

First They Killed My Father

A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers

By Loung Ung

Guide to People in the Text

Pa – Sem Im Ung, born in 1931, works as a military policeman in Phnom Penh

Ma – Ay Choung Ung
(Ages in 1975)

Meng – 18 year old brother, valedictorian of his class and will go on to college

Khouy – 16 year old brother, described as "cool and suave"; he likes motorcycles and girls more than books; the other children fear him

Keav – 14 year old sister, young and beautiful but said to gossip and argue too much

Kim – 10 year old brother – name means "gold" in Chinese, nick named "the little monkey"

Chou – 8 years old sister – name means "gem" in Chinese, quiet, shy and obedient

Loung – 5 year old author of book, name means "dragon" in Chinese, described as "spoiled and a troublemaker"

Geak – 3 year old sister – name means "jade" in Chinese, described as a beautiful and happy baby

Uncle Heang – Mother's oldest brother

Uncle Leang – Mother's second brother

Aunt Keang – Uncle Leang's wife

Lee Cheun – cousin who lives in Krang Troup

Pol Pot – Leader of the Khmer Rouge

Davi – victim in labor camp

Laine – reluctant bride to Khouy

Chong – widow in labor camp, mother to Peu and Srei

Rarnie – bully in orphan camp

Sarene – author's new Cambodian name

Poaf – 14 year old son of foster family

Pithy – female child that author befriends in camp

Eang – Chinese wife of Meng

Met Bong – term meaning "comrade elder sister," used as a term of respect

General Lon Nol – General who deposed Prince Sihanouk in a military coup in 1970

Locations

Phnom Penh – their home before being forced to leave by the Khmer Rouge, April 17th, 1975

Democratic Kampuchea – term used by Khmer Rouge to describe Cambodia

Tonle Sap River – the river that borders Phnom Penh

Tro Nuon – city where Pa was born

Kom Baul – a military check point early in the march from Phnom Penh

Krang Troup – village where Uncle Leang lives, family stays there for two months before having to move on further

Battambang – village where grandmother lives

Anlungthmor – another village where family lives

Ro leap – name of another village where the family is relocated to in November 1975

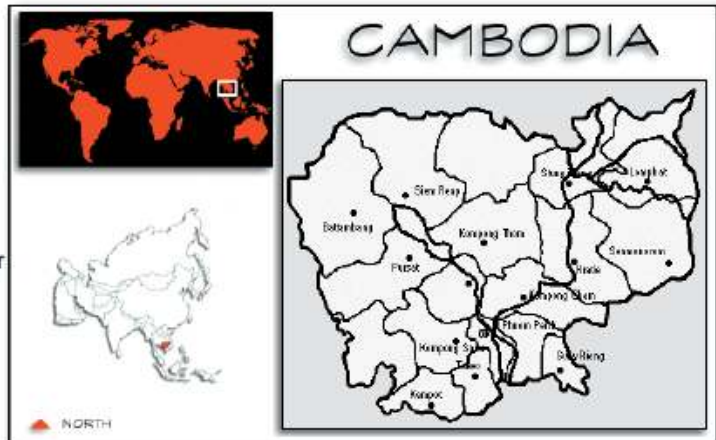
Angkor Wat – ancient religious site

Kong Cha Lat – a teen work camp

Pursat City – city that they are trying to reach after invasion by Vietnamese

Saigon – Vietnam city where some family members land after leaving Cambodia

LamSing – refugee camp



1) Source: <http://www.mekong.net/cambodiafacts.htm> (This source also used for timelines.)

Terminology

Kroma – a traditional head scarf, p. 14

Barang – term meaning "French," the phrase is used to describe a white person, p. 16

Angkar – meaning "the organization," this term refers to the new government under the Khmer Rouge

Capitalists – one who supports capitalism, an investor of capital in business, p. 57

Agrarian – of or pertaining to farming/agriculture, p. 62

Met – term of address, respect similar to "comrade," used instead of "Mr./Mrs./Your highness" during regime, p. 60

Youns – term to describe Vietnamese, p. 73

Chump reap sour – means "hello" in Khmer, p. 172