



A World of Trouble

Jake Needham

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Jack Shepherd was sick of Washington politics, sick of corporate law, and even a little sick of himself. So he hit the road looking for a new start, made a couple of wrong turns, and somehow wound up in Hong Kong. Now he needs a job, and being General Chalerm Kitnarock's lawyer is a job, so he takes it.

Shepherd could certainly have done a lot worse for himself. Charlie Kitnarok is the world's ninety-eighth richest man. But he's also a former prime minister of Thailand now living in exile in Dubai. When he's not making money, he's plotting his return to political power.

For Shepherd, that could be a real problem. Thailand already has a prime minister, and she's a woman with whom Shepherd once had a brief relationship. It will get particularly messy if, as Shepherd suspects, Charlie is smuggling arms to his supporters and intends to use the Thai army to seize control of the country. Can Shepherd keep his two friends from destroying each other and prevent Thailand from sliding into chaos?

Thailand is hurtling closer and closer to a bloody civil war. And as unlikely as it may sound, Jack Shepherd is probably the only person on earth who can stop it.

A World of Trouble Details

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From Reader Review A World of Trouble for online ebook

Greg Tymn says

Another very good effort by Needham. I enjoy the locales. Much better than a South Chicago novel.

However, this novel pushed the envelope on believability. While an enjoyable read, it didn't grab me like "Mango".

Overall, worth the read for the price.

Pat says

Just couldn't get into this at all. The story required way too much suspension of disbelief and just plodded along. I finished it just to see if it would ever get any better and it didn't. Sometimes with the Kindle freebies you get what you pay for.

Seumas Gallacher says

Whether or not you are familiar with the main protagonist, Jack Shepherd, whether or not you are familiar with the stamping grounds in Thailand, Hong Kong and Dubai, if you like your crime fiction fast and twisting you have to look no further than Jake Needham's great pacy novel. The dialogue is superb, and is sprinkled with some outstanding throwaway lines. The lead-in chapters are a great warm up act as the worldly-wise and at times worldly-weary business lawyer Shepherd makes decisions on his coat tails. The authenticity of the locations and the characters you'll encounter in each city is an uncanny reflection of how it is in so-called real life. It's often said of Needham's books that it's difficult sometimes to discern what's fiction and what's not. That adds all the more spice to the story. Treat yourself and start following this author's output. Magnificent reading.

Michelle says

Good book

You people should just read this book yourselves and write your own review on this novel yourself and I really enjoyed reading this book very much so. Shelley MA

Farsidetravel says

This is the third book in Needham's Jack Shepherd series. It follows KILLING PLATO at the end of which Shepherd was fired by the Thai university where he had been teaching for getting involved in a very public

controversy which the university saw as an embarrassment to Thailand. In *A WORLD OF TROUBLE*, Jack Shepherd is back to practicing law, back in the Land of Smiles, and happily more cynical than ever.

We meet Jack and his client, a wealthy former prime minister of Thailand who was ousted on corruption charges and is now living in splendid exile in Dubai. Charlie Kitnarok is a figure who bears more than a passing resemblance to Thaksin Shinawatra, who really IS a wealthy former prime minister of Thailand ousted on corruption charges and is now living in Dubai. There is an assassination attempt in Dubai and Jack saves his client, but Charlie manipulates the outcome, serving his own purpose. Charlie's money needs to be moved out of Thailand. Money laundering and an understanding of Thai motives is why he has chosen Jack Shepherd to do it. There was much here about about the political and personal power struggles that underlie everything in Thailand and Needham uses the color-coded street battles that have wracked the country for several years now to sketch in the tension that has become part of everyday life in Thailand. There is much truth here in between the lines of fiction. For example, the excuse Shepherd uses to get Charlie's money out of Thailand is that his client wants to buy a basketball team in LA. That's really classic Needham, very much tongue in cheek. Didn't Thaksin buy a football team in the UK? Just asking...

You won't find the same enthusiasm and wonder about Thailand that you found in Needham's first novel, *THE BIG MANGO*, but will you feel a depth and a maturity. The honeymoon is over, and now Shepherd knows the ropes. You get the feeling that this may be Needham's swan song on Thailand. He has staked his writing career on South East Asia, only to discover that the Thais don't really care much for foreigners. I've noticed that this book isn't getting nearly as much air play as it should in Thailand. My guess is that any mention of the country's political upheavals by a foreigner is just too controversial for Thais to accept. That's a shame. They might learn something they didn't know about their own country by reading *A WORLD OF TROUBLE*.

This may well be the last of the Shepherd novels. If it is, I will miss them a great deal. Read this one and Needham will have you hooked, too.

Cindy says

I have liked other books by this author better.

Dlmrose says

3.5

Marcella says

Another Winner

Jack Shepherd is haphazardly growing to be a find character in my reading world. My thanks to the writer for creating him.

M.H. Vesseur says

Part of the fun of crime novels probably lies in these three words: location, location, location. Every serialized or stand-alone novel distinguishes itself by where it's taking the reader. Jake Needham occupies a unique position because of his extensive knowledge of the middle and far east, and that makes "A World Of Trouble" a unique offer. Get ready to travel to Dubai, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Phuket for intrigue and action. Obviously politics play an important role here and boy do they differ from what you would get in New York or Berlin. I'm a reader of many kinds of fiction, from J.M. Coetzee and J.G. Ballard to Lee Child and Jake Needham. I can appreciate the crime genre for what I think it is: true escapism with sometimes a little extra thrown in. Jake Needham certainly succeeds at both; I had a good old fashioned escape with Jack Shepherd (this is actually the third Shepherd novel, but the first Needham I've read) and I also got a nice inside look at a bit of politics in Dubai and Thailand - though I cannot really judge the accuracy. Jack Shepherd is regular guy who is no hero, and who has a hard time figuring out what the powers that be are up to. This is stuff I can relate to. Shepherd is unlike a guy like Jack Reacher who seems to know and fix everything (that's entertaining too), he's primarily stumbling around trying to fix messes, or worse: create them. On the other hand: he's very good as a finance guy. He knows the tricks and he knows his way around. The dialogues are fine, they are witty. The story takes off powerfully and keeps turning and twisting till the very end. I am not for talking about the plot in a review - please read the publisher's summary - so suffice it to say there's some political upheaval in Thailand going on and the main protagonist gets caught in the action when an ousted Thai hot shot living in Dubai seems to be involved in some pretty dark scheming. "A World Of Trouble" is a fine crime novel and after reading it I'm in the mood for some more Jake Needham soon. See what you think.

Robin says

I found A WORLD OF TROUBLE by Jake Needham kept me on the edge. Loved the complexities of wondering if some of the characters are truly the bad guys or masquerading as CIA in order to fulfill that character's personal agenda. Makes a reader wonder just who protagonist Jack can trust, in fact Jack refers to "trusting no one." Greatly enjoyed his views of S.E. Asia & Dubai.

The Dark Horse of Shanghai

Jeff Wolf says

Interesting characters and exotic locations

I love reading novels with interesting characters and Jack Shepherd fits the bill. He's both smart and flawed and travels in a world most people will never get to experience.

Tony Poulsen says

Jack Shepherd tries to stay out of politics. But his friends have other ideas. One side he has his friend Charlie, the former Thai prime minister, who was voted out of office and in exile. The other is Kate, his sometime girlfriend, and current prime minister. He balances his views while travelling from Hong Kong, Dubai, and Bangkok to keep things right.

Trace says

I've read all of Jake Needham's novels. This, his latest, is probably the best (definitely the best Jack Shepherd novel.) It's also the scariest. Jack Shepherd is in a darker place and the events of the novel have serious consequences not only for a few characters, but an entire country or even region. Many of the events in *A World of Trouble* eerily had real-life parallels. It actually hit a little too close to home as I live in Thailand. But don't get me wrong, this is still classic Jake Needham- lots of action and believable characters you can't help but root for.

Deborah Bogen says

Teaser

Needham can write entertaining dialogue but his characters never seem to turn into 3 dimensional people. Plotwise this has some intrigue...too much perhaps with no real chance to make even possible sense of it but the ending is quite the easy way out for Mr. Needham. I found it unsatisfying.

kay says

Love the twists and turns. Also his sense of humor.
