Young Hiram Walker was born into bondage. When his mother was sold away, Hiram was robbed of all memory of her—but was gifted with a mysterious power.

Years later, when Hiram almost drowns in a river, that same power saves his life. This brush with death births an urgency in Hiram and a daring scheme: to escape from the only home he's ever known.

So begins an unexpected journey that takes Hiram from the corrupt grandeur of Virginia's proud plantations to desperate guerrilla cells in the wilderness, from the coffin of the Deep South to dangerously idealistic movements in the North. Even as he's enlisted in the underground war between slavers and the enslaved, Hiram's resolve to rescue the family he left behind endures.

This is the dramatic story of an atrocity inflicted on generations of women, men, and children—the violent and capricious separation of families—and the war they waged to simply make lives with the people they loved. Written by one of today's most exciting thinkers and writers, *The Water Dancer* is a propulsive, transcendent work that restores the humanity of those from whom everything was stolen.

TA-NEHISI COATES is the author of *The Beautiful Struggle, We Were Eight Years in Power,* and *Between the World and Me,* which won the National Book Award in 2015. He is the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship. Coates lives in New York City with his wife and son. Learn more at ta-nehisicoates.com and follow @tanehisipcoates on Instagram.

JOE MORTON has an extensive list of film and television credits, including *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*, *Speed*, *Smallville*, and *Eureka*, and won a Primetime Emmy Award for his work on *Scandal*. He made his Broadway debut in *Hair* and was nominated for a Tony Award for the musical *Raisin*.

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READ BY JOE MORTON

Running Time: Approx. 14 Hours • Unabridged

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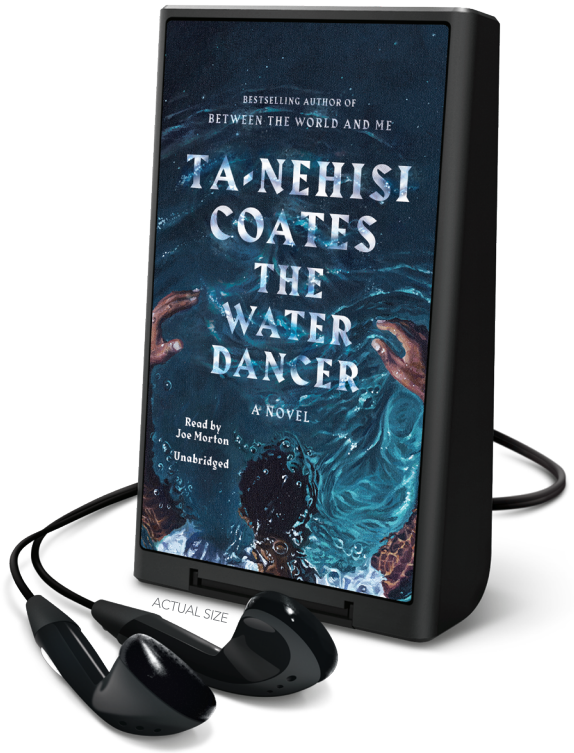

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