



## 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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## Never Fall Down: A Novel By Patricia McCormick Bibliography

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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, bestselling 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:

##### Lana Alvis:

Do you considered one of people who can't read satisfying if the sentence chained in the straightway, hold on guys this particular aren't like that. This *Never Fall Down: A Novel* book is readable by means of you who hate the straight word style. You will find the data here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving also decrease the knowledge that want to deliver to you. The writer regarding *Never Fall Down: A Novel* content conveys objective easily to understand by lots of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content but it just different as it. So , do you still thinking *Never Fall Down: A Novel* is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

##### Henry McMahan:

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

##### James Daniels:

Reading a guide can be one of a lot of exercise that everyone in the world loves. Do you like reading book so. There are a lot of reasons why people fantastic. First reading a publication will give you a lot of new data. When you read a guide you will get new information since book is one of many ways to share the information or even their idea. Second, looking at a book will make anyone more imaginative. When you looking at a book especially fictional works book the author will bring one to imagine the story how the people do it anything. Third, it is possible to share your knowledge to others. When you read this *Never Fall Down: A Novel*, you are able to tells your family, friends and also soon about yours book. Your knowledge can inspire different ones, make them reading a reserve.

**Beverly Woods:**

Many people spending their time by playing outside along with friends, fun activity along with family or just watching TV all day long. You can have new activity to pay your whole day by reading through a book. Ugh, you think reading a book can actually hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It all right you can have the e-book, bringing everywhere you want in your Mobile phone. Like Never Fall Down: A Novel which is getting the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's observe.

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