

# WHEN BROKEN GLASS FLOATS

By  
Chanrithy Him

**LOGLINE:** “When Broken Glass Floats” is the story of CHANRITHY HIM - her harrowing childhood under the brutal Khmer Rouge regime and her ultimate triumph as an award-winning author and a world-traveling renaissance woman, known for telling her inspirational story.

**CONCEPT:** An adapted memoir set in Cambodia and the United States during the turbulent late sixties and beyond. It is based on the internationally acclaimed book by Him entitled: *When Broken Glass Floats: Growing Up Under the Khmer Rouge*, W. W. Norton (April 2000).

**THE MEET:** *All the President’s Men* meets *The Killing Fields* from a child’s point of view.

**TAGLINE:** God created heaven and earth in six days. In Cambodia, the US and the Khmer Rouge created hell overnight. She survived it.

**SYNOPSIS:** CHANRITHY HIM is a much beloved child who lives a bucolic existence in beautiful Cambodia with her parents and many siblings.

Chanrithy’s life changes forever at the age of three, in 1969, when she witnesses the US carpet bombing in her country. 5.5 billion pounds of US bombs were dropped on Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge benefited from this destruction and ruled Cambodia from 1975 through 1978.

Despite losing her parents and several siblings in the infamous killing fields, Chanrithy’s spirit remains unbroken. Through desperate prayers, she experiences miraculous divine providence in the form of storms and human angels. She dreams of fleeing to America, a country where her father promises there is freedom. There, Chanrithy becomes an award-winning author, telling her story in order to make the world aware of the Cambodian genocide. She also becomes a social activist, speaking at lecture halls and universities internationally.

As fate has it, Chanrithy comes face to face with one of America’s most powerful leaders. At the 56th Annual NAFSA Conference, the former Secretary of State MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT and Chanrithy are both scheduled to speak. There, Chanrithy confronts Albright about the US’ secret support of the Khmer Rouge returning to power in order to fight its proxy battle while the Vietnamese occupy Cambodia. Chanrithy’s bravery in speaking out now has a direct influence to bring about real change.

Chanrithy poetically describes her new life as “a kind of reincarnation.”



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

“Even though Chanrithy was young during the genocide, she never forgot her mission to educate the world. I commend her for this effort.”  
— *Dith Pran whose life story was portrayed in the Oscar-winning film, The Killing Fields*

“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*