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Sue Arnold's audiobook choice - reviews

From a Clear Blue Sky

* + [http://static.guim.co.uk/static/f76b43f9dcfd761f0ecf7099a127b603b2922118/common/images/icon_reddit.gif](http://www.reddit.com/submit?url=http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2011/apr/16/sue-arnold-audiobook-reviews&title=)[reddit this](http://www.reddit.com/submit?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.guardian.co.uk%2Fbooks%2F2011%2Fapr%2F16%2Fsue-arnold-audiobook-reviews&title=)
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[](http://www.guardian.co.uk/profile/suearnold) [The Guardian](http://www.guardian.co.uk/theguardian), Saturday 16 April 2011

**From a Clear Blue Sky**, written and read by Timothy Knatchbull (13¾hrs unabridged)  
Of the seven people aboard Lord Mountbatten's boat in Sligo, [blown up by an IRA bomb in 1979](http://www.guardian.co.uk/theguardian/2008/aug/28/3), there were three survivors: his daughter, Patricia, her husband and one of their 14-year-old twin sons, Mountbatten's grandson Timothy. This is that grandson's moving but admirably unsentimental account of the effect that the tragedy had on the entire family, but most of all on himself. His description of the explosion and its immediate aftermath (most of the latter based on rescuers' evidence – he was unconscious), dead and dying being dragged out of the water, barely recognisable as human, are terrifying. What I chiefly remember, though, is the moment several days later when his older sister Joanna tells him that Nicholas, his twin brother, is dead. Sitting by his bed in hospital she says simply: "When you were brought to the hospital some of you were conscious, some were not. You woke up, Nicky never did." Knatchbull's recovery is agonisingly painful but his honesty and dignity are truly inspiring.