

Tall tales that tell all from Bangkok's Hemmingway

One of Thailand's most prolific novelists, Chris G Moore, has just released *Chairs*. The part memoir, part Thai-style funeral book uses short stories to explore a community of Bangkok-based freelance journalists working the frontlines of modern-day Southeast Asia and trying to understand what it means to be displaced in Thailand.

By weaving narrative juxtapositions between these freelancers, the Canadian author lays out an exciting pathway for readers populated by adventurers, body snatchers, executioners, dreamers, diplomats, mistresses, ghosts and war veterans.

Chris says this compilation of 16 short stories has an unusual structure, in which 14 of the stories mimic the layout of a Thai funeral book.

"I can remember early on going to a funeral and seeing these books being distributed. I can also remember a documentary shown at the FCCT about a young American who died in Thailand. How strange is it for someone to voluntarily stay and die in a land so far away from home," Chris says in an interview with *Big Chilli* magazine.

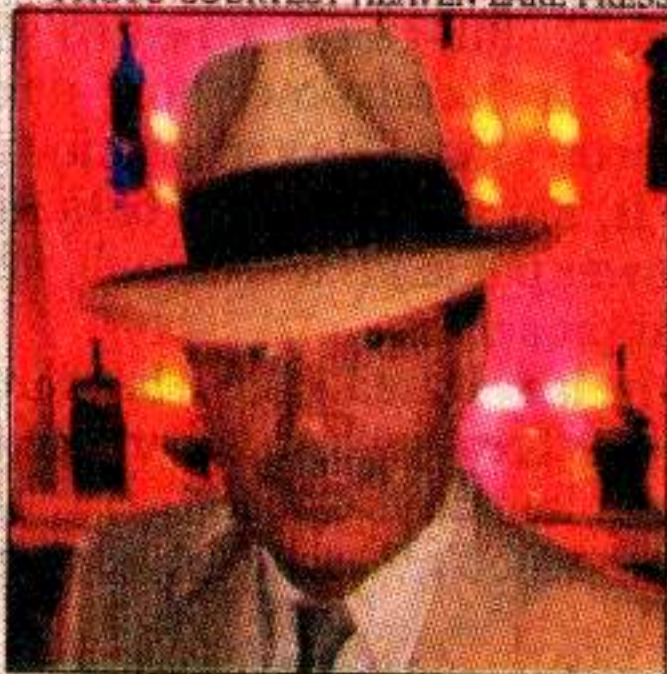
Dubbed "The Hemmingway of Bangkok" by the *Globe and Mail*, Chris is recognised for his take on expat life in Thailand, which he focuses on in many of his Bangkok-based crime novels.

His *God of Darkness* tells the story of a young American living inside a Thai-Chinese compound in Bangkok with his Thai girlfriend at the time of the economic collapse, while *The Killing Smile* delves into the seedier transactions between sex workers and their johns.

After a decade in Thailand, Moore doesn't foresee himself running out of inspiration for his stories.

"There is so much material in Thailand that one would need many lifetimes to scratch the surface. It'd be healthy if there were fifty fulltime writers writing in English in Thailand. At the moment, there are only a few of us, and that fact alone keeps us mainly invisible to the larger world," says the novelist.

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STORY TELLER:
Chris G Moore