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- Newsletter of the British Refugee Council

A haunting elegy for the victims of the Khmer Rouge

***When Broken Glass Floats:
Growing Up Under the Khmer Rouge***
By Chanrithy Him

Published: June 2000

This is one of the first childhood memoirs to emerge from the Khmer Rouge period in Cambodia. Her life had been overshadowed by war since the age of three, when the Viet Cong crossed the border of Cambodia and American B52s retaliated with massive bombing raids. The events she witnessed – including the execution of her father and the death through malnutrition of her mother – are movingly written. The book is a haunting elegy for the victims of the Khmer Rouge and a moving tribute to the strength of their dignity and their commitment to help one another. Moreover, Chanrithy's memoir is a much-needed reminder of the horrors many refugees have escaped from. (Norton Books, £16.95)