

Never Fall Down: A Novel

By Patricia McCormick

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This National Book Award nominee from two-time finalist Patricia McCormick is the unforgettable story of Arn Chorn-Pond, who defied the odds to survive the Cambodian genocide of 1975-1979 and the labor camps of the Khmer Rouge.

Based on the true story of Cambodian advocate Arn Chorn-Pond, and authentically told from his point of view as a young boy, this is an achingly raw and powerful historical novel about a child of war who becomes a man of peace. It includes an author's note and acknowledgments from Arn Chorn-Pond himself.

When soldiers arrive in his hometown, Arn is just a normal little boy. But after the soldiers march the entire population into the countryside, his life is changed forever.

Arn is separated from his family and assigned to a labor camp: working in the rice paddies under a blazing sun, he sees the other children dying before his eyes. One day, the soldiers ask if any of the kids can play an instrument. Arn's never played a note in his life, but he volunteers.

This decision will save his life, but it will pull him into the very center of what we know today as the Killing Fields. And just as the country is about to be liberated, Arn is handed a gun and forced to become a soldier.

Supports the Common Core State Standards.

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Editorial Review

Review
“While never shying from the ugliness and brutality of this genocide, McCormick crafts a powerful tribute to the human spirit.” (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

“Powerfully, hauntingly unforgettable.” (Booklist (starred review))

“This compelling chronicle deserves to be widely read, discussed, and reflected upon by a generation of young people who may be largely unaware of this dark chapter in world history.” (Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books (starred review))

“A gripping account of the inner turmoil of a child soldier.” (New York Times Book Review)

“McCormick’s novel is one that needs to be read.” (The Horn Book)

“One of the most inspiring and powerful books I’ve ever read. Never Fall Down can teach us all about finding the courage to speak our truth and change the world.” (Archbishop Desmond Tutu)

“Following the pattern of excellence McCormick began with her novel SOLD, she has created another amazing story through skilled and patient research.” (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) (Starred Review))

“Arn Chorn Pond is a fast-talking dynamo with endless energy and zest for life. In Never Fall Down, Patricia McCormick captures brilliantly the man, his heart, and his passion to make Cambodia and our world a better place for all. Arn’s against-all-odds survival story and McCormick’s crisp prose gripped me from the first page to the very end.” (Loung Ung, bestelling author of First They Killed My Father, and Lucky Child)

Praise for PURPLE HEART: “In this suspenseful psychological thriller…McCormick raises moral questions without judgment and will have readers examining not only this conflict but the nature of heroism and war.” (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

Praise for PURPLE HEART: “McCormick builds the plot subtly and carefully with rich, spare prose.” (Kirkus Reviews)

Praise for PURPLE HEART: “Gripping details of existence in a war zone bring this to life.” (ALA Booklist)

From the Back Cover

When soldiers arrive in his hometown in Cambodia, Arn is just a kid, dancing to rock 'n' roll, hustling for spare change, and selling ice cream with his brother. But after the soldiers march the entire population into the countryside, his life is changed forever. Arn is separated from his family and assigned to a labor camp: working in the rice paddies under a blazing sun, he sees the other children, weak from hunger, malaria, or sheer exhaustion, dying before his eyes. He sees prisoners marched to a nearby mango grove, never to return. And he learns to be invisible to the sadistic Khmer Rouge who can give or take away life on a whim.

One day, the soldiers ask if any of the kids can play an instrument. Arn's never played a note in his life, but he volunteers. In order to survive, he must quickly master the strange revolutionary songs the soldiers

demand—and steal food to keep the other kids alive. This decision will save his life—but it will pull him into the very center of what we know today as the Killing Fields. And just as the country is about to be liberated from the Khmer Rouge, Arn is handed a gun and forced to become a soldier. He lives by the simple credo: "Over and over I tell myself one thing: Never fall down."

About the Author

Patricia McCormick is a former journalist who has won much acclaim for her compassionate approach to hard-hitting subjects. Her most recent book, *Purple Heart*, was a *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of 2009, and her book *Sold* was a National Book Award finalist. Other seminal books she has written are *Cut* and *My Brother's Keeper*. Patty lives in New York with her family.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Federico Crouch:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a concern. What people must be consider if those information which is within the former life are challenging to be find than now's taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take Never Fall Down: A Novel as your daily resource information.

David Hester:

This book untitled Never Fall Down: A Novel to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, here is because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book store or you can order it by way of online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, as you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason for you to past this guide from your list.

Teressa Fernandez:

The book untitled Never Fall Down: A Novel contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains the woman idea with easy approach. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read it. The book was written by famous author. The author provides you in the new period of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open up their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice go through.

Alma Young:

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