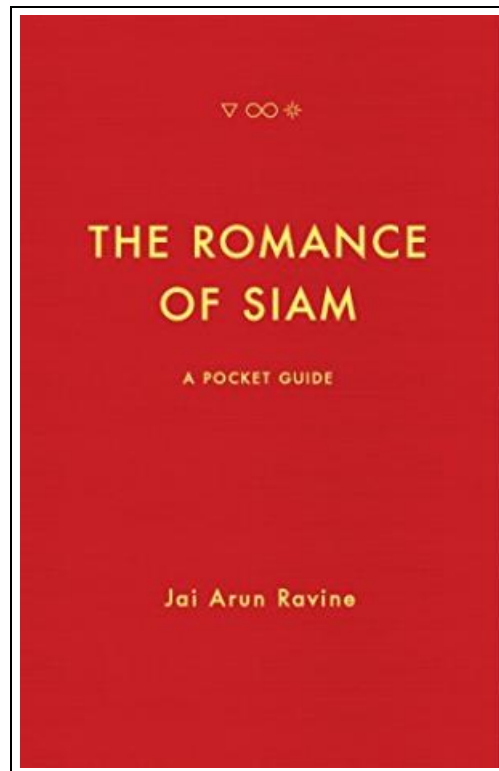


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Reviews

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THE ROMANCE OF SIAM: A POCKET GUIDE (PAPERBACK)



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Timeless, Infinite Light, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Poetry. Asian American Studies. LGBT Studies. Hybrid Genre. THE ROMANCE OF SIAM: A POCKET GUIDE is a subverted travel guide that interrogates the desire white people have to lose and reinvent themselves in Thailand. Ravine tracks how this white love manifests in the tourism industry, popular American media and the western imaginary. Ravine writes, As a person of Thai and white descent, my attempts to connect to Thailand as a place or cultural identity are completely colonized by white desire; writing this book and performing its texts has been a way for me to try to decolonize that relationship. It is a lonely planet for the white alien, but let Jai Arun Ravine stage your hysteric dream tour. Navigating Siam's dream jungle might require mounting white elephants, hunting nasty cats and exotic tigers, consuming stinky tropical durian. Too tame? Too cliché? Then stage your disappearance from whiteness and pop culture disfigurement: dance a threesome with Yul, Anna, and Christy; share a bed with Somerset and Haxton, hang yourself by silk threads from pagoda rafters, gild yourself in gold before mummification. Karen Tei Yamashita It is difficult to describe the experience of reading THE ROMANCE OF SIAM. It is impossible to describe the experience of constitution in a body that disappears under direct gaze. THE ROMANCE OF SIAM is an unqualifiable Death by Dream. What is the essence of Siam? To ask that question is to ask what the essence of whiteness is. It is the parable of the blind men and the universal white elephant. At the moment of conception/colonial desire, the abject of identity is already lost. A dream dies when it comes true. Feng Sun Chen Jai Arun Ravine's Siam is a...



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