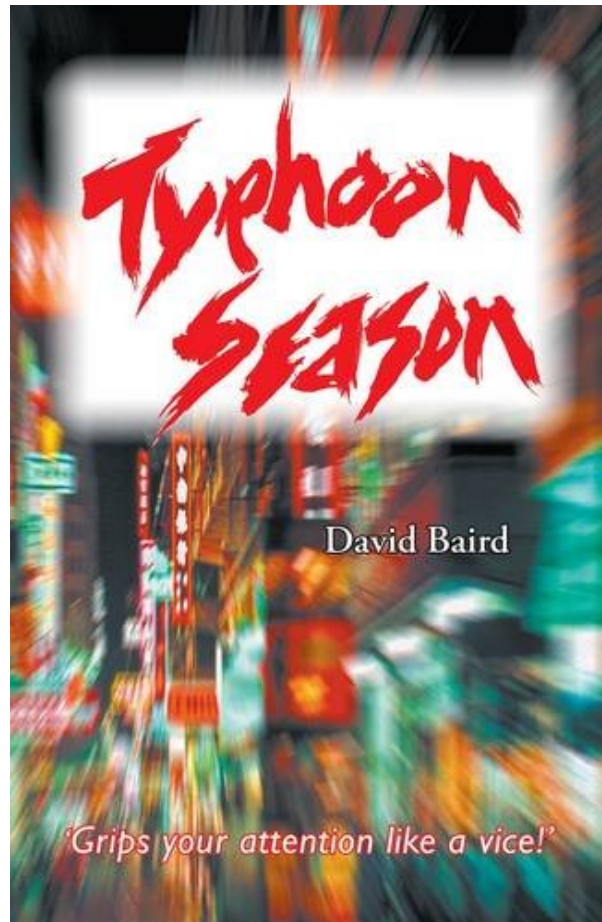
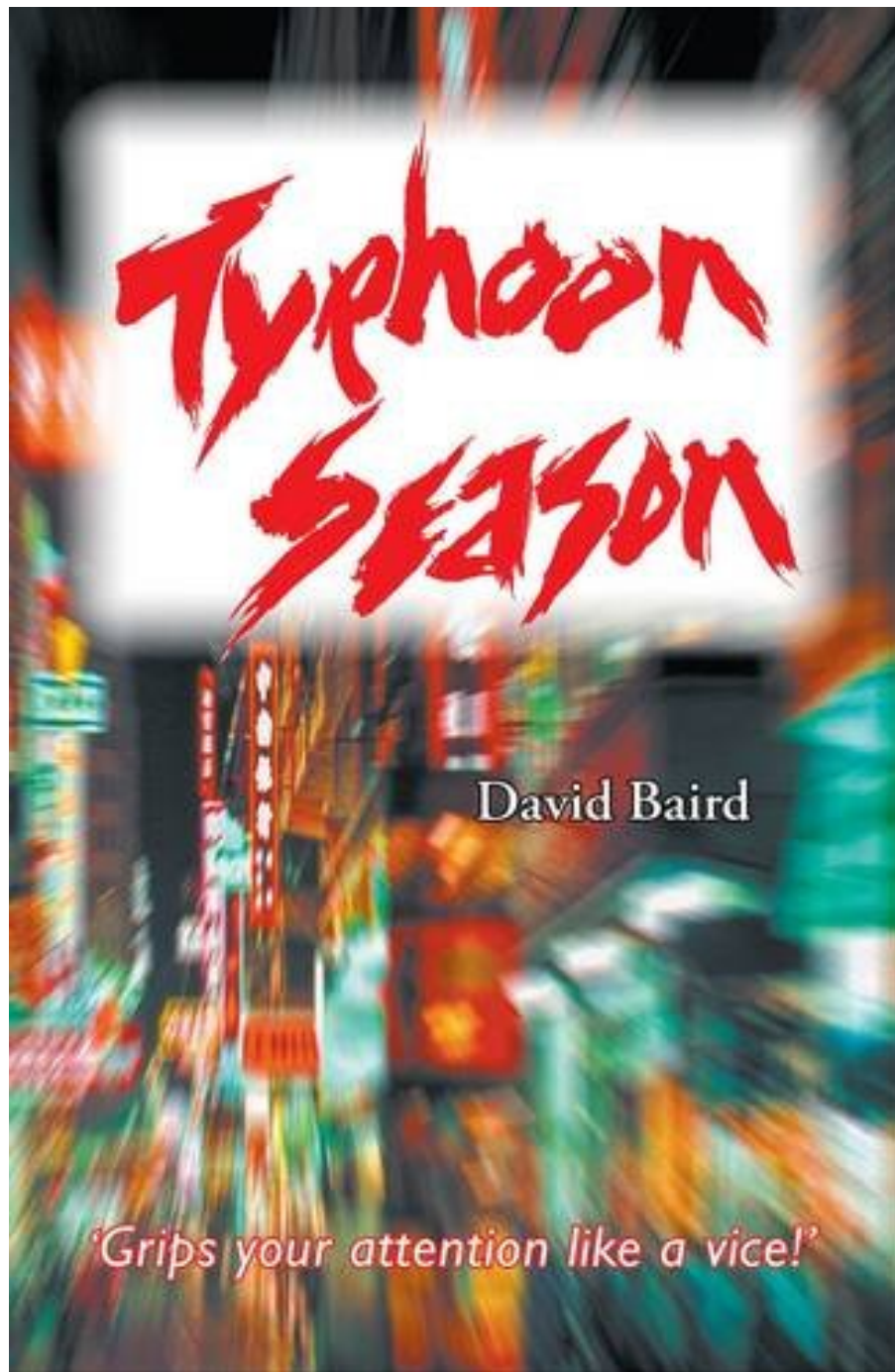


TYPHOON SEASON BY DAVID BAIRD



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Review

Author David Baird vividly captures Hong Kong's atmosphere -- from a luxury mansion on The Peak, to a kung-fu film set, to seething back streets, to a Buddhist monastery. And to the bizarre Pink Heaven Bar in Wan Chai.

-- The Olive Press

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All characters in this book are fictitious. But anybody who has worked in Hong Kong will recognise certain characteristics of the main players. Hong Kong is one of the world's most fascinating cities with its full share of heroes and villains, of all nationalities. It was exciting to live there. I hope this book captures something of the former colony's essence.

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TYPHOON SEASON BY DAVID BAIRD PDF

Typhoon Season is a fast-paced thriller set in Hong Kong. A body floating in the South China Sea, a missing heroin stash, a doomed love affair, corruption in high places...David Baird's latest novel has all the ingredients to grip your attention.

Sinister forces are at work in this British colony living on borrowed time. Triad gangsters, crooked policemen, sophisticated socialites with secrets to hide, a kung-fu film star with lethal fists, all have their secret agendas. As an inquisitive gwei-lo (foreign devil), an American reporter, discovers when he has to run for his life.

Anything can happen in the Typhoon Season. As one Chinese resident tells the reporter: "This is a harlot city. All it's interested in is those who pay cash. Those who can afford the dues get their way. Those who can't get kicked into the gutter.

"Yesterday you were a valued client, a foreign devil with all the privileges. You could buy survival. But not any more. There's no place for Lancelot here. He's sealed into his suit of armour. What can he do for a harlot?"

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"Sweep only the snow before your own doorstep -- do not worry about the frost on your neighbour's roof." -- Chinese saying

By Grady Harp

British born David Baird now lives in Spain where he has twice won Spain's national travel-writing award for foreign writers and journalists: his reports on Spain, Portugal and North Africa have appeared in many publications, including Maclean's Magazine (Toronto), The Economist, Daily Telegraph, International Herald Tribune, Boston Globe, Sydney Morning Herald and South China Morning Post. But his experience extends to journalism as an experienced foreign correspondent, editor and photographer, working on newspapers and magazines from Ottawa and Oswestry to Hong Kong and Antwerp, including The Times of London, the Daily Express, the Brisbane Telegraph and the Far Eastern Economic Review. But his novels (and he has at least four) show how the flavor and intrigue of his travels, in this case to Asia, have influenced his matrix of tales upon which he draws for his thriller stories.

For those who have experienced Hong Kong typhoon season Baird's introduction to his story will ring true. For those who have not, 'Typhoon season. A crazy time to visit. The air would be as thick as soup, the humidity overpowering. Even as the Cathay Pacific Jumbo banked over the South China Sea for the approach, Clive wasn't sure why he was returning. He peered out of the window but could see only thick cloud cover. Perspiration trickled down his neck, as though in anticipation of the heat that would greet him. But this was a cold sweat. So many years. Would he know anybody? Would anybody know him? His stomach was tying itself into a knot. He tried to kid himself that it was excitement. But he knew it was something else, a sense of unease. Should he really be making this trip? He glanced at the papers in his lap. Notes for an address he was supposed to give at a seminar for business leaders, financiers, industrialists. That was why he had been invited. But not why he had come. Up to now he had tried to push the real reason to the back of his mind. What a charade! Why did he fool himself? Finally, after all these years, he had succumbed to the temptation.'

So we have met our main character Clive Spillman and the intensity of the atmosphere into which he descends to begin his adventure. For the plot synopsis, rely on the author's brief points: 'Anything can happen in the Typhoon Season. This fast-paced thriller grips the attention up to the spectacular climax -- and then produces an unexpected final twist. Triad gangsters, crooked policemen, sophisticated socialites with secrets to hide, a kung-fu film star with lethal fists are the protagonists of this fast-paced thriller. Plus a meddling reporter who asks too many questions and has to run for his life. In the fading days of empire sinister and murderous forces are at work in the British colony of Hong Kong. As Clive Spillman, an American journalist based in Hong Kong, discovers when the body of a crooked policeman is found floating in the harbor. This sets off a chain of dramatic events, events that take you to a luxury mansion on The Peak, to a kung-fu film set, to seething back streets, to a Buddhist monastery -- and to the delights of the Pink Heaven Bar in Wan Chai. The action never flags when Clive finds himself on the run, striving desperately to establish his innocence as he encounters an exotic cast of characters, some of whom have distinctly unfriendly intentions.'

For those of us just now discovering Baird's talent this book is a very fine start. But then the spectrum from which to choose, location wise, is broad enough to satisfy any interest! It is just fine writing. Grady Harp, December 14

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Taking you back in time.

By W.M van Osch

We almost forgot the period of changes immediately before and when the British colony of Hong Kong returned to China as a privileged province. This is a fascinating story of people undergoing those changes and being incapable to communicate essential and life threatening facts. And it is simply a thriller also. This kind of book can only be written by someone who was there in that period.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A fast paced thriller

By H.Taylor

This book was a hard to put down page turning thriller. I am not the biggest fan of thrillers but this book caught my attention.

I have never actually visited Hong Kong but the way the author describes it made you feel like you are there from the weather, people, culture, architecture and environment.

The story sees news agency reporter Clive Spillman well and truly in way over his head as he starts to work out a plot which involved the corrupt members of the city elite, bent coppers and also drug smugglers. Due to this he finds himself in hot water and on the run for a murder he never committed. He tries desperately to find whoever framed him so that can clear his name and be a free man. This is not the easiest of tasks when sadly he has annoyed or angered plenty of people some good and not so good. Normally I can guess the outcome but I certainly couldn't this time causing it to be hard to put down.

I recommend this book to others, good job David Baird

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