

# The Long Midnight



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著者:

出版者:

出版时间:

装帧:

isbn:9780151530755

The German occupation of Norway during World War II transformed a peaceful country into a deadly field of Allied, German, and partisan activity. Some people escaped to England and there joined the Norwegian army under exiled King Haakon. Others crossed the border into neutral Sweden and entered underground training battalions. Many of those who chose to fight in their homeland took to the mountains and

began a slow, bloody resistance, in constant danger from the Germans mobile death squads.

For nine resistance fighters of tiny Loftheim, the war became a long midnight, in which their patriotism and their beliefs were put to cruel test. One failed the test, and became a quisling, a traitor.

Which of the nine betrayed long friendships and love of country to join forces with the Gestapo? Was it Per Vidgren, whose house protected them, his wife, Karl, or Aud Bull, a golden-haired Norwegian beauty? Or was it Knut Kierulf, Loftheim's mayor, or Bjornson, the fisherman from Narvik? Or perhaps one of the others? To locate the traitor, two men are sent from Britain--a Scottish lieutenant-colonel, young, dedicated, and embittered by an unfaithful wife, and an imperturbable sergeant. Their mission is brutally simple: find the quisling, expose him, and kill him.

In *The Long Midnight*, Alan White has drawn on his own experiences as leader of a commando unit to capture the stark reality of German-occupied Europe, when a man's best means of survival was his ability to think fast, move silently, take risks, and, if necessary, kill without hesitation.

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