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FROM GENOCIDE TO GRACE: A CAMBODIAN SURVIVOR'S STORY COMES TO LIFE IN NEW MEMOIR

Burnsville, MN — *Growing Up A Farm Girl Saved My Life – A Cambodian Genocide Survivor Remembers* is a powerful new memoir of resilience and survival, written by Donna May Sanders and based on the extraordinary life of her longtime neighbor, Veera Som. This unforgettable story is now available for preorder and will ship upon completion.

On April 17, 1975, as the Vietnam War drew to a close, the Khmer Rouge rolled into Battambang, Cambodia, under the guise of peace. For 21-year-old Veera Som, a student sent to the city by her rural parents to escape the hardships of farm life, this marked the beginning of a nightmare. Forced from her home at gunpoint and driven into brutal work camps, Veera would spend years in a regime responsible for the deaths of nearly two million people.

Her education—once a source of family pride—became a death sentence under the Khmer Rouge. Warned by her father to hide her background, Veera stayed silent, enduring the terror with quiet courage. She survived where so many did not. By 1979, Vietnamese forces had toppled the Khmer Rouge. Veera and her sister began the long, uncertain journey to freedom through resettlement and refugee camps in Thailand, eventually making their way to the United States. Her new life in Minnesota would bring healing, hope, and a neighbor who believed her story needed to be told.

Growing Up A Farm Girl Saved My Life is more than a survivor's memoir. It is a tribute to the quiet strength that carried one woman through one of history's worst atrocities—and a reminder of the power of friendship, storytelling, and the deep, grounding roots of our past.

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