

WHEN BROKEN GLASS FLOATS

By

Chanrithy Him

LOGLINE: In the shadows of the Khmer Rouge's terror, young Chanrithy Him endures unimaginable horrors. From Cambodia's killing fields to America's bustling streets, she becomes a beacon of hope, an award-winning author, and a voice for the voiceless—challenging even the most powerful leaders.

CONCEPT: A riveting biographical adaptation of the internationally acclaimed memoir, *When Broken Glass Floats: Growing Up Under the Khmer Rouge* (W.W. Norton) by Chanrithy Him. This tale spans from the serene landscapes of Cambodia to the promises of America during one of the most tumultuous periods of the 20th century.

THE MEET: This is where the piercing investigative spirit of *All the President's Men* collides with the harrowing survival tale of *The Killing Fields*, told through the resilient eyes of a child survivor who refused to be silenced.

TAGLINE: God created Heaven and Earth in six days. The US and the Khmer Rouge created hell overnight. One child who survived tells her story.

SYNOPSIS: In the verdant fields of Cambodia, young CHANRITHY HIM relishes a life filled with love, family, and the lullabies of nature. But innocence is fleeting, and by the age of three, Chanrithy's world shatters in the crossfire of a nation at war.

The iron fist of the Khmer Rouge clenches Cambodia in 1975, and Chanrithy is plunged into a nightmare. As work camps, torture, and executions become the brutal norm, her family dwindles—one by one. Yet, even in the harshest moments, miracles unfold, fueled by faith, hope, and the human spirit's indomitable will to survive.

America—once painted as a dream by her father—beckons, and Chanrithy seeks its shores. But in its embrace, she uncovers haunting truths: America's covert dealings that fan the flames of Cambodia's suffering. Transforming her pain into purpose, she becomes an author and a global advocate, narrating her story to enlighten the world about the Cambodian genocide and empower its survivors.

Her journey comes full circle when, thirty-five years later, she confronts MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT, the former Secretary of State, at the 56th Annual NAFSA Conference, challenging the US's clandestine support for the Khmer Rouge and bringing the political manipulations around H. CON. RES. 399 into the spotlight.

Through her relentless pursuit of truth and justice, Chanrithy exemplifies a powerful rebirth, painting her life as “a kind of reincarnation,” turning shattered glass into a mosaic of hope, resilience, and transformation.



“Intelligent and morally aware . . . [Him] tells us what it was like to struggle to survive while others played out utopian dreams.”

— *New York Times*

As a judge, the esteemed **Mr. Francis Ford Coppola** honored the script as a semi-finalist, landing in the top 1% of over two thousand entries in the 2021 American Zoetrope Screenplay Competition.

“Dear Ms. Him, Thank you so much for sharing your story with me and the world...Courageous individuals such as yourself help give voice to those who have none and remind us of our obligations to humanity... You are an inspiring woman.”

—*Madeleine K. Albright, U.S. Secretary of State*

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