



## Moondogs

*Alexander Yates , Michael J. Windsor (Cover Design)*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

# Moondogs

*Alexander Yates , Michael J. Windsor (Cover Design)*

**Moondogs** Alexander Yates , Michael J. Windsor (Cover Design)

**A singularly effervescent novel pivoting around the disappearance of an American businessman in the Philippines and the long-suffering son, jilted lover, slick police commissioner, misguided villain, and supernatural saviors who all want a piece of him.**

Mourning the recent loss of his mother, twentysomething Benicio—aka Benny—travels to Manila to reconnect with his estranged father, Howard. But when he arrives his father is nowhere to be found—leaving an irritated son to conclude that Howard has let him down for the umpteenth time. However, his father has actually been kidnapped by a meth-addled cabdriver, with grand plans to sell him to local terrorists as bait in the country's never-ending power struggle between insurgents, separatists, and “democratic” muscle.

Benicio's search for Howard reveals more about his father's womanizing ways and suspicious business deals, reopening the old hurts that he'd hoped to mend. Interspersed with the son's inquiry and the father's calamitous life in captivity are the high-octane interconnecting narratives of Reynato Ocampo, the local celebrity-hero policeman charged with rescuing Howard; Ocampo's ragtag team of wizardry-infused soldiers; and Monique, a novice officer at the American embassy whose family still feels feverishly unmoored in the Philippines.

With blistering forward momentum, crackling dialogue, wonderfully bizarre turns, and glimpses into both Filipino and expat culture, the novel marches toward a stunning climax, which ultimately challenges our conventional ideas of family and identity and introduces Yates as a powerful new voice in contemporary literature.

## Moondogs Details

Date : Published March 15th 2011 by Doubleday (first published January 1st 2011)

ISBN : 9780385533782

Author : Alexander Yates , Michael J. Windsor (Cover Design)

Format : Hardcover 339 pages

Genre : Fiction, Fantasy, Magical Realism, Mystery, Novels

 [Download Moondogs ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Moondogs ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Moondogs Alexander Yates , Michael J. Windsor (Cover Design)**

---

## From Reader Review Moondogs for online ebook

### Cheryl Gatling says

Recently some of my friends and I amused ourselves with the question, "On the scale of 1 to 10, how weird would you say you are?" Moondogs is a novel that starts out reading like a normal story. Maybe I'd give it at most a 2 on the weirdness scale, one for being set in the exotic locale of the Philippines, and another one for having a rooster introduced on page one as a character and a villain. But Benicio (who travels to the Philippines to re-connect with his estranged father) and his girlfriend Alice seem like normal people. Monique (an American diplomat in the Philippines) and her trailing family seem like normal people. Dysfunctional, but normal. Then on page 49 Effrem Khalid Bakkar raises his rifle and shoots dead a man 30 miles away. The needle on the weirdness meter just shot up to a good 8 or 9. Turns out this is a book about superheroes. Except they aren't heroes. Superheroes only use their powers for good. These bruhos, one who can turn himself into an animal, one who turns violence into magic tricks, one who always gets hurt, but (so far, anyway) never dies, use their powers for... what do they use their powers for? Combined as the Task Force Ka-Pow, they go out after criminals because... because their boss Reynato Ocampo tells them to, because it's just what they do, because it's fun. They are, "Beautiful. Powerful. Scary. And bad." The short version of the story is that American businessman Howard Bridgewater is kidnapped, and the Task Force Ka-Pow goes to rescue him. But there is no short version. It's about Benicio and his father. It's about Benicio and his girlfriend. It's about Monique and her affair. It's about Monique and her marriage. It's about a local prostitute named Solita who says Howard fathered her son. It's about Charlie Fuentes, movie star turned politician. And then there are the minor characters. I admit that I got confused at times. Wait. Who is Edilberto again? Who is Bobby Dancer? All of these threads and characters, who at first seem to have nothing to do with each other, will end up tied in a single (messy) knot, and watching them draw together is a pleasure. Along the way, pretty much anything may happen. Because this is a weird book. Weird in a good way.

---

### Gaby says

Moondogs by debut novelist Alexander Yates set in present day Philippines combines magic, action, and satire. Yates draws on his own knowledge of the Philippines where he graduated from high school and later returned to work for the political section of the US Embassy. His familiarity with and knowledge of the place and its people comes across. While the persons, places, and events are fictionalized, his Filipino and expat characters are familiar enough that Yates could have written about people we know.

The lead character is Benicio Bridgewater, the son of a Columbian mother and American father. His parents had divorced years ago and Benicio has had a strained relationship with his father for years, but following Benicio's mother's funeral he's decided to visit his father in the Philippines to repair the relationship. When his father stands him up in the airport, Benicio is left angry and hurt. It turns out that his father Howard had been kidnapped by a meth-addled cabdriver and his strange companions. When the crime is discovered, local celebrity hero Reynato Ocampo and his special operations unit nicknamed Ka-Pow is called in to rescue Howard. Each member of the Ka-Pow team has a unique magical talent which Ocampo learns to harness. The characters in Moondogs run the gamut: yayas, drivers, and hotel staff, "political consultants" and actors turned politicians, pampered and privileged kids from the International School Manila, expat businessmen and "exotic dancers", desperate hustlers, kidnappers, military men, and terrorists from the South. Yates seems to have captured much of the Philippine experience and added his own special stamp creating an unusual, rollicking read.

## Alanna says

Set against the lush backdrop of the Philippines within the context of the politics and history that shape the country, *MOONDOGS* is a gorgeous and fantastical debut novel from Alexander Yates that challenges our conventional ideas of family, cultural identity, and how we define the place we call home. At its heart, *MOONDOGS* is a story of relationships—suffering and loss, love and betrayal, redemption and forgiveness, sprinkled with magical realism.

After Benicio loses his mother to a fatal car crash, he agrees to spend the summer in the Philippines with his businessman father, Howard, in an effort to heal their broken relationship. But, when Benicio arrives in Manila, Howard is nowhere to be found—leaving Benicio to fend for himself in a country that feels very foreign and so far removed from his life in the States. As Benicio searches for Howard he learns more about his father's womanizing ways and shady morals, suspicious business deals, and the possibility of an illegitimate son born to a prostitute. When his girlfriend Alice joins him in Manila, her presence is a stabilizing force for Benicio, as he seeks to escape the shadow of his father and the predictions of his mother.

Interspersed with Benicio's story are the interconnecting narratives of Monique, the American Citizen Services department head at the US Embassy whose family is falling apart under the stress of living in the Philippines; Renato Ocampo, local celebrity-hero policeman charged with finding Howard, and his rag-tag team of soldiers who each have a special magical ability; and Ignacio, a cabdriver who has kidnapped Howard and has plans to sell him to terrorists. Although *MOONDOGS* is primarily Benicio's story, the rest of the characters who populate the novel reaffirm the theme of identity. Who can we call family? How can we fit in? Where is our place in the world?

This is an amazing novel and Yates is a fresh new voice in contemporary literature... someone to watch!

---

## Lea says

3.5 stars

Okay, I finished this a couple of weeks ago -- at the time I finished it, I gave it 3.5 stars, but now I'm not so sure. I'm thinking the writing probably pushes it closer to 4 stars . . .

Moondogs follows several characters whose lives intertwine:

There is Benicio, who has traveled to the Philippines to reconnect with his estranged father; Howard, shady businessman and Benicio's dad; Reynato Ocampo, a local policeman whose life has been immortalized in film; Ocampo's special ops unit (named Ka-Pow); Monique, an American diplomat trying to find herself in the Philippines; Ignacio and his rooster, Kelog -- the villains -- as well as several others.

It's interesting to see how the characters are joined together, and the writing is very good.

But . . .

I went into this book expecting it to be a sort of modern-day One Hundred Years of Solitude. I love magical realism, and I was very excited to find something new to read in this vein.

From the book's description:

*. . . Each member of this special operations unit, aptly named Ka-Pow, is endowed with a magical skill-set: there's a man who can transform himself into any animal at will; another who is a magnet for everyone else's bad luck; and their newest recruit, a troubled young soldier who can shoot to kill from any location so long as he knows the person's name.*

Although this is an accurate description, it made me believe that there would be far more magic in this book. In reality, these parts, while wonderful, are a very small part of the story. Essentially, this book was far too REAL for my taste. I wanted the magical parts to be the main focus of the story, but they were only a very small portion of it.

I do think that this book would be worth reading, especially for those who enjoy a more reality-based story (but don't mind some magic thrown into the mix).

I will definitely be on the lookout for future books from this author, although I'll be hoping for his next book to integrate even more magic into the story.

---

### **Rita Wiebner says**

I won this book from Goodreads, First Reads a few weeks ago. I was in the middle of Pillars of the Earth, so wanted to wait until I was done with that to delve into this. Interesting book. It was a little bit scattered, but once you got your head around all of the characters and a bit of the backtracking within the story, it was pretty good. I feel a little let down by the ending. I really enjoyed the whole Ka-Pow crew, and wished they would have had a stronger presence in the book and had not turned out the way they did in the end. Benny's character was a bit annoying to me. Be seemed to really not mature in the book the way I think he should have. I feel the same about him at the end as I did at the beginning, confused and wary. Some things were just strange and didn't make sense to me - I didn't really get Monique's character, or Solito. Solito just didn't seem developed enough. Overall a good, quick read!

---

### **Teresa Lukey says**

WOW! Where should I start with this unique and fantastical tale? There is something for just about everybody in this book. Mystery, politics, mysticism, romance, family saga, satire, you name it...

This book is completely different from anything I have ever read before and I could not wait to get back to it. In fact, my 10 year-old found me on the couch late one night barely able to keep my eye lids open and told me I really needed to go to bed, but I just wanted more.

The main story follows a son, Benicio, and his father, Howard Bridgewater, who have had a falling out as a result of Howard's unfaithfulness to Benicio's mother. After Benicio's mother passes away, he decides that it's time to reconcile with his father, thus begins the fantastical tale previously mentioned.

Benicio's decides to fly to the Philippines, where his father resides, to go on a diving trip with Howard.

Before Benicio arrives in the Philippines, his father is kidnapped by Ignacio, a taxi driver who carries around his green smoking rooster and eventually tries to sell Howard to local terrorists.

It takes about a week for people to realize that Howard has been kidnapped and an adulteress Monique from the US Embassy is assigned to manage his case and seek out the location of Howard Bridgewater's kidnapper's. Monique is having an affair with Reynato Ocampo, who heads Task Force Ka-Pow and is a local police officer idolized by the community after a television show was created for him because he's known to stick up for the unstuck up for.

Task Force Ka-Pow consists of four bruhos that have varying talents, from changing into another living thing to shooting someone who's miles away and out of the normal sight range. Task Force Ka-Pow is charged with recovering Howard Bridgewater, but where money is concerned there is always someone that gets their priorities mixed up.

There are so many interesting characters in this book and so many other side stories I could touch on, but I will save those for the reader to discover. I cannot recommend this book enough.

NOTE FOR THE SENSITIVE READER: There is some foul language and sex in this one

---

### **Jennifer says**

This book was bizarre and felt all over the place. There were three different storylines going on, two of which barely connected to the main one (but connected to each other) for how much room they were given in the book. I think Monique was an unnecessary character. The story didn't gain anything from her chapters and perspective. I would have been okay with the other two storylines intertwining and admittedly after a certain point I skimmed her chapters only looking for anything important. The bit of magic in the book was interesting, I enjoyed those characters. If this had been two separate books, one with Benicio and Howard, the other with Reynato, Efrem and the 'family,' each given more attention, I think it would have made for two amazing novels. Overall, being off-kilter balanced the intense nature of the rest of the story and it still felt worth the read.

---

### **Carrie says**

This book had me hooked and entertained more than I have been on a book in a good six months, and I've been reading a lot lately. I have seen other reviews mention that there are so many characters - and there are - but I really enjoyed how it all weaved together. I was pretty fascinated by Ka-Pow - I'd read a whole book on them!

But, I am a sucker for a happy ending and if the last section of the book - book 2 - had been done differently this would have been one of my favorites of all time, no contest. I especially hated that the victim didn't ever get a break - I never like to see people suffer at random - and that Efrem was brought into a group that would just end up dissolving, and I felt like Benicio didn't get closure and should've been able to keep himself from being so tempted. The suspense of whether or not the victim would get rescued kept me into it even when I didn't like how the ending was shaping up.

Still, four stars because the story is freaking awesome! I just didn't like the last 50 or so pages. I would absolutely love to see more from this author.

## **Eissenn Downey jr. says**

4.5 stars

I fell in love with this book from page 1, where a pinoy meth addict and a chicken are introduced as villains. This is a story set in the Philippines and is consist of, perhaps, the most complex and interesting characters I've read in a while.

We have a kidnapping pinoy meth addict, a villainous chicken, and his not-so-bright younger brother; an estranged father and son both seeking for re connection; a special task force team a la X-Men lead by a Dirty Harry like leader, a shapeshifter who can transform into any animal, a man who can absorb everybody's bad luck and also doesn't have the ability to die, someone who can shoot a man accurately from any distance as long as he have a name, and someone who can do magic; we have a woman who mothers two foster child and who cheats from his insomniac husband; a movie star turned senator, a prostitute, a campaign manager who got beaten up for switching sides, and a kid.

I thank myself, or Ka, for bumping into this book. Such a satisfying read.

---

## **Brad says**

Having gone to the Philippines for a month a couple of years ago, I have a fondness for pretty much anything Filipino. I was intrigued to discover this novel set in the Philippines as not many novels published in the US are set there. Overall, I really enjoyed this book. The author does a fine job putting you right in the Philippines without going overboard. Somehow, Yates takes blends family drama, a police procedural involving a kidnapping, and characters with fantastical mystical powers. A poor kid from the South who can but a bullet into any target he can conjure in his mind. An embassy worker who can cause earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. A guy who can shape shift into any animal. If this all sounds preposterous and possibly corny, Yates pulls it off and makes it work. I enjoyed the quirkiness and strong writing of this novel. I hope others discover this fine debut novel.

---

## **Rosemarie says**

Moondogs

I only have one problem, I do not like this book it is all over the place.

There were times when I thought, "ok I get this now" then I don't. It is a bit hard to keep my mind wrapped around it

What I did get out of it was that, Benico, Benny, who lives in Virginia, had a mother who died in January in Chicago. Benico's Father Howard lives in the Philippines. Now Howard wants to try a reconciliation with his son, he asks him to come to the Philippines. When Benico arrives he cannot find his father, he is angry that his father appears to be playing his usual games. But it doesn't take too long for him to find out that his father had been kidnapped. The kidnapper is a drug addict/taxi driver that is trying to find some terrorists group to buy Benico's American father. Howard is in the Hotel business making him a good target for kidnappers. In his quest to find his father's kidnappers Benico has to face the fact that his father is an objectionable

character, even though he really does mean to do the right thing by his son

Oh did I mention the Rooster? Kelog, apparently the rooster has the coloring of a Kellogg cereal box, ergo the name Kelog. His likeness is featured on the cover of this book.

If you are into intrigue then you will probably enjoy this

---

### **Scott Rhee says**

According to the author, moondogs are the halo-like coronae that appear around the moon on particularly clear night skies. What this has to do with the singularly weird but entertaining novel "Moondogs" by Alexander Yates is still rather unclear to me, but it doesn't detract from my enjoyment of the story, much of which, like the title, kind of went over my head anyway.

First off, it's about The Phillipines. I've never been to the Phillipines, and, after reading this book, I doubt it will ever make it on my top ten places to visit list. It is, apparently, a place replete with a rich history, some of which reflects poorly on the United States.

The story begins with the kidnapping of an American businessman named Howard, who is the epitome of the Ugly American: fat, rich, disrespectful, and careless.

On the same day he is kidnapped, his estranged son Benicio arrives in Manila, in the hopes of repairing their broken relationship.

Meanwhile, the American ambassador to the Philipines, Monique, awakes one day to find that her husband and children have left. Surprisingly, it is not because she has been carrying on a steamy months-long affair with Reynato, a Filipino police detective with an almost celebrity-like status as a supercop.

In the '70s and '80s, an actor named Carlos played Reynato in a series of popular action films, and now Carlos is running for Senate.

Oh, and Reynato has been secretly putting together a death squad comprised of soldiers with supernatural powers, a commando unit he calls Ka-Pow.

I know this sounds like a weird Filipino soap opera/peyote vision a la David Lynch's "Twin Peaks", and it certainly has that feel at times. It's also a pretty suspenseful thriller, a hard-boiled crime drama, a rollicking fantasy-comedy, and a not-so-flattering travelogue of the Philipines.

Yates writes well, and while his inspiration clearly emanates from the novels of Thomas Pynchon and Tom Robbins, he has his own unique voice. I think this is Yates's debut novel (don't quote me on that), which, if true, is pretty damned impressive.

---

### **Melisa says**

Found the book difficult to get through. Even though later in the book the story got more life. It's a book that illustrates life, the good, the bad and the ugly!

---

## Felice says

Moondogs is a terrific novel. It's the kind of book that brings desperate elements together in an unusual location (for me) in a surprisingly off kilter way. There's a grieving son, an estranged Father, soldiers with wizard-y superpowers, a local celebrity hero cop who has inspired a series of over the top action movies, adulterous embassy employees, a meth-addicted cab driver, a smoking rooster, a prostitute and a actor with political ambitions. All these characters come together in the Philippines when the estranged Father is kidnapped by wannabe terrorists before he can reunite with the grieving son.

Too many years of retail and visits from sales reps have me aching to tell you that Moondogs is blank meets blank. Not because this novel is a mish-mash of the creativity of others but because it is so original that referencing Moondogs to even the smallest similarities in other works would give you a better idea of what to expect when you read it than my tiny mind can produce. This is a twenty first century screwball comedy. The situations are realistic enough to make you appreciate the humanity in the story but at the same time so broad that the humor and almost Tall Tale qualities carry you along on a very enjoyable ride.

Moondogs author Alexander Yates gets a big round of applause for this his first novel. He has balanced the unsavory with the farcical in this novel like a pro. His writing is crisp and colorful and his story is inventive and well paced. Adventure and comedy may jump off the page in Moondogs but not at the expense of a heartfelt Father Son story.

---

## Judy says

This was a very different book which touched on many genres in the fiction realm; including action, paranormal and suspense. There was a long list of very complex characters, many of whom were corrupt, immoral and dishonest people. I had a hard time finding characters that I really liked, because most of them were so flawed.

The story focuses around Benicio Bridgewater who is traveling to the Philippines to visit his estranged father, Howard, with whom he is trying to reestablish a relationship. Benicio is a likeable enough character who has fought his own demons over the years mostly because of relationship problems with his own parents. Before Benicio arrives in Manila, his father is kidnapped. The ensuing action in the story focuses on recovering Howard, the complexities of the relationship between Benicio and his father, and the sub-plots that the other supporting characters create in the action related to those events. All in all, it was an interesting and well-written book.

Thank you Goodreads First-Reads and Doubleday Publishing for the gift of this book. I look forward to following this author in the future.

---