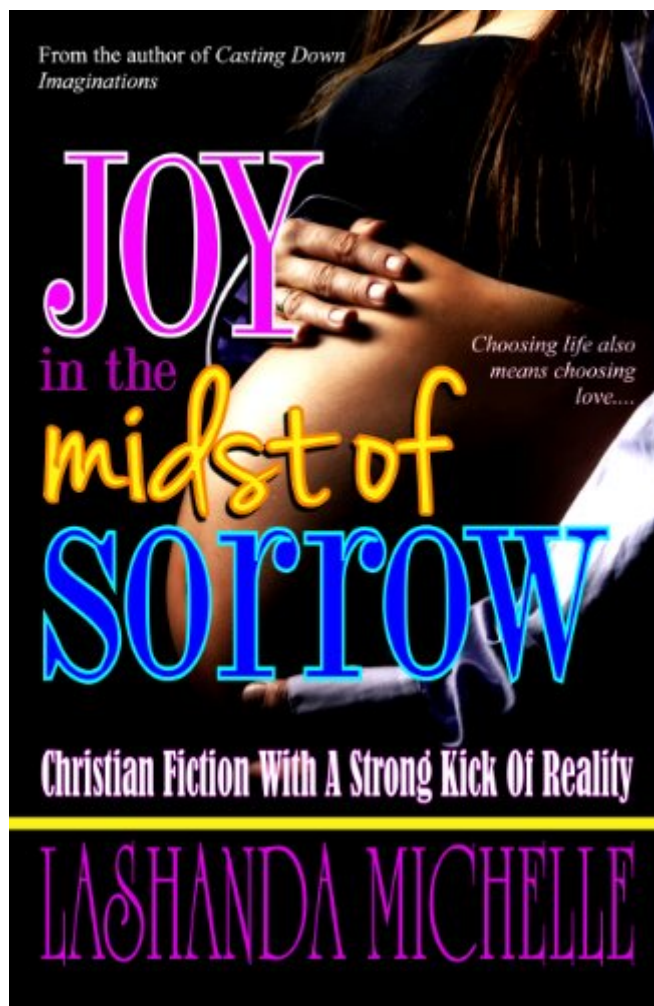


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Joy In The Midst Of Sorrow



Synopsis

The last three years have not been drama-free for Anaya Patterson, despite the fact that she moved back in with her father after dropping out of college. Now in a relationship with a married man nearly twice her age, Anaya finds herself the talk of her small hometown as she relishes in the expensive gifts her boyfriend provides, including a luxury condo, expensive clothes, exotic vacations, and a customized Ford Mustang. Anaya's confidence and sense of security are overtaken by fear when her father passes away suddenly and her boyfriend dumps her once she decides not to abort their child. Now completely alone, pregnant, and broke, Anaya is forced to lean on the people she has resented the most her entire life, the members of First Bethany Christian Church. To Anaya's surprise, she is embraced with loving arms by her childhood church family, who is more than happy to help her in any way they can, including the pastor's youngest son, Julian, whom Anaya hasn't seen in over ten years. The two quickly find a connection, but their future happiness is threatened once secrets about Anaya's past are exposed. Will new love prove strong enough to withstand the tribulation of scandal, or will backlash from those who don't approve keep them apart?

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Customer Reviews

Anaya has been in a relationship with a married man for years, but when he harshly leaves her, pregnant and grieving the sudden death of her father, the only people who offer her support are the Fieldses, who pastor her childhood church, and especially their youngest son, Julian. Best bits: Lots of spunky, sassy characters who aren't afraid to stand up for themselves, Anaya being one. She does tone down her self-centered rage and willingness to start a physical fight after coming to Christ, but doesn't let hateful people keep her from being strong, though she has plenty of personal demons to fight. Julian is a very good guy, with a dark past he truly repents from, and a solid, devoted heart for God and the ministry. He seeks God's approval before beginning a relationship with Anaya, but once he gets it, he doesn't let anything get in the way. Solid 1st-person Anaya POV throughout. Super strong elements of African-American culture throughout, which I confess I don't entirely understand, but I mostly enjoyed reading. Very solid biblical lesson in God using sorrows to bring us to repentance, and God's complete willingness to forgive us of our sins when we truly repent, no matter what we've done, and make us new. Also a sobering look at how not all Christians are so willing to forgive. Issues: Plenty of typos and word errors, ones which I definitely noticed, though nothing that truly detracted from the story. One that bothered me the most was the repeated use of "bible" instead of "Bible." Loud verbal arguments and physical altercations are uncomfortable for me, even just reading about them, so that aspect wasn't my favorite. CJ irks me. For all his desperation to be the pastor, he apparently has no real idea what that should look like. He more or less ignores his kids, leaving it all to his poor wife, and goes out of his way to cause conflict, not the least bit interested in extending grace or a helping hand. For some reason, he got to me more than your typical fictional villain, and I was disappointed that there was no redemption for him.

I gave the book 5-stars because in all i really did enjoy the read. I'm a reader that easily gets attached and sucked into the characters so my heart ached for her at her lowest moments but also cheered in the end. It was a good book and first I've read from this author. Will definitely read others of her work.

This was my first time reading one of LaShanda Michelle books. This book really blessed my spirit

and had me in tears I truly feel that the Lord led me to this book because I was in a situation like Anaya. I received a blessing when I finished reading this book because the Holy spirit was speaking to my spirit. Great Joy Well Done

This book was written so well and had real life problems what stood out for me was the grace of god in the characters life and the hope we all kind find in Jesus when we come to him . Loved your book LaShanda it spoke to my heart

I gave it three stars, only because I like this author's other books a lot. This one was a bit unrealistic, but what really got on my nerves was the main character. Anaya cried throughout the whole book. I never read a book where someone cries that much. Granted it was justified towards the end and beginning of the book, but through the rest of the book it became downright annoying. Overall still a cute story, but very predictable.

Did not expect this book to be good. This was an awesome book. Did not want to put it down. Wish there was a part two to see how things went as a first lady and to see whether or not "teddy" stayed away. You won't be disappointed!

What a great read! Even though it's Christian fiction, it was not a book where everything went right and you were hit over the head with a bible and a scripture in every sentence. It was full of characters who had real lives and real problems. People who were flawed and were forgiven...works in progress...or simply misinformed on what a Christian was and lived their life being petty! Something for everybody even if you don't enjoy Christian fiction. The type of characters that you may encounter on a daily basis! I really hope there is a sequel to this...such a good book!

I was exasperated with Anaya from the Casting book I was shocked to see her life at start of this book. But this one made me feel such pity and love for her. I was her biggest fan praying she'd recognize the love she already had and fully accept God's love and forgiveness. I cried too many times while reading this. I want LaShanda to spend every minute of free time writing.

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