



# Divinity

*Michelle L. Johnson*

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## **Divinity** Michelle L. Johnson

When Julia climbs into a flaming car to save a trapped child, she's left wondering why either of them survived. Then she learns that her father is the Archangel Gabriel, and that she is half human, half Archangel. With guidance from Michael, the most powerful Archangel, Julia sets out to discover her own history and explore her angelic powers. But her journey is cut short when an evil force, invisible to human and angel alike, tears her world apart. Now Julia must fight through her despair, harness her newfound gifts, and risk her very soul to stop the *A'nwel* and protect the family she never knew she had. What she doesn't know is that Archangels have secrets too.

## **Divinity Details**

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Author : Michelle L. Johnson

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## From Reader Review Divinity for online ebook

### Witchy Richey's Booktastic Reviews says

4 Stars of Archangel greatness!

I love the mystical and paranormal. I love angels and stories of how things work. This is a great start to a series that has drawn me in and left me wanting to know the rest of the story.

Julia has led a hard life. A life that she thought had no purpose and thus she wanted to leave. A childhood full of pain and abuse, mixed with a life full of let downs. She could not see the forest through the trees, so to speak. Julia is not your normal woman. Her troubles are about to become a matter of great importance. She is about to battle a fight the likes none of us will ever see. She will lose greatly, learn, grow and conquer. All because Julia is not like you and me. Julia is half archangel, half human. Heaven hasn't seen anything like her yet!

I enjoyed how this played out. I love the authors take on the angels. I want to know where the story will take me and all the twists and turns that get me there. The love that is shared between Julia and Alex is phenomenal, it is transcendent. The Angels not understanding how to connect on the human level is expertly done. This is a wonderful read.

Very well written. I will definitely be following this story.

Sent from my iPad

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### Morrighan Rose says

ARC from Spencer Hill Press

Rated 4.3 out of 5.0 Stars

#### Synopsis

Julia has had a horrible life- filled with orphanages, sexual abuse by her new "family", homelessness, and heartache. She tries to take her own life, but is unsuccessful. And then she meets Alex. He is her everything, the person she is meant to be with. The day she pulls a baby out of a burning vehicle without injuring herself or the baby, she begins questioning herself. She should have died in that fire, or at the very least, been burned beyond recognition. But something, or rather, someone saved her. Little does she know that it was herself. Julia receives a rather unexpected and terrifying visit from the Archangel Gabriel. That family that Julia never had growing up, well here it is. She is the daughter of Gabriel, half angel and half human, bred for the use of the angels to balance out the darkness on Earth. All she feels for the angel standing before her, claiming to be her father, is anger. Where was he all of her life, through the abuse and molestation? With no trust for her father, the Archangel Michael, the most powerful of all the angels steps in to guide Julia. He begins teaching her about her history and the hidden powers she possesses. But when a dark force that even the angels can't explain forces its way into her life, Julia will have to step up and fight alongside the Angels. Can she trust them? Can they trust her? And can she defeat this dark force before it takes the few remaining

people she has in her life?

### My Thoughts

I could not put this book down, and ended up being bumped in my nose with my Nook at 3am. This was not your typical "girl finds out she is an angel and cannot be with the boy she loves" kind of story. It is so much more. The plot line is completely original, and I loved the presence of the Archangels throughout the story. Gabriel and Michael are wonderfully written characters, everything we expect from some of the most powerful creatures in existence. I appreciated that religion did not have a whole lot of play in this book, and if anything, the idea was given that all religions have their place in the world. Thank you, Michelle Johnson. What an amazing concept that I believe wholeheartedly. Julia is a well written protagonist, and her strength through really tough times shows that she is not just one dimensional. I hated one part of this book so much, and the reader will understand what part that is when it happens. I did cry, which is usually not my style, but dang Michelle. Did you have to? I believe this book will have a large following of readers, and I am hoping it will turn into a series. There were a lot of unanswered questions, and the unaccepted offer from Michael at the end makes me believe there will be more. I will definitely be looking forward to reading the next in the series if that is the case. Wonderful story, original plot line, well rounded characters. Can a reader ask for more? I loved it, and look forward to more from Michelle Johnson!

### Excerpt from Book

*"The mating of an angel and a human creates a child that is capable of hosting an angel's spirit in a way that will allow that spirit to avoid the limitations of humans. A heavenly spirit- an angel- can come to Earth, and be born into a human body. But then it has all the limitations that a human being has. Five senses only, limited communication and perception, and the physical sensations that a human experiences are so intense that often angels will become sidetracked with the pursuit of physical pleasures. You mean like... sex? Julia asked, her eyes wide. Yes. Michael laughed. Show me a Sex Addicts Anonymous meeting, and I will show you a room full of distracted angels." -Michelle Johnson*

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### Jody Holford says

I don't want to rate it yet because I want to do the purchased copy when it comes but I'll just say that I read once that if you sign a book or agree to work with someone on a book- you have to be willing to read it dozens of times. This is the kind of book you WANT to read over and over. The kind that offers new details every time you go back and makes you want to know what is next. It's beautiful.

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### Lake Reviews says

I was interested with Divinity because it dealt with angels and half-angels. I stated to enjoy the book more when Michael came into the picture. It was a slow process but I understood that we need the black story so that we knew who Julia is as a person.

Julia is a person you would want to meet and be friends with. She had a hard life but didn't know it was about to get even harder. There wasn't always people she could count on but she had started to turn it around this last year. Then she finds out she is half-angel and things get worse in her life. Michael comes into the picture and trains Julia in her powers. However, Julia learns quickly and far more than Michael teaches.

Divinity will keep you wanting to watch Julia grow into her powers and fight the A'nwel. But will that be all she has to fight or learn about, no. This was a quicker read for me even though at times hard to follow along. I did enjoy it in the end and can't wait for the next book.

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### **Cameo says**

From the beginning we were thrown into this story as Julia, heroically saves a child from burning in a car crash. From that moment, you know she's special, and things start happening. This story has twists and turns, and you are captivated as you slowly begin to learn who Julia really is, and what kinds of powers she holds within her. In between there is dialogue between the realms (which I loved) because it added so much dimension.

Divinity was a beautifully told story filled with love, pain, self-discovery, strength, and hope. I'm definitely looking forward to the next installment!!!

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### **Shelby \*trains flying monkeys\* says**

Julia saves an infant from a burning car to discover that she is the daughter of archangel Gabriel. She finds out that the angels have been watching over her for her lifetime. She was abused as a child by her step-brother..the answer for that? She had to suffer to learn about humanity. Yeah..ok

There is a ton of info dumping in this book. Then you have the creep archangels watching her every move.

Don't let her get attached to some one! That is the kiss of death in this book. We can't have any attachments to the humans!

I have no clue why I finished this book.

There were a couple of parts that I enjoyed. Her relationship with her boyfriend wasn't horrible. Then there was the explanation of the other angels children that have walked on earth. Including one of my heroes.

It just couldn't save the rest of this mess.

The story jumped around and that ending? Let's just drop off the story in the middle of nowhere. That works..NOT!!

I think I need an award for making it through this. I'm gonna go eat a cookie.

*I received an ARC copy of this book in exchange for an honest review from Netgalley.*

## Nola Sarina says

Adult Urban Fantasy at its best!

WOW. WOW! DIVINITY just blew my mind. Changed the way I look at the world, and all of the unexplainable things we encounter every day.

I won't give you a re-cap of the synopsis here. Pick up this book and get ready for an intellectual, mature Urban Fantasy story. Michelle L. Johnson's vivid details, flawless writing, and smooth integration of the speculative into reality make her an emerging force in the genre that's going to rock the Urban Fantasy world, and push it to higher standards than it's ever met before.

This book is not some casual, teenaged-angel TV drama. This is a smart, adult story with seamless writing, gorgeous imagery, and raw emotion that will leave you gutted at first, and then a little bit hopeful, and then full-on, Kindle-clenching, spine-bendingly gripped by suspense as the action takes twists and turns. I don't typically find angel stories terribly believable, but DIVINITY is realistic to the very last page. I felt like I was *right there* with Julia as she experienced her true nature revealed.

DIVINITY goes deep. Way deep. Touching on many subjects that average paranormal/UF books shy away from, Michelle L. Johnson takes us on a journey that digs into the most difficult moments in life: abuse, abandonment, and the heartache that comes alongside not really knowing where you come from. Yet through all the pain, there is light... Julia finds hope and strength within herself. This isn't a story where the heroine meets some guy that fixes all her problems. When Julia meets the Archangels, her problems multiply, and so must her inner strength in response. She's a sophisticated heroine who has been through some terribly dark times, and must emerge stronger than ever before.

The Archangels speak in a manner that clearly separates them from being human. I love this aspect of DIVINITY. When you read the Archangel point of view chapters, you're immersed in a world that you've imagined a few times through stories growing up, but never truly *seen* until now. You see it in DIVINITY. You're right there with the Archangels, overwhelmed by their majestic power, enveloped in their wings, and in awe of their mystique.

Julia had everything I beg for in a heroine. She's tender and yet strong, and when disaster strikes, you feel every moment of her pain. But then you feel her anger, too. Her determination. Her hope. I was cheering for her every step of the way.

I hear there is a sequel to this story! **Michelle. GET IT TO US NOW!!!!** Michelle L. Johnson has set us up in a multi-layered, complex, and yet thoroughly integrated world of the balance between mankind and the Divine, and I can't wait to embark on the next journey Julia takes.

Five stars!

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## Jasmina says

//This book was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Review also posted on my blog.

The initial thing that attracted me to this book were the archangels. I can't really remember whether or not I've read a book about them before (which most likely means I haven't), but **Divinity** just set the bar for all the future ones!

Julia Samson is the main character in this book. From the start, we see that Julia's life wasn't easy. She was born with the name of "Sera" (such a pretty name!), but ended up being adopted as a child by her uncle, Bill Samson and his wife Nathalie (hence name change). Her biological mother was defined as *crazy* and had to be put in an asylum. Julia never knew who her father was and even her birth certificate said unknown. Little did she know that she was in fact only half human, whilst the other half was given to her by her archangel father, Gabriel.

Julia didn't associate with a lot of people. She had her boyfriend named Alex Williams, who was a seemingly good guy. He seemed to really care about her, he even went as far as stand up for her against his own mother (God bless) (not that she listened either) (she wasn't that bad, honestly). Her best friend was Charlie, a pregnant Australian woman with an abusive boyfriend she met on Facebook three years prior during a Texas Hold Em game (can I just say that my dad's obsession with that game is/was ridiculous).

I think Michelle L. Johnson did a good job on portraying the different characters. I liked how we got to know Julia piece by piece as she was slowly figuring out who and what she was along the way herself. It sort of felt like I, as the reader, was figuring out who I was, because I didn't really know anything. Though I must admit that Julia having a picture framed of a random family is a bit sad. I read the entire book and I still feel sad about that. The progression and character development was good. One example for this is Isabel Williams, Alex's mother, who seemed like she didn't like Julia at all, though you later on figure out that it wasn't really that at all.

The story was captivating. So captivating that I actually read it in one sitting, which is something I haven't done in quite some time! I felt like there were tiny hints along the way, for instance when Julia was little she had a dog who one time looked like it had human eyes. Julia's adoptive-mother (aunt) therefore named the dog Gabriel. Coincidence? I think not. The book was so well formulated and laid out. It raised some questions, it made you both think and see what was happening.

One comment that I might have about this book is about the part where Julia sees Gabriel for the "first" time. He obviously seemed familiar to her and she knew his name, but at the same time, when you see mist forming above you and there's suddenly a person in front of you ISN'T IT NORMAL TO FREAK OUT? Did her archangel blood kick in at that point? I don't know. I would've gotten really scared! (maybe this is a sign that I'm definitely a chicken)

For those who like fantasy, you should definitely check it one out. It was interesting from start to finish, and you'll most likely wonder why it's no longer dark outside because you lost track of time.

In the end **Divinity** kind of played with my feelings. Not only was it overwhelmingly exciting, but it was also an adventure. Isabel's words to Julia which were something along the lines of "you have a family now" was wonderful.

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## Michael Withiam says

Imagine your reaction if the Archangel Gabriel appeared before you and announced that he was your father,

and that you're half Archangel. Not half angel. Half Archangel.

Would that create a little upheaval in your world?

When Julia Samson, the main character in Michelle L. Johnson's new novel *Divinity* meets her father – yep, that's Gabriel, the Archangel -- Julia is pointed down a path that seems pre-determined, or least Gabriel and the other Archangels think it is. Julia, however, has overcome many challenges in her 30-some years on Earth. She's not going to let angels suddenly tell her who she is and what she's supposed to do.

Johnson has created a great cast of characters, discarding the traditional angel persona in favor of a fresh, less powerful and more human, group of Archangels. They have a non-traditional purpose too, assigned to keep the Earth simply balanced instead of pure and good. That leaves lots of room for error and disagreement among the Archangels, and it's clear Michael, the so-called leader of the Archangels, doesn't have much control over his team. We meet Archangels who are stubbornly independent, manipulative, and each working his or her own agenda based on different perceptions of what balance is.

There's something evil in this book, as you might expect, but in *Divinity* Johnson completely discards the traditional devil and demons-from-Hell as evil concept. She gives us instead a dark and powerful force called the A'nwel that the Archangels have never before encountered, something they can't see or feel, and something that makes them genuinely afraid. The Archangels are vulnerable, almost human, in their response to the A'nwel. They turn to Julia because only she can see what it is, even if she's not yet ready to face it.

The earthly cast is equally diverse, though not always truly earth-bound, and Julia's understanding of her life and half-human, half-angel nature forces her to revisit every important relationship in life since birth.

Johnson weaves the large cast of characters around Julia as she searches for answers, all wrapped up in a multi-level universe of Earth, a level where the Archangels live that is definitely not Heaven, a mid-level that provides a great setting for several scenes, and wherever it is the A'nwel comes from.

The story weaves skillfully back and forth in time as Julia searches through her past, uncovering surprises and gaining fresh hope, while at the same time discovering her powers as an angel and searching for the A'nwel. We also move freely among the levels of Julia's world, learning to flow between Earth, the middle level, and the higher level just as she does.

At the center of it all is Julia, and what makes the book truly work are the complex relationships that evolve. Julia's boyfriend Alex, his mother, and her closest friend Charlie, anchor her earthly presence. Michael mentors her as she learns about her angel side, while her father, Gabriel, remains distant and aloof, confusing and hurting her.

Of course, Julia must deal with the A'nwel, even if she isn't sure what it is or if it's evil. The hunt for the A'nwel is artfully weaved into the plot as well, and the "final" confrontation forces Julia to act. Exactly how would be a spoiler, though I will tell you the 300-word epilogue will send a shiver down your spine and leave you wanting more.

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## **Kelly Hager says**

Loved this and cannot wait for the sequel.

## Sonja says

What really says something about this book is the fact that I didn't care for the subject much at all but still found myself engrossed in the story and wanting to read more. I am not a religious person, and while this book may not be religious per se it is definitely all spiritual and such with talk of god here and there. It's about Julia finding and accepting her angel heritage and of having faith and being strong. Like I said, not really my thing, but somehow I still loved this book.

Julia has had a rough childhood, but since has had a pretty decent life. She owns a successful restaurant and has the sweetest most loving boyfriend. Sure some weird things happen to her but she has learned to deal with them. What she has longed for her whole life is a family. But the night when she finds out that the archangel Gabriel is her father, instead of being happy, she's pretty pissed. She's understandably angry with him for allowing all of the bad things that had happened to her happen when he was able to prevent them, and also for abandoning her. Since she is openly unaccepting of him, the most powerful archangel, Michael, takes it upon himself to teach and protect her. See, she is one of twelve children sired by an archangel because they are there to try to keep the balance of good and evil on the earth. But those children don't always live long lives. And with Julia her safety is even more important for what she might be destined to be. She actually accepts all that she's told rather well and is pretty much on board with all. But then tragedy strikes. (view spoiler) I was surprised with how well she moved on and how she was able to let her anger go about it all. From here the story seems to pick up a bit what with this creature out to get her. It's pretty much evil given form but none of the other angels can even see it. So to keep the balance and protect the Earth, Julia's training is picked up a little and she grows more and more into the position that she's supposedly destined to fulfill. She is stronger than most of the other archangels and has abilities that only Micheal has. Coming out victorious at the end all seems like it will be okay....but will it really?

While I'm not sure if I would buy the next book that seems bound to come out, I would definitely give it a read if I got it for free or some such. With the unrest of some of the other archangels and the way it ended I can say I am curious as to what happens next.

*ARC provided by publisher via Netgalley*

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## Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to Spencer Hill Press and NetGalley.)

This was an interesting angel story, but the pace was on the slow side.

I liked Julia in this and I felt really sorry for her. It must have been so hard for her to have no-one to support her, and to lose everyone who she loved. What an awful place to find yourself! She had obviously done quite well for herself somehow though, somehow managing to end up owning a restaurant? That is pretty good for a girl who was basically out on the streets on her own!

The storyline in this was pretty good, but the pace was really slow. Thankfully I enjoyed the story so the

pace didn't bother me too much, but it was still very slow. There were a couple of twists that were thrown in that I didn't see coming, and Julia did become far more powerful than I expected.

There was a little romance in this one, but it wasn't the main part of the story, and didn't factor at all after a point.

The ending was pretty good, and also left us with a teaser as to what we can expect in the next book. I did enjoy this book overall, and it will certainly be interesting to find out what happens to Julia next.

7 out of 10.

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### **Angel says**

This book is so much more than what I've come to expect from the multitude of paranormal fantasy stories available about angels. It was anything but predictable and from one page to the next, it drew me in. I could barely put it down; I had to know what happened next. A good book will make you become emotionally invested in its characters and this book did just that. I smiled, I giggled, I gasped, and even felt a little teary throughout the story. I was torn between wanting to have an absolute resolution by the end and hoping it would be left open for a sequel! I was very glad to find this isn't just another paranormal love triangle romance. It's a got a great story line that just doesn't need that kind of distraction to make you fall in love with it! Bottom-line, get this book! Guaranteed to be your next new favorite!

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### **Lori (Ficwishes) says**

Divinity is a different sort of angel book. I liked the originality that Johnson brings to the fantasy genre.

I want to be straight up and say that this book touches on the subject of attempted suicide. If this subject is a trigger for you, I would avoid this book. For the rest of you, I think the way the subject is handled and the strength and love that Julia experiences is amazing. With all that she sees and goes through, she is now determined to get vengeance rather than just give up. She seeks to right wrongs rather than add to them.

Divinity is written in alternating points of view and I like that we get a close up look at what the angels are thinking. I enjoyed seeing Julia and her world through their eyes.

There is a lot of action in this book and sometimes things get a little dark, but overall I enjoyed this read.

Thank you to Netgalley and Spencer Hill Press for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Isis says**

I would like to thank Spence City and NetGalley for granting me a copy of this e-ARC to read in exchange for an honest review. Though I received this e-book for free that in no way impacts my review.

Goodreads Blurb:

When Julia climbs into a flaming car to save a trapped child, she's left wondering why either of them survived. Then she learns that her father is the Archangel Gabriel, and that she is half human, half Archangel. With guidance from Michael, the most powerful Archangel, Julia sets out to discover her own history and explore her angelic powers. But her journey is cut short when an evil force, invisible to human and angel alike, tears her world apart. Now Julia must fight through her despair, harness her newfound gifts, and risk her very soul to stop the A'nwel and protect the family she never knew she had. What she doesn't know is that Archangels have secrets too.

Ms. Johnson certainly offers an unique premise with *Divinity*, one this book fulfills quite nicely. Not only is the story fascinating, but it is peopled with some truly interesting characters. The pacing flows smoothly, but not so smoothly that there aren't jolts of excitement, confusion, fear, and joy along the way.

Julia has led a hard life, but managed to take it in hand and create something all her own, something she is proud of. But her past has left its scars, and they still interfere in her daily life. Luckily for her, Alex, the love of her life, is more than patient. Between her past and present Julia's character is compelling. She grabs the reader, making you want to know more about her - and that is before the angels even appear to her.

Johnson's handling of the angels and their characterizations is refreshing. Rather than being stuffy and uptight, or alternately too cheerful and forgiving, they are each gifted with very distinct personalities. Heaven is not filled with bucolic angels floating around on clouds, or at least not the Heaven we are shown. While it is peaceful, it is also a place of intense work done by the Archangels. And thankfully, each of them is entertaining, to varying degrees.

This book carries the reader on a journey that leads from the dark into the light over and over again, with each instance either understandable or relatable, and all germane to the central story. As Julia begins to pick things up the pace of the book goes with her. It is very smoothly combined, the growth of the protagonist and the arc of the story. Based upon the ending I can only hope that a sequel is in the works to answer to question that arises at the end.

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