

*Two can play  
that game...*

The  
**FARANG**  
Wife

2nd Edition

Tony Crossley



# **THE FARANG WIFE**

2nd edition 2011; ebook

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eISBN 978-616-245-052-5

**Ebook published by** [www.bangkokbooks.com](http://www.bangkokbooks.com)

**E-mail:** [info@bangkokbooks.com](mailto:info@bangkokbooks.com)

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This story is fictional. Some of the characters and events are based on real and allegedly real characters and events. Names have been changed. Newspaper and journal quotes are real where the journal is named. Other than where publication has been sanctioned or sanction is unnecessary due to truth or public interest, any names resembling real ones is coincidental.

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## ‘FARANG’

The Thai word ‘*Farang*’ (*falang*) is usually reserved for Caucasians but can also mean all foreigners (non-Thais). To denote the latter, it does not need to be capitalized in writing. It should be capitalised to denote Caucasian.

Thais do not pluralize, so ‘farangs’ does not exist in either Thai or English vocabulary. Farang may be singular or plural (as ‘sheep’).

When using a foreign word in English text, it is usual for it to be written in italics (i.e. *Farang*), unless the word is commonly used in English. The author contends that this applies to Farang when used by expats and regular visitors to Thailand. In short:

Farang = Caucasian/s

*farang* = foreigner/s

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A common misconception amongst ‘new’ Farang is that it is a derogatory term. This is not so unless preceded by ‘ai’, which the author has never actually heard a Thai say.

In Thai-to-English transliteration (writing), ‘h’ following ‘t’ or ‘p’ is silent (i.e. ‘th’ is said as in Thai, not as in think. Phuket is said as Pooket, not Fooket).

## PART ONE

*A woman is like an uncut diamond – just the raw material.*

### 1: HELEN, BRIAN & JO

#### **Helen Field PhD**

What is ‘love’? A question with no definitive answer, but it greatly affects man and woman – a match supposedly made in Heaven. Who would know it? Neither seems to satisfy the other to extent of note for any length of time. Generally, women are as loyal to men as needs and wants require. A man is as loyal as other options he has. To clarify, few men can resist a bit on the side if she is wrapped to his liking and achievable. Many women seek far more than is necessary for a comfortable life and often stray.

Of theories as to what drives the counter-productive conduct, ‘primal instinct’ is a common excuse, but it says little for human integrity. The measure of a person is what they choose to do, not a primal inability to choose.

*‘Infidelity & Promiscuity: Causes and Consequences’* is a paper by a former psychology colleague and friend of mine. To research, she took advantage of Thailand’s tolerant view of the sex trade. A related paper, *‘Thailand: Commercial Sociality and Cross-racial Relationships’* regarded the pros and cons of the trade within a society.

A simple fact is that many a man constantly seeks sex, even if his body doesn’t want it. Yet the worst he can think to call a woman is a tag that infers she will give or sell sex. How logical is that! For many men, sex is an act of deceit because the object of his desire needs seducing, spiteful infliction to show his superiority, or perversion as he has been put off post-pubescent females. Given rampant sexual abuse, more human than inhuman described as, one must ask why it occurs.

Psychology is not precise, but sure is that *the* major drive of any person, irrespective of gender, nationality or education, will relate to one of a certain few leanings. Through the ages, philosophers have said the most pernicious of our excesses, that which drives all others, is pride – ‘face’ in the East. Such is pride’s nature, many people find their integrity a small price to pay for it. Pride can be an insatiable addiction. A look at folk we see daily will usually tell that the more they achieve, the more

they want. Business, entertainment, politics, sport, you name it, the trait crosses life's spectrum.

An unflattering truth about oneself is difficult to face over even minor issues, and self-deception knows no bounds. Most men see sexuality as their measure, so a man will not see a deficiency or perversion of his own because his pride depends on not seeing it. That's why there is no cure for paedophiles and rapists, and why men attribute a competitive edge and womanising to virility rather than immaturity. Women can be over-proud and preoccupied with sex, but serious-crime figures reveal the gender that is, by far, willing to harm others for self to look or feel better.

Since man evolved, evidence is that preference was for a settled partner and it largely remains so. Polygamy, multiple partners at the same time (usually wives), exists in most societies, but one is usually favoured – others are mostly for show. Also found in most societies are murder, rape and other vile deeds, all principally the province of men. Presence of a practice, even if widely accepted – such as 'honour killing' or 'stoning' – does not make it civilized.

By the same token, illegality and/or wide peer pressure condemnation of a practice does not make it uncivilised. A conundrum which has always eluded most of humankind is if trade in sex between consenting adults, condemned yet ever present, should be a human right.

We all do things to compensate for failings we don't like to admit to. Promiscuity often arises out of a feeling of insecurity that most of us, men in particular and far more intensely, have to some degree. The question arises if an accepted sex trade would enable far more men to purge their young urges and enable more responsible choice in partner selection.

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## THAILAND: COMMERCIAL SOCIALITY AND CROSS-RACIAL RELATIONSHIPS BY SARAH WILDE PH.D.

My research has been via interviews with sex aides and their clients, Thai and Caucasian bar owners, married Westerners and their Thai girlfriends / wives, books & journal articles and writers.

Extract from: *Attitudes*

Widely accepted is that even ‘respectable’ Thai men use sex workers. When considering the furore that exposing a public figure so doing causes in the West, this is a huge difference. Whereas many Thai men will use a sex worker for extra-marital sex, or even have a second ‘minor’ wife (*mia noi*) – far from all the men want or have either – it is considered bad form to allow the other woman to be thrown in the wife’s face and thereby make her lose face. Even the media avoids this. Nor do Thai men generally engage the slimy deceit that many Western men commonly stoop to in order to achieve sex – even when not extra-marital. This is because sex to Thai men is an easily available commodity, not forbidden fruit. Sex to Thais is widely recognised as a normal bodily function and they don’t emotionalise it – always equate it to ‘love’.

The Thai class system and ‘face’ means that few men of means will accept a sex worker or former one as an established partner, but many Western men in Thailand rely on such workers for the girlfriend experience (or even wife and family experience). This has created a breed of worker that targets Western men as ripe for rich pickings, and the women are often not wrong.

Many expats complain that a Thai woman expects fidelity from a Western partner but a Thai husband may play away. This is so and it regards ‘face’. A Western man would not expect a Western wife to permit the indulgence, so to expect a Thai wife to allow it would be to treat her in an inferior way. Having said that, many a Thai woman will marry a Western man with whom she has very little in common, and for perceived security. An occasional blind-eye is turned. This may be where a man has bought a family home in which she will be looking to her future interest (the man will invariably be somewhat older than the woman).

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In consumer societies that promote ego-driven attempt to be No. 1, some men feel so challenged they kill colleagues or even own family

members. Sporting pride causes much anger and mass-hysteria. Need for a sense of triumph compels most men to some sort of contest, even if via a third party. We all get a kick out of our team's win, but many men act as if they personally scored winning points or a loss was caused by people close to them. Out of this syndrome, not just the cat gets kicked. Women and children are often abused and even killed.

Pride drives most wrongdoing, especially the religious or national sort. So-called martyrdom and honour killings are ego-driven power mania. Much sex crime is driven by need to dominate. All are principally the province of men, and some psychologists say for a simple reason. If sexual desire takes a woman, the worst most do is attract scorn by being 'easy'. For men, scratching an itch is not so easy, off-limits to many, and undeniable is that male frustration, sexual obsession and deviance is rife. Yet the remedy of a willing woman providing relief has for centuries been vilified more than weapons of mass destruction are today. The oddity has been driven by laws that demonise sex, and behind which are self-proclaimed men of a fantasy 'God'.

In recent times, the world's biggest god sect proved to harbour men who thought abstinence meant only with women, and boys or pre-pubescent girls were fair game. Doesn't it provide solid evidence that preaching abstinence creates frustration and perversion? Apparently not learned from the exposé is that sex will find a way and, if the usual channel is blocked, another will be found.

A physical trauma is visible, but a mental one not so. The mind builds its own defences and its castle is 'denial' – insisting one is right no matter the contrary evidence. A child's 'I don't care' about a reprisal is a trivial example of pride-driven need to be seen as unbowed. Acute pain may be rejected mentally – 'withdrawal' as called – or normalised. For example, an abused child may become an abuser. As with drug or alcohol dependence, excess that is harmful, to self or others, can become a need that provides a sense of relief.

Is this quote a clue to a common fault in people?

"Is sex dirty?"

"Only if it's done right." ~Woody Allen.

Dirty sums up how the most natural act of life is widely viewed. Western culture's first tale of crime and punishment is sex between consenting adults of opposite gender. Rather than Adam making Eve an offer she was happy to accept, she is presented as tempting him and

causing all women to be cursed with the menstrual cycle, referred to in the Bible as 'unclean'. Could that be why many of the good book's biggest fan base go for boys or pre-pubescent girls? My man Charlie and I – used to be 'shrinks' – say the Adam and Eve tale is the most successful sexual grooming in human history – and the most evil.

"If the perverts contriving the nonsense hadn't disguised their horns and tail with religious regalia, the tale would be seen as the pointer to Armageddon it is," he says. He means it. Any zoologist will say that suppressing an animal's natural instinct will cause unnatural acts.

From the Adam & Eve social engineering, *the* most historically successful cause of sexual hang-ups, we today have laws that make it hard for a man to satisfy his physical wants even if happy to pay an eager supplier. Where's the logic in that? Isn't it evidence that far from a well-meaning people-shepherd putting the apple tree off limits so his flock didn't stray, it was man's dark side directing the masses to discontent?

Today we call such schemers 'spin-doctors' and they sell their agenda to the public with alarming reports and dossiers, just as with 'the good book'. So created was a real bad attitude to the sex trade. Some places are largely untainted by such preaching and have a different perspective.

One only has to be with folk who have let their hair down to see that many view a gender opposite as a sex object. As for many things, degree marks acceptable or not. Defining the degree is how Charlie and I believe pride has retarded wider evolution of humankind. Specifically, we say that stigmatising sexuality in women has damaged the relationship with men by preventing a legitimate sex trade, thereby causing unpurged urges to infect the psyche of men. Chasing sex becomes a difficult habit to break – impossible for many.

We all know what a nymphomaniac is – someone once said a woman who is as sex-obsessed as the average man – but far fewer people know that aversion to sex, 'genophobia', is far from rare in either gender. There is also 'gynaephobia', which is usually male aversion to female genitalia. I doubt there are many people who don't know those who are widely affected.

A phobia can arise from a trauma. Dog bites child, fear of dogs may remain after the incident has been forgotten. Many psychologists believe this syndrome causes much sexual phobia and/or deviation, arising via the demonising of sex and women that is ingrained into most cultures.

Defining moments – instants that change our life – occur to most of

us and whether we recognise the moment or not. Losing one's virginity is often such a moment. Most folk recall their 'first', but few realise it likely groomed them to future leaning.

The way someone close to Charlie and I 'transcended' had a profound effect on her. Our protégé, Jo, was a gentle young lady with a beauty that extended to her character. Some might have said that where men concerned she was cautious to the point of being phobic. She in fact had an ordeal that any woman would understand must have been dreadful for a girl, particularly one who until then was truly innocent. Her story follows and shows how much a man will sacrifice for his pride. An unrestrained ego is insatiable.

Jo's English parents inherited a sizeable sum shortly after she was born. Having recognised that most communication is a sales pitch, they went to live on an island paradise in S.E. Asia. Charlie met them while backpacking, which is how our link with Jo established. She was only a toddler, but Charlie says he fell in love with her then. At sixteen she returned to England to go to college and it was, ironically, likely shelter from the social dysfunction that is now so much a part of our culture that caused her to fall victim to it.

Charlie had kept tabs on Jo, and after the trauma that made it awkward for her to stay on at university, we recruited her into our interior-design business. We then lived in Cheshire and later moved to Thailand. Jo moved with us.

Charlie's senses all those years ago did not deceive him. Though Jo never suspected – he neither – his feelings for her were far from paternal. No, I did not feel threatened nor I was jealous. Never could I claim to be an angel, but Charlie was a saint, the only man I ever learned to truly trust.

Perhaps naturally, Charlie did not take to a chap that Jo took up with in Bangkok. However, his philosophy is that to seek to alter the course of another's life to satisfy one's own bias is folly, proven time and again by parents and governments alike, and by the eternal human conflict. People must meet life's challenges and roll with blows it is apt to deliver, often via someone close to them.

"Fate has tossed a ball into play here," Charlie muttered when Jo, far from over her teenage ordeal, announced she was to marry the only guy she'd been out with since. Due to concern about her slipping into a total rejection of men and social life itself, I'd often urged her to take up one of the date-offers she received. When she finally did, the guy she

opted for certainly surprised me. Charlie's theory about tampering in the life of others about to be put to the test, it was as if some spirit had whispered into his ear.

Women in the following story told their side to my friend, the men to a male colleague she recruited to avoid boasting or embarrassment that a woman interviewer might arouse. Interviewees were told they need reveal only what they wanted to, but so that accurate conclusions could be drawn, were asked not say anything that was untrue.

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## **Brian**

I'm a graphic designer and no different to most blokes in liking women. To pursue my photography hobby in England, I used studios that also provided a model. Widely available were girls who did topless and 'full figure' work, and some 'continental'. When my boss offered me a move to a new Bangkok branch, I jumped at it. As he pointed out, no one went short in Thailand.

After I moved, an older colleague, Fred, who was into photography and who I'd told about the studios back home, suggested we open one. I wasn't interested at first, but he kept saying loads of blokes didn't like the bar scene and would go for meeting girls via such a studio. We wouldn't offer sex services, but if girls and clients made private arrangements, up to them. There was good potential and models were cheap. Another plus was that his flat was above a vacated shop-house with second floor. The rent was low as the tenant had died and the locals believed the place was haunted. Silly, but that's how some Thais are.

Fred and I opened '*The Bangkok Camera Club*'. Reception fronted the street, a waiting room was to the rear and off it were stairs to a first-floor studio. For models to pose on there was a *chaise longue* – an extended seat-sofa. A rear door went to a service yard.

Who back home would believe that one-night stands can become a bore? Even a real dork can't fail in Thailand. But, and it's a big but, the paid-for sex is to the bedroom what McDonald's is to the dining-room – it fills a gap but only a starved man will find it yummy. I always felt deflated rather than elated, like I was used. A bird comes over as nice, but its spiel because they see you as a mark. Proper Thai girls are too proper, full of 'traditional' hang-ups. Those I'd met via work never held my interest. I should be so lucky, I suppose. What about Farang birds, though? It wasn't a bag over their heads the gobby sods needed, but a