

Visions and Shadows (Vaalbara, #1) By Michelle Horst Aislinn is a young teenage girl that is kind of an outcast in her society - what with no real parents to speak of and with a rather disturbing talent of being able to see into the future. She is told that the end of the world is approaching and it's her duty to rescue the ten Chosen.

There are some extremely dramatic moments in the book and we do feel Alchera's suffering as she progresses - but we do also have some humour to balance it out. There is somewhat of a happy ending as well - I just wasn't sure I was satisfied with the way the story went about before it got to that moment as it seemed to glance over the fact that many people had died. One part of me thinks that it's a very dramatic and powerful novel that goes against a lot of YA conventions - the other thinks that it's too dark and depressing and this may potentially put some readers off. He has a great hard that's worth of a king! You will love him from the first moment you read of him! Vaalbara - the world where Alchera was born is almost like earth but the people from this world itself have an oldfashioned attitude. 337 Whilst I don't try and give away too much in my reviews in terms of important plot points and that stuff in order to do a rounded review I will be mentioning some plot points. She has ten days to rescue them before Earth is destroyed - so no pressure then! The book is told from the POV perspective of Alchera and she is a strong heroine - starting off as kinda vulnerable and insecure of herself then gaining strength as the book carries on. Also I didn't like the fact that Alchera (despite showing some feelings against this initially) made NO attempt to try and stop this from happening and just went along with it. She didn't have to have succeeded - but for me the story would have been better if she at least made an attempt to save her people so that her humanity wasn't entirely gone. And in fairness to the book I am going to meet this half-way because I don't think this is a bad novel in any way and it actually does have a positive message at its heart. 337 Vaalbara: Visions & Shadows by Michelle Horst is an exciting tale that focuses on the 18 year-old Aislinn as she comes to realize that nothing about her life is quite the way she has long accepted it to be. If that's not enough he tells her she has been divinely appointed to pick out 10 people that she will see in visions to take for the beginnings of a new world! O by the way Earth and all life as is known is coming to an end. You know; an apocalyptic biblical End of Days? What it eventually comes down to is that Alchera(Aislinn) Raighne(Ryan) and a few others have only 10 days to travel around the Earth and collect the people they are counting on Alchera's visions for. Knowing death itself is racing against them can the heroes find and secure everyone they need in time? 337 Vaalbara: Visions and Shadows is one of the most beautiful imaginative books I have ever read! Misfit Aislinn cannot seem to find her place in the world as we know it. Author Michelle Horst takes us through a fast paced adventure through this riveting novel in which Alchera must truly learn to forgive; for it is her destiny to save ten chosen human beings from the destruction of the Earth. The romance in this book had my heart beating so fast! Michelle truly knows the meaning of true-love passion and romance and she makes every steamy word drip from the pages like sizzling honey. Vaalbara is the new Garden of Eden dear readers and it is truly a masterpiece destined for greatness! 337 How do you sleep while your planet is dying? Where would you turn to when your world turns on you? Have you lived a life worthy of being selected as a chosen one? Or... were you one of those who treated me like a freak? Where you one of those who lived a selfish life? I can only take ten from this dying world. There is of course the love interest her super hot guardian Raighne and the sexual tension between them both is palpable will they won't they? Wonderful story that I couldn't put down. The first thing I have to say is that I honestly bought it because I've read that the character Ryan/Raighne is based on Ian Somerhalder which I adore as an actor and as a human being. I cannot even count the thousands of pages I've read in my almost 34 years on this planet as a bookworm but I have never read a book written with more heart and soul than this one. Aislinn is normal per se but she has always felt like there was something far grander out there for her that she could feel in her soul yet could only talk to her friend Sid about. But this truly fantastical secret that is held within her heart brain and soul is something that creates the nightmares that disturb her waking life; frightening dreams that feel so realistic she can barely breathe at times. Her sarcasm is

the way she gets through life but as this new "heartthrob" continues to follow her around Aislinn begins to notice some odd quirks about the 'new guy' that feeds her with more than just sarcastic lines. Is the guy crazy? After all most 'hotties' are; their egos alone have grown so large they can barely balance themselves enough to smile and chew gum at the same time let alone be normal. As readers become drawn in by the overtones of a huge romance in the making - with trials and tribulations that vamps and werewolves have never even seen - facts are uncovered that show Aislinn the dreams causing her sleepless nights and painful days are actually...quite real. The names change as Aislinn leaves herself behind for Alchera - the girl she always was; and she follows Ryan her actual guardian named Raighne who has been sent to bring her back home. Going from living a life with no one who cared about her Alchera suddenly receives a warrior sister who is SO un-accepting of Alchera that she can't even imagine how they came from the same mother; to inheriting yet another sibling who actually roams in the realm of angels; to discovering her parents - complete and utter strangers -who know far more about Alchera than she would like. Dealing with this whole new 'family unit' Alchera is thrust into a world that was already 'set up' for her to live in - to train in - and to go on a journey that may just tear her apart. As Raighne stays by her side and focuses on being her guardian and her beloved Alchera must soon contend with Adeth - a monstrous immortal who will do anything to make sure that Alchera's journey does not succeed. The YA market as we all know is saturated with the stories of vampires; authors wanting desperately to imitate or duplicate the 'vamp family' everyone fell in love with and stood beside from twilight to a breaking dawn. But as 'Forks' recedes into that good night and Vaalbara steps into the limelight readers will be rewarded with characters who are so interesting funny fresh and mouth-wateringly DIFFERENT from all the other titles out there right now that the YA audience will be beside themselves with glee,

Just beware that this review does contain some spoilers, She thinks that her luck is in when she meets a handsome new boy at school called Ryan - who seems attracted to her for reasons she can't understand: Turns out that this boy is actually from the land of Vaalbara and his real name is Raighne and he's here to take Aislinn back home: Turns out that Aislinn's real name is Alchera and she is a Princess of the land. ?! First of all I fell in love with it as soon as I started the first lines, A good friend of mine intruded me to VVS and I thought I could give it a try: I think the sum isn't telling you anything about the actual story but it's fascinating how a young girl named Aislinn/Alchera became such an important character: She is definitely young in her way but such a grown up in others. She never failed to amaze me! Her guardian Ryan/Raighne reminded me of a strong man that is willing to sacrifice everything to keep his charge alive and healthy, But it's not a bad thing just very different from the human world. I like the thought that loving and fighting for each other means more than wealth and corruption: Aside from a growing love between Alchera and Raighne an inevitable destruction of our beloved earth and their mankind is going down, And I think that's the main reason I loved and hated this book at the same time: I felt with Alchera and her followers and their fate to deal with all those what was crushing down on them, The author made me feel so strong for those characters which was very captivating! If you love mother nature believe that love and faith are able to heal you read this book, It's worth your time and you will love it as I did! Thank you Michelle for writing such an amazing story: I'm looking forward for an sequel!!! 337 I'm looking at the world with different eyes : So before I start who are the ones to carry on the human race after the end: Often she has conversations with an invisible friend called Sid which are actually some of the funniest scenes in the book: So she is definitely a good heroine for this novel - especially considering some of the challenges she is about to face: Seeing as this book does have a very religious context to it she could be considered a kind of Jobe/Jesus character: Now I have to be honest I am in two minds of how I felt about the actual story of this book: Most Young Adult books I've read tended to be upbeat and with a positive feel to them for the most part, This book I have to be honest I found to be a little depressing and dark: I'm not saying that YA books can't be dark - after all The Hunger Games has some pretty dark themes to it and even Harry Potter could be pretty dark sometimes, But I can't help but thinking that maybe Vaalbara: Visions and Shadows is probably

a little TOO dark in places: After all it's dealing with the end of the world and the death of an entire race - that is not a small subject. I think my biggest problem with it is that I couldn't identify with any of the characters from Vaalbara itself. They seemed to be completely ambivalent and uncaring to the destruction of the human race - with the exception of the Chosen: Even some of the heroes I found to be cold and uncaring so I really couldn't support them. There was also a quite nasty torture scene in the middle of the book that I thought was maybe a little too unnecessary and graphic: Now I know the above may sound like I'm being overly negative - but I have to admit I am actually also impressed with it: I like it that Michelle Horst doesn't conform to a lot of YA conventions and does something different: If you are prepared to have an open mind and don't mind the dark content then check this one out and be prepared to lose yourself in the drama of the piece: Aislinn is an interesting character who finds herself with no past at least not until she was found alone at the age of 13, She has no close friends (unless you count an imaginary platypus) an incurable stutter and a general dark outlook on life: Unexpectedly one day she finds herself befriended by a strange new boy named Ryan, Aislinn comes to learn through him that her unusual often demeaning life has long been planned out and given to her purposely, It is a grand adventure with no time to be wasted and the most terrifying villains attempting to prevent their success, The team can Magically travel through waterfalls but that's not much of a help as the destruction of the world begins through earthquake tidal wave and horribly destructive winds. Obsessed with the safety and security of her waterfall it is the only place that she can be at peace. Although she can read palms and write poetry she is considered a freak, One day a handsome young man by the name of Ryan appears at school and he is immediately taken with Aislinn whom everyone alienates. As the two seem destined for love Ryan tells her of Vaalbara one night and takes her through a trip through her beloved waterfall: Aislinn is transformed into her true immortal self known as Alchera the beautiful Princess of Vaalbara. One of the things that I admire most about this book is the author's ability to control so many characters in this novel, Each one has such a deep and meaningful purpose and personality. I never found any of them simply vague or used as fillers: This is a VERY well thought out strategic story and I was glued to every word, My name is Alchera and I have to save ten chosen humans while fighting the shadows growing in my mind. 'Hope is the heartbeat of the soul' WARNING: This book is recommended for 18+ It contains scenes with violence, A fantasy adventure romance that takes you between Earth and Vaalbara. It follows 18 year old Alchera and her family in her quest to build a new world, A beautifully written book that makes you wish with all your heart that the world we live in today was a better place, 337 This is my first review of a book and this one really deserves it, I've been afraid that the story might be some teenie-crap but here's the truth: I love this book. I couldn't stop reading it once I've started and I have literally have lived every single word written in it: You can feel every word you can feel the passion the love the fear and the desperation of the characters: Raighne is SO Ian Somerhalder as we as fans and supporter know him. The passion and commitment of this man (talking about Raighne as well as about Ian) is unbelievable it's stunning, If you once have hugged Ian (like I had the chance to do) you can understand the calming and loving aura of Ryan/Raighne: Vaalbara Visions & Shadows made me laugh my ass off made me cry my soul out (because it 1. is a beautiful story about (not only) two souls belonging to each other and 2, it visualizes the condition of our planet and humanity in a kinda frightening way) and made me sigh again and again: It made me fear for my sons and my family and friends future on this planet which we destroy every single day. And it made me afraid that there won't be a Vaalbara for us once the time has come, This isn't only a book for Ian-lovers or teen-romance- and/or fantasy-lovers, This is a book for each and every one of us and it should really give us food for thought: I thank Michelle Horst with all my heart and soul for writing this book and I am waiting eagerly for a sequel: Yet all readers should know that those are the names that will only be spoken in the normal everyday world of high school: In fact this writer found her to be a soul mate considering that sarcasm (as Jon Stewart has shown) is really the language that America best understands, Sid a true sloth with the ultimate attitude will also become a favorite of ALL readers. Always being a girl out of place Aislinn blushes stutters feels odd - basically she's your typical teenage girl. Her life begins to change rather

quickly when a new student named Ryan comes to town and this handsome stranger sparks feelings in Aislinn that she never knew she owned, Ryan speaks as if he's from another time and place and the stories he unleashes upon Aislinn have her monumentally confused, And Carter the monster's son who - in a twist of fate - goes from torturer to confidant in the blink of an eye, The only man who seems to understand Alchera's dreams and heartaches and will do anything to help her: The romance is beyond thrilling and the ultimate decision of who Alchera SHOULD be with versus who she wants to be with will have readers panting over every page, On top of everything else the journey to find a group of truly 'chosen' people will have readers wondering how on earth Alchera and Raighne will survive, 337 Just finished Loved it I was sucked into it immediately and couldn't put it down!!! I have to say I have not wanted to read a book so much since twilight. The character dynamic did not turn out exactly the way I would have done it but either way the book rocked! Curious to see what her next book will be like, 337 I have not yet had the privilege to read the entire book although I was honored to see some insights: So for me to comment on the book at this stage would be unfair. However I have got the enormous privilege of knowing Michelle the author as a friend, I admire her work her passion and excitement when sharing this project, Although it was via Facebook I could feel the energy and excitement. The author of this book is an extraordinary person and thus I believe that her work will be among the legends one day: Well Done Michelle PS: please stand up against pirate downloading to ensure that these wonderful up and coming artists are not cheated out of their passion. Pirating is theft! 337



Please find me under my new profile Michelle Heard {site_link} profile is no longer being used. Please find me under my new profile Michelle Heard {site_link} profile is no longer being used. I appear to have conflicting emotions about this one. However.

What can I say about this book. Now I'm happy she did. I didn't know what I should expect from this story. Mankind will learn that with their given lives. this book makes me think a lot. Not only that but she and Ryan are secretly immortal. I couldn't put this book down. Visions and Shadows (Vaalbara #1) Oh my. Loved this book so much. Not really sure where to start. Highly recommend. I've devoured this book. 337 Aislinn is our heroine - Ryan our hero. Aislinn is famous for her sarcasm. I remember the first time she told me about it. That is the least you and I can do. {site_link}.