Living The Dream

Guy Lilburne
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I love Thailand. I always have. The country, the people and the ex-pats who live here. They inspire and motivate me. I like to sit in the bars and cafes around Pattaya and watch the world go by. That is when I had the idea to write ‘Living the Dream’. It has been an emotional roller coaster. I have laughed and I have cried. I have met some amazing people and listened to their stories. I have loved every minute of the journey.

As always I would like to thank my editor Burnie Sinclair and my good friend Jules Lee for proof reading and everything else that he helps me out with. I’d also like to thank Keith Callaghan for proof reading and let the world know that he has to take credit for the ‘Testicular cancer’ line in the book.

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Dedicated to my beautiful children, Sasha and Jack. I will love you always.
Chapter 1: Arriving in Thailand

Simon Smith had left England almost 20 hours earlier. When the Etihad Airways 747 touched down in Bangkok’s Survarnabumi Airport he glanced at his watch. It showed the time was 02:30am, but that was only because he hadn’t put his watch forward to cover the six hour time difference. He was tired, he needed a shave and he discreetly sniffed at his underarms. That confirmed he also smelled a bit, but he didn’t think he smelt too bad. He looked out of the window next to him as the aircraft taxied to a halt and various announcements were made to people making connecting flights. Simon was 47 years old. He was an out of work actor and it was his first time in Thailand. In the pocket of his cream coloured corduroy jacket he had his passport, a work visa and the documentation to prove he had a job at Pattaya’s 205FM Radio. He was about to start a new life in the ‘Land of Smiles’. He looked like an actor, even though it had been nearly a year since he last worked. His hair was long and blonde and tied in a ponytail at the back. He was wearing a white shirt open at the collar, with white slacks and shoes. He was tanned and good looking and in good shape for his age. He had the quiet confidence of a man who had made good money over the years from many modelling assignments, but his dream of becoming a famous actor was still an ongoing struggle. He didn’t scramble for his bag from the overhead locker like everyone else when the plane finally came to a stop. He was too cool to do that! He was the last person to leave the aircraft and he nodded and smiled warmly to the flight attendants as he exited and made his way to immigration and then baggage reclaim. It was bright and sunny outside, but the air conditioning kept the airport building cool. As he waited in line at immigration he adjusted his watch to the correct Thailand time. He expected some questions from immigration officials when it was his turn to stand at one of the many counters and look into the tiny camera held on the flexible coiled steel arm, but the pretty lady in the smart uniform just checked his paper work, smiled and stamped his passport. She told him in perfect English
that he would have to report at his local Immigration Office within the next 90 days. Simon smiled back at her, flashing his perfect white teeth. He decided that he liked Thailand already. He collected his suitcase from the carousel and walked out into the madhouse with heat and humidity that was Bangkok. He was suddenly surrounded by Thais offering him taxis, minibuses, hotels and money exchange deals. He took a green and yellow coloured taxi and handed the driver a piece of paper which had the name of a small hotel just off Soi Buakaow in Pattaya City.

Thailand looked very strange to Simon. It seemed to be all motorways and concrete pillars, flyovers and under passes. It seemed to Simon that the taxi driver made several U-turns and within minutes Simon had totally lost his bearing and his sense of direction. Huge billboards advertised famous international brands - Chelsea, Liverpool and Manchester United, had team photos advertising Thai beers. There were huge photos of the King of Thailand everywhere. It wasn’t the exotic, sexy place that he had read about! One motorway seemed to be tangled around several others, like concrete spaghetti. The taxi driver seemed to be heading towards somewhere called Chon Buri, but then Simon saw a sign which read Pattaya and he relaxed in his seat. He tried to make conversation with the driver, but was just met with smiles and nods, so he gave up. An hour and a half later the taxi turned off the motorway onto the Sukhumvit Road and he got his first glimpse of the city of Pattaya. It looked busy. There were many foreigners and beautiful Thai girls everywhere. They went towards a Big C superstore and the driver turned into Pattaya Tai and drove towards the beach. He made a right turn, then a left turn and stopped outside a very old and tired looking hotel that was sandwiched between bars, massage parlours and Seven Eleven shops. He saw thousands of sexily dressed Thai girls walking around with older foreigners. Even more girls were sitting around outside the shops and bars. Street food was being cooked and sold everywhere. He had never seen so many motorbikes in his life. It was busy and full of life and he was excited to be there. It occurred to him that
Guy Lilburne was a Policeman for 30 years and a Detective for the last 27 years of his service. He has worked in CID, Murder Squads, Drugs Squad, Vice Squad, Special Enquiries, and various Crime Squads. He has also worked in a specialist Covert Unit and in a Cold Case Review Squad. He has been writing for over twenty years. Author of the Best Selling books ‘My Thai Story’ and the Detective novels ‘The Thai Dragon’ & ‘The Kiss of the Dragon’, he has spent many weeks at the top of Booksmango’s best sellers list.

Guy Lilburne lives in Thailand and spends his time travelling and writing. His last blockbuster novel was ‘Thai Shorts’, a collection of short stories as only Guy Lilburne can tell them. Guy Lilburne really captures the taste of Thailand and whisks you along at a breath taking pace in the land of smiles.

Guy is currently working on three future books:

‘Death in Pattaya’ is the latest Danny O’Brien murder detective story. Danny is called in as a Special Advisor after a local bar girl has been found murdered and skinned. It is only the start of a complexed investigation that goes international.
‘Loving Life’ follows Gary Sloan and the rest of the gang in their continuing misadventures. This time they take over a holiday resort business. How can people get it all so wrong and yet it turns out so right!

‘The lost temple of Kanchanaburi’ follows the exploits of Steven West (from the book The Flower Girl) as he tries to make it in Thailand as a monk but love and a drug smuggler get in the way.

**Also by the author.**
- The Thai Dragon.
- My Thai Story.
- The Kiss of the Dragon.
- Cocktails & Dreams.
- The Flower Girl.
- Tika.
- Graham, Just one Shade!
- Snatched.
- Thai Shorts.
- My Thai Story II.
- Living the Dream.

Coming soon.
- Death in Pattaya, due out 2016.

Visit Guy Lilburne’s fan page on Facebook—The Thai Dragon
And don’t forget to visit The Sloan Square Bar on their Facebook page.