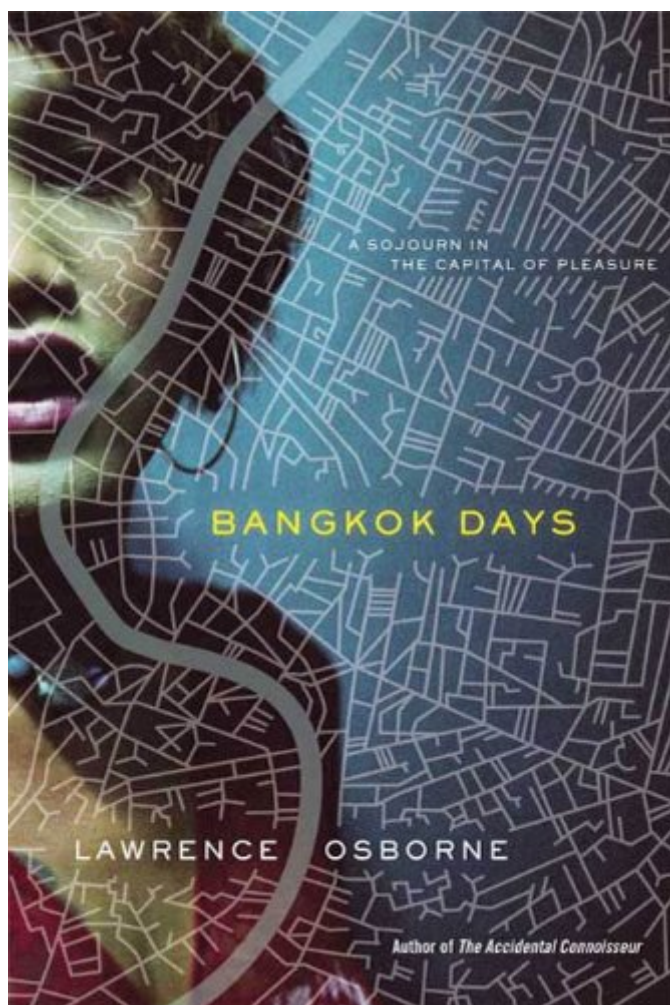


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# Bangkok Days: A Sojourn In The Capital Of Pleasure



## Synopsis

A PASSIONATE, AFFECTIONATE RECORD OF ADVENTURES AND MISADVENTURES IN THE WORLD'S HOTTEST METROPOLIS Tourists come to Bangkok for many reasons—•a sex change operation, a night with two prostitutes dressed as nuns, a stay in a luxury hotel. Lawrence Osborne comes for the cheap dentistry. Broke (but no longer in pain), he finds that he can live in Bangkok on a few dollars a day. And so the restless exile stays. Osborne's is a visceral experience of Bangkok, whether he's wandering the canals that fill the old city; dining at the No Hands Restaurant, where his waitress feeds him like a baby; or launching his own notably unsuccessful career as a gigolo. A guide without inhibitions, Osborne takes us to a feverish place where a strange blend of ancient Buddhist practice and new sexual mores has created a version of modernity only superficially indebted to the West. Bangkok Days is a love letter to the city that revived Osborne's faith in adventure and the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The author's language is rich and imaginative. This is a rather disjointed collection of travel diaries

which was a pleasure to delve into. There were at least a few insights worth highlighting for my future references.

Having spent 2012 in BKK, I found Mr. Osborne's experience / perspective of the city of Krungthep to lie consistently between 'reasonable' and 'spot on'. Dry, witty, understanding, non-judgmental, and definitely more for a Western reader (like me) who felt the profoundly high learning curve amid the daily 95 degree temps. Good writing, and good read, Mr. Osborne.[Side note: Anyone else who enjoyed this \*might\* also enjoy "Windup Girl"]

Excellent product, excellent seller

I visited Bangkok for the first time only weeks before reading this book, and really enjoyed following the adventures of Lawrence Osborne in a small underworld community of foreign transplants to Bangkok. It's a travelogue, and nothing too momentous happens, but the sights, sounds, impressions, are beautifully narrated. I particularly enjoyed the naked honesty and self-irony Osborne employs in describing some truly awkward moments. I laughed out loud many times, but also felt sad, engaged, and provoked at different times throughout this thoughtful story.

Took up this book after reading his fascinating tale of the gambling scene in Macao. Can't think of any other author writing about south east Asia in such detail and with such authenticity. There is a weak point to Bangkok Days in that it just sort of peters out at the end. If something was resolved I missed it. Another aspect is it is a singular tutorial on Asian religious beliefs

Through a weave of various stories, I received information about Bangkok and its interconnected streets and "citizens." I'm not sure if I liked the writing or the information I gathered since I am heading to Thailand.

Lawrence Osborne relates tales of his Bangkok days in short vignettes that take us to places the average tourist is not likely to see. The advantage of that is the glimpse we have of a different Bangkok; the disadvantage is that many of these places see no tourists for good reasons. They are not interesting, and neither is the telling of them. So I found myself skipping over much of Bangkok Days, and enjoying only segments of the story. (The trip to Hua Hin fascinates.) But for someone who has traveled frequently to Bangkok, my view is not his. For one, the company of women takes

up much of the story, the seedy side of the street gets fair notice. I did not see the drug epidemic that he writes of, but then, I don't travel in those circles. Osborne comes to the joy of the Chao Praya River only in the last pages, but for me it is the life of the city, with all the commerce leading one to imagine stories that a single individual can never master.

philosophical wanderings through the underworld of Bangkok, not bad overall

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