simon's office, the hum of angels' wings moved the air like an evening breeze," or "Rafe Mendelssohn took the last hot draw of his cigarette and wondered if he was good."

The humor is wonderfully Jewish. Waiting for a marriage proposal from her boyfriend, a rabbinical student named Stu Snow, his girlfriend refers to him as "Rabbi Nu?"

The characters range from the ultimate California girl, Winter Bloom, to Henya Wallenberg, whose mother, father, and brother perished in the Holocaust. The author writes of Winter, "To pray seemed a strange thing to her, so long had she gotten everything she wanted." In *The Ethical Will of Henya Wallenberg*, Henya looks back on her life and recalls the details of a loving family, the pain of losing her son to schizophrenia, and the gifts of friendship.

There is so much of life in this slim volume of 18 short stories. Read it with friends or with your havurah. You won't run out of conversation.

*This is just one of thousands of books available in the B'nai Havurah library. You can check the online catalog through the website, [www.bnaihavurah.org](http://www.bnaihavurah.org), and find out more about our easy checkouts.*

*-Anna Lazaroff, co-chair, Library Committee*