

Loung Ung

Author, Landmine Activist, Keynote Speaker

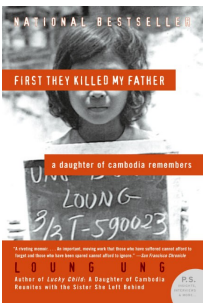


Loung is a survivor of the killing fields of Cambodia, one of the bloodiest episodes of the twentieth century.

She was five years old when the Khmer Rouge invaded Phnom Penh. Over the next three years, Loung lost half of her family, including both parents, and spent time in a camp for child soldiers. After the war was over, she and her older brother relocated to Vermont, where she grew to adulthood. Today she is an internationally best-selling author and a well-known human rights activist.

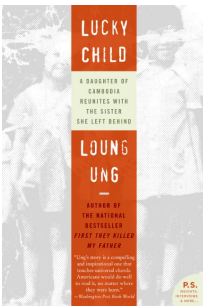
Loung was inspired to tell her story and help Cambodia heal.

Her award-winning book *First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers* tells the story of her struggle to survive. It is a national bestseller and has been published in eleven countries. *First They Killed My Father* won the ALAPA award for "Excellence in Adult Non-fiction Literature" in 2001 and was selected by the ALA as a 'Best Book for Young Adults'. *Lucky Child*, her second book, tells the story of her years in America and the sister she left behind. Both works are used in college and community reading programs. Loung has dedicated her life to promoting equality, human rights, and justice in her native land and worldwide.



First They Killed My Father: An eyewitness account of the Cambodian Genocide

One of seven children of a high-ranking governmental official, Loung Ung lived a privileged life in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh until the age of five. Then Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge army stormed into the city, forcing her family to flee and, eventually, disperse. Loung was trained as a child soldier in a work camp for orphans, her siblings were sent to labor camps, and those who survived the horrors would not be reunited until the Khmer Rouge was destroyed. Harrowing, yet hopeful, Loung's story is an unforgettable account of a family shaken and shattered, yet miraculously sustained by courage and love in the face of unspeakable brutality. With a fluency of language and a writer's understanding of story telling, Loung wraps her personal story in history and politics. Chapter by chapter, Loung walks her audience through the most horrific events of her life—separations, starvation, rage, heartbreaks, loss—and shares how she came out of them with her love, humor, and spirituality in tact. Those who expect to see a victim broken from her ordeals will be surprised by the vibrant, colorful, funny, and lively woman standing before them, and they will leave inspired to take action.



Given a Chance

Today's heroes are often people with fame and fortune who do extraordinary things on a global scale. Loung's heroes are ordinary people who do extraordinary things. They are leaders in their fields: teachers, mothers, sisters, aunts, friends, nurturers, fighters, and survivors. They do things on a daily basis that change our world one person at a time. *Given a Chance* pays homage to all those who helped Loung survive, recover, and realize her dreams. Loung did not succeed alone. It took hard work, persistence, resiliency, and determination, but ultimately she succeeded because so many went out of their way to find her and extend a helping hand.

Wars End, Landmines Don't

From 1975-1979—through execution, starvation, disease, and forced labor—the Khmer Rouge systematically killed an estimated two million Cambodians, almost a fourth of the country's population. Loung Ung was a child survivor of that 'Killing Fields' and emigrated to the U.S. at age ten. In 1995, she returned to Cambodia and saw that thousands of the survivors of the Khmer Rouge genocide were being maimed, injured, and killed by a new threat—antipersonnel landmines. Littered by the millions in Cambodia's fragile land, these landmines, often not larger than a hockey puck, are weapons of mass destruction in slow motion, taking one limb, one leg, one life at a time. Loung has committed herself to helping the victims and ridding the world of landmines. Her devotion to this cause has been recognized by many high profile people and groups, including Amnesty International U.S., which in 2003 asked her to present their Lifetime Achievement Award to Sir Paul McCartney. Loung combines video footage with hard facts about the devastation caused by landmines. She tells a story of love, loss, survivor's guilt, and finding redemption through activism. Her life is a testimonial that 'activism matters' and will inspire others to seek out ways they too can make a difference.



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