



## Moonlight Falls

*Vincent Zandri*

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In MOONLIGHT FALLS, novelist and photo journalist Vincent Zandri asks the question "If you knew your life could end at any moment, how far would you go to prove you murdered your lover? " Albany, New York, is the setting of Zandri's paranoid thriller (in the Hitchcock tradition) about Richard "Dick" Moonlight, former APD detective turned private investigator/massage therapist, who believes he killed Scarlet Montana - his illicit lover and wife of his ex-boss, Chief of Detectives Jake Montana. The problem is ... Moonlight doesn't remember what happened!

## **Moonlight Falls Details**

Date : Published July 17th 2013 by StoneGate Ink (first published November 20th 2009)

ISBN : 9781624820670

Author : Vincent Zandri

Format : Paperback 388 pages

Genre : Mystery, Thriller, Fiction, Suspense

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## From Reader Review Moonlight Falls for online ebook

### Vincent Zandri says

From the Cajun Book Lady Review Blog ([http://thecajunbooklady.blogspot.com/...](http://thecajunbooklady.blogspot.com/)

My Review:

Let me start off by saying I'm now a fan of Vincent!

I loved this book for so many reasons but I'll start with the main character Moonlight. He was such a well built character that no matter what dastardly deed he did in the story, I found myself still rooting for him.

Now "Moonlight Falls" is categorized as a thriller but I definitely think it can fit into other genres too.

There were so many plot twists and turns that Vincent Zandri keeps you on your toes! Murder, dirty cops, affairs, you name it and this book has it.

Now this was a great thing for me...most of the time I can figure out the killer about halfway through the book but this one kept me guessing till the end...you wouldn't believe who started it all!

I'll give it five stars and say that thriller and suspense fans should check it out!

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### Gigi Ann says

The first thing I need to say in defense of this book.... is that I am not a fan of the thriller/suspense genre.

Albany, New York, is the setting of this paranoid thriller about Richard "Dick" Moonlight, former Albany Police Detective turned private investigator and massage therapist. One of his clients, Scarlet Montana, who is also his illicit lover and wife of his ex-boss, Chief of Detectives Jake Montana, is found murdered. The problem is ... Moonlight doesn't remember what happened because he's got a small fragment of a .22 hollow point round buried inside his brain, lodge directly up against his cerebral cortex. (of which got very tiresome being reminded of it over and over and over all the way throughout the story) It's the result of a botched suicide attempt four years prior to the novel's start, and an operation to remove the bullet fragment would be too dangerous.

But the bullet causes Moonlight lots of problems, the least of which are the occasional memory loss and his rational ability to tell right from wrong...which I must say again, that memory thing got tiresome being reminded of that over and over again and again throughout the story. Where were the editors of this book, were they asleep on the job? Or did they have memory loss also?

I think it goes without saying, but I'll say it anyway, I did not enjoy this book I thought it would never end! But finally I cried "Yippee, The End!!! Not a favorite read of mine, therefore, I awarded it 2\*\*

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### **Maicie says**

I'm reading this for a group monthly read. The author graciously sent this book to me free! Can't wait to start it.

Great mystery/thriller with 1,001 twists. If you can guess 'who done it' then you must have peeked at the last page.

Looking forward to discussing this with the group.

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### **Susan (aka Just My Op) says**

Dick Moonlight is a washed-up ex-police officer who blames memory lapses and bad decisions on a chunk of bullet in his brain. Divorced and broke, he is an almost-licensed massage therapist who moonlights as an investigator for the police department that he used to work for. He rubber-stamps whatever his former boss asks him to investigate without looking at anything too closely, all for a little under-the-table money. Bad Dick, can't you see that's going to come back to bite you sometime, somehow? Continuing in the bad decision area, he was having an affair with a lovely, troubled woman who is married to...yep, you've got it. And his ex-wife is now married to his ex-partner. So guess who ends up dead and guess who did it. The problem is Moonlight can't be sure that he didn't commit murder – that pesky little chunk of metal in his brain again – and there are lots of people out to prove he's the bad guy. Maybe they're right. Halfway through the book, there is another creepy little discovery. Hmm, I didn't see that coming. And worms, worms keep cropping up.

This book kept me entertained to the end, and had enough twists and misdirections to keep me on my toes. It could have used a little bit more editing, and there were too many references to that chunk of bullet. Overall, it was a very enjoyable mystery and I'm certainly going to read more by this author. Thank you to Mr. Zandri for providing a copy of the book.

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### **Grace says**

I'm torn. I enjoyed reading the book. It is engaging, entertaining, and has so much going on that it is easy to get caught up in the suspense and the action. It is a quick read and the language is easily accessible, although I would argue it is too accessible that it reads like an elementary school reader with swear words. Author Vincent Zandri weaved the elements of good suspense fiction together to create a solid and plausible story. I could easily see Zandri's novel translate well to the big screen should a film company decide to purchase the movie rights.

The book follows Richard Moonlight, part-time cop/part-time massage therapist with a piece of a bullet lodged in his brain after a botched suicide attempt, as he discovers his mistress, Scarlett Montana, has been murdered, even though her husband Jake says it is a suicide. He is called in and paid off the books to push through the paperwork saying it is a suicide. The plot thickens and Moonlight finds himself the prime suspect in her murder. The rest of the story unfolds as Moonlight works to determine Scarlett's real cause of death and clear his name.

Sounds like a good read, right? It should have been, but there are two aspects of the book that bothered me so much that they overshadowed my enjoyment for the story itself:

1. The writing. Zandri's writing style is incredibly simplistic. The story often read like an elementary school story, but with lots of swear words, murders, and sexual acts. In an effort to bulk up the writing, Zandri repeats himself, constantly 'info dumping' the same information over and over and over again. Yes, I get it. Richard's ex-partner married his ex-wife. Richard drives his father's old hearse. Those are just two examples. He did it in paragraphs of descriptions and even had the characters repeat these details over and over and over again. Annoying, to put it mildly.
2. The location of the story. I am from the Albany, NY area. If an author is going to use a real place to set his/her story, either go all or nothing. All geographical and cultural references must be correct or all completely made up with just a real city's name attached to them. It irks me to no end to read a story set in my area that is only partially geographically and culturally correct, especially when the author himself has roots in the area. There is no Albany Civic Center. Albany County Correctional is by the airport, not across the river because then it would be in another county. And this area does not have Stop and Shops and 711's.

If that type of writing style appeals to you and you couldn't care less about the geographic and cultural accuracy of the setting, this is an excellent suspense thriller to read. The story will keep you reading until there are no more pages left to read.

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### **Jennifer says**

Directly from my blog:[return][return]Moonlight Falls is a masterfully written mystery novel filled with plenty of twists, turns, and double crosses to keep any mystery and thriller buff satisfied. Four years prior, Moonlight attempted to kill himself, which resulted in a fragment of a bullet left lodged in his brain, seizures and blackouts. He is called in to consult with the police on the suicide of the police chief's wife. A few problems immediately present themselves to Moonlight. He was with Scarlet prior to her alleged suicide and he has absolutely no recollection of how he received abrasions and blood on his hands. As he is taken to the crime scene, Moonlight is merely there to casually look around and sign off Scarlet's death as a suicide. However, Moonlight cannot and will not rule her death a suicide and orders an autopsy of the police chief's wife. Suddenly Moonlight finds himself being set up, not only for Scarlet's murder, but also for arson and homicide. What has frightened the police, especially Moonlight's old partner, to make them go to extraordinary lengths to tie him to the death of Scarlet? Moonlight finds that amidst his interrogations by the FBI, the whole ordeal is generating more questions than answers on the question of why he is suddenly the focus of the homicide investigation. Moonlight Falls is an excellently written novel that will keep the reader engaged from beginning to end trying to fit all the pieces together.

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### **Patty says**

I knew I was in for a wild ride when I saw that there was a character named "Scarlet Montana." Is that not a crazy name?

The book took me a little bit to get into it's rythym; while it takes place in modern times it has a very 40ies noir feel. But once I did, I loved it. It just made you feel like you were in the company of Wrigleys chewing gumshoes and well dressed dames. Short chapters, very staccato.

Dick Moonlight is a private, off the books investigator for the Albany Police Department. He used to BE an officer but that was before a failed suicide attempt that left him with a fragment of a bullet in his brain that could shift at any time and kill him. It leaves him with seizures and memory blackouts.

Scarlet Montana is the wife of Moonlight's ex-boss, the Chief of Detectives, Jake Montana (another great name). Moonlight and Scarlet are having an affair. Further interpersonal relations within the Albany Police Department have Moonlight's ex-wife married to his ex-partner, . It seemed a very incestuous police department!

When Scarlet shows up dead - as a suicide - he is called in as an investigator to rubber stamp that determination. But he decided to REALLY investigate. This is when his world starts to spin out of his control. You see, she dies the same night Moonlight had been over for a visit. The same night her husband came home unexpectedly early and Moonlight had to leave out a window. The same night he had a seizure and he doesn't remember all that went on. Nor does he know why Jake and his ex partner are so insistent on his doing the investigation.

So what DID happen that night?

What does Moonlight learn?

Did Scarlet kill herself?

What is Jake Montana up to?

I'm not going to tell.

I'm just going to tell you that it was a great read full of interesting and well developed characters. The style is different, yet engrossing.

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### **Kristina says**

Let me start off by saying I'm now a fan of Vincent!

I loved this book for so many reasons but I'll start with the main character Moonlight. He was such a well built character that no matter what dastardly deed he did in the story, I found myself still rooting for him.

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### **Christine says**

Richard Moonlight is the kind of character that you know is going to find trouble. So when he wakes up and his hands are covered in blood and his lover, Scarlet Montana, is dead, he knows that he is having not an ordinary day. His life hasn't been quite the same since he tried to kill himself and the bullet left in his brain wreaks havoc on his memory and his behavior. Vincent Zandri does an excellent job of creating a crazy cast of characters to go along with this thrilling whodunit detective story. The novel is full of surprises and plot twists that keep the pages turning.

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### **Andrew Gregory says**

Vince Zandri has written a cinematic, well paced, and engrossing crime noir forensic mystery, set in the dreary early spring environ of Albany, NY. The book unfolds like a screenplay, as we follow former police detective Richard Moonlight's pursuit of the truth behind the unexpected death of gorgeous and moody femme fatale, Scarlett Montana.

Perhaps a suicide, quite possibly homicide, she has ensnared lovers, friends, and acquaintances into a compromising, dangerous, and deadly situation. As other characters and subplots are introduced – each engaged in their own way with her death – they unveil a conspiracy that only her dead body can untangle.

Moonlight's insistence in following police procedure on the case – if only to discover that he himself may have murdered his lover – starts a chain of events that aren't resolved until the stunning last pages.

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### **Sheila says**

I really liked this book although I never ever really knew what was going on throughout it. Det. Dick Moonlight never ever seemed to know either. Due to a head injury he was never sure whether something had really taken place the way he thought or not. He is a sympathetic protagonist most of the time but I always felt very sad for him and hoped somehow he would find happiness in the end. This was a good read in the mystery noir genre.

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### **Janice says**

I appreciated the opportunity to read this book, thanks to the author, Vincent Zandri donating several copies for a Group Read; thanks Vince!!!

I grew to like the main character in this book more and more as the story progressed, and he seemed to be growing in complexity. By the end I was really rooting for him, and the story held my interest. This is definitely a fast-paced action book, and I liked the structure used, with very short chapters, which lends itself to this kind of action, moving quickly from one adventure/misadventure to another. But even with the many escapades that befall Richard Moonlight, some of his own making and some not, there is little sense of anticipation or foreboding developed by the author. It is kind of like a mad roller coaster ride, but without

any stomach dropping, fun bursts of fear. What is also lacking for me, and this is just my own personal preference in the books I read, is more reflection and insight by the characters. I think the process of looking at things in a little less superficial way was starting for Richard Moonlight near the end, and made the book more engaging for me. Thanks, again, Vince, I think you have great potential as an author, best of luck on this and future books.

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### **Sheri says**

Moonlight Falls (Vincent Zandri)

Thrilling suspense novel. Richard "Dick" Moonlight is an ex-cop now private detective/massage therapist. He gets involved with his ex-boss, Chief of Detectives Jake Montana's wife. He barely makes it out the window of Scarlet Montana's bedroom when she ends up dead. Police are calling it a suicide, but some think homicide and Moonlight is the number one suspect, but did he do it? He questions himself.

What happened four years before affects Moonlight's thinking, he is literally a time-bomb and can die at any time, especially if stressed. He goes on a mission with the aide of his late father's friends George, a coroner and try to solve this murder. Richard, not new to dead bodies, since his father's business was a funeral parlor, starts to find more bodies turning up in the morgue. He may be the next one in a body bag.

Fast paced, page turner. A definite all night read.

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### **Theresa says**

When any book boasts that it is written in the Hitchcock tradition, it automatically causes me to put some large demands on the story, even before I open the book. "Moonlight Falls" met those expectations and then some! What a brilliant and masterfully written novel.

I thoroughly enjoyed Detective Moonlight's quirkiness. With a bullet lodged in the brain, I was never really sure if he had a total grasp of things. He was not perfect, and that made him a character I could really like, but could also make me second guess myself in my conclusions about him.

The storyline was fantastic and had me guessing all the way through. Yes, I did figure some of it out, but not all. The twists and turns were exciting, and then ending - well I never saw it coming!

Bravo to Mr. Zandri! His novel kept me on the edge of my seat and made it almost impossible to put down. I'm really looking forward to seeing more of Detective Moonlight and hope that a series will be on the horizon for this character. Mr. Zandri is definitely an author that I will be keeping on my watch list. He's fresh, exciting, and downright captivating!

Parental note: Some offensive language, sexual content, violence

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## **Dustin Crazy little brown owl says**

This book is Insane! With each chapter, it's always a surprise. The book is entertaining, but I'm going to be honest - the writing style/story was a struggle for me. There is some crazy stuff going on such as: an albino man stalker and stolen corpses - so much that it's not really a believable tale, but I thought it wrapped up nicely. I know there is a sequel planned tentatively titled "Moonlight Rises".

Moonlight Falls was featured as a May 2010 group read in the Stephen White-Alan Gregory group (a group I proudly moderate :-) I'm grateful to the author for giving our group copies of his book to read. Vincent Zandri is an active goodreads author and his newest book is The Ramains.

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