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## ***When Broken Glass Floats: Growing Up Under the Khmer Rouge; A Memoir by Chanrithy Him***

Norton. April 2000 c.288p. photogs.

ISBN 0-393-04863-2. \$23.95 - AUTOBIOG

Review by John F. Riddick, Central Michigan University Lib., Pleasant

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With the passage of nearly 25 years since Pol Pot's Communist revolution in Cambodia, a genre of holocaust literature written by young Cambodian survivors has emerged. Him's memoir includes the familiar narrative of being driven as a child from Phnom Penh in April 1975, witnessing the deaths of loved ones by disease and execution, facing the constant torment of fear, hunger, and loneliness, and, finally being released from the Khmer Rouge with the invasion of the Vietnamese.

What distinguishes Him's account from prior works (e.g., Loung Ung's *First They Killed My Father*, *LJ* 1/00), is the depth of her connection to Cambodian culture and her strong Buddhist faith, which forms a structure against which she relates her horrible experiences. Him avoids the simplistic hatred of all Khmer Rouge, pointing to a few who displayed a measure of kindness to her. Finally, Him carries her story beyond Cambodia to the refugee camps of Thailand and the Philippines as she prepares to go to the United States. This moving and well-written memoir deserves a sequel discussing Him's present work in Oregon regarding posttraumatic stress disorder.

Recommended for public and academic libraries.