

Fair Trade Shopping, Books and Films
Transitions Global / Phnom Penh, Cambodia
July 2012

Fair Trade Shopping



Global Goods Partners features over 70 Fair Trade products from Cambodia, including this [Paper Bead Bracelet](#) made from tightly rolled strips of recycled magazine pages. Strung on an elastic band, the bracelet fits all wrist sizes. Women in Cambodia sell these paper bracelets to bring much needed income into their families. The women use the earnings to send their children to school and provide for more nutritious meals for their families. Colors vary due to the nature of recycled nature. [\\$13](#)

This [Blue Rice Bag Purse](#) comes from a Fair Trade organization called VillageWorks. Their Songkhem Collection (“Songkhem” means “Hope”) is a project started by the Girls Brigade of Singapore, a non-profit organization working to improve the lives of women and girls in Southeast Asia. The Collection highlights VillageWorks’ products, particularly hand-woven silk and cotton scarves, pillow covers, and handbags.



This purse, made from recycled rice bags, has a durable plastic coating, top zipper, and three interior pockets. [\\$28](#)



[Elegant placemats and matching napkins](#), crafted exclusively with traditional Cambodian fabrics, are made by former sex workers and other at-risk individuals in Cambodia.

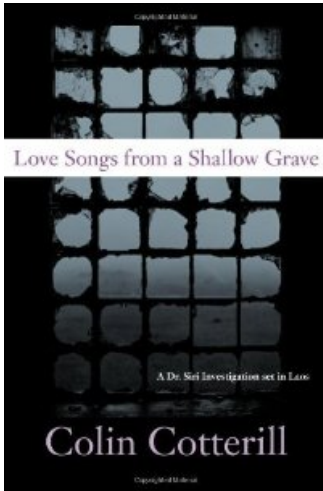
Hands of Hope created sewing and handicraft jobs for graduates from the House of Hope program, a rehabilitation center located in Kompong Cham Province. The anticipated goal is that each seamstress will remain an independent contractor and will successfully run her own small business.

The beaded placemats measure 17-1/2" x 13" and the complimentary napkins measure 18" x 18" come in a set of four. Available in the following colors, at [\\$25](#)



Recommended Books

Fiction



[Love Songs from a Shallow Grave: A Dr. Siri Investigation Set in Laos](#)

by Colin Cotterill (Soho Crime, 2010)

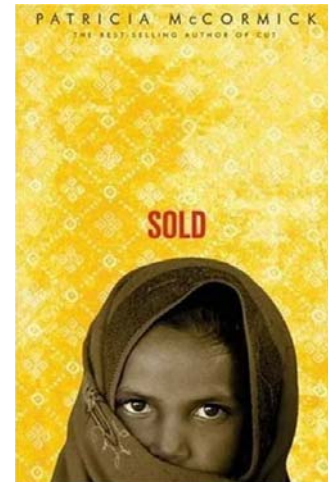
Three young Laotian women have died of fencing sword wounds. Each of them had studied abroad in an Eastern bloc country. Before he can complete his investigation, Dr. Siri is lured to Cambodia by an all-expenses-paid trip. Accused of spying for the Vietnamese, he is imprisoned, beaten, and threatened with death. The Khmer Rouge is relentless, and it is touch-and-go for the dauntless, seventy-four-year-old national—and only—coroner of Laos.

“Cotterill's superb seventh mystery to feature Dr. Siri Paiboun finds "the national and only coroner of the People's Democratic Republic of Laos", nearing his 74th birthday, chained to a lead pipe in a Cambodian prison. This immensely satisfying mystery has it all--a heroic protagonist, a challenging puzzle, and an exotic setting.” – Reed Business Information

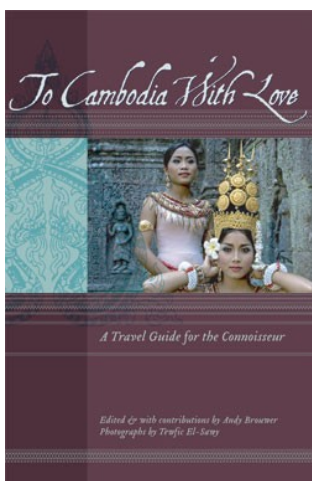
[Sold](#) by Patricia McCormick (Hyperion Books, 2008)

Lakshmi is a thirteen-year-old girl who lives with her family in a small hut on a mountain in Nepal. When the harsh Himalayan monsoons wash away all that remains of the family's crops, Lakshmi's stepfather says she must leave home and take a job to support her family. He introduces her to a glamorous stranger who tells her she will find her a job as a maid in the city. Glad to be able to help, Lakshmi journeys to India and arrives at “Happiness House” full of hope. But she soon learns the unthinkable truth: she has been sold into prostitution. Lakshmi's life becomes a nightmare from which she cannot escape. Then the day comes when she must make a decision—will she risk everything for a chance to reclaim her life?

“Alternating lyrical imagery with precise detail, McCormick gives voice to the terror and bewilderment of a young girl robbed of her childhood but who finds the strength to triumph.” – National Book Award Finalist citation



Non-fiction



[To Cambodia with Love](#) by Twefic El-Sawy (Andy Brouwer and Kim Fay, editors)

Things Asia Press/ Global Destinations, 2010

From a tarantula brunch in the remote Cambodian countryside to a leisurely bicycle ride through the streets of Phnom Penh, **To Cambodia with Love** is a true collaboration, containing personal essays by more than fifty writers. Among them you will find Angkor Wat expert Dawn Rooney, acclaimed memoirist Loung Ung (*First They Killed My Father*), and Lonely Planet's in-the-know Nick Ray. Each essay is paired with a practical fact file so that travelers can follow in the writer's footsteps. In addition, the book is illustrated with vibrant, full-color photographs.

“This book offers a unique collection of tips and ideas that readers simply won't find anywhere else it is a travel guide for the connoisseur.” – www.devata.org

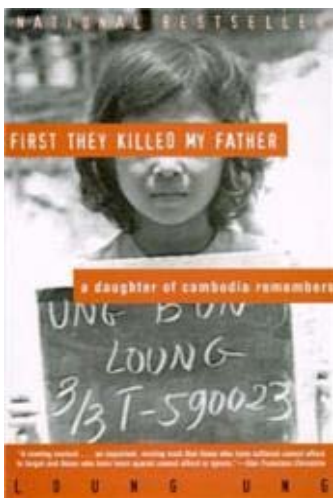
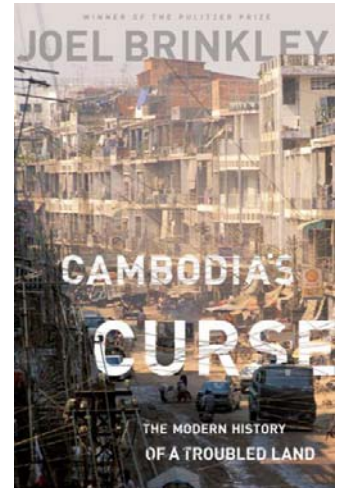
Non-fiction – continued

[Cambodia's Curse: The Modern History of a Troubled Land](#) by Joel Brinkley
(Public Affairs, 2011)

Joel Brinkley won a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting in Cambodia on the fall of the Khmer Rouge regime that killed one quarter of the nation's population during its years in power. In 1992, the world came together to help pull the small nation out of the mire. Cambodia became a United Nations protectorate--the first and only time the UN tried something so ambitious. What did the new, democratically-elected government do with this unprecedented gift?

In 2008 and 2009, Brinkley returned to Cambodia to find out. He discovered a population in the grip of a venal government. He learned that one-third to one-half of Cambodians who lived through the Khmer Rouge era has Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome --and its afflictions are being passed to the next generation.

"Illuminating...Mr. Brinkley weaves the details of the nation's underbelly into a compelling argument, interviewing powerful figures and foreign officials involved in politics, courts, hospitals, land development, forests and schools." – The Wall Street Journal



[First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers](#) by Loung Ung
(Harper Perennial, 2006)

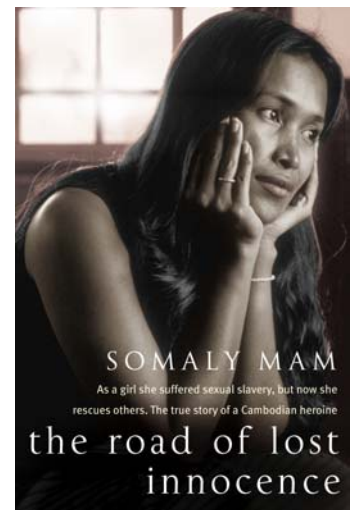
One of seven children of a high-ranking government official, Loung Ung lived a privileged life in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh until the age of five. Then, in April 1975, Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge army stormed into the city, forcing Ung's family to flee and, eventually, to disperse. Loung was trained as a child soldier in a work camp. Harrowing yet hopeful, Loung's powerful story is an unforgettable account of a family shaken and shattered, yet miraculously sustained by courage and love in the face of unspeakable brutality.

"A rare, chilling eyewitness account of the bloody aftermath of the Khmer Rouge's merciless victory over the Cambodian government in April 1975, as seen through the eyes of a precocious child." – Kirkus Associates

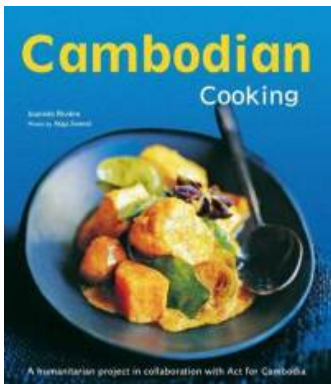
[The Road of Lost Innocence: The True Story of a Cambodian Heroine](#)
by Somaly Mam, Ayann Hirsi Ali and Nicholas D. Kristof (Spiegel & Grau, 2008)

A riveting and beautiful memoir of tragedy and hope—by a woman named to Time magazine's list of the 100 most influential people in the world. Born in a village deep in the Cambodian forest, Somaly Mam was sold into sexual slavery by her grandfather when she was twelve years old. For the next decade she was shuttled through the brothels that make up the sprawling sex trade of Southeast Asia. She suffered unspeakable acts of brutality and witnessed horrors that would haunt her for the rest of her life—until, in her early twenties, she managed to escape. Unable to forget the girls she left behind, Mam became a tenacious and brave leader in the fight against human trafficking, rescuing sex workers—some as young as five and six—offering them shelter, rehabilitation, healing, and love and leading them into new life.

"The Road of Lost Innocence is unputdownable, and you read it with a lump in your throat. Somaly Mam's story is an account of how humanity can sink to the lowest levels of depravity, but it is also a testimony of resistance and hope. She lifted herself out of a well of terror and found the determination and the resilience to save others. Somaly Mam is my candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize."—Ayaan Hirsi Ali, author of *Infidel*



Non-fiction - continued



[Cambodian Cooking: A humanitarian project in collaboration with Act for Cambodia](#)

by Joannes Riviera, Dominique Bourgnecht, David Lallemand, and Maia Smend

(Periplus Editions 2008)

The chef-author, Joannes Riviere, is a talented young French chef who is considered an authority on Cambodian cuisine. He is the chef at one of Siem Reap's most prestigious hotels.

This is the source of the majority of recipes for Dining for Women's program for July. Proceeds from the sale of this book support Act for Cambodia, a charity that works with orphans and street children.

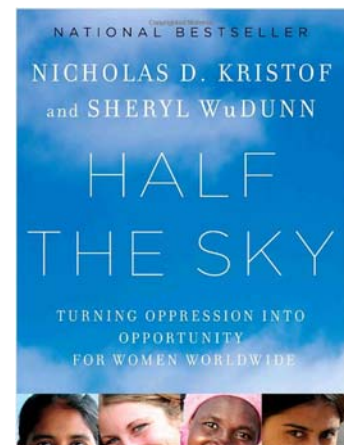
[Half the Sky](#) by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn (Vintage, 2010)

With Pulitzer Prize winners as our guides, we undertake an odyssey through Africa and Asia to meet the extraordinary women struggling there, *among them a Cambodian teenager sold into sex slavery (Somaly Mam)*. Drawing on the breadth of their combined reporting experience, Kristof and WuDunn depict our world with anger, sadness, clarity, and, ultimately, hope.

They show how a little help can transform the lives of women and girls abroad. That Cambodian girl eventually escaped from her brothel and, with assistance from an aid group, built a thriving retail business that supports her family.

Through these stories, Kristof and WuDunn help us see that the key to economic progress lies in unleashing women's potential. They make clear how so many people have helped to do just that, and how we can each do our part.

Half the Sky has inspired a landmark trans-media project featuring a four-hour PBS primetime national and international broadcast event (airing on October 1 & 2), a Facebook-hosted social action game, mobile games, two websites, educational video modules with companion text, a social media campaign supporting over 30 partner NGOs, and an impact assessment plan. Learn more at www.HalfTheSkyMovement.org



"Half the Sky will ignite a grass-roots revolution like the one that eliminated slavery." - Seattle Times

Recommended Films & Videos



The documentary may be viewed for free at [Motion Empire](#)

Redlight (2010, 72 minutes)

Using footage smuggled out of brothels and harrowing testimonials, the film follows the plight of several current and former child sex slaves in Cambodia. Some are trying to regain entry into society to find some semblance of normality after their horrific experiences.

Other stories highlight the plight of victims who are attempting to bring the perpetrators to justice. Their torturous yet ultimately heroic battles to find witnesses and take brothel owners to court are dramatically brought to life in this topical and moving feature documentary.

"The film itself is a "gut-wrenching life changer" as it shares the stories of children victimized by sex trafficking in Cambodia." – Examiner.com

Small Voices: The Stories of Cambodia's Children (2008, 85 minutes)

A revealing look at the difficult challenges street children in Cambodia face every day, this documentary chronicles the stories of five youngsters struggling to overcome their illiteracy and poverty. This emotional tale of heartbreak and hope profiles how one local shelter, the Cambodian Children's Fund, works hard to help a population the rest of the country ignores.

"Filmmaker Heather E. Connell takes viewers deep into the streets of Cambodia in order to document the lives and dreams of a group of children whose births mark an important historical milestone. These children are the first generation born to the survivors Khmer Rouge, and their often-difficult journey reflects the state of Cambodia itself as it struggles to rebuild itself both socially and economically." - Tracie Cooper, Rovi, Rottentomatoes.com

