



Bangkok Babylon

Jerry Hopkins

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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.

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