



Spirit House

Christopher G. Moore

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In the nearly twenty years he has lived in Bangkok, Christopher G. Moore has written nine novels starring Vincent Calvino, a disbarred American lawyer working as a PI in the dark and steamy Thai capital.

Internationally acclaimed, the prizewinning novels have been translated into ten languages. Now Spirit House, the first novel in the series, will finally be published in North America.

A farang is dead and the Bangkok police have a confession the next morning from a young paint-thinner addict. He claims he killed Ben Hoadly, an expat Brit, but Calvino has his doubts when he sees heavy bruises on the kid's face. In no time Calvino is working both sides, out to find the killer for Hoadly's wealthy father, and eager to clear the addict's name for a beautiful friend who runs a charity in the slums. With the help of his best friend, Pratt, a Shakespearequoting Thai police colonel, and his loyal assistant, Ratana, Calvino plunges into the dangerous world of addicts, dealers, fortune tellers, inexpensive hit men, oversexed foreigners, and professional bar girls. Spirit House is a thrilling introduction to Vincent Calvino and Christopher G. Moore's Bangkok.

Spirit House Details

Date :

ISBN : 9789748669489

Author : Christopher G. Moore

Format :

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Crime, Cultural, Asia

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From Reader Review Spirit House for online ebook

Missmath144 says

This was my second Vince Calvino book. I just couldn't get into it. His writing confuses me at times. I don't know if it's a lack of continuity, a failure to make clear what the antecedents are for his pronouns, or just my ignorance, but I find it difficult to follow in places. I just slogged through it, hoping the ending would make up for it (but it didn't).

Rogue Reader says

Timothy Hallinan, author of the Poke Rafferty series, introduced me to Thai crime fiction and Hallinan's short story in Bangkok Noir (Akashic, 2011) introduced me to Christopher G. Moore's writing. I can't believe it took me that long to discover Moore.

Spirit House is excellent, featuring private investigator Vincent Calvino. Calvino knows the nighttime, the darkness of the city. He's broken in some ways - given to drink, not able to love. But Calvino's observant and smart, with a sense of justice and a brute determination not to give up on a case that makes him "a thinking man's Phillip Marlowe," says The Daily Yomiuri (Japan).

The opening pages are exquisite: "D.O.A. Bangkok" read the blood-red neon sign. Around midnight the sky was a grayish-white mask with slits for a few stars. D.O.A. Bangkok was the only bar with huge cages of fruit bats suspended above the counter...Vincent Calvino, with a gun sloping out of his holster, walked over to the bar. Red neon whores flashed smiles, mouths filled with large teeth." It's a nightmare of all you imagine Bangkok not to be, and it's all here in the 291 pages of Moore's first mystery.

There's twelve of Moore's Vincent Calvino mysteries; read them in order if you can and then read the rest of his crime fiction, also set in Thailand.

--*Ashland Mystery*

Meghan says

I could not finish it either -- I read far enough to figure out who did what, then quit. I felt like it suffered from really poor editing; there were jarring transitions and references to events I couldn't remember, like large sections had been cut out and the rewrite was rushed.

Gary says

To be honest I bought this book thinking it was by Christopher Moore and not Christopher G. Moore...Yes I should pay more attention to these details. In the end I was happy enough as Moore writes like Raymond Chandler crossed with Elmore Leonard. He sets his story in Thailand which makes a nice change from the mean streets of New York or Los Angeles as many cop turned private detective books are frequently based in these two familiar urban environments.

Moore's hero, Vinee Calvino is in the best tradition of flawed good guys who have made bad decisions in the past and have dubious vices in the present but he tries to make up for it and while not exactly coming out smelling of roses does end up with the girl and lives to fight another day.

So, slightly formulaic in the style of these books and frequently graphic in it's description of violence to women, it's a quick read - by the pool or on the plane etc. - and the only drawback for me was the unnecessary crudeness of language right at the end of the story. I'd read another and have his latest to go to - also bought by mistake at the same time! Doh!

Jill says

Great suspenseful read & definitely recommended!

Farhan Saya says

A good story, but the style of writing was a little confusing. However, knowing that the series has reached fifteen books, the writing style must have improved in the future books.

If you are a fan of John Burdett Bangkok series, do give CGM's Vincent Calvino series a try. It is a more grittier version of Burdett's Bangkok.

Barbara says

Don't know if I'll make it through this one because it's set in Bangkok and the author brings in lots of stuff about the sex trade there as background and I'm getting grossed out...on the other hand, it's an interesting mystery and I want to see what happens...OK, I gave up. The grossed-out part beat out the wanting-to-see-what-happens part.

Maddy says

PROTAGONIST: PI Vincent Calvino

SETTING: Bangkok

SERIES: #1 if 14

RATING: 4.0

WHY: It's nothing out of the ordinary for a farang (Caucasian) to be killed in Bangkok. But it is unusual for the killer to confess the next day. PI Vincent Calvino doesn't believe that a young paint-thinner addict has

murdered Ben Hoadly, an expat Brit. Joining forces with his best friend, Pratt, a Thai police colonel, and a friend/lover naked Kiko, Calvino plunges into the dangerous world of Bangkok. Moore does an exceptional job of painting this setting with all of its lowlife characters and abysmal poverty. A very assured first in a series that I'll be following.

Kay Skopitz says

Ok, I couldn't actually finish this book. Tough guy PI (of course, he's *from* Brooklyn, and a disbarred lawyer to boot) in Thailand. Usually, I love this kind of macho exercise, but this novel never really came together for me. The POV changes without warning and without reason. Eh.

James Newman says

A great first chapter leads us into a Calvino canon that has been running for many years. Moore hardly puts a foot wrong here. The prose is economical, each event needs to occur in order for the entire book to stand on her legs and walk. Walk she does. Beautifully. While a few writers have carried the torch of Bangkok noir fiction for brief snatches of time, Moore has proved time and time again that his is the light that they are following. After many years this book and others of Moore's have found new readers in the west. Thanks to late and great wisdom of Barney Rosset, and his ground-breaking Grove Press, this volume is finding a new audience.
