

# little, brown

## BOOK GROUP

**'Brilliant and Vivid' Book Brings Unique Perspective to Cambodia's Tragedy**

***When the Clouds Fell from the Sky: A Daughter's Search for Her Father in the Killing Fields of Cambodia* by Robert Carmichael, will be available March 02, 2021 in the US and Canada [US\$28.99 Hardback; C\$34.99/C\$26.99 Hardback/Paperback]**

**Media Pack: [www.whencLOUDSfell.com/media](http://www.whencLOUDSfell.com/media)**

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'Profoundly moving – I've not seen a comparable book about these horrors'

– **Adam Hochschild, award-winning author of *King Leopold's Ghost***

'An outstanding book of astonishing power . . . One finishes it with an ache in the heart'

– **Jon Swain, writer and foreign correspondent, author of *River of Time***

'As moving as it is well researched' – **Loung Ung, author of *First They Killed My Father***

'Intimate and heart-breaking' – **Seth Mydans, ex-Southeast Asia correspondent, *The New York Times***

'[An] extraordinary story' – ***History Today***

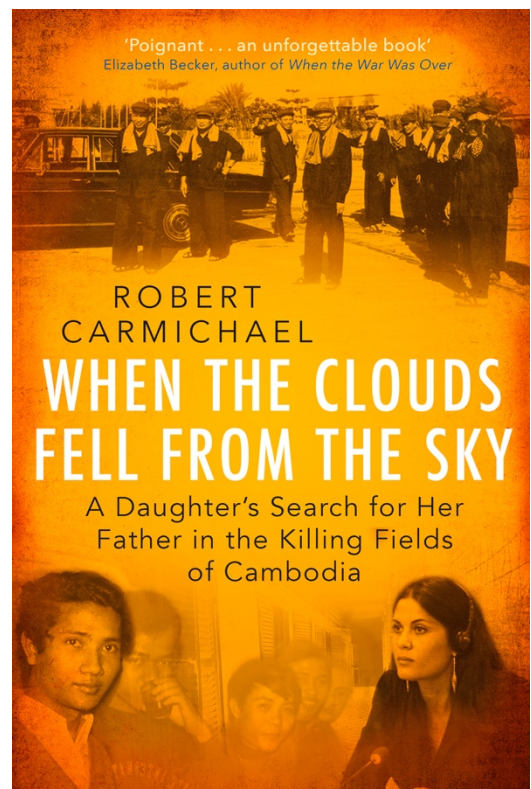
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**NEW YORK, NY, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>** — In 1977, a Cambodian diplomat called Ouk Ket left his family in France and returned home to help rebuild a nation shattered by civil war. Ket's wife expected that she and their two young children would join him in Cambodia later that year. They never heard from him again.

Written by journalist Robert Carmichael, this is the true story of a man who disappeared in Pol Pot's Cambodia, and the decades-long search by his wife and daughter to learn what had happened to him, and to attain some measure of justice.

Their search culminated at the international war crimes tribunal in Cambodia in 2009, where they testified against the Khmer Rouge's security chief, Comrade Duch, who ran the S-21 torture and execution center.

In describing the experience of one extended family, this book illuminates the tragedy of a nation – a place where two million people, or one in every four Cambodians, died in four years.



*When the Clouds Fell from the Sky* has received numerous accolades, including:

- 'Like Auschwitz, like Stalin's purges, the mass murders of the Khmer Rouge are one of those extraordinary events that make us wonder about the human capacity for evil. Through a profoundly moving tale that weaves together the connected stories of a victim, his surviving family, and members of the regime, Robert Carmichael brings us into the heart of the darkness that took over Cambodia, bringing it alive in the way no mere statistics can. I've not seen a comparable book about these horrors.' **Adam Hochschild, award-winning author of *King Leopold's Ghost***

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- 'An outstanding book of astonishing power, one of the most important and valuable to emerge from the horrors of the Pol Pot regime... a direct and vivid account of the cruelty and destruction of the country's darkest era... Carmichael relates a family's intensely painful private story with great sensitivity, weaving it into his overall narrative of the genocide... this and his sincerity make his book unforgettable. One finishes it with an ache in the heart'. **Jon Swain, writer and foreign correspondent, author of *River of Time***
- 'As moving as it is well researched. Robert Carmichael's sharp prose and depth of knowledge of Cambodia's history transforms a daughter's search for her missing father into a nation's journey to find peace and reconciliation with its brutal history of genocide.' **Loung Ung, author of *First They Killed My Father***
- 'What does it mean to say two million people lost their lives during the years of Khmer Rouge rule? The true answer can only be told in microcosm, as Robert Carmichael has done in this intimate and heart-breaking story of the disappearance of one man, and the decades of suffering that followed as his family searched for answers.' **Seth Mydans, ex-Southeast Asia correspondent, *The New York Times***
- 'In this brilliant and vivid book, Robert Carmichael skilfully weaves personal accounts with history and reflective analysis, giving essential context to the violence. It is a powerful and compelling story that avoids casting the perpetrators as 'monsters'; instead, showing them to be terrifyingly ordinary. And throughout, Martine and Neary's anguished quest for answers brings home the true scope of the suffering that reached far beyond the walls of S-21.' **Nic Dunlop, author of *The Lost Executioner***
- 'Few journalists have studied the Khmer Rouge tribunal as closely as Carmichael, whose book reveals the complex, often contradictory nature of international justice. What justice can be had when weighed against such crimes? It is an issue victims and observers alike have struggled with from the start... The book is like tracing paper, layering Ket's life over Cambodia's sad history. Threading it together are Martine and Ket's daughter Neary, whose early chance encounter with Carmichael yielded this extraordinary story.' ***History Today***

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**About Robert Carmichael** (email: [robert@robertcarmichael.net](mailto:robert@robertcarmichael.net); mobile: +36-20-4085290)

Robert Carmichael is a South African journalist who spent a decade reporting from Cambodia – first as managing editor of the country's oldest English-language newspaper, and then for outlets including the German Press Agency dpa, Voice of America and Radio Australia. *When the Clouds Fell from the Sky* is his first book. He currently lives in Hungary.

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### **About Little, Brown Book Group**

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