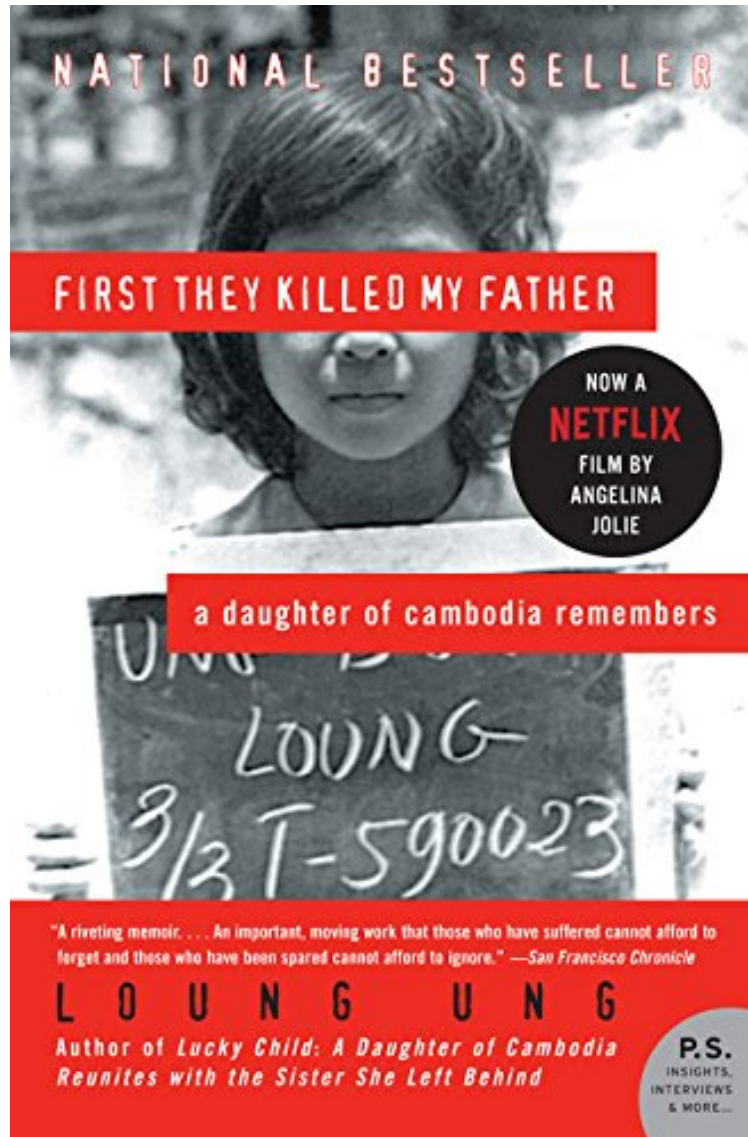


(Download ebook) First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers (P.S.)

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Loung Ung

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Loung Ung : First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers (P.S.) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers (P.S.):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Worthy and Unworthy Tragedies By R. L. Huff Having seen the Angelina Jolie film adaptation I became curious as to the original memoir. Reading this one I find all the problems

associated with this genre in the Western press. As to the film, there are a few embellishments not appearing in print: the bare-knuckled Khmer Rouge feminazi military trainer, or KR soldiers discussing the bombing of their villages. I suspect these are Jolie-inspired tweaks. I understand that some Cambodian-Americans were highly critical: that Ms. Ung was accused of exploiting memories they all shared for personal gain, or that she herself embellished this memoir beyond what a young girl could possibly remember. Some of this seems mean-spirited few Khmer-American immigrants likely possess the literary skill to write a book in English, so I can give her the benefit of the doubt as to her right to write or the authenticity of her experience. My criticism comes as an American reader, for whose benefit such Cambodian literature is aimed. Despite the lurid title (re: Not Without My Daughter) and despite that it was her sister who died first Loung Ung has graphically described the tragedy of a small middle class city child snatched from a privileged life by the jaws of war. She suffered greatly in these years, as did Cambodia itself, closely surviving incidents and memories of the kind most would rather forget. The reviews are full of the predictable American moral outrage. My response is that when you bomb a place back to the Stone Age as the US SAC often boasted its naturally overrun by cavemen and cannibals. What else would you expect? The Taliban and ISIS are recent examples of the same. The purpose of this Cambodian literature for Americans is to deflect criticism of its own Indochina behavior (My Lai was just a fluke of an otherwise Just Cause); and to retroactively justify not only the Vietnam War but so-called present and future humanitarian interventions (except for the Vietnamese youn invasion of Cambodia itself in 1979 since it was done by Them and not Us, their motives couldnt have been worthy). Its convenient that Loung Ung was only five when her ordeal began: an innocent for whom all this just blew in from nowhere, as we are also taught to believe by our policy establishment. As usual, the memoirist is also of a former middle or upper class, someone just like us. Rice-pickers rarely leave written records, of course, unless someone takes time to track them down in their native setting and write for them. For Cambodians, dumping on the Khmer Rouge and Pol Pot nicely covers the fact that Cambodia was embroiled in a civil war, not entirely of its own making. Unfortunately, Ms. Ung's father was a former secret policeman and army officer; his executioners took a different view than his beloved daughter. A Hitlerite figure like Pol Pot nicely scapegoats lingering recriminations on all sides. The genocide claim also serves said purpose, though the ugliness recorded here and in other examples of KR literature differs not at all from eyewitness accounts in Bangladesh, Central America or the Yugoslav lands. Read as one Cambodian-Americans personal tragedy its a moving story. As another American literary exercise in moral posturing it comes off like its predecessors: an example of a "worthy" atrocity against which we can muster all our sense of outrage, as opposed to "unworthy" ones committed in our interests which we are obliged to defend. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The details and story in this book were so moving and painful to read and learn about. By Todd M My fiance is Cambodian, and most of her family fled the country during the chaos as the Khmer Rouge regime took over. She was only sibling of 12 born in the states, and one of her sisters was lost in the chaos when they were leaving and they were never able to locate her. I wanted to read this book to try to understand their story, and it is quite simply heartbreaking. I remember seeing them talk about the Cambodian Crisis on the news in the 70's when I was a kid, but I never knew how horrific the events were in actuality. This book captures this so well, and also shows how courageous the author and her siblings were, as they tried to survive each day for many, many years after their lives were ripped apart. The details and story in this book were so moving and painful to read and learn about, that it brings tears to my eyes just writing this, and I'm thankful that I was able to read this and learn about my new families past and about the history that brought the woman I love into my life. Her family is so loving and joyful and welcoming, and they have told me many times how grateful they are to live in America, and how thankful they are for everything they have worked for and built in this country. This book, and the authors story remind me and inspire me to be thankful for what I have and for the life I have had the privilege to lead. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read. By Brenda gibson Interesting read...i never read things about Cambodia so this was very informative. Since I lived during that time. I recognized the names of places and to the group's they talked about. I don't know that I will see the movie because it didn't seem movie worthy...but again I have recommended it to others.

From a childhood survivor of the Camdodian genocide under the regime of Pol Pot, this is a riveting narrative of war crimes and desperate actions, the unnerving strength of a small girl and her family, and their triumph of spirit. One of seven children of a high-ranking government official, Loung Ung lived a privileged life in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh until the age of five. Then, in April 1975, Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge army stormed into the city, forcing Ung's family to flee and, eventually, to disperse. Loung was trained as a child soldier in a work camp for orphans, her siblings were sent to labor camps, and those who survived the horrors would not be reunited until the Khmer Rouge was destroyed. Harrowing yet hopeful, Loung's powerful story is an unforgettable account of a family shaken and shattered, yet miraculously sustained by courage and love in the face of unspeakable brutality.

.com Written in the present tense, *First They Killed My Father* will put you right in the midst of the action--action you'll wish had never happened. It's a tough read, but definitely a worthwhile one, and the author's personality and strength shine through on every page. Covering the years from 1975 to 1979, the story moves from the deaths of

multiple family members to the forced separation of the survivors, leading ultimately to the reuniting of much of the family, followed by marriages and immigrations. The brutality seems unending--beatings, starvation, attempted rape, mental cruelty--and yet the narrator (a young girl) never stops fighting for escape and survival. Sad and courageous, her life and the lives of her young siblings provide quite a powerful example of how war can so deeply affect children--especially a war in which they are trained to be an integral part of the armed forces. For anyone interested in Cambodia's recent history, this book shares a valuable personal view of events. --Jill LightnerFrom Publishers Weekly

In 1975, Ung, now the national spokesperson for the Campaign for a Landmine-Free World, was the five-year-old child of a large, affluent family living in Phnom Penh, the cosmopolitan Cambodian capital. As extraordinarily well-educated Chinese-Cambodians, with the father a government agent, her family was in great danger when the Khmer Rouge took over the country and throughout Pol Pot's barbaric regime. Her parents' strength and her father's knowledge of Khmer Rouge ideology enabled the family to survive together for a while, posing as illiterate peasants, moving first between villages, and then from one work camp to another. The father was honest with the children, explaining dangers and how to avoid them, and this, along with clear sight, intelligence and the pragmatism of a young child, helped Ung to survive the war. Her restrained, unsentimental account of the four years she spent surviving the regime before escaping with a brother to Thailand and eventually the United States is astonishing--not just because of the tragedies, but also because of the immense love for her family that Ung holds onto, no matter how she is brutalized. She describes the physical devastation she is surrounded by but always returns to her memories and hopes for those she loves. Her joyful memories of life in Phnom Penh are close even as she is being trained as a child soldier, and as, one after another, both parents and two of her six siblings are murdered in the camps. Skillfully constructed, this account also stands as an eyewitness history of the period, because as a child Ung was so aware of her surroundings, and because as an adult writer she adds details to clarify the family's moves and separations. Twenty-five years after the rise of the Khmer Rouge, this powerful account is a triumph. 8 pages bw photos. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal YA-Ung was a headstrong, clever child who was a delight to her father, a high-ranking government official in Phnom Penh. She was only five when the Khmer Rouge stormed the city and her family was forced to flee. They sought refuge in various camps, hiding their wealth and education, always on the move and ever fearful of being betrayed. After 20 months, Ung's father was taken away, never to be seen again. Her story of starvation, forced labor, beatings, attempted rape, separations, and the deaths of her family members is one of horror and brutality. The first-person account of Cambodia under the reign of Pol Pot will be read not only for research papers but also as a tribute to a human spirit that never gave up. YAs will applaud Ung's courage and strength. Katherine Fitch, Rachel Carson Middle School, Fairfax, VA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.