



The Descartes Highlands

Eric Gamalinda

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One of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer's* Top 10 Books of 2014

A **NewPages** Book Stand Editor's Pick

"Darkly spellbinding...With a keen eye for splendor amid the grotesque, Gamalinda writes with a poet's heart and a philosopher's mind, while enthralling readers with emotional, gritty storytelling."

--**Booklist**

"A mesmerizing story full of mystery...intricate...beautiful writing."

--**Publishers Weekly**

"It's Gamalinda's best and most accessible novel yet, deserving to be read by as many people as possible."

--**Philippine Daily Inquirer**

"It felt so easy to get swept up in this novel. The language is beautiful....a beautifully written book."

--**NewPages**

"The wait for Gamalinda's first US based publication was well worth [it]...An indispensable, powerful portrayal of broken families trapped in the centripetal forces of transnational capital and postcolonial politics."

--**Asian American Literature Fans**

"I recommend this book to those with large, giving hearts, who can afford to spend the emotional capital demanded here."

--**Basso Profundo**

"*The Descartes Highlands* is a psychologically taut drama that unravels right in front of you...I guarantee that you will be richly rewarded."

--**Zachary Mule**

"Behind Eric Gamalinda's jagged, ice-pick prose is an urgent need to connect and to understand. Are we more than the sum of our histories? What is this accident of being? Why is there anything at all? Written at the edge of a sinkhole and determined to resist its pull, *The Descartes Highlands* is about nothing less than the whole bewildering dream that is human consciousness."

--**David Hollander**, author of *L.I.E.*

"No one writes like Eric Gamalinda, though we wish we all could. *The Descartes Highlands*, an amazing work of brutal candor girded by a philosopher's calm, entwines our present despair with the horrific pasts we will not escape. One of the most dazzling novelists writing in America today, Eric Gamalinda has an almost classical Greek faith in the redemptive power of art. This novel delivers a commitment to beauty as unflinching as the bleak truths it tells--about globalization, about colonialism, about our human madness--offering in turn what seems our only, paradoxical hope: the pained telling of our story--a gorgeous and bitter feast."

--**Gina Apostol**, author of *Gun Dealers' Daughter*

Two men, each unaware of the other, share a common family secret: they were sold for adoption by their American father shortly after their births in the Philippines. Three alternating stories interweave the experiences of father Andrew Breszky and the two sons who try to connect and piece together the puzzle of their reckless, impulsive father. One lives in New York and the other grows up in the south of France, later traveling all over Asia as a documentary filmmaker. Both will discover that their relationships somehow echo that of the young man whose history eludes them.

Celebrated Filipino writer Eric Gamalinda's international debut novel is a contemporary work of ideas that combines mystery, film noir, and existential philosophy. Highly intricate and written in a style reminiscent of the maverick narrative techniques of such filmmakers as Andrei Tarkovsky and Béla Tarr, and with some of the philosophical underpinnings of Michel Houellebecq or Javier Marías. Named after the region of the moon where *Apollo 16* landed in the same year these men were born, *The Descartes Highlands* demonstrates that for lives marked by unrelieved loneliness, the only hope lies in the redemptive power of love.

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Michael Watkins:

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also work as a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of e-book you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want truly feel happy read one together with theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The The Descartes Highlands is kind of reserve which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Glenn Bail:

People live in this new time of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the free time or they will get wide range of stress from both way of life and work. So , when we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not really a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer can unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading ebooks. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, often the book you have read is definitely The Descartes Highlands.

Stella Keith:

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