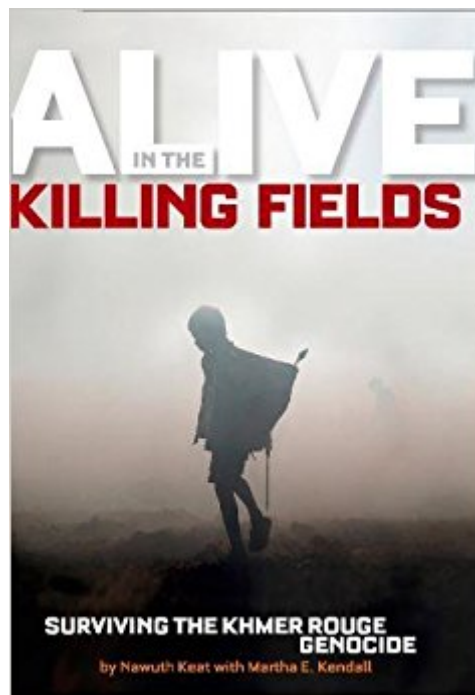


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# Alive In The Killing Fields: Surviving The Khmer Rouge Genocide (Biography)



## Synopsis

Alive in the Killing Fields is the real-life memoir of Nawuth Keat, a man who survived the horrors of war-torn Cambodia. He has now broken a longtime silence in the hope that telling the truth about what happened to his people and his country will spare future generations from similar tragedy. In this captivating memoir, a young Nawuth defies the odds and survives the invasion of his homeland by the Khmer Rouge. Under the brutal reign of the dictator Pol Pot, he loses his parents, young sister, and other members of his family. After his hometown of Salatrave was overrun, Nawuth and his remaining relatives are eventually captured and enslaved by Khmer Rouge fighters. They endure physical abuse, hunger, and inhumane living conditions. But through it all, their sense of family holds them together, giving them the strength to persevere through a time when any assertion of identity is punishable by death. Nawuth's story of survival and escape from the Killing Fields of Cambodia is also a message of hope; an inspiration to children whose worlds have been darkened by hardship and separation from loved ones. This story provides a timeless lesson in the value of human dignity and freedom for readers of all ages.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0750 (What's this?)

Series: Biography

Hardcover: 128 pages

Publisher: National Geographic Children's Books; 1 edition (October 13, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 142630515X

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Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.6 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #183,209 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in [Books > Teens >](#)

[Education & Reference > History > Asia](#) #14 in [Books > Teens > Social Issues > Violence](#)

#30 in [Books > Teens > Biographies > Political](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 6 Up • At age nine, Keat was rousted from his bed by Khmer Rouge soldiers. After

savagely murdering most of his family, they shot him three times and left him for dead. Miraculously, he survived, only to spend the next few years fighting for his life and running from the Khmer Rouge along with his remaining family members. Eventually, he and his siblings made their way to a refugee camp where his older sister bought his freedom. In this memoir, written with the assistance of his college professor, Keat paints a poignant portrait of life as a child in Cambodia in the 1970s. His skills, cunning, and sheer will to survive enabled him to endure devastating occurrences and difficult living conditions. The story is not for the faint of heart, as suffering torture at the hands of soldiers, subsisting solely off of rice chaff, and being forced to sleep among human remains are only some of the atrocities he suffered. Keat's story is compelling and concise, and readers will find themselves invested in his eventual escape.

— Kelly McGorray, Glenbard South High School, Glen Ellyn, IL END

Nawuth Keat survived the horrors of war in Cambodia, escaped to Thailand, and came to the U.S. as a teen. Now an American citizen, he understands what freedom means. He lives with his wife and children in Hollister, CA. Martha E. Kendall has written several nonfiction books for children including National Geographic's The Erie Canal. Kendall attended the Eastman School of Music, where she studied the cello. She sings and plays fiddle, mandolin, guitar, penny whistle, and bass. She lives in Los Gatos, CA.

This is a very personal account of the Khmer Rouge but not the most detailed I have read. Survival in the Killing Fields by Haing Ngor is by far the most gripping, detailed and graphic account that I have read. This book is worth reading but I would recommend the other book first. This way you will have a firm background as to what was going on in the country at the time and what it was like to be displaced from the city.

It was required summer reading for my granddaughter. She loved it. For a young girl going into high school to give up her summer time for reading--especially these days is quite a testament to the quality of this book.

Not very descriptive. No story arc. The ending fizzles.

This was an eye-opener for me. Even though I was a teen during this Cambodian conflict, I never knew the details of how awful it was for those people. It is educational to read about this but yet it

certainly was not a fun read. It was depressing for me to learn about this and how awful the regime was back then. But it's something I think everyone should know - even today.

One of my favourites. This was one of those books I could not put down once I'd started it. Having not read books for years this was perhaps the one that got me addicted to reading after a loong break! I recommend to those interested in the khmer rouge years and survival stories.

This is a really good book. My ten year old daughter and I both enjoyed it.

I have visited the Killing Fields in Cambodia and found it very emotional. This is just one of the many of the untold stories

This was a good book and really took me into their world.....throughout the book tho I wanted more depth of the stories....

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