

# Booktalk!

## The Darkest Hour Script

### *For this Book Talk you will need*

- 3 actors (Major Harken (male), Sabine & Lucie)
- Major Harken: dress pants, dress shirt, tie, 2 handkerchiefs
- Sabine Chevalier: braided strawberry-blond wig, yellow dress, dress shoes
- Lucie Blaise: skirt, blouse, dress shoes
- Additional props: table, 4 chairs, copy of *The Darkest Hour*

**Major Harken:** *(sourly)* Join us at the table, Blaise.

**Lucie:** *(inquisitively)* Did Laurent bring news about Delphine, sir?

**Major Harken:** *(curtly)* No, he did not. *(standing up and pacing around table)* I'll get right to the point. There has been a change of plans. *(addressing Sabine)* Agent Chevalier, you'll no longer be traveling to Reims.

**Sabine:** *(looking offended & surprised)* I beg your pardon?

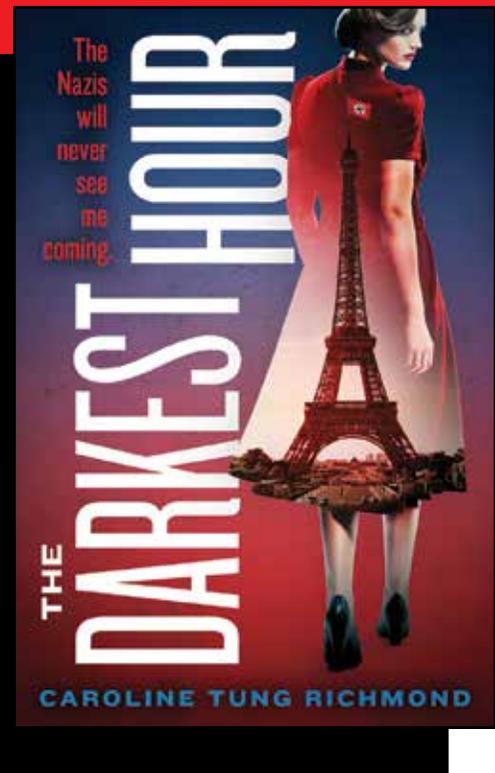
**Major H:** *(firmly)* You'll be heading to Cherbourg. *(glancing over at Lucie)* And you, Blaise, will be going with her.

**Lucie:** *(looking uncertain)* Me?

**Major H:** *(somewhat impatiently)* Yes, you. Who else is named Blaise in this room?

**Sabine:** *(sounding shocked, incensed & suspicious)* You cannot be serious, sir! What about Delphine? Yesterday you were determined to rescue her, but today you've changed your mind?

**Major H:** *(eyeing Sabine solemnly & speaking with authority)* Far from it...and do watch your tone. Agent Fairbanks and I will continue to Reims as we discussed last night, but I'm sending the two of you on a different mission.



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**Sabine:** *(looking extremely angry)* May I speak with you in private?

**Major H:** *(sternly)* No. You may not.

**Sabine:** Then might I point out that Blaise is a trainee?

**Major H:** I'm well aware of that, yes.

**Sabine:** With all due respect, she's simply not ready.

**Major H:** Careful, Agent Chevalier, or I'll bump you back to trainee status, too.

**Sabine:** *(closing her mouth and looking down angrily; a slow smirk is spreading across Lucie's face)*

**Major H:** *(looking over at Lucie)* Don't look so smug, Blaise. You're not ready for another mission by a long shot, but you're here and you're alive and you're what I have to work with. That's why I'm sending you out – is that understood?

**Lucie:** *(nodding slightly)* Why do you need us in Cherbourg?

**Major H:** Laurent gave me new intelligence that requires our presence. This is the type of mission that will require two of us, and since I'm running low on agents I'm sending you along.

**Lucie:** *(persisting)* What do you need us to do?

**Major H:** *(pulling 2 handkerchiefs out of his pant pocket & laying one of them open on the table)* Both handkerchiefs have a map of the northern part of France on them – Normandy, specifically – and Cherbourg is over here *(pointing to one location on the 'map', then tapping his finger at the very bottom of the kerchief)* The first line of text is the address to a safe house in Cherbourg. You'll rendezvous with a branch of the Resistance there, and they'll take you to speak with a man called Alexander Dorner.

**Lucie:** *(frowning brow)* You want us to meet with a German.

**Major H:** Yes. This man also claims to be a Nazi officer with top secret information for the Allies. He escaped from Germany to Belgium and then made his way into France, where he made contact with the Resistance.

**Sabine:** That's quite a story.

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- Major H:** And we need to check it out because Dorner supposedly has important information that could alter the course of the war. He's willing to trade this information for safe passage to England. A new life in Allied territory.
- Sabine:** *(sounding cynical; her arms are crossed in front of her)* How do we know that we can trust this man?
- Major H:** We can't trust him at this point, and that's why I need you and Blaise to interrogate him. We have to follow every lead. *(knocking his knuckles on the 'map')* Find him. Question him. After that, you can return to Paris.
- Lucie:** *(warily)* What if we think Dorner is lying?
- Major H:** *(arching his brow)* Do you really need me to answer that?
- Lucie:** Understood, sir.
- Major H:** *(emphatically)* If this Dorner is telling the truth, then it'll be our highest priority to get him to safety. *(sliding the handkerchief over to Lucie)* Don't lose this.
- Lucie:** *(confidently)* I won't.
- Major H:** *(abruptly)* That's it for our briefing. Gather your things and brush up on your aliases. And, Miss Blaise? You better muster some makeup to take with you, too.
- Lucie:** *(frowning brow)* Pardon, sir?
- Major H:** *(impatiently)* Lipstick, rouge, and whatever else you need to look the part. You'll be traveling under your Fleurette Dupre alias.
- Lucie:** *(slightly panicked)* I've never used Fleurette outside of training exercises. I can't really hold a tone or –
- Major H:** You can sing well enough. *(turning to look at both agents)* You're dismissed. *(Major Harken & Sabine exit)*
- Lucie:** *(turning to audience)* I may have messed up on the last assignment, but there's no room for anything but perfection this time around. *(straightening slightly)* I can – and will – do this. *(picking copy of The Darkest Hour up off the table & showing it to audience)* *The Darkest Hour* is a gripping story of espionage and sabotage that you won't want to miss. It's at your Scholastic Book Fair.