

A CURIOUS MADNESS ERIC JAFFE

READ BY ROBERSON DEAN

"A Curious Madness is a powerful proof that true life is stranger, indeed more curious, than fiction."—ERI HOTTA, author of *Japan 1941*

In the wake of World War II, the Allied forces charged twenty-eight Japanese men with crimes against humanity. Correspondents at the Tokyo trial thought the evidence fell most heavily on ten of the accused. In December 1948, five of these defendants were hanged, while four received sentences of life in prison. The tenth was a brilliant philosopher-patriot named Okawa Shumei. Okawa's guilt as a conspirator appeared straightforward. But on the first day of the Tokyo trial, he made headlines around the world by slapping star defendant and wartime prime minister Tojo Hideki on the head. Had Okawa lost his sanity? Or was he faking madness to avoid a grim punishment? Major Daniel Jaffe, a U.S. Army psychiatrist stationed in occupied Japan, must determine Okawa's ability to stand trial.

Meticulously researched, *A Curious Madness* is both expansive in scope and vivid in detail. Eric Jaffe is at his best in this suspenseful and engrossing historical narrative of the fateful intertwining of two men on different sides of the war and the world and the question of insanity.

Eric Jaffe is the author of *The King's Best Highway: The Lost History of the Boston Post Road, the Route That Made America*, which won the U.S. Postal Service's 2012 Moroney Award for Scholarship in Postal History. He is a former Web editor of *Smithsonian* magazine and now writes for the *Atlantic Cities*.

Robertson Dean has been nominated for several Audie Awards, has won nine *AudioFile* Earphones Awards, and was named one of *AudioFile* magazine's Best Voices of 2010. He has narrated hundreds of audiobooks, including *C. C. Pyle's Amazing Foot Race* by Geoff Williams.



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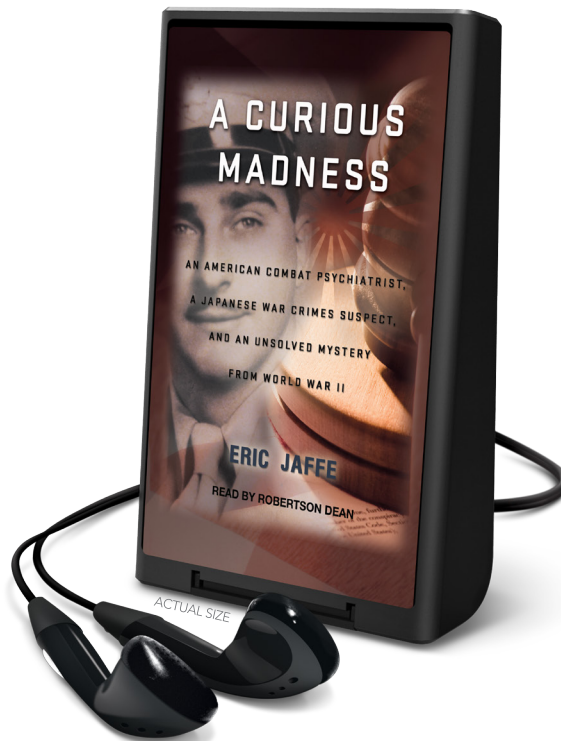
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