



# Halflings

*Heather Burch*

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## **Halflings** Heather Burch

Split. After being inexplicably targeted by an evil intent on harming her at any cost, seventeen-year-old Nikki finds herself under the watchful guardianship of three mysterious young men who call themselves halflings. Sworn to defend her, misfits Mace, Raven, and Vine battle to keep Nikki safe while hiding their deepest secret---and the wings that come with. A growing attraction between Nikki and two of her protectors presents a whole other danger. While she risks a broken heart, Mace and Raven could lose everything, including their souls. As the mysteries behind the boys' powers, as well as her role in a scientist's dark plan, unfold, Nikki is faced with choices that will affect the future of an entire race of heavenly beings, as well as the precarious equilibrium of the earthly world.

## **Halflings Details**

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Author : Heather Burch

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# From Reader Review Halflings for online ebook

## Ashley says

I received this from NetGalley. I became enchanted from the start. Halflings is the telling of half-human half-angels, figures sent to protect Nicole Youngblood. Not sure of their journey, Mace, Raven and Vine aka The Lost Boys. They keep close tabs on Nikki. Even saving her life a few times. Towards the middle of the story there is a love triangle between Mace, Nikki and Raven. However it is forbidden for Halflings to fall in love. Rather not be the downfall for either boy. Nikki tries to control her feelings. Throughout the course of the story she questions whether or not she can help with their journey and if she's stronger for the epic ethereal battle.

I loved this story!! Couldn't even tell that this was a debut novel!! I look forward to the rest of the series and seeing where the storyline goes!

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## Rose says

"Halflings" seemed to me like a half-hearted attempt at a paranormal/urban fantasy story for the YA audience. My words might be blunt in that, but it was difficult to find much to like and hold interest through much of the novel. I found that it often skipped from one event to the next without proper transition, the characters were quite underdeveloped, and many familiar paranormal tropes were forced without so much as any development in the worldbuilding for this fantastical realm, with some assertions that nearly threw me completely from the story as I read through it.

To give a brief summary, Nikki Youngblood is a special teenager who's being hunted by dark forces. When the novel commences, she's being chased by Hellhounds, which I thought was an interesting place to start from, though I wasn't sure why she was chased at first. She's saved by a half-human, half-angel (ergo, a "Halfling") named Mace, who cares for her though trying to keep his identity under wraps.

The start of the novel seemed a bit in haste for events, transitioning from Hellhounds to a speeding van that follows Nikki (and results in her fainting two or three times within the first several chapters), but I thought maybe that it would expound later on as to why these events occurred. At the same time, the group of Halflings (a.k.a the Lost Boys) aren't exactly happy with the meddling of human affairs with regards to Nikki. There's some mildly amusing banter between Mace and the Lost Boys, but it's hard to tell who they are at first from the position in the novel - I figure that's something that'll be developed later as the story moves forward. By this time, Mace, Raven and Vine are all protectors that have fought for Nikki in some way, and she suspects something's up, but she never comes out and says what it is.

Until she marches up into their stronghold and tells them they're angels, which was another awkward transition because there wasn't any smooth path leading up to that mention. The explanation of a Halfling and their history is the first point where I nearly put the book down, because while some of the angel terminology seemed consistent with other works, if you're going to have a major historical event/shift/change/mention in any story and try to give it conviction that the reader can care about and/or \*learn\* from, it's a good idea to develop it and expound so that it doesn't seem just thrown in arbitrarily.

That said, the mention of the Holocaust and Hitler with the Halfling mythos didn't make sense. It wasn't

developed to anything that really added to the story.

It's later revealed that Nikki has a Seer ability - which means she can draw things that depict events in the future. This is a cool concept, but it's never shown more than once. And the conflict of a super scientific conspiracy that can only be stopped by the interference of the angels seemed a bit grandiose at best for a conflict.

In the mix of that conflict, there's an instalove triangle developed with Nikki pinning between Mace, the Halfling who seemed to be a decent "good guy", and Raven, the "bad boy" Halfling and more daredevil personality. The transition between these likes seemed off, and it was as if one moment Nikki's affections went toward one and then turned to the other in a heartbeat.

It was just too many issues and derivations for me to really see beyond them.

Overall score: 1/5

Note: I received this as an ARC from NetGalley, from the publisher Zondervan.

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### **Bill Tillman says**

A very different YA novel, from beginning to end this book will rock your world. Nikki is a 17 year old junior in high school, from there she is unlike any other teenager you would ever meet.

Guarded by three Halflings, Vine, Mace, and Raven with their guardian Will. Nikki finds the world of angels, half angels and demonic forces within a breath of her own world. Nikki is the target of the baddies, though we never find out why, (presume that will be part of Vol. 2) the action never lags. Having two of the most awesome admirers from the 'In Between' Nikki has her hands and heart full.

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### **Rachel's Book Reviews says**

After being inexplicably targeted by an evil intent on harming her at any cost, seventeen-year-old Nikki finds herself under the watchful guardianship of three mysterious young men who call themselves halflings. Sworn to defend her, misfits Mace, Raven, and Vine battle to keep Nikki safe while hiding their deepest secret—and the wings that come with.

A growing attraction between Nikki and two of her protectors presents a whole other danger. While she risks a broken heart, Mace and Raven could lose everything, including their souls. As the mysteries behind the boys' powers, as well as her role in a scientist's dark plan, unfold, Nikki is faced with choices that will affect the future of an entire race of heavenly beings, as well as the precarious equilibrium of the earthly world.

I loved this book. There are a lot of angel things this year, but this is one of the best. It's one of my top recommends of 2011. . The only angel book comes remotely close is Mephisto Covenant by Trinity Faegen. It was well written and it starts with tons of action. It has it's fluffy moments but overall it's way better than its competition. I really don't have anything else to say...other than that you should read it! Only mild language but definitely worth your read. It will be added to my shelf of fame after it's renovated.

[http://www.rachelsbookreviews.com/#!\\_...](http://www.rachelsbookreviews.com/#!_...)

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## **Lisa Nguyen says**

<http://shatterbooks.blogspot.com/2012...>

I was excited to get this for review! The cover isn't as beautiful as the other debuts, but the story sure is good. I had to read it on my kindle app. Since I don't have a kindle and I hate reading on my laptop because it's so distracting...like seriously - \_\_\_\_ - So I finally found a way to read the books on my iPod. It took me about 2 and a half days? I stand up all night today, finishing it. It was so addicting, I could not put the book down. I love the plot and setting. This book is just great!

First Chapter: Nicole Youndblood, her nickname is Nikki was being chased by a pack of 'wolves'. She was running for her life. Raven, Mace, Vine, and Will are just looking at her in the distance trying to see when to come in to save her. These guys job is to protect Nikki, because that's their mission. The reason why they're protecting her is because she's special in some type of way. They don't understand why they have to protect her since she's human. They never did protect one before. Suddenly it was time to save her but Mace made a mistake by letting Nikki see his face.

Halflings: What are halflings? They are angels. Wait heavenly angels or fallen angels? None the above! They are in the middle...or actually they aren't. They are half angel and half human. They don't live with their parents, never got to meet them. Every Halflings group has 3 angels and has a guardian which is a heavenly angel. Halflings was made by Hitler causing the Holocaust to happen.

Love Triangle:

It's between Raven, Mace, and Nikki. I think Nikki is perfect with Raven but he is a player though. Mace is just eh. I think Raven can be a more of a boyfriend to Nikki.

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## **Melindahanks says**

I have read about half of the pre-publication of the Halflings, and all I can say is "WOW, I COULD NOT PUT IT DOWN"....I am chomping at the bit to read the rest of it and cannot wait until it's release! It's non-stop action and pulls you into the plot from page 1! You will not be disappointed and I urge all of you to PRE-ORDER! I know I have my copy ordered already! This book has you looking around thinking, "where are my good looking guardian angels to protect me?" :)

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## **Debbie I Heart YA Books says**

Halflings has a fantastic storyline with plenty of action, drama, and romance—all what I love in a novel. Heather Burch has finally done what I have wanted to see in a triangle romance for a long time. Burch's writing was also fantastic and exciting, she kept me glued to this story with a cliffhanger ending that had me loving the main character Nikki. Burch has taken the half-human and half-angel that we are familiar with and given it a new twist. And the intriguing storyline had me loving the Halflings.

Nikki is a seventeen-year-old kick-butt martial artist, Kawasaki motorcycle riding girl, but she's never

broken the rules. She's a tough girl that uses her brain for more than girly clothes, make-up and boy swooning, which drives her best friend Krissy crazy. Its going take more than the good-looking football quarterback to get Nikki's heart swooning over a guy. When Nikki finds herself fighting the evil forces of hell, she soon realizes her I-can-take-care-of-my-own-self altitude is going to need the help of three new gorgeous guys that just moved to her town, and two of the guys are going to melt her tough girl heart.

Mace, Raven, and Vine are the three gorgeous halflings sent on a heavenly mission to fight the evil forces that come against Nikki, along with their caregiver Will. Mace is the good guy hero type that never breaks the rules. Raven is the bad-boy who always breaks the rules, and Vine is the newbie who's just looking for his next candy fixes.

Nikki, who's never had any of those girly swoon love problems, has met her match with Mace. Nikki, the girl who couldn't fall in love, has just fallen for both Mace and Raven, but now she will know the power and the pain of love's heart-break for the two guys she loves but will never have.

Halflings is a totally different triangle love romance. One I have been waiting for a long time and I'm so glad Heather Burch has written Nikki, Mace, and Raven's intriguing romance with a fantastic strong storyline with action, drama, humor and heart-break. Burch has given her main character Nikki a strong personality that I truly admire when facing life's most hurtful choices, Nikki's character shows she can make responsible choices while her whole life is being taken away from her as you will see in this heart-breaking cliffhanger. I highly recommend Halflings as a must read.

Also there is a free ebook, 11:15 The Making of a Halfling, that starts the Halflings adventure! If you've already read Halfings, this will add to your fun. If you haven't, this will introduce you to the Halflings.

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## **Shawna LeAnn says**

**This review can also be found on my blog:** [Dreaming In The Pages](#)

When I was approved to read and review this book through NetGalley I was more than excited. First off, the cover is just like pure beauty is it not? I have a thing for the color red I think. Secondly the blurb caught my attention right away. I love the whole angel theme, and this was a great little twist from other angel books out there. This book wasted no time catching your attention and hurling you into all the action. From page one it was like Heather Burch is telling you hold on to your seat, this is going to be one insane ride and it really is. From the characters whom you grow extremely attached to the insane plot that is driving the story, there is no time to calm down and gather yourself. You have to keep pushing through so you can understand it all, and quench the thirst the book leaves you with. Because trust me, this book leaves you hanging in so many ways.

One thing that I didn't enjoy with this book was after the incredible first two chapters you have so much information thrown at you and then loose site of where the book is going. I was sort of in and out of this book for the first half. I knew a great story was there, I felt it in my bones, but I was just coming up short. It was page 179 that started really hitting it off with me. After you get to a certain point it starts to slow down and you finally see the world of this book come together. Once I hit it that groove I could NOT put this book down. I loved the characters even more than before and started to put together the puzzle pieces I had gotten

earlier. This is no easy puzzle to put together though folks, the Halflings world is a crazy piece of literary genius.

Like any great YA book nowadays there was one hell of a love triangle. You have the bad boy Raven and the good hearted Mace. Now I loved them both, I really did, but I definitely had my favorite. [\*cough\* Raven \*cough\*] The thing with this love triangle is that no matter who she chooses, she could never be with either one. It put a huge damper on my heart when certain things happened and left me clinching my chest for the boys I had grown to love. Nikki was seriously a breath of fresh air in this book. She was strong, knew how to hold her own, and didn't let others get to her. She was far from heartless though, and the depth of her emotions is what really endeared her to me. I wanted the book to never end, I needed to know what happened to her and her fight to figure out what was going on around her.

The ending half of this book was my favorite, like I said, I honestly could not put it down. I was so attached to everyone at this point that I didn't want to let them go. As I kept flipping the last few pages I kept hoping the page numbers would somehow double because the ending in this book is killer. KILLER I tell you! I don't want to spoil it for anyone out there but be ready to pre-order the second book in this series, because you will HAVE to. After the last page I sat stunned in my chair for a good 20 minutes. I couldn't believe it just ended that way, no doubt Heather Burch knows how to keep her readers hooked. So, if you are asthmatic [like me] make sure to keep your rescue inhaler close because this book is going to take your breath away. This was definitely a great debut book and I will be keeping an eye out for the second to this dazzling series.

Rating:

★★★★½

Four and a half Stars

[Seriously, that ending!!]

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## Stephenie says

I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to read this book. I hope my review does it justice. Thank you Netgalley.com and Zondervan publishers for allowing me to review an ARC copy of Halflings by Heather Burch.

### MY REVIEW:

Halflings is an amazing YA novel that absolutely had me parked in my kindle. It rocked my world!

Halflings had me enchanted from the beginning. It was so well written and fast paced that I just could not put it down. I had it read in one sitting. Burch's writing style is lovely. Her descriptive scenes that were painted for me had me frantically reading and hungry for more!

The main character Nikki isn't the usual damsel in distress she's more kick-butt and more of a heroine. Her protectors that have just arrived are Halflings or half fallen angel + half human. The Halflings Mace, Raven and Vine show up at the very beginning of the book when Nikki is fighting off hell hounds and they are sure to change her world forever.

Instantly Nikki and Mace are drawn to one another but "for Halflings to fall in love with a human is the unpardonable sin." I absolutely loved Nikki and Mace and the romantic tension between these two. Mace has

never been tempted by a girl before, he's actually never been tempted at all so to watch their stolen moments together it was just wonderful!

Raven is the typical bad boy. He's cocky and so sure of himself but Nikki gets to him in a way no other human girl ever has. Did I mention their might be a love triangle? I know I know, I hate them too but this one works!

Heather Burch has created a novel that had me from the fast paced beginning to the nail biting ending. The characters and world she has created have me so hungry for more! I am so excited to see where Heather Burch will take us in the next book. I am anxiously awaiting!

MY GRADE: A

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### **John Burch says**

Read it... awesome! Cover looks great! love the action and the twists in the plot. DEFINATELY a must read!

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### **Heather Burch says**

New cover reveal. And yes, my goodreads friends, you are seeing it here first! I'm really happy with the new cover! When I first started writing Halflings, I always imagined the cover red. :) Big big thanks to the team who created it.

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### **Joy (joyous reads) says**

**DISCLAIMER:** This is an opinion of someone whose brain has been marinating in flu and colds medicine for at least a week. You might want to read somebody else's review...someone more coherent.

Halflings has all the recipe of what I can consider as a train wreck. Love triangle. Ick. A heroine with a predisposition to ~~whining~~ ~~erying~~ waffling. Double ick. A plot that seemed to veer off in several directions without a defined course. Triple...well, you know. Ick. It started out so good - action right off the bat. And the introduction of the three half-baked angels were nothing short of enticing. But with every turn of the page, the story becomes convoluted and confusing and...it was just all over the place. Arrrrggh! Nikki reminds me of well, me - in front of my closet deciding what to wear, picking one or two or three out, only to discard them in favor of my original choice. Hey, I'm a woman. I can change my mind. Sue me.

Nikki Youngblood is one of those heroines who had potential at first. She's artistic, unimpressonable, ballsy. But all that changed as soon as she meets Mace. Oy vey. The fainting spells killed me every. single. time. Mace is beautiful. Mace is attracted to the human. Mace is confused. Mace must decide what was more important - to avoid eternal damnation or to love the most oblivious, beautiful daughter of man he's ever seen. In short, they both annoyed me to hell. At the risk of sounding pessimistic, I couldn't find anything in this book worth the time I spent reading it. I can probably count the number of times I did an eyeroll (probably the same amount of time Nikki vacillated between Mace and Raven). Somehow, they arrived at the conclusion that they'll be better off as friends...but then the female halflings showed up and Nikki was all



jealous of Mace's and Raven's reactions to the half-angel females. Ugh.

Nikki is a Seer - someone who can forecast danger. In Nikki's case, she can draw the exact picture. Kick ass, right? It would've been if the author explored Nikki's ability more. Why didn't she see the hellhounds who were after her at the beginning of the novel? Why didn't she see...those people who were going to get killed in an accident? Or why didn't she see what was going to happen to her dog, Bo? Tsk. So many plot holes...er, questions.

The love triangle irked me. I wasn't at all interested in who Nikki ends up with. Raven seemed like a cool character until he developed an attraction for Nikki. It just felt too contrived. It didn't make sense that he was disgusted with Nikki (by virtue of being human) at first and then he was singing her praises the next. All because HE got her art? This guy was so full of himself. And Nikki was way too fascinated with his angel wings...I don't know if that's euphemism for something.

I'm not firmly set against love triangles, per se. But the author have got to make sense of it. Nikki's abject reactions to Raven was just as confusing as Raven's reactions to her. All in all, the romance (s) in this book? (They) It didn't work at all. Mace and Nikki decided that they're right and wrong for each other. Shoot. Me. Now. Seriously? They're a match made in heaven, if you ask me. I wanted to shake them both and yell at them to stop their freaking annoying song and dance.

I'd love to go on and tell you one or two things that I liked about this book but sadly, I couldn't find any. All the things that irritated me were just too distracting to find the good in the sea of bad.

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## **Carrie Ardoin says**

The main character in this story, Nikki, is supposedly a kick-ass girl who has a black belt in karate and rides a motorcycle. She is leading a "normal" until until suddenly, everywhere she turns, she is being attacked by evil creatures and she doesn't know why.

Luckily she has 3 half-human, half-angel protectors to watch over her. Mace, Raven, and Vine exist in a halfway between Earth and Heaven, and are outcasts in them both. Mace in particular feels inexplicably drawn to Nikki. But the 3 guardians are not supposed to get involved in the human's life.

That is all I know, because I only got 50 pages and four chapters into the story before I had to stop reading it. First of all, I didn't really buy Nikki as a realistic character. She is a 17 year old whose parents let her ride all around creation on a motorcycle, for cripes' sake? And she has a black belt in karate...she's also beautiful, but awkward around guys. SIGH. No, the beautiful-chick-who-is-awkward-around-guys motif has been overdone, and it's just so far from reality it's not even funny.

Second of all, I HATE HATE HATE instant LOVE in a novel. Mace came into contact with Nikki all of two times, during both she was unconscious...and he is all of a sudden in love with her. OOOK. Whatever.

Third, the language was way too sappy and cliché. Bad metaphors abound. For example, "His face was so very alive. Like moonbeams captured in flesh." Or, "I'm scared of myself. What I can do. What I can't do. Why I don't know who I am." Yeah. I just couldn't go on.

Don't even get me started on the guys' names. Mace, Raven, and Vine? Are they angelic protectors or pro

wrestlers?

It's very rare I cannot finish a book, and I hate giving bad reviews, but I have to be honest. Halflings was not for me.

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### **Annmarie Ager says**

Halfling by Heather Burch

Chased by hell hounds, nearly run off the road by a SUV Nikki's life used to be simply now she seems like every bad thing in the world is trying to kill her. With evil ready to strike at every turn Nikki ends up having three beautiful guys watching over her. They call themselves Halflings the offspring of fallen angels. They plan to keep Nikki out of dangers but sometimes that's not easy to do. New problems arise when Nikki finds herself falling in love with two of her protectors. This comes a big shock as she has never been interested in guys, but now she can't help but want two but more trouble is ahead than just love because Nikki needs to work out what's going on before she is killed.

I would just like to say when people I know read books and tell me there is a MASSIVE! Love triangle in the book I normally choose to stay clear but this book was very different. The love triangle in this book was deep and emotional. Raven and Mace are two very different characters at first look I thought of Mace as light and caring one and Raven as dark and sexy but there is a whole lot more to these two characters and the book was so much more than just love drama. It's about family and making the right choices and the evil that's inside us all it's our choice to be good or bad and this book really did show that.

Nikki was a really good character. She is a fighter, deep down, and she faces what's coming head on. As one of the main characters she was feisty and kind and enjoyable to read about. I also felt that there is a lot more we are going to learn about her as the series goes on. I just had a sense that there is a lot of hidden power or potential inside Nikki that's begging to come out. The story was packed with danger, and Nikki went from a normal life to being on the supernatural hit list. There were a lot of intense moments in the book between characters and sometimes humour the book seemed to find a great mix of everything.

Now I would like to confess that as an avid reader you sometimes fall for the characters you're reading about and Raven was one of those characters for me. While at first look you feel he's just an arrogant pretty boy, but I felt there was more to him, and I feel that over readers will spot that underneath his front, you will see someone different.

A wonderful written story jam packed with forbidden love, danger and a burning evil that will suck you in.

5 stars

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### **Ferdy says**

Nikki is a boring 17 year old girl who faints and cries every chance she gets. Nikki or Dikki as I like to call her somehow manages to get caught up in the war between heaven and hell. Naturally Dikki gets three hot

protectors who **DUN DUN DUN** just so happen to be half human and *aw yea* half angel..I think I shall call them **halfies**, no **half&half**, no **50:50**, no I've got it..I shall call them halflings....**unoriginal** you say? **lame** you say? **uninspired** you say? Well then you'd be 100% right.

Anywho 2 out of the 3 halflings fall in *wuv* Dikki because she's so *speshul* and *bwave*. Mace or Spice Angel as I like to call him is sweet, caring and an all round good guy. Raven or Dusky Angel if you please is wait for it.. a **BAD BOY..SHOCK!HORROR!..** he's dangerous, arrogant and he's a player..*don't hate the player, hate the game*. Dikki can't help but be drawn to his *badboybadishness*..WHAT?! That'a real word! Spice Angel and Dusky Angel both want Dikki cos she's well..she's DIKKI isn't she?!

Dikki does karate and paints which makes her all *deep* and *misunderstood*, she doesn't care about boys, well boys who aren't the male protagonists anyway because otherwise according to YA romancelandia that would just make her appear shallow..of couse when Spice Angel and Dusky Angel come in to the picture she's torn and oh.. it's just so **tragic**..some readers may not be able to handle the level of non-emotion that Dikki's *wuv* life evokes.

She naturally has one friend who's superficial and boy crazy..thus in comparison giving the false impression that Dikki has substance.

Dikki gets in trouble a lot a la Bella Swan (view spoiler)...Spice Angel and Dusky Angel rescue her even though she and Spice/Dusky Angel claim she's strong and capable.

Dikki gets angry and mad when Spice Angel checks out some female haflings even though she's happily rubbing upto old Dusky Angel!! Oh Dikki, what are you like!

Dikki whines and cries and then some stuff happens which makes Dikki whine and cry more, then Dikki whines and cries some more. The End.

The sequel - questions that I hope are answered:

-Will Dikki ever stop whining and crying?

-Will she choose Spice or Dusky Angel?

-Will she become even more *speshul*?

-Will Dikki cope with all her hardships by painting and doing other profound things..therefore making her if possible even more irresistible to Spice and Dusky Angel??

Only time will tell and I for one await in bated breath for the sequel.

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