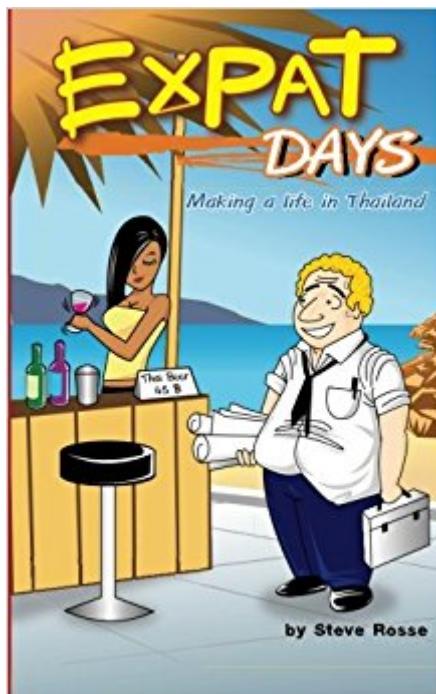


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Expat Days: Making A Life In Thailand



Synopsis

A perceptive insight of expat life in Thailand, with a pleasing blend of humour and shrewd comment. Read stories that shed light on a place that millions of tourists every year find fascinating, puzzling, and infuriating.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In 1988 Steve Rosse took a break from a career in the New York City film and television industry for a three-month holiday on Phuket, an island off the Western coast of Thailand in the Andaman Sea. He decided he liked Phuket more than he liked New York, and without any idea of what he'd do for a living, he took up residence on the island. He supported himself, and eventually his wife and children, for most of the next decade as a freelance journalist and columnist. His column, "The Rock", appeared in The Nation, Thailand's Independent Newspaper, every Sunday for five years. The stories in this book first appeared in publications around the Pacific Rim, from Honolulu to Christchurch. In 1997 he quit writing and moved to Iowa for the surfing.

I gave it a go. It is what it appears to be.....for men.I managed to make it through the book.

This was a very interesting collection. The writing is strong and comfortable at the same time. Not only was it an enjoyable read, but I learned a LOT from this book. It led me to seek out more from this writer and I haven't been disappointed yet. As a former journalist, I appreciate the way Rosse is able to blend journalistic elements with elements we associate with fiction. A very conversational tone. I definitely recommend this book.

Steve Rosse has spent many decades perfecting the craft of writing. No argument there. The problem I have with this book is that I find the writing somewhat craven. Too much pandering to the Thais with superficial criticism that is supposed to be read lightly and found amusing. More hilarious, though, is the author's lack of self-awareness and lack of depth given to his subject (the way Thais treat farang). This book will go down well with many foreigners who deal with Thai ways by asking no questions and enjoying the superficial charm of its women. For others, who like more depth to their life, a rather irritating collection of columns.

The interconnectedness of the stories in this collection invites us to glimpse into the life of a man who was, at that time, the only full-time white Caucasian journalist on the Island of Phuket. We witness the embarrassing moments when Steve Rosse was first introduced to his Thai wife's family, we learn about the profound influence that his son and, later on, his daughter had on him, we read about the ups and down of having to share a home with a woman who comes from a totally different background, and find out about the usual antics that foreigners who have lived in Thailand for some years generally engage in. A sense of nostalgia picks up towards the second half of the book while a somewhat nihilistic tone imbues the latter stories. The plight of the prostitutes sold by their families to brothels, the locals' unforgiving attitude towards tourists, the ecological destruction that modernization brings about, and the loneliness of long-time expats who often wonder "What on Earth am I doing here in Thailand?" are only some of the themes that one can spot beneath Rosse's stimulating fiction.

Fun, informative, and insightful stories about life in the Land of Smiles. Steve Rosse is one of the best writers out of Thailand and once you pick this book up, you will finish it wanting more. Don't let the cover art put you off, this book is gold.

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