



The Damage Done: Twelve Years of Hell in a Bangkok Prison

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In 1978 Warren Fellows was convicted of heroin trafficking between Thailand and Australia. He was consequently sentenced to life in Bang Kwang prison, known as the Bangkok Hilton. This is the story of his 12 years behind bars, the abuse of human rights and the squalid conditions he endured.

The Damage Done: Twelve Years of Hell in a Bangkok Prison Details

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From Reader Review The Damage Done: Twelve Years of Hell in a Bangkok Prison for online ebook

Jake says

Quite a depressing book to be honest. A trafficker caught in the act who pays the ultimate price. Twelve years in a hellhole. Have to feel sorry for the guy but then you have to feel sorry for the heroin addicts who were addicted to his supplied product. Ironically he becomes an addict himself during his time behind bars. "Marching Powder" by Rusty Young is certainly a better, more uplifting tale, of life in prison for a trafficker. Much funnier too and at times, almost unbelievable!

Eric Schurr says

This may be the best book i've listened to all year. It is truly remarkable in every way: the story is gripping, horrifying, and illuminating; the writing is tight, to the point, and creative; and the narrator is one of the, if not the, best i've ever heard -- his timing and intonation is perfect.

Ever wondered what it's like in a prison? How about the worst one in the world? This guy describes the unbelievably inhuman living conditions and torture that the Thai prison system put him through. And he explains how it was not only hell to live through, but how it has scarred him for life.

I listened to this book during my commute and i actually looked forward to it every day (how often can you say that?). I was actually happy when there was a traffic jam or slowdown because i got to listen to more of the book. I was really disappointed when it was over.

Listen to this book -- you will be captivated from start to finish.

Adrian says

Read in one day. Fellows spent 11 1/2 years in the Thailand prison system from 1978 until late 1989 for drug trafficking. He admits his guilt. It's a story of unrelenting horror- torture, heat, bugs, rats, filth, disease, privation and starvation and he has survived it all. Anyone who reads this account and feels justice was done isn't human.

chucklethescot says

Australian Warren Fellows becomes a willing drugs courier at the age of 21 and is finally caught in Thailand with 24 bags of heroin, spending 12 years in a Bangkok prison.

I detest this man. He wants sympathy for the terrible conditions that he was subjected to and yet I find it impossible to actually care. We're not talking about an innocent framed tourist or a naive idiot who thought he was carrying something else. This is a guy who, out of greed chose to be a drug courier and work for very

dangerous men in countries with the death penalty for drug smugglers. So boo hoo and pass me something to wipe my tear filled eyes as I sob at your terrible ordeal. He claims not to want sympathy but then says in his introduction:

"If at the end of my story you still believe that anyone could deserve the horrors that I saw, then you too are a criminal. A vengeful and sadistic one." Oh you bitter, pathetic little parasite. So if we don't feel sorry for you then we are sadists huh?

And on his first drug trip to India, he got involved in some other nice dealings. A hotel manager offers to pay him to go to another city to bring back his girlfriend to him. Without knowing anything about it and agreeing not to mention the manager's name, Warren dupes the poor girl into believing he loves her and wants to be with her in the city, instead delivering her to the manager. Seems the girl escaped from forced labour at the hotel and now Warren has put her back into it. Oh how guilty he felt about her plight-so much so that he says he'll marry her and take her to Australia then just leaves India without a thought and comes back months later on a drug trip, passing by the hotel where he sees the poor girl, letting her see his new girlfriend. What a nice guy!!!

Another pearl of wisdom from Warren was to justify his career. "So President Harry Truman agonised for three weeks over whether to drop the Atom Bomb on Japan. He still did it didn't he?" He seems to think he's superior because he didn't take any time to think about it. Whether you agree with the bomb dropping or not, the decision was taken to save more lives in a land war which has nothing in common with Warren and his drug career! He goes on to say about his career "...for me it was not murder....I didn't even know for sure if there would be any victims at all." Drugs kill people and ruin lives you self obsessed little git! If you were so horrified at the prison conditions then maybe you shouldn't have went to Thailand on your drug trips! You deserved every day of those 12 years.

Avi says

This book was a very descriptive insight to some of the worst prisons in Thailand and I imagine anywhere in this world. The sheer disregard for human suffering and the extent of the brutality is unbelievable. The mind boggles how these things are allowed to happen. It was at times a grisly and difficult read but very interesting to someone like me who has no prior in depth knowledge on this topic.

Sierra Petrovita says

No other book has ever made me so annoyed, disgusted, uncomfortable, angry and scared. It wasn't well written and I think Warren was a douche, but I went through so many emotions while reading this story and that to me, makes a good book. If you are intrested in prisons, you should read this.

Andrew Mitchell says

For anyone even contemplating the life of drug smuggling, this is a must read. This tale of filthy conditions and uncaring guards all mixed up in a foreign land allow for a horrific page turner. If this doesn't put people off that kind of life, nothing will. This book also contains one of the best/scariest introductions to a book I

have ever read. A well written account of living hell.

Andrew says

4,000 Days was offered to me as an excellent way to get myself out of a reading slump. I'd burned myself out on 400 page novels with brilliant writing and needed something a bit less involving. While I'm not entirely happy with the book, the recommendation was spot on and I found myself finishing it in one sitting.

Telling the story of Warren Fellows, *4,000 Days* is more-or-less exactly what the cover promises. Told in a simple, straight-forward style, it is a loose and hurried account of a man's experiences being ruined in the Bangkok prison system. While it is certainly gruesome from cover to cover, it is not a collection of unbelievably horrible things. It is instead a collection of perfectly credible horrible things, and although the author never forces details down your throat, he manages to get the point across of just how much time passed before he was finished coping with the abuse piled on him daily.

All in all, it's a bit more nihilistic than I'd hoped, and the gloom and doom does not make for especially light reading, but it managed to keep me gripped the whole way through nonetheless. I'm not about to start recommending it left and right, but there are much worse ways to spend a cold winter's afternoon.

Yigal Zur says

interesting. i read it as part of my reserch for writing *Trouble in Paradise* . and it is fascinating look into a world most of us luckily don't know

Javier Calle says

A good book to get information from Bang Kwang Prison, but as reading something loose.

Innastholiel says

You know, I think 2 stars is almost too kind for this book. I think it might be the first non-fiction book I have felt a genuine need to vent about. But, on the plus side, it was interesting and quick to read, so I can't really rate it 1 star. Let's compromise on **1.5 stars**.

My main issue with this book is not the horrible things depicted in it, or that they happened to Warren Fellows. My problem is the way Fellows wrote this story. Look, I'm not gonna lie, this book is little more than a gigantic pity-party. And I just can't bring myself to care, because this guy is an asshole. This much was apparent to me after Chapter 1, when the whole kidnapping incident happened. Basically, some guy Fellows and his friend had just met paid them to go to some other city and convince the guy's ex-girlfriend to go with them back to the guy, only they can't tell her the guy's name. And neither of them stop to think about this request. Like, "of course we'll do it, money's money". Are you for real? Of course, when Fellows and his friend get there, Fellows "falls in love" with this girl, so at first he doesn't bring her back to the guy,

but then he does, anyway, and it turns out that this guy is keeping her locked up day and night and forcing her to work for him at his hotel. Fellows promises to come back for her and marry her so they can go back to Australia together. Except he totally forgets about this girl, meets some other girl, and then basically parades her in front of this woman's life he ruined. And does he feel bad about that in any way? Not as far as I can tell. She comes up a couple of times later, but Fellows just talks about what could have been with the two of them and shows no basic concern about what he did to her or even just what happened to her. Do you really not understand that what you did to her was cruel?

Fellows also goes on and on about how he doesn't want pity and he's probably a terrible human being and we're all welcome to spit on his (metaphorical) grave and because he (metaphorically) died in '78 we totally can, but like a phoenix (or so I assume), he rose from the ashes that were his life pre-Thailand to tell his story and achieve ... what exactly? I don't even think he was trying to write a cautionary tale, the book is just *This is what happened to me. Give me your money and cry for me*. Ugh. You wanna know what made me cry? What those assholes did to that poor kitten.

Not to mention that whenever he talks about the Thai people, it sounds like he thinks they're a different species. Have you never heard of cultural differences?

As if all of that wasn't enough already, the book isn't even well-written. It's basically just a loose collection of *there was this one time* and *this random prisoner I knew*. Like, there is no common theme or conclusion to this story. But you know what? I think I'd have hated this book just as much if Fellows had come out the other side declaring himself a changed man. Because clearly, he didn't change. I had the impression that all this experience did was instill a deep, dark fear of Thailand into him. And that just ... Look, I know I shouldn't judge how other people react to stuff, but if you can go through all that and still be an asshole — I don't understand that. Of course, the things he endured were horrible, no question about it. Of course, he'll be scarred for life. But the pretentious and unapologetic tone* in which he tells this story is despicable to me.

* *Drug smuggling is a victimless crime, right??* No. It fucking isn't. And it's not even "just" the users you're supplying, there are people dying and suffering all along the production line. Learn to take responsibility for your actions.

Walter says

A Review of 4000 Days by Warren Fellows

Imagine a place where anyone can do anything and anything can happen. People around you would be dying, but know one would do anything to help them they would just watch. A place where you would be starving for weeks, even sometimes for months. This is about a man named Warren Fellows who was a drug dealer and went to different places like India and Asia to get drugs and deliver them to people who wanted them. Everything went smoothly for him till one day the police tracked him down. He was found in a apartment building where he had all his drugs. He was found guilty and went to prison a prison on a island called Thailand. This prison was not an ordinary prison, this prison controlled the prisoners life. Most of the guards could do anything they want to the prisoners. The guards made Warren stay in a box just enough room for him to curl up in ball. They stuck him in there, hung him up in the air and left him in there, feeding him once a week for five months. Everything that the guards said you had to do or it could you your life. This biography called 4000 Days by Warren Fellows is a great intense and suspenseful book. The author's writing style really drags the reader in and makes you feel like you are next to Warren Fellows. Every part of the book make you feel terrified and wanting you to know what is going to happen next.

The writing style of Warren Fellows really pulls you in the book and makes you want to keep on reading. When Warren Fellows was in the prison for about five months, he describes one on his situations so deeply in the beginning of the book. "The sound of his scream was the scream of pain. But not only of pain, but of madness too. It was the sort of sound you didn't want coming from a human. Not only did the writing style of the book make it better but it makes the book a lot more thrilling to read. One part in the book they put a prisoner in the a container in the shape of a ball and they would bring an elephant to roll it around, while the prisoner cried for mercy. When the elephant got bored or tired of rolling the ball and squash the ball and the prisoner in the ball would die. The guards just stood there as they watched and laughed. The way Warren fellows describes everything in a way where it keeps you interested in the book. Not only does the author have amazing writing style, but he also puts great suspense in the book. An example of that when he is called to the office of the head of the prison no one knows what his name. The narrator describes the head of the prison by saying , "He turned and walked directly towards me. I glanced downward, not wanting to see him. He stopped a few inches from me and touched me gently on my chest with his right hand. His touch was so lightly it was terrifying." This book is filled with great suspense. He ends up getting elbowed in the stomach and collapse on the ground but the suspense he puts in this one part of the book is amazing. Fellows could put up with all these hardships that he had to face. The guards in the prison were ruthless and can do anything that they want to the prisoners with no one stoping them. Fellows was a strong man he didn't want to give up no matter what he had to go through. He herd from other prisons what the guards can do and he didn't want anything to happen to him. He lost track of the amount of days he was in there, so the guards would sometimes even trick him by saying you're being let out and then when they go to the door they would laugh and say your not being let out. This prison was madness he just wanted to be let out. The prison was destroying him and every last piece of him. He was beaten, starved, and all he wanted to do was get out of the prison. This book is over all a really great book. It tells an amazing story about a a young man named Warren Fellows who was drug dealer who goes to a horrible to a horrible and terrifying prison and the things he had to go through. This book is for anyone who really likes thrilling and suspenseful book.

Spoiler Alert

At the end of the book it talks about how he is let free from the prison. At first he didn't really think he was being let out because sometimes the guards would lie and say they are being let out but they are actually not. When I finds out he is actually being let out his heart is filled with joy. When he leaves the prison he says how he was sorry for every thing he has done and the harm he cause to people. Also he wished he never done what he did to get him in the prison. When he goes to meet his mom for the first time in twenty years, he lashes out at her saying this was all her fault and that she was the reason she was in the prison. At the end of the book, he was destroyed. Every thing about him. He says how he can never be the person he use to be and he can't trust anyone anymore. His whole life was all destroyed by this prison that he was in for about twenty years.

Chris Thrall says

As with most people who read this book. I finished it in about two page-turning hours and thought it was a phenominal insight into the world of westerners involved with drugs in Asia. Warren wrote a straight to the point, one dimensional account of his experience - and it still receives a wealth of praise from both sides of the drug-debate fence. I say this because I wonder how my own book will be received, having written it with a literary bent straight from the heart of a full-on-and-mental life passionista!

Ann says

A shockingly true story of two aussies jailed for drug trafficking in Bangkok in 1978 for 12 years. Whether they deserved it or not is besides the point. The horror and the cruelty of the guards and the inmates has to be read to be believed. While telling the reader of their experiences it is distressing to read about the graphic details of many other young travellers from all over Europe who disappear in to this hell hole, some never to be seen again. A must read if you want to know and avoid the underbelly of asian jails.

♥ Marlene♥ says

A quick read but not near as good as I expected it to be according to the ratings.

Maybe I am spoiled but I have read 2 books about this same prison by 2 different Dutch guys. One of those books was so well written and told us the horrible experience he had to go through. But he did that in a much better way than Warren Fellows. This book felt rushed, written from the sideline.

I do understand why this book got high ratings. I think that has lot to do with all the horrible and shocking things he had to undergo.

It seems I was just spoiled. if that book by Pedro Ruizing is ever going to be published in English I'll let you know.
