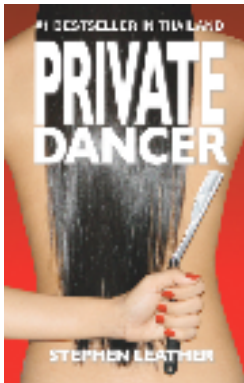


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Downloaded 60,000 times in over 40 countries, bestselling thriller writer Stephen Leather's online cult classic about a disastrous love affair between a travel writer and a Bangkok bargirl is finally available in print under the 'monsoon' imprint —

PRIVATE DANCER



Singapore, 15 Aug 2005—Often described as the best book ever written about the Bangkok bar scene, *Private Dancer* has been a huge hit around the world as a downloadable e-book. According to Leather, the e-book has been downloaded from the author's website over 60,000 times in more than forty countries. "I have been getting dozens of emails a week asking for the novel to be published, as most people seem to prefer a book they can hold, and put on their shelves," explains Leather. "Now that the whole bar scene here is changing, it seemed a good time to finally publish a hard copy."

The novel is set in Thailand in 1996. Pete, a young travel writer, wanders into a Bangkok bar and meets the love of his life. Pete thinks that Joy is the girl of his dreams: young, stunningly pretty, and one of the top-earning go-go dancers in Nana Plaza. What follows is a roller-coaster ride of sex, drugs, lies and murder, as Pete discovers that his very own private dancer is not all that she claims to be. And that far from being the girl of his dreams, Joy is his own personal nightmare.

The striking cover photograph, of a naked girl holding a cut-throat razor behind her back, was taken in Anglewitch Bar in Nana Plaza and features one of the bar's top showgirls.

Leather, a frequent visitor to the Asia, is the author of seventeen thrillers that have been translated into more than a dozen languages, including *The Tunnel Rats*, set in Bangkok and Vietnam, *The Solitary Man*, set in Thailand and Hong Kong, and more recently *Soft Target*. He has sold more than a million books worldwide. Two of his novels, *The Bombmaker* and *The Stretch*, have been filmed for television in the UK and he has written for TV shows such as *London's Burning* and the BBC's *Murder In Mind*.

DOG CATCHER is available at all leading bookstores in Singapore. Pub date: 15 August 2005

Endorsements:

"The best book regarding relationships with bargirls that you can ever read. This should be compulsory reading for all first-timers to Thailand." —**Pattaya Mail**

"Because of all of its local wisdom, *Private Dancer* ought to be made available to every tourist at port of entry." —**Bernard Trink, Bangkok Post**

About the Author:

Leather is the author of seventeen thrillers published by Hodder & Stoughton in UK and Monsoon Books in Singapore. He has sold more than a million books worldwide, in many different languages. Leather spends his time between Ireland, England and Thailand.

About the Publisher:

Monsoon Books is a Singapore-based trade publisher of commercial fiction and non-fiction. Monsoon Books' titles are sold throughout Asia, Australasia and the United States. For more information please visit www.monsoonbooks.com.sg

Author available for interview in Singapore:

Stephen Leather will be visiting Singapore as a guest speaker at the Singapore Writers Festival 2005 (for more info on the Festival see <http://www.swf.sg>) and is available for interview on Friday 2 Sept and Sat 3 Sept. Please contact the publisher to arrange an interview slot with the author.

Stephen Leather will be appearing at the following Singapore Writers Festival events:

- 7pm – 8pm, Fri 2 Sept, Alley Bar (near Centrepoint, Orchard Rd): “Crime in the City” with FH Batacan, John Burdett, Stephen Leather
- 4pm – 5pm, Sat 3 Sept, Launch Pad (3rd Floor, National Library): Book Launch for *Private Dancer*
- 7pm – 8pm, Sat 3 Sept, Panel Room (5th Floor, National Library): “Can Men Write About Women Sex Workers?” with Ayu Utami, Gerrie Lim, John Burdett, Stephen Leather

Book Launch:

**Monsoon Books, Singapore Writers Festival and National Arts Council
cordially invite you to the launch of Stephen Leather’s PRIVATE DANCER
at 4pm on Sat 3 September 2005
at Launch Pad, 3rd Floor, National Library
100 Victoria Street (opposite Intercontinental Hotel, Bugis Junction Shopping Centre)
(RSVP sales@monsoonbooks.com.sg)**

PRIVATE DANCER

By Stephen Leather

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