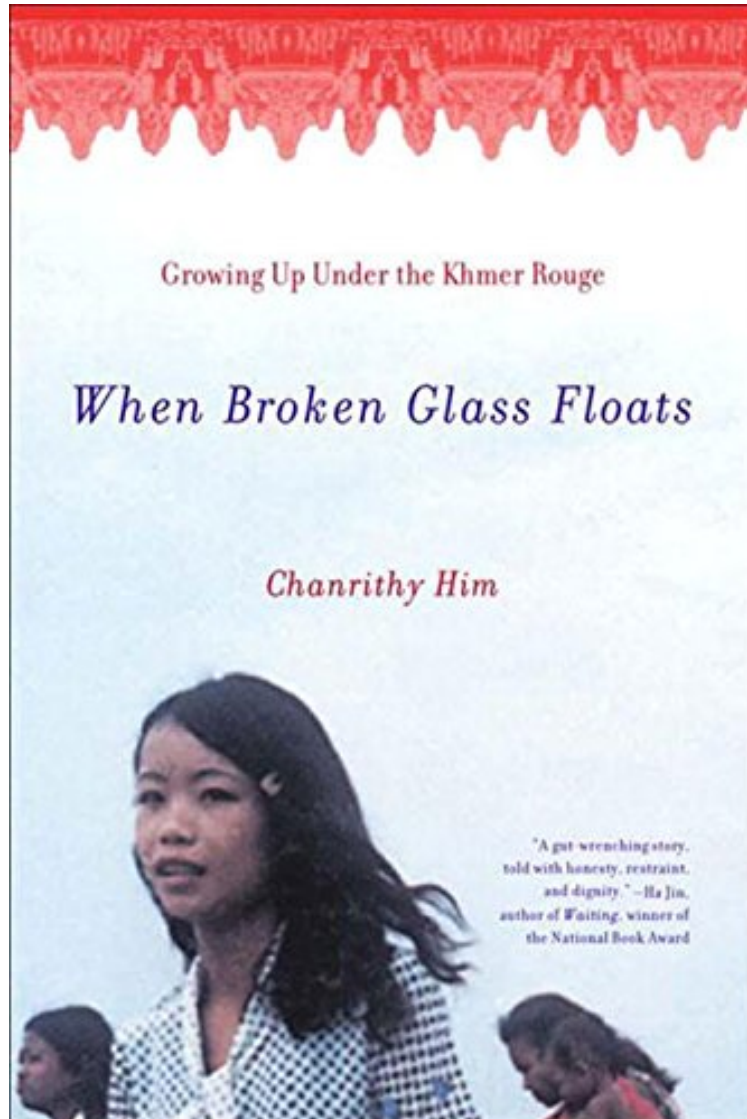


[Library ebook] When Broken Glass Floats: Growing Up Under the Khmer Rouge

## When Broken Glass Floats: Growing Up Under the Khmer Rouge

*Chanrithy Him*

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#355013 in Books Chanrithy Him 2001-04-17 2001-04-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.20 x .90 x 5.50l, .63 #File Name: 0393322106336 pagesWhen Broken Glass Floats Growing up under the Khmer Rouge | File size: 46.Mb

**Chanrithy Him : When Broken Glass Floats: Growing Up Under the Khmer Rouge** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised When Broken Glass Floats: Growing Up Under the Khmer Rouge:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book really gives one a close up and personal look at what life was like for ordinary families whose lives were totally disrupted by ...By bbstanHaving grown up during the Vietnam War, I had heard of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge but hadn't thought too much about what the people of Cambodia

really went through. This book really gives one a close up and personal look at what life was like for ordinary families whose lives were totally disrupted by that terrible war. Chanrithy survives against unbelievable odds and relives her past to help other children who have suppressed their memories of deprivation, starvation, and loss. I highly recommend this book to anyone, especially if they have heard the quote "some pigs are more equal than others" and know what it means. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Heartbreaking and amazing story By R Titsworth What a story of keeping relationship and family connections in the midst of horrible circumstances. To choose to live when it would be easier to give up. I have more of an understanding of what living under the Khmer Rouge was like and hope no one experiences that kind of horror again. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Cambodia. story By Kindle Customer A young girl's tale of living under the Khmer Rouge. I interesting, as I knew very little about the Khmer Rouge. Her life was brutal under these communists, with little food and back breaking to forced labor. However, she does not tell of their ideology or their motivation.

Chanrithy Him felt compelled to tell of surviving life under the Khmer Rouge in a way "worthy of the suffering which I endured as a child." In a mesmerizing story, Chanrithy Him vividly recounts her trek through the hell of the "killing fields." She gives us a child's-eye view of a Cambodia where rudimentary labor camps for both adults and children are the norm and modern technology no longer exists. Death becomes a companion in the camps, along with illness. Yet through the terror, the members of Chanrithy's family remain loyal to one another, and she and her siblings who survive will find redeemed lives in America. A Finalist for the Kiriyama Pacific Rim Book Prize. 15 black and white illustrations

.com "Chea, how come good doesn't win over evil?" young Chanrithy Him asks her sister, after the brutal Khmer Rouge have seized power in Cambodia, but before hunger makes them too weak for philosophy. Chea answers only with a proverb: When good and evil are thrown together into the river of life, first the klock or squash (representing good) will sink, and the arbaeg or broken glass (representing evil) will float. But the broken glass, Chea assures her, never floats for long: "When good appears to lose, it is an opportunity for one to be patient, and become like God." Before this proverb could come true, Chanrithy had to watch her mother, father, and five of her brothers and sisters die, murdered by the Khmer Rouge or fatally weakened by malnutrition, disease, and overwork. Now living in Oregon, where she studies posttraumatic stress disorder among Cambodian survivors, Chanrithy has written a first-person account of the killing fields that's remarkable for both its unflinching honesty and its refusal to despair. In wrenchingly immediate prose, she describes atrocities the rest of the world might prefer to ignore: her sick yet still breathing mother, thrown along with corpses into a well; a pregnant woman beaten to death with a spade, the baby struggling inside her; a sister impossibly swollen with edema, her starving body leaking fluid from the webbing between her toes. The mind retreats from horrors like these--and yet what emerges most strongly from this memoir is the triumph of life. Chanrithy is determined to honor her pledge to the dying Chea, to study medicine so she can help others live. When Broken Glass Floats accomplishes the same goal in a different way. "As a survivor, I want to be worthy of the suffering that I endured," Chanrithy writes; by giving such eloquent voice to her dead, she has proven herself more than worthy of her suffering--and theirs. --Chloe Byrne From Publishers Weekly Born in Cambodia in 1965, Him lived from the age of three with the fear of war overflowing from neighboring Vietnam and suffered through the U.S.'s bombing of her native land. However, thanks to her loving and open-minded family, her outlook remained positive--until 1975, when the Khmer Rouge seized control and turned her world upside down. (According to a Cambodian proverb, "broken glass floats" when the world is unbalanced.) Armed with a nearly photographic memory, Him forcefully expresses the utter horror of life under the revolutionary regime. Evacuated from Phnom Penh and shunted from villages to labor camps, her close-knit family of 12 was decimated: both parents were murdered, and five of her siblings starved or died from treatable illnesses. Meanwhile, the culture of local communities was destroyed and replaced with the simple desire to survive famine. Yet for all their suffering throughout these years, the surviving Hims remained loyal to one another, saving any extra food they collected and making dangerous trips to other camps to share it with weaker family members. Friendships were also formed at great risk, and small favors were exchanged. But by the end of the book, Him finds herself surprised when she encounters remnants of humanity in people, for she has learned to live by mistrusting, by relying on her own wits and strength. When the Khmer Rouge were overthrown, Him moved to a refugee camp in Thailand. Today she works with the Khmer Adolescent Project in Oregon. This beautifully told story is an important addition to the literature of this period. (Apr.) FYI: In the January 17 issue, PW reviewed another memoir of growing up under the Khmer Rouge, First They Killed My Father by Loung Ung. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. A gut-wrenching story, told with honesty, restraint, and dignity. - Ha Jin, author of Waiting Intelligent and morally aware [Him] tells us what it was like to struggle to survive while others played out utopian dreams. - New York Times An inspiring story that draws hope from horror. - Seattle Times There are few books that give a refugees point of view as clearly and passionately as Hims. - Time Out Astonishing and heartbreaking Written in spare, visual prose that makes the world it describes tangible. - Katherine A. Powers, Boston Globe A touching and illuminating human account and should not be

missed by anyone around the world. - Le Ly Hayslip, author of *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*