

# First They Killed My Father: An Unforgettable Story of Survival Under the Khmer Rouge

In the annals of history, the Cambodian Genocide stands as a horrifying chapter of human suffering and brutality. Loung Ung, a young girl of five, survived the horrors of this regime and shared her harrowing story in her memoir, "First They Killed My Father." This powerful and emotionally evocative book has captivated readers worldwide, offering a firsthand account of one of the darkest periods in human history.



## First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers by Loung Ung

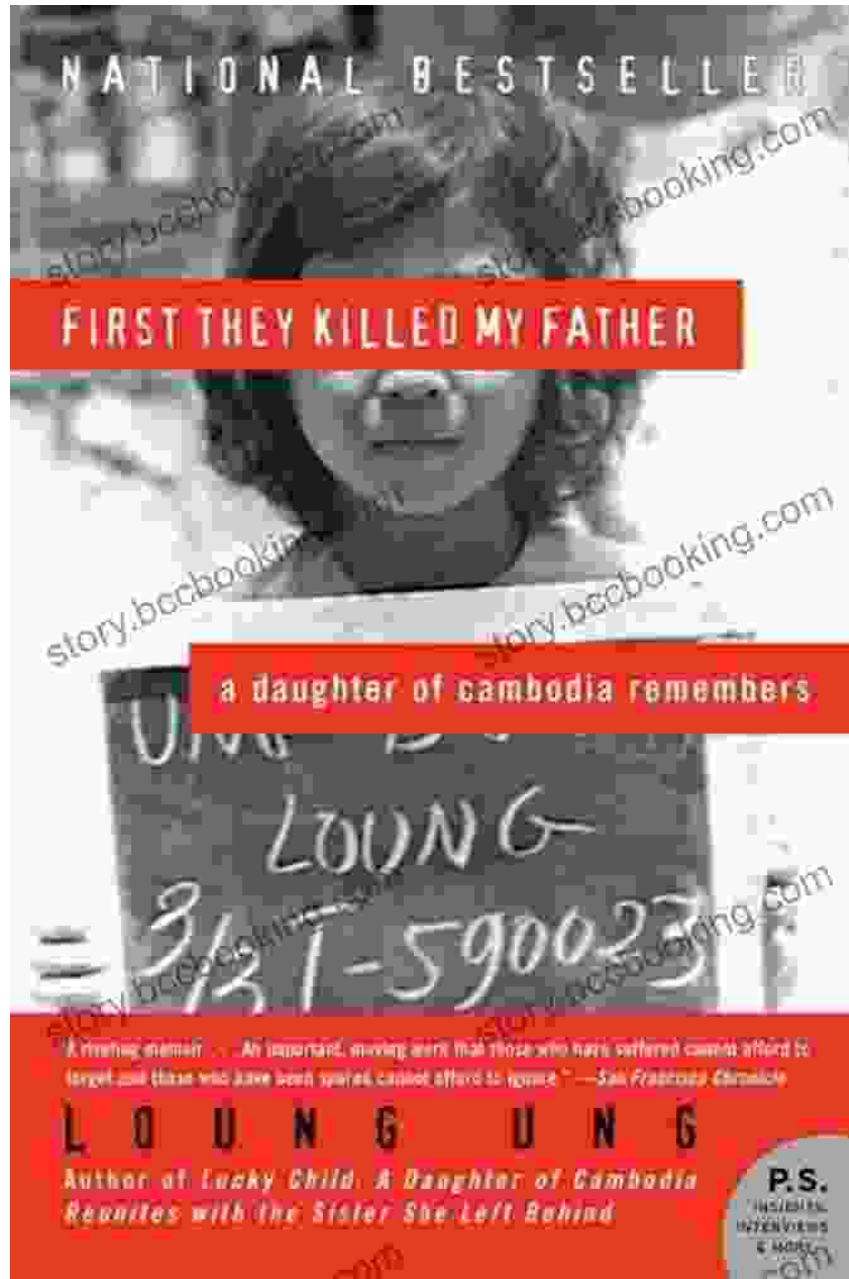
★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 4139 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 274 pages
X-Ray	: Enabled

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## Loung Ung's Journey through the Nightmare

In 1975, as the Khmer Rouge swept across Cambodia, Loung and her family found themselves trapped in a whirlwind of violence and chaos. Her father, a high-ranking official in the government, was arrested and executed without trial. Her mother, desperate to protect her children, fled with Loung and her siblings into the countryside.

In the refugee camps and rice fields, Loung witnessed unspeakable horrors: starvation, disease, and mass murder. Along the way, her siblings disappeared one by one, and she was forced to endure unimaginable suffering. Yet, amidst the darkness, her indomitable spirit burned bright, refusing to give up hope.

## **A Heartbreaking and Inspiring Tale of Resilience**

"First They Killed My Father" is not just a story of loss and trauma; it is also a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. Through Loung's vivid prose, we witness the unimaginable courage and love that sustained her through the nightmare.

Her relationships with her family members, particularly her mother, provide a poignant backdrop against the brutality. Loung's love for her siblings and her determination to protect them drive her forward, even in the face of starvation and despair.

## **Historical Significance and Cultural Impact**

Beyond its personal narrative, "First They Killed My Father" has gained significant historical importance. It serves as a powerful indictment of the Khmer Rouge regime and raises awareness about one of the most devastating genocides of the 20th century.

The book has been translated into over 30 languages and has received numerous awards, including the Michael L. Printz Award and the National Book Award for Young People's Literature. It has also been adapted into a 2017 film directed by Angelina Jolie.

"First They Killed My Father" is an unforgettable and deeply moving memoir that sheds light on one of the darkest chapters in human history. Loung Ung's powerful voice transports readers into the heart of the Cambodian Genocide, where they witness the resilience, courage, and love that can triumph over even the most horrific circumstances.

Whether read as a historical account, a personal narrative, or a testament to the human spirit, this extraordinary book will leave an indelible mark on your heart and mind. It is a must-read for anyone seeking to understand the horrors of war and the indomitable power of the human spirit.



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**Remembers** by Loung Ung

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