

Chronology of Events

1954 Cambodia peacefully gains independence from France, ending colonial rule.

1960 Prom family business established in Battambang, Cambodia.

1965 America enters the war in Viet Nam under direction of President Lyndon Johnson. Sovann Ty is born.

1966 Ho Chi Minh Trail established. King Sihanouk claims neutrality for Cambodia.

1968 Richard Nixon is elected president of the United States. Kari Grady is born.

1969 U. S. starts bombing North Vietnamese sanctuaries inside Cambodia, along the Ho Chi Minh trail.

1970 March: Lon Nol overthrows King Norodom Sihanouk. Sihanouk aligns with his former adversary, the Khmer Rouge. April: Nixon announces U.S. troop withdrawal from South Viet Nam. Maly Amanda Prom is born. Sovann's father dies.

1971-73 Cambodian War. North Vietnamese/Khmer Rouge fighting Lon Nol/U.S.

1973 Paris Peace Accords end U.S. war in Viet Nam. North Vietnamese withdraw from Cambodia. Khmer Rouge takes over fighting against Lon Nol. U.S. carpet bombs Cambodia for 200 consecutive days. Maly's sister, Srey Pau, is born. Kari enters kindergarten.

1974 Cambodian War continues. Prom family business moves to Pailin. Maly's brother, Atuit, is born. Sovann's sister, Theary, last seen.

1975 April 17: Fall of Phnom Penh to Khmer Rouge. Prom family removed to Kampong Kohl. Sovann removed to Takeo province.
April 30: Fall of Saigon.

1976 Khmer Rouge establishes Democratic Kampuchea with Pol Pot as prime minister. Maly's sister, Srey Pau, dies. Maly's baby brother, Atuit, dies. U.S. celebrates bicentennial.

1977 Democratic Kampuchea starts a border war with Viet Nam. Maly is taken to Daikon Camp. Her baby sister, Eline, is born, lives 10 months and dies. Sovann runs away to another work collective.

1979 January: Viet Nam captures Phnom Penh and establishes a government called the People's Republic of Kampuchea (PRK). Prom family migrates back to Battambang. Khmer Rouge fight Vietnamese from camps in the Cardamon Mountains and on the Thai border. The Prom family escapes to Khau I Dang refugee camp, Thailand. Sovann survives in a ditch while the front line passes through Takeo, then returns to his mother's village.

1981 United Nations votes to retain the seat of Cambodia for the Khmer Rouge government of Democratic Kampuchea. Fighting between Khmer Rouge and Viet Nam continues.

1982 Coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea formed on the Thai border. Prom family is sponsored to emigrate to the U.S. Maly Prom enters school in the fifth grade in Denver, Colorado. Sovann enters Vietnamese primary school. Kari enters high school.

1984-86 Heavy fighting on the Thai border between Viet Nam/PRK and Democratic Kampuchea. Sovann enters secondary school. Kari graduates from high school.

1987 Hun Sen and Norodom Sihanouk begin peace process. Maly enters North Glenn High School in Denver and changes her name to Amanda.

1989 Vietnamese troops withdraw from Cambodia. Prom family business established in Mitchell, South Dakota. Sovann graduates from Phnom Penh Accounting School and takes a job with the Ministry of Economy and Finance in Koh Kong province.

1990 United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) established. Amanda graduates from high school, marries Andy Ben, and moves to South Dakota to join the family business. Sovann battles malaria and tuberculosis. Kari graduates from college.

1991 Norodom Sihanouk returns to Cambodia for the first time since 1979. Amanda's first child is born. Sovann quits Ministry of Finance and finds a job at ASEAN hotel.

1992 UNTAC arrives in Cambodia with 20,000 peacekeepers. Sovann begins servicing the prostitution industry as a moto taxi driver.

1993 Prince Ranariddh Sihanouk elected prime minister. Norodom Sihanouk is re-crowned King, with two co-prime ministers: Prince Ranariddh Sihanouk and Hun Sen. Amanda opens China Garden in Lander, Wyoming.

1994 Kari marries George Grossman.

1996 Hun Sen overthrows Prince Ranariddh Sihanouk. Many Khmer Rouge soldiers defect to Hun Sen's government. Amanda's second child is born. Sovann marries Ngim; their first child dies in utero.

1997 Sovann's first child is born.

1998 Pol Pot dies in the jungle from unknown causes.

2000 Ratanak is born and relinquished to an orphanage at three months of age.

2001 March: Eric Ratanak Grady Grossman is adopted and brought to U.S. The Grady Grossman School is established. Sovann begins working with adoptive families.

December: U.S. suspends adoptions from Cambodia by American citizens, because of accusations of corruption.

2003 UNICEF report estimates 670,000 orphaned children in Cambodia.

2005 USAID/Holt International Children's Services releases Cambodia Orphan Survey documenting 7,697 orphaned children housed in child-care facilities.

2007 Adoption of Cambodian children by U.S. citizens remains closed.