

From a Clear Blue Sky

Surviving the Mountbatten Bomb

Timothy Knatchbull

Published by Arrow on 5th August 2010, £7.99

Praise for From a Clear Blue Sky:

'From a Clear Blue Sky is a minute by minute story of what happened that day, and what happened afterwards. It is a proper four-hanky bawler, and the exactitude of the story is what makes it so moving... He provides a convincing account of the extent to which he has been able to accept, forgive and move on. His narrative power is such that the reader can't always share his equanimity. It is a book that is as saddening as it is sad – but much more angering than it is angry.'

Daily Mail

'Knatchbull wears his heart on his sleeve. That he manages to discuss both the IRA and the mobbing without rancour is testament to a remarkable, benevolent soul ... what Knatchbull offers is another, smaller account. He tells the story of the innocent teenager who lost his twin on a bright August day. With this public love letter, he has found a way to say goodbye.'

Sunday Times

'An extremely moving book. Beyond providing a phenomenally detailed evocation of his own family's trauma, Knatchbull has lots of wise things to say about how we survive horrors - of all kinds - in our lives. He writes with great tenderness and an admirable lack of sentimentality.'

Zoe Heller

'Exceptionally moving...This book works on several levels: as an affectionate portrait of Mountbatten; as a story of what happens when a cataclysm is visited on what has been until then an idyllic life; and as a carefully researched detective story with Knatchbull endeavouring to find out exactly what happened and why.'

Daily Telegraph

Cont.

On the August bank holiday weekend in 1979, 14-year-old Timothy Knatchbull went out on a boat trip off the shore of Mullaghmore in County Sligo, Ireland. It was a trip that would cost four lives - and change his own for ever.

The IRA bomb that exploded in their boat killed Knatchbull's grandfather Lord Mountbatten, his grandmother Lady Brabourne, his twin brother Nicholas, and local teenager Paul Maxwell. In telling this story for the first time, Knatchbull is not only revisiting the terrible events he and his family lived through, but also writing an intensely personal account of human triumph over tragedy.

For thirty years, Knatchbull has lived with the echoes of that day: the death of the twin from whom he had been inseparable; the loss of his adored grandparents, whose funerals along with his twin's he and his parents were too injured to attend; the recovery from physical wounds; and the emotional legacy that proved harder to endure.

In *From A Clear Blue Sky* Timothy Knatchbull delves into his past, present and future, and reveals a story of courage and fortitude as he, his family, and their English and Irish friends dealt with the shocking assassinations and their aftermath. Taking place in Ireland at the height of the Troubles, it gives a compelling insight into that period of Irish history. But more importantly it brings home that although tragedy can strike at any moment, the human spirit is able to recover and evolve over time.

This book about truth and reconciliation, unflinching in its detail, asks searching questions about why human beings inflict misery on others, and holds lessons about how we can learn to forgive, to heal and to move on. It will resonate with readers the world over.

The youngest of seven children, Timothy Knatchbull read Social and Political Science at Cambridge. After ten years as a filmmaker, mostly at BBC television, he studied at Harvard's Kennedy School before spending two years in Washington DC with the Discovery Channel. He now runs a London media business and is married with five children.

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