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Bangkok Babylon: The Real-Life Exploits of Bangkok's Legendary Expatriates are often Stranger than Fiction

Jerry Hopkins

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#266048 in Books 2009-09-10 2009-09-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .60 x 5.131, .48 #File Name: 0804840776224 pages | File size: 64.Mb

Jerry Hopkins : Bangkok Babylon: The Real-Life Exploits of Bangkok's Legendary Expatriates are often Stranger than Fiction before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bangkok Babylon: The Real-Life Exploits of Bangkok's Legendary Expatriates are often Stranger than Fiction:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. DAMN ENTERTAININGBy Joseph H. RaceWhat a wonderful, refreshing book about life in Thailand. I've only been there twice, and each time, I do believe I've met some of the characters in Hopkins' book. It almost seems like you're on the next barstool or taking a walk on the beach with the author. He's a natural raconteur, and tells a interesting series of 25 tales about the folks that he's met there, and those that have built long-term reputations. I also like how he displays empathy for the bargirls and for the poor people in general, with everyone trying to survive the best they can. An excellent review of Asian haps and it's great for starting conversations with some of the Asia hands/ex-pats. A good read - I liked it. Looking forward to another series of stories and exploits. Mai pen rai!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very good book, easy readBy Francis ColemanVery good book, easy read! The characters presented in this book are interesting and it shows how ingenuity leads to survival in any situation. Makes you want to travel and have a beer with this guys! Worth the price of admission. I'll be checking the writer's other titles.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Easy reading of a jumble of varied characters known by ...By vamczEasy reading of a jumble of varied characters known by Hopkins. Parts of this book are somewhat repeated from Thailand Confidential. It did get old after a point. Hopkins also has quite a fetish for the young bar girls of Thailand, as do many of his friends.

In the colorful tradition of Orwell and Hemingway, Maugham and Theroux, Jerry Hopkins recalls his first decade as a Bangkok expatriate by profiling twenty-five of the city's most unforgettable characters. Among them are the man thought to be the model for Colonel Kurtz in *Apocalypse Now*, an advertising executive who photographs Thai bargirls for *Playboy*, an Oscar-winning screenwriter who moved there to die, a Catholic priest who has lived and worked in the Bangkok slums for 35 years, a circus dwarf turned computer programmer turned restaurateur, three Vietnam war helicopter pilots who opened a go-go bar, a pianist at one of the world's best hotels who ended up on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list, a gem dealer who smuggles antiquities from Burma and Cambodia, a detective who tracks runaways who fake their deaths, and a documentary filmmaker who lives with elephants. All of them "escaped" to Thailand to re-invent themselves and live out their fantasies in one of the world's most notorious cities.

About the AuthorJerry Hopkins has published best-selling biographies of Elvis Presley, Jim Morrison and Jimi Hendrix and was an editor and correspondent for *Rolling Stone* for 20 years.