



## Moonchild

*Aleister Crowley*

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## **Moonchild** Aleister Crowley

A year or so before the beginning of World War I, a young woman named Lisa la Giuffria is seduced by a white magician, Cyril Grey, and persuaded into helping him in a magical battle with a black magician and his black lodge. Grey is attempting to raise the level of his force by impregnating the girl with the soul of an ethereal being — the moonchild. To achieve this, she will have to be kept in a secluded environment, and many preparatory magical rituals will be carried out. The black magician Douglas is bent on destroying Grey's plan. However, Grey's ultimate motives may not be what they appear. The moonchild rituals are carried out in southern Italy, but the occult organizations are based in Paris and England. At the end of the book, the war breaks out, and the white magicians support the Allies, while the black magicians support the Central Powers.

## **Moonchild Details**

Date : Published January 2nd 2018 by anna ruggieri (first published 1929)

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Author : Aleister Crowley

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# From Reader Review Moonchild for online ebook

## David Hambling says

Sharp, witty and satirical take on the world of feuding magicians in the age of the Golden Dawn, as thinly-disguised versions of Crowley's friends and foes battle it out at the start of the 20th century. Bonus star for his cynical, perceptive wit, and another for the completely unexpected direction taken by the plot. Whatever you might think about Crowley, who was clearly a master manipulator of the media, he wears his heart on this sleeve and he can clearly write far better than you might expect. Essential reading for anyone interested in the milieu.

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## Layo says

This guy is such an asshole. It's an interesting novel, but I want to strangle the author.

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## Clint says

This guy is such a dumbass. It's so bad I nearly pissed my pants. As if he didn't annoy the world so much with his dorky occult shit, he has to offend the world's good taste with this terrible literary endeavor. Oh man this book blows. A pathetic, fat, little-dicked wizard.

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## Lily says

The misogyny was too great, I abandoned it, very unusual for me.

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## Mirvan Ereon says

The book is well-written and engaging. I learned a lot in this book and the premise is very interesting. I think writing a novel to preach and teach some very good concepts and beliefs is a good way to let people know. This book reminds me of Sophie's World.

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## Tra-Kay says

This book makes two things clear: one, that Crowley was an intensely brilliant man, a genius in fact; and two, that ordinary intellectual pursuits such as mathematics, literature, or science were not enough to satisfy him, and therefore he created fantastic justifications for the existence of supernatural phenomena.

I don't mean that he is wrong to say that firmly stating "magick" does not exist is foolish, since of course we

have no evidence to the contrary...but I don't believe that he truly managed magick. This novel is a living-out of his desire to have done so, with Cyril taking the role of himself. It jumps back and forth, probably in equal amounts, between the "story" and practically bitter sermons concerning magick, psychology, science, etc. It's no wonder that people find it difficult to read. It is halfway between near-unfathomable wisdom and erudite ejaculation, by turns ridiculous and deeply thought-provoking.

This book is very flawed, but it's also very unique, and, for me, illuminates the concept that we know absolutely nothing and that there are entire worlds and ways of being beyond our ken. I think reading this sort of thing is a good idea...shake up what you think you know, and strengthen your defenses against very eloquent bullshit.

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### **Aaron Meyer says**

I read this book many, many years ago and thought it was a fair book back then. But upon rereading it recently I have found that there is just so much more to the book than my first reading. Of course I have had over the last couple decades been able to read much more about Crowley and his exploits and the Golden Dawn and its people who were in it and I would highly recommend reading a great deal more about all of these folks before reading Moonchild. Having done that the book definitely becomes more enlightening and explains Crowley's attitude to its members which are played out in this book. I mean this book had me in falling out of the chair when he started in on Arthwaite because I could readily agree with him in his thoughts after reading Arthur Waite's books. And his depiction of Mathers is just as funny. A good read, just do the prep and you will enjoy it more.

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### **bitmaid says**

The whole reason I read this book is because the word "moonchild" literally popped into my head the other day and I wondered if it could be the title of a book. And turns out it is! What's weirder, this is the type of stuff I really enjoy but have a hard time to find! I love the cover, too, by the way. What an amazing cover.

When I first started reading it and saw the first chapter is called "A Chinese God" I thought, this is not what I was expecting at all. And I continued questioning this all the way to one-third of the book. The beginning was pretty corny (so was the language, actually, but it got good) and the plot was pretty trite at first. But I'm glad that I kept reading. By 40% of the book it's exactly what I expected. But it's weird to me how the author started talking about WWI mumbo jumbo by the end of it, maybe he wants to surprise us and add another layer to the story to enrich it, but it doesn't work if you ask me. The book is better off without the politics bullshit.

Now, I have enjoyed this book, and what I love the most about it is the prose. Thoughtful prose is hard to come by when it comes to modern authors, and I have to applaud for the effort. It is clear that Crowley likes big concepts and sophistication, two things not only unique to some authors but also to almost all occultists, as I later found out. This is definitely the most cultish book I have ever read, and it's written by someone who founded a religion! But "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law" - isn't that Satanism?

Anyways, I'm rambling. This is a really good book minus the chaotic ending, and I'm thinking it can probably benefit from the absence of some other things as well. But this would mean shaking the foundation

of the book, and the author's religion. What I find these cults have in common, right, is that they are trying very hard to be cosmic. That explains a lot of things: why they are always trying to involve everything- the crazy symbolisms, the numerous references to mythological creatures, culture appropriation, and worst of all- science, I mean, astrophysics, chemistry, maths, all of it! Mr. Crowley tried so hard to show that he's a learned man and the philosophy of his religion affect man and god and the past and the future, but shit's bound to backfire when you don't know what you are saying.

The author spent a great deal talking about the dimensions but he couldn't go beyond the fourth. And he claimed the fourth dimension is the soul. I mean, he was pretty serious and trying to explain it in a matter-of-fact, scientific way and the book is full of him injecting spirituality into everywhere it doesn't belong. Like every cult ever.

Then there was something like this:

"Let me ask you, in the first place, what is the most serious thing in the world."

"Religion."

"Exactly. Now, what is religion? The consummation of the soul by itself in divine ecstasy. What is life but love, and what is love but laughter?"

This non sequitur logic is exemplary!

Then he went on saying that "electrons are quite as elusive as ghosts". I mean, I get that electrons must be pretty rad 100 years ago and it's pretty rad to use it in your book explaining your high concept, but this goes to show that you should really have a good understanding of the material.

So these are the things that bothered me and I feel justified to give it a 4. But I'm almost cherrypicking here. You can't take cults too seriously. This is still a good book.

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## Marz says

i think i liked this book a lot though i was in a different head and heart space then so can't retrospectively give an accurate review.

the time of life was very spiritual and occultly and synchronistic.

this book reminds me of 2 things:

1. brea gable - my good friend in college my first year. she was an exchange student from new mexico. she was an angel and into crowley.
2. moonchild was the name of the childlike empress in the neverending story, which i never realized till i read this book.
3. ... not telling, but moon child hit me hard.
4. iris deanda - i love you still. since i know how to find you i declare:: let's find brea. BREA GABLE where oh where can you be???

another book i'd like to read again.... someday

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## Nicole Diamond says

If it has one star I liked it a lot  
If it has two stars I liked it a lot and would recommend it  
If it has three stars I really really liked it a lot  
If it has four stars I insist you read it  
If it has five stars it was life changing

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## Scott Stankowitz says

Not much of a novel, but intriguing nonetheless.

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## Nick says

very difficult to follow sometimes because of crowley's intense magic theories, but rewarding for the glimpses of deeper meaning that pop up occasionally.

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## Isen says

I do not know a man more in love with himself than Aleister Crowley. Putting a self insert into a book is egotistic enough, but Crowley felt he needed two. One of them is an idealised Mary Sue, strong, charming, intelligent, ten steps ahead of his opponents. The other one is even better. And not even tangentially related to the plot. Oh yes, there's a plot in this book, about a gang of magicians trying to give birth to a Moonchild, except at the end they're not, but the book is not really about that. It's about how Crowley trumps his enemies, surpasses all opposition, and single handedly wins WW1. In between this we are treated to dialogues about spiritual and social philosophy that will draw a "whoah" from a 15 year old pothead and no one else.

As far as redeeming features go, Crowley writes with humour which, while mostly overdone, is occasionally spot on.

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## Dfordoom says

A novel by the Great Beast himself, the “wickedest man in the world”. I’m told it helps a great deal if you have some familiarity with Crowley’s magical system (about which I confess I know very little), but *Moonchild* is still surprisingly entertaining. It tells the story of a magical operation to secure the influence of the moon on the birth of a child who is to become a great redeemer and spiritual being. The white magicians trying to bring this about find themselves in conflict with black magicians. Crowley’s prose is witty and wickedly satirical. Most of the characters are portraits (and generally very unflattering ones) of prominent people involved in the occult in the early part of the 20th century, including the poet W. B. Yeats. The novel was in fact written as an attempt by Crowley to disseminate his magical theories to a wider audience. It was

written in 1917 but not published until 1929. For those who are interested in Crowley (who was certainly an extraordinary character), or the history of magic in modern times, it's essential reading.

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### **Jesse Toldness says**

Well. Its a whole lot of Crowley. Crowley the showman, crowley the charmer and.. of course, Crowley the narcissist. Its charming, old-fashioned, florid, descriptive prose, the kind they don't do anymore. He gets away with long, meandering, philosophical digressions that you just can't get away with in the terse, efficient world of the 21st Century. Of course, he also spends a fair bit of time telling us, more than showing, although he also does a fair bit of that as well, how his own personal 'Marty Stu' Cyril Gray is just sooooo much better than everyone. He even has his other stand-in, Simon Iff, his detective character, fawn over Cyril/Aleister a bit. Also, talking up his Thelema. His contempt for women as actual people is pretty close to the surface as well, but I don't know if I man of the teens/twenties can actually be blamed for that. That was how society saw them as well.

Judged as a standard novel, its a bit poor, the prose is good but the plotting is thin to inconsistent and the characters are broadly-drawn cartoons. His strong points are the sweeping, lush descriptions of things and the believers' care with which he really gives his magickal rituals and encounters, which really do give the impression of the dream-like and otherworldly.

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