



Fill the gaps with the, a, an or nothing

'The Body-Snatchers of Bangkok'

'phii'- is the Thai word for spirit or ghost, usually evil

My interpreter lived on ___ outskirts of ___ city and I had offered to see her home. ___ car entered ___ bit of motorway I did not know.

" ___ very dangerous stretch, this," she said. "People die here all ___ time. Do you see those cars?"

In ___ shadows of ___ underpass I saw two strange vans with ___ Thai writing on them, and some men in ___ blue overalls standing nearby.

" ___ body-snatchers," said ___ woman. It was ___ first time I had heard ___ word in ___ Bangkok. ___ story behind it was grisly.

According to popular belief, when ___ person dies violently his spirit does not rest in ___ peace. And if, in ___ moment of death, ___ body is mutilated, decapitated, crushed or torn to pieces, that spirit becomes particularly restless: unless ___ prescribed rites are quickly performed it goes to join ___ enormous army of 'wandering spirits'. These spirits, along with ___ evil *phii*, constitute one of ___ great problems of ___ today's ___ Bangkok. Hence ___ importance of ___ 'body-snatchers', volunteers from Buddhist associations who cruise around ___ city collecting ___ bodies of people who have died violently. They put ___ pieces together and perform ___ appropriate rites so that ___ souls may depart in ___ peace and not hang about playing ___ tricks on ___ living.



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A Fortune-Teller Told Me: Earthbound Travels in the Far East, by Tiziano Terzani (2002)