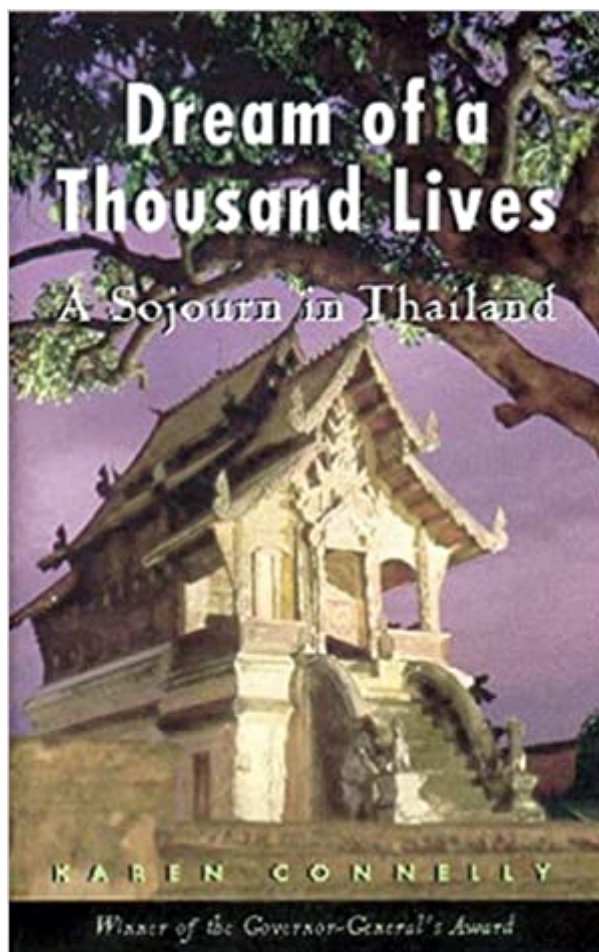


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# The Dream Of A Thousand Lives: A Sojourn In Thailand



## Synopsis

Canadian poet Karen Connelly was a young woman when she left home to live for one year in Denchai, a small farming community in northern Thailand. This lyrical portrait of her true-life adventures radiates wit and literary charm. The swampy jungles, the lure of hedonistic Bangkok, the austere, ambient Buddhism, and the torrential rains serve as backdrops for Connelly's carefully crafted prose. Her account combines a keen sense of adventure with an affinity for Thai culture, chronicling the country's intriguing underpinnings and exotic charms.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book truly uncovered the beautiful, bucolic experience of the heart of Thailand. This book is not about the fascinating big-city life in Bangkok, so ubiquitous in other travel books about Thailand. In contrast, this book takes you to a Thailand not frequently experienced by tourists...shouldn't be experienced by tourists with little respect and no other expectation beyond "fun" ..... should only be ventured by those willing to absorb (or should I dare say love) a culture and a lifestyle so different that at first, austerity and beauty are not immediately distinct to the mind conditioned to the comforts of "modernized" cities or suburban living (whether in Asia or the West). As a Thai who was educated in the West, this book actually imparted to me a "piece of heart" about my birth country that I did not previously believe to be a possible endeavor for written pages. Thanks Karen..... for doing the impossible! "Kob Kun Mak Krub" for the sincerity so salient throughout every description.

Great writing. Interesting memoir of a new culture. Most folks love it. I just did not find the WOW factor other reviews had me expecting. Worth my time? Yes! Good, but not great, or maybe I am getting spoiled by some fabulous other books I've read recently

Really appreciated the story in this book, easy reading with great story's and excellent observations, this was great for,y teenager

From what I've heard people who've known me a long time say I'm "well read". That's easy, for reading is my favorite pastime. I'm now over 50 and may have read thousands of books in my lifetime, only 2 of which I read from start to finish without stopping. "The Dream of a Thousand Lives" is one of those two books. Karen Connelly has a style of writing that can only be described as "a gift" (if not genius). Little wonder that she's won so many prestigious awards at such a young age. This is the first book I've read from her as author. It was such a pleasureable experience that I was almost angry when her story came to its end. The first thing I did afterwards (true) was get on .com and order more of her work. I can hardly wait for it to arrive!

Although the story has merit, it was hard to read for all the poetic descriptive language. If I were looking for poetry, I would have loved it. I was, however, looking for a good story about Thailand, and had to wade through a too much flowery description. By the end of the book, it was almost a joke.

This is by far the best written book I have ever read. The Dream of a Thousand Lives chronicles the year Connelly spends as an exchange student in Asia. Tired of "the marvels of Calgary," Connelly sets off to Thailand with curiosity and a briefcase full of licorice and loose-leaf. As Connelly explains, the ants devoured the licorice in the first week, but the paper survived. Connelly never resorts to decorative travel writing, but sticks to a witty and unfailingly honest account of her time in Thailand. The book, (originally titled "Touch the Dragon" in Canada) consists of a chronological collection of the author's journal entries, detailing her time in Denchai (living at a the Thai Liquor Store owned by her first host family) to her travels to Bangkok and Chang Mai. Connelly possesses a rare ability to convey the strange labyrinth of lives and experiences she encounters in the small farming Village of Denchai into a lyrical fluid narrative. This is a book that you will not be able to put down.

karen has captured the spirit, the calm, the beauty, the mystique, the sensitivity and the occasional

frustration of rural thailand. her'sojourn' of her year in denchai is storytelling at its best. my 6 days and nights in a village in north-eastern thailand cannot compare, even remotely, to her experience in the north... but i know a little about how she feels about these marvellous people. she knows how lucky she was. if you have been to thailand then the reading of this book guarantees your return. never been? read this book and i guarantee that your first visit is imminent. the most enjoyable book that i have 'consumed'.

A young highschool girl takes a huge risk on going on a one year Rotary exchange to rural Thailand. Initially the change in culture is beyond her understanding. Rather than bailing she decides to stick it out and the reader gets the pleasure of following along on her adventure. Karen Commelly is able to let us smell, taste, hear and even feel the real "Land of Smiles" and begin to understand its enchantment. My wife and I had just returned from a month in Northern Thailand where we also had begun to understand this strange and wonderful land.

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