

Mae Nak's Arm beneath the House

STR-GHOST-046 / REV A / 2026.09.08

Mak returns from war to his wife and baby, unaware that the village believes they are dead. A dropped lime exposes the impossible reach of Mae Nak's devotion.

STATUS	A recorded story, with its history attached
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	Phra Khanong, Bangkok, Thailand
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Ghosts & hauntings
STORY HISTORY	Nineteenth-century tradition; discussed in print in 1899

THE ACCOUNT

Mak comes home to the life he expected: his wife Nak and their baby waiting for him. In the Thai legend, she has died during childbirth while he was away at war, but her spirit continues the household. He refuses the neighbours' warnings until an ordinary kitchen accident reveals the truth. Nak drops a lime from the raised house and stretches her arm impossibly far to retrieve it. The familiar person is suddenly doing something no living body could do. Mak flees, and the story's domestic reunion becomes a struggle over whether love can keep the dead among the living.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

Thailand Foundation recounts this enduring legend and traces a competing explanation to K. S. R. Kularb's newspaper article of 10 March 1899. Kularb claimed the haunting had been manufactured by a son protecting his inheritance. That is an early interpretation, not a settled solution. The article demonstrates that people were already debating the story rather than merely repeating it.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

The lime is the perfect revealing detail. The impossible enters through a chore, in a home that looked restored to normal just a moment earlier.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

Mae Nak Phra Khanong: Thailand's Most Famous Ghost (Love) Story

Thailand Foundation

https://www.thailandfoundation.or.th/culture_heritage/mae-nak-phra-khanong-thailands-most-famous-ghost-love-story/

RETURN TO THE STORY

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