

"McCarten's pulse-pounding narrative transports the reader to those springtime weeks in 1940 when the fate of the world rested on the shoulders of Winston Churchill. Thoroughly researched and compulsively readable, *Darkest Hour* is a true story thrillingly told."

—MICHAEL F. BISHOP, Executive Director, International Churchill Society

# DARKEST HOUR

HOW CHURCHILL BROUGHT ENGLAND BACK FROM THE BRINK

ANTHONY McCARTEN

PERFORMED BY JOHN LEE

"HE WAS SPEAKING TO THE NATION, THE WORLD, AND INDEED TO HISTORY."

May 1940. Britain is at war. The horrors of blitzkrieg have seen one Western European democracy after another fall in rapid succession to Nazi boot and shell. Invasion seems mere hours away.

Just days after becoming prime minister, Winston Churchill must deal with this horror—as well as a skeptical king, a party plotting against him, and an unprepared public. Pen in hand and typist-secretary at the ready, how could he change the mood and shore up the will of a nervous people?

In this gripping day-by-day, often hour-by-hour account of how a sometimes uncertain Churchill turned Britain around, the celebrated BAFTA-winning writer Anthony McCarten exposes sides of the great man never seen before. He reveals how Churchill practiced and rewrote his key speeches, from "Blood, toil, tears, and sweat" to "We shall fight on the beaches"; his consideration of a peace treaty with Nazi Germany and his underappreciated role in the Dunkirk evacuation; and, above all, how twenty-five days helped make one man an icon.

Using new archive material, McCarten explores the crucial behind-the-scenes moments that changed the course of history. It's a scariest—and more human—story than has ever been told.

"Stands alongside any of the great studies of Churchill."

—PHIL REED, Director Emeritus, Churchill War Museum

**ANTHONY McCARTEN** is the double Academy Award-nominated and double BAFTA-winning screenwriter and producer of *The Theory of Everything* and is an internationally acclaimed novelist and playwright. He divides his time between London and Los Angeles.

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ANTHONY McCARTEN

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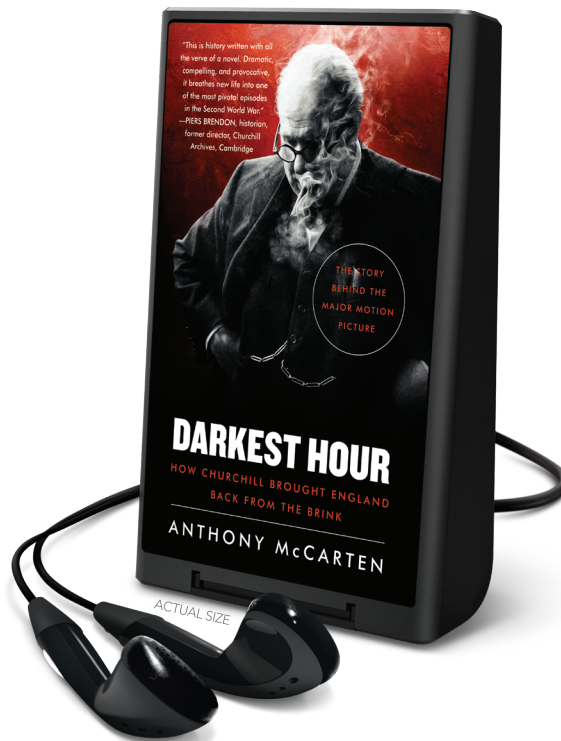
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