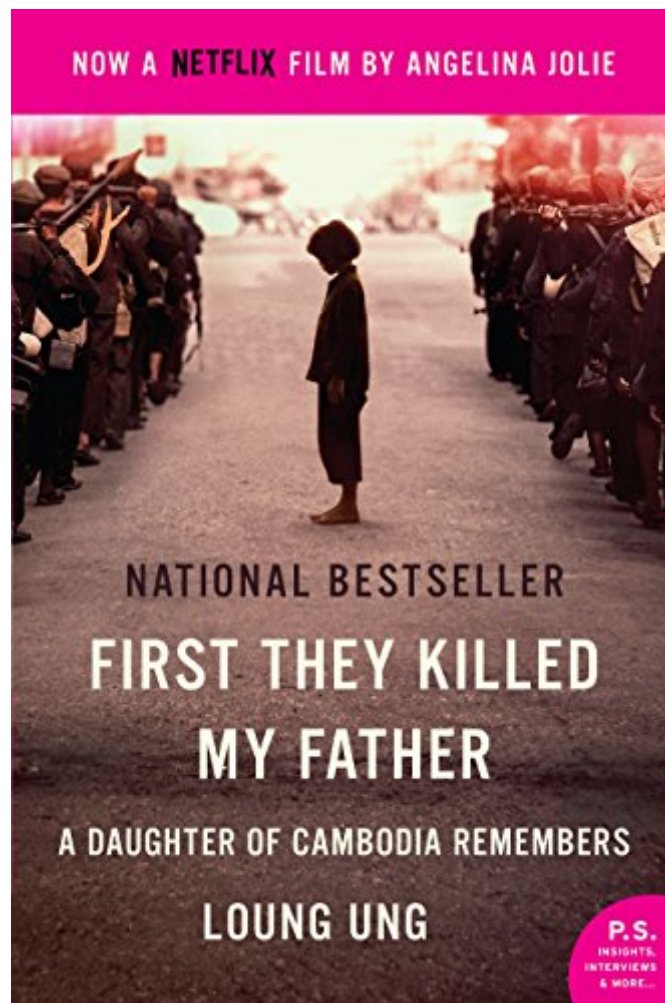




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First They Killed My Father: A Daughter Of Cambodia Remembers



Synopsis

Repackaged in a new tie-in edition to coincide with the Netflix film produced and directed by Angelina Jolie, a moving story of war crimes and desperate actions, the unnerving strength of a small girl and her triumphant spirit as she survived the Cambodian genocide under Pol Pot's brutal regime. Until the age of five, Loung Ung lived in Phnom Penh, one of seven children of a high-ranking government official. She was a precocious child who loved the open city markets, fried crickets, chicken fights, and sassing her parents. While her beautiful mother worried that Loung was a troublemaker that she stomped around like a thirsty cow her beloved father knew Loung was a clever girl. When Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge army stormed into Phnom Penh in April 1975, Ung's family fled their home and moved from village to village to hide their identity, their education, their former life of privilege. Eventually, the family dispersed in order to survive. Loung trained as a child soldier in a work camp for orphans, while other siblings were sent to labor camps. As the Vietnamese penetrated Cambodia, destroying the Khmer Rouge, Loung and her surviving siblings were slowly reunited. Bolstered by the shocking bravery of one brother, the courage and sacrifices of the rest of her family and sustained by her sister's gentle kindness amid brutality Loung forged on to create for herself a courageous new life. Harrowing yet hopeful, insightful and compelling, this story is truly unforgettable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Important. Painful. Shameful. Heroic. Inspirational. Loung Ung teaches all her readers about the harsh realities of war and, how it affects a family. Her family was torn apart. Family members lived, died, cried, suffered and persevered in her life. The story starts as, Pol Pot is fulfilling his plan to 'rebuild,' Cambodia. Loung Ung's family is moved from the city, along with all the other residents to rural farming communities across their nation. The people are divided based on their histories: Educated/wealthy/city dwellers vs. Farmers, laborers. The educated are tortured, killed or maimed. They are all forced to work on the farms. The families are separated. This story is so important. Many people are unaware of the atrocities that the people of Cambodia experienced during the Pol Pot regime and even earlier, as the United States oftentimes dropped bombs meant for Vietnam above their country. I encourage everyone to read this descriptive, intense, emotional book.

Very real, sad and a lot to swallow. I would recommend it if you are into history and the truth about what is going on in our world that we may not realize. I have been to Cambodia and met people who have suffered from the harsh rule and war. It is very sad. The country is still rebuilding and most have moved on over the years. The children, though many are still very poor, don't understand the suffering of their parents or grandparents. They are told of the stories though and can still see the affects of the war. Over the years I have learned of many things that are happening or have happened in other parts of the world that are so foreign to our way of life that it is hard to imagine. We are a very privileged country and despite our problems we are still better off than any other that I have been to. This book is just one of those that brings a part of life in another country to our knowledge.

There are all kinds of things we need to know,; what's happening in our own Country. What's the norm, or what was the worst of the norm in other places. This is a well written book describing life from the point of view of a young girl who grew up in Cambodia, during the time of the Khmer Rouge under Pol Pot. It is a compelling read! As this young woman grows up we experience the privation, the brutality she and her family experience.. She tells her story with no holds barred, but matter-of-fact. There is no maudlin here, just the truth. I'm not going to spoil the end for you, but know that if you want to know how it was in Cambodia, this is the way to do it.

Dear Ms. Ung, Thank you for writing this book. I am glad that you survived and was able to ease some of your pain by sharing your experiences. Your book illustrated the similarities between the Pol Pot regime of intolerance, hate and a willingness to kill innocent people with the Nazi atrocities against the Jewish people. The memoirs I have read from survivors of the Holocaust are achingly familiar to the hell that the Cambodian people endured. Today, we have the Muslim terrorists using intolerance, hate and a willingness to kill innocent people in all parts of the world. Thank you again for being a force for good with your books and your efforts to help victims of landmines.

Truly educational, heartbreaking and thought provoking. I did not know much about the Khmer Rouge or Pol Pot but this book has raised my awareness of another human tragedy and man's inhumanity to man. Written from perspective as a child experiencing the loss of her home, life as she knew it and family member's deaths versus as an adult, she does an amazing job exploring the world and thoughts as a child perceives them. She was only five when her world turned upside down. Truly remarkable journey. I read the entire book in one day because I couldn't put it down.

It was hard to continue reading this at times, as I kept thinking "there but for the grace of God, go I." A very gripping story from the perspective of a child, a very strong child to be sure, which details the experiences and tragedies of her family as they are taken by the Khmer Rouge. Highly recommended, and I am getting this book for friends too. The reason that it didn't get 5 stars is only because of the problems which may be related to transfer to Kindle form--some misspellings, missed words, and things of that sort. Minor but annoying.

This book blew me away. One imagines the hardships faced under totalitarian regimes but to read a first-hand account written from the perspective and accurate age of the person living it (she writes from the child's perspective as was her direct experience at the time), adds a dimension of realism taking it to a whole new level. I felt I was part of the author's family as I read. The emotion is real and you will laugh, cry, and feel anger & despair. I am pretty close to the same age as the author and this book really opened my eyes to the idea that these things CAN happen to anyone at anytime including present day. I recommend this book as mandatory reading not only for understanding the human condition but for a reminder of why liberty must be protected at all costs BEFORE things go beyond the point of no return.

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