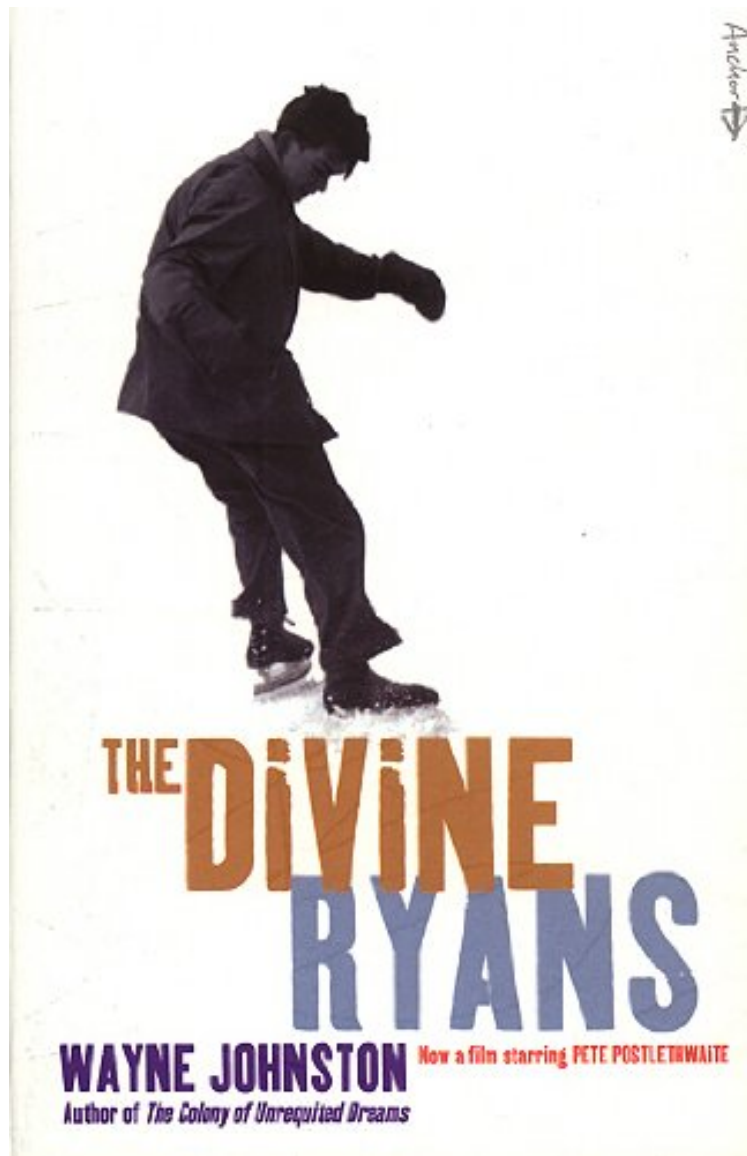


(Download free pdf) The Divine Ryans

The Divine Ryans

Von Wayne Johnston

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Von Wayne Johnston : The Divine Ryans before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Divine Ryans:

Kurzbeschreibung Wayne Johnston is Canada's Roddy Doyle" Anne-Marie McDonald, author of *Fall Down on Your Knees* Young Draper Doyle Ryan lives in a most peculiar household. His relations, proudly eccentric and passionately Catholic, run a rather shabby newspaper, a funeral home, a convent and an orphanage. When they're not attending wakes or going to confession, they're watching Hockey Night in Canada, cheering for their beloved -- and Catholic -- Montreal Canadiens in their never-ending jousts with the Protestant Toronto Maple Leafs. A bewildered Draper Doyle tries to make sense of all this. But he's plagued by the first stirrings of his own budding sexuality. Then there are the sudden ghostly appearances of his recently deceased father. What is the secret behind that death, he wonders. And will the Habs beat the Leafs and win the Stanley Cup? Canadian reviews: "An authentic comic genius" *Montreal Gazette* "An absolute stunner -- achingly funny, needle sharp and packing an unexpected wallop . . . The literary equivalent of a small-budget movie masterpiece with heart, soul and brains" *Time Out*. de Nine-year-old Draper Doyle Ryan, sole male heir to the once-venerable Ryan name, seems an unlikely family savior. Harried by his own frantic hormones, flustered by his many insufficiencies, and beset by a cadre of oppressive relatives, about the only defense he has is an endlessly inventive imagination. It's a fine line between coming-of-age sentimentality and gratuitous high jinks Wayne Johnston walks in his pleasing novel *The Divine Ryans*; the result--a snapshot of that twilight between childhood befuddlement and mature disillusionment--is unexpected and deft. Draper Doyle's life in Newfoundland, circa mid-1960s, is as constrained as it is colorful. Cooped up in one house with various family oddballs, he views the world from the bottom rungs of the ladder. Perpetually harangued by the frigid and imperious Aunt Phil (whose powers of humiliation reach their apex when she displays a pair of his urine-stained underwear on the kitchen bulletin board), and browbeaten by one smarmy, perverse uncle, Father Seymour, the boy retreats into consoling fantasy, fretful ruminations, and the friendship of his only ally, irreverent Uncle Reginald. When Phil employs a weary argument to shame Draper Doyle into finishing a meal, Reginald wonders aloud if bulletins were "being sent to the poor people of South America by the hour, keeping them up to date about what percentage of their food children of the Western world were eating." Draper Doyle is also haunted--literally--by the ghost of his father, a mystery whose painful resolution almost miraculously offers deliverance to both him and his mother. What is most gratifying about *The Divine Ryans* is that it moves so effortlessly from the comic to the bittersweet, from the madcap to the revelatory. Johnston's Twainesque aptitude transmutes drollness and hyperbole into something larger: out of his young hero's absurd comic tangles, we sense a subject slowly grasping not only the shortcomings of those who love him, but also their many travails. The book's divine. --Ben Guterson *Pressestimmen* "Johnston is an authentic comic genius.... His timing and pacing are impeccable. He knows how to ... create laughter out of a wonderful mixture of emotions." *The Montreal Gazette* "A very funny and fulfilling read." *The Globe and Mail* "Divine reading indeed ... a work of art in its powerful handling of everyday humour and sublime tragedy." *St. John's Sunday Express* "The Divine Ryans [has] heart, soul and brains.... An absolute stunner achingly funny, needle sharp and packing an unexpected wallop." *Time Out* (UK)