



## The Divine Apprentice

*Allen J. Johnston, Amber K. Johnston (Illustrations)*

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Kade looks up at his executioner with no fear or hate, watching . . . waiting. At six months old, he could hardly do much more as his grandfather agonizes over the task of taking the life of his only grandson. Born with the rare ability to control the Divine, Kade has the potential to become one of the most powerful Chosen to ever exist. Taken from his parents, at the age of ten, by his grandfather, a Master Chosen, Kade is taught to harness the power of the Divine for good. After a decade of training, Kade learns the harsh reality of the dangerous world he is about to be thrust into, as his Master is brutally murdered right before his eyes. Kade soon realizes he is next. With the help of a dragon, a species thought to have been a myth, and a feisty Essence Guardian, Kade must discover who - or what - is trying to eradicate his kind, before the Chosen are brought to extinction.

## **The Divine Apprentice Details**

Date : Published November 27th 2013 by Johnston (first published November 26th 2013)

ISBN : 9780991266401

Author : Allen J. Johnston , Amber K. Johnston (Illustrations)

Format : Paperback 370 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Magic, Business, Amazon, Paranormal, Fiction, High Fantasy

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## From Reader Review The Divine Apprentice for online ebook

### Jacqui says

I picked up this fantasy book to use as a light evening read and landed up enjoying it a lot more than I expected.

Meet Kade-the young apprentice training to be one of the Chosen who are able to use the power of the divine to achieve feats of magic. Taken from his family at an early age, Kade has a soul destined for one of either extreme poles-become the greatest Chosen or be their ruin. When tragedy strikes the bond of master and apprentice, Kade must use what he has learnt to begin the vengeful journey he must take. An unexpected relationship is formed between him and a dragon, who is thought to be a creature of myth. Helped by an Essence Guardian, Kade's parents and a loyal little animal, Chance, Kade must stretch himself to learn and develop more of his talents to fight all manner of beasts and find the evil one who wants him destroyed.

The storyline itself is very interesting but the execution very stiff. Kade as a character is a little underwhelming, but his interactions with the other characters serve to flesh him out more solidly. I enjoyed the growing mind bond with Rayden the dragon, and as for Chance-I am interested to find out more about what he is and his full connection to the story. Our introduction to Darcenna, the Essence Guardian, is one of a feisty, good-hearted woman who will make a very suitable partner for Kade in both heart and adventure. Her son Marcole seemed a bit of a waste of space in the book. He had no dialogue and was just used as a "crying distraction" in dangerous scenes. Maybe all will be revealed in subsequent books. We only briefly meet Kade's parents but his mother's character is beautifully and gently written. I enjoyed meeting the monsters that Kade must battle and learning about the different types of callings.

The language to introduce us to all of this however, had me constantly grating my teeth. You could tell that the author was relatively new to this by the formality of the writing. As though one was back at school instead of just writing the way a character would speak and think in everyday life. I lost track of the amount of times that Kade "chastised himself"-lots more synonyms were needed throughout the book. I was hoping the start of the second book would show the author's relaxation in his writing style but was hit with: "Judeen complied immediately while maintaining an air of confidence". Far too polite. Much of the dialogue didn't seem real to me-inner or verbal. Kade was grievously injured a number of times, yet bounced back remarkably quickly-the timeline to the extent of the wounds was dodgy. And the emphasis on the amount of hours spent learning the nuances of the moves and words to the callings became annoying as they were repeated over and over. I also found that jumping back and forth between different character's points of view in consecutive sentences really made some parts confusing to read and cut into the flow of the book.

Apart from all that, a very entertaining read with a good idea and great promise.

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### Valery says

Awful. Just plain awful. I can't stand books like this. The kind that every time I put it down I have to convince myself to finish it. If it is a chore, then it isn't enjoyable, and I had to coax myself into reading it, over and over and over again.

I really don't understand the great reviews. If you like long, drawn out, horrible prose you might like this. But not me. The exposition took forever to get through, mostly because it was the same emotional garbage over and over again. Yes, we want internal dialogue, to know what the character is thinking, but pages and pages of it is simply torture! Get on with the story and get to the point! The only real action was near the end, and then the wind-down was drawn out, killing any redeeming quality the story may have had.

And oh, the grammar. Prepositions are incorrectly used, there are some very awkward, if not nonsensical sentences, and some homonym issues which drove me crazy. Incorrect usage of punctuation, and just plain horrible grammar that should have been caught in editing. Check your words! Taught and taut are not the same! And they instead of way? Bad grammar kills your flow every time.

And can we ignore the elephant in the room?

The boy. It's always just "the boy." The kid isn't even a real character, more like a prop. What child puts up with so much without making a peep? Kids have energy. They talk, they cry, they have to go potty! He either has to be the best behaved kid on earth, or drugged. There is absolutely no real interaction with this kid beyond his introduction, which is just plain laziness on the author's part.

And, seriously, what mother ignores her child this much? She would lose the child within seconds the way she paid attention. I wanted to take the poor kid away and give him a real home.

To sum it up, this one needs to go back to revision.

For my clean readers:

It does pretty good until the end. Violence is there, of course, but no language. Once the girl appears there is some conjecture about his feelings and physical responses. Then you have to skip the last page or two because of the sex scene, which follows the theme of the book: long, drawn out, horrible descriptive prose.

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### **Roxanne Speck says**

Being fortunate to know Allen Johnston on a personal level, this book really intrigued me. This is not my usual taste in reading but I wanted to read it to understand Allen's passion for writing. I did not expect to become so drawn to the characters and the story line in the book.

I liked that he put in a prologue in this first book to introduce his readers to Kade and explain how he became the apprentice. He briefly but effectively walked his readers through the emotional process that his parents and grandfather went through to ultimately decide to allow him to pursue the Calling. It was just long enough to help his readers understand how the story began without taking up too much of his reader's time and allow them to get to the real story he wanted to tell.

Without giving away too much of the plot, I can tell you that this book drew me in very early in the first chapter as Kade met what would be his friend and companion on the rest of his journey to becoming a Chosen. Allen's writing is very descriptive and you can really visualize the characters and what is happening throughout the story. Maybe it helps that I know Allen personally but I was truly able to get a mental picture of what Kade would look like and what his dragon would look like.

Allen has a wonderful imagination that makes this book a pleasure to read. I had a hard time putting it down once I got a couple of chapters into it. His description of dramatic scenes has a way of making you feel like

you are right there watching it. I love the way he finds creative and amusing ways to introduce Kade to new characters. The way he writes, you can really feel the connection between the characters as the bonds begin to form. The intense conflict scenes, because let's face it with magic and dragons there are going to be some, can leave your heart pounding and cause you to read hours into the night because you just have to find out what happens. The finale of this first book leaves you looking immediately for the next one. I feel sorry for anyone who read the first one and had to wait for the second one to be released. On finishing the first one, I went in search of the next one the very next day. I just had to know how the closing scene from book one continued into book two.

Though Fantasy Fiction is not normally on my reading list, I can't wait to read the rest of this series!

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### **Nancy Steinle gummel says**

The Divine Apprentice by Allen J. Johnston is book one of three. It is a complete read by itself. When Kade was an infant, his grandfather has the grievous choice of his life or death. He chose life. His grandfather was a chosen the the added gift of foreseeing the future. Kade can be the greatest chosen or he could be the ruination of the chosens. Not knowing the man he leaves with is his grandfather, at age ten he leaves to begin training. Ten years pass and Kade is stubborn and has a temper. One day he abruptly walks out on his lesson leaving his grandfather to stew. They had an argument over a lesson. Kade walks on past the protective barrier and suddenly realizes what he's done. He hears fighting and goes off to investigate. He finds a wounded dragon. He heals the dragon as much as he can though it will take a while before h3 can fly again. He gradually friends the dragon until they both are attacked by another creature. The dragon saved Kade's life. Together they defeated the animal, but the thunder throws leave Kade weak. The dragon feasts on the creature. Kade heals the dragon again and he passes out. The dragon stood guard so wild animals wouldn't attack Kade. Kade takes the dragon with him but it can't enter the barrier. Kade rushes in his master is very angry. He eventually goes with Kade. They find the dragon and his grandfather insists they show him the dead creature. Then a bigger monster comes after them. They flee. Do they make it back to the barrier in time?

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### **Rachel says**

Don't you just love those books that leave you wanting more? I know I do and The Divine Apprentice by Allen J Johnston certainly left me wanting more. This book was entirely unique from any other book I have ever read. The concept of having these Divine Powers was an idea that I had never read about before but enjoyed thoroughly. A busy few weeks kept me from finishing the book in the time I wanted to, but I was always thinking about it, wondering what would come next. I am happy to say I finally had time to finish The Divine Apprentice and could not be happier with it.

Johnston's style of writing was captivating to say the least. While reading it is clear that each word is chosen with great care. The way in which Johnston writes truly captivates a reader, as if the plot was not enough to keep the readers attention.

The characters were simply wonderful. Kade, the main character who controls the Divine, has a personality that makes you want to be his friend. He is fierce and powerful, but at the same time sweet and caring. This is really demonstrated when Kade happens upon a friend, the Essence Guardian. Another character that can

hardly be overlooked is Kade's dragon. Also a fierce and fearless character, Kade's dragon is his protector and friend. I loved seeing the two interact and the dynamic between them. My only question throughout the book, might be something that I missed, but why was the dragon always running when he could fly?

I really just loved this book. The uniqueness of the plot and the stylistic writing by the author drew me in and I am captivating. I am so excited to read the next in the series, which I already have waiting next to my bed.

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### **Logan says**

Amazon Freebie.

It was entertaining especially if I imagined it as a YA fantasy book. I feel like this was something of the author's ode to fantasy, and all the things he enjoyed in the genre.

The good bits: very clean for the most part (at least until the end), some cool animals and powers.

The clunky bits: perhaps it is explained more later but having the Divine power seems to be too much: you can conjure up any food you like without any sort of equivalent exchange (the Gift Darcienne had is more along those lines though). Lots of the dialogue felt a bit stilted, the pacing was ragged in places, and various plot points, motives, and circumstances bits felt amateurish or cliched. All in all though, not bad as a first attempt at a book and it's nice people can publish things like this and hopefully get better as writers.

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### **Christopher Southwell says**

Having read this book. I find it was well thought out and the characters are well thought out leaving me looking forward to the second book in this trilogy. Allen didn't give away all of the secrets in the first book making you want to learn more about the characters in the following books. I love the way he has bonded man and beast and how Kade continues to learn and fight his way knowing he doesn't know everything he needs to know yet. Please take the time to read this book i truly believe it will draw you into the world that Allen Johnston is building.

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### **Erth says**

now i am hooked. This was such a great, easy and creative book. i was hooked after the first page.

The characters were easy to fall in love with and follow, along with the story. the author made the mental visions so easy and vivid of the surroundings and the characters actions felt so real.

i would highly recommend this author and this book.

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## **Andrea says**

I won this book through the Goodreads First Reads program in exchange for an unbiased review.

This is a tale of a young man named Kade who is training to be one of the Chosen, a user of the Divine, unaware that he might be destined to be more than a simple wizard's apprentice.

I enjoyed this story. Johnston created a rich world, and defined the rules by which magic worked very well, almost to the point where the reader feels that had they the talent, they too could learn to wield this power. And I like the character of Kade, he was certainly flawed but he had many good points to make up for it that you forgave him his youthful impulses. And of course Rayden, how could one not wish for a dragon like that!

There were a few things that bothered me though. For one thing, whenever Kade was learning a Calling on his own, he would study the page for hours, painstakingly studying every word, memorizing every gesture. Then he'd try it out and it would blow up because somehow, in all those hours staring at the page, he missed the footnote with a warning in it. On a positive note, the fact that he did get things wrong, even after training for years was refreshing, too many books I've read where a character seems to insta-learn their magic which never comes off as believable.

There were also several cases where the character thinks, "Hmm, I sense something odd here...ah whatever I'll ignore it". The reader of course is then tipped off that something is about to happen and you just want to smack the character for ignoring his instincts. In fact while Kade must be about 20, he acts much younger (will give him the benefit of the doubt for living a very sheltered life though!)

And finally there was the meat...(view spoiler)

The story moves quickly, with lots of questions to be answered, but never leaving the reader frustrated without answers. Action is balanced by moments of quiet. And if I had to pick a favorite scene? Well...just about anything with Rayden in it. He's quite the character!

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## **Joshua Chua says**

Great build up and character development. The story is well paced. You will definitely find yourself just flipping to the next page, on and on. It's a good idea not to read it late at night, or you will end up not sleeping at all. Yes the story is that addictive. This book is a definite must read!

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## **Gary says**

Disclaimer:

This book was so poorly written, I wasn't able to finish it.

It has an interesting plot. But I spent over thirty years reading fifth-grade essays, and I don't need to spend my retirement continuing to read sentence structure written at that level... no matter how good the plot may be.

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### **Jayelle Cochran says**

I picked up this book to read at around 10 am and didn't put it down until about 9 pm. Usually I'll sit and read a book over the course of a few days. But, this one I simply could NOT put down!

Instantly I fell in love with Kade, a young man who was taken from his home at the age of ten to study the use of Divine Power. His grandfather/mentor was a man of amazing wisdom who knew better than to affect too much of what his visions told him. Even after his passing, this amazing man helps Kade through notes and clues while never giving too much information. As a result, Kade must use his intellect more than his ability to control Divine Power in order to save himself and those he loves.

They say that the brain is the most powerful weapon a human has at their disposal and Kade shows this accurately as he tries to sort through puzzles and destroy the monsters commanded by the one who hunts his kind. Everything he does shows his incredible sense of right and wrong and his inability to accept the worst. From having the wisdom not to kill a dragon who was already close to death to defeating a creature most would think impossible to saving the lives of his parents...this apprentice showed more resolve than a hardened veteran soldier while having the softness of heart that is so prevalent in youth. Kade definitely wormed his way into my heart from the very beginning.

At times it seemed as though the characters were too perfect, but then they would show their realistic side in the doubts and fears they obviously felt. There is a sense of honor there and a determination of conviction you don't find in many people, yet it seems to come so easily to Kade and those he comes into contact with. The main flaw of this character is his anger and thirst for vengeance at what he considers senseless slaughter. His anger sometimes seems to almost consume him, yet he manages to keep control of himself as he does what is needed while never giving up.

Allen J. Johnston wove a tale that captures both the heart and mind. I loved his use of mythological creatures and the changes he made to them. The world, which is obviously not our own, was breathtaking and inviting, even with the dangers involved.

The Divine Apprentice will have you wanting more and more when you're done. I can't wait to read the rest of the series to see if Kade can defeat this great evil that hunts him, and what will come of his relationship with Darcenna, a woman he saved and then fell for.

I wish I could give this more than a 5 star rating!

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### **Jackie says**

I was hooked from page 1 - smile I totally look forward to reading the series

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### **Professor Sushing says**

Given the famed flexibility and inconsistency of my scoring on Goodreads, I could have given The Divine

Apprentice a score from one to three, depending upon my mood. I settled on one star after remembering that I'd recently given *A Little Life* a harsh two stars, and as bad as that book was, *The Divine Apprentice* deserves a lower score still.

I'd love to give *The Divine Apprentice* five stars for effort, for enthusiasm, for the imaginative story-telling, but it's let down by the quality of the writing. If you're immune to clichés, syntax errors, lazy phrases, and the rest, and you enjoy tales about people with magical powers, then ignore my low score and go for it. If you want to read well-crafted prose look elsewhere.

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### **Amber Startzman says**

I'm not going to lie, I don't read much but I read the sample and I am so excited to receive my book and continue reading. I feel like I just got left with a cliff hanger! I have to know what happens next!! The story line is great and the writing and wording is great for me. I'm not a big fan of big fancy words and complex story lines. So far this is the first book in years that I could get past the first chapter. I'm excited to read the whole thing and the others in the series. I will post another review once I've read the whole thing!! I'm stoked.

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