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## The Reader: A Screenplay

David Hare

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# The Reader



A SCREENPLAY BY DAVID HARE  
with an introduction by the author

Based on the Novel by Bernhard Schlink  
Now a Major Motion Picture from The Weinstein Company  
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**David Hare : The Reader: A Screenplay** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Reader: A Screenplay:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Valuable resource in addition to book and discBy Allison GarrettScreenplay as published does not always tally with release dialogue script. Annoying but not serious. Pity not more accurate since David Hare permitted his name to be associated with it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. good scriptBy dabearAnother one for my daughter got it over the holidaysshe really really love it, she reads it

over and over again.couldn't be more happy for her.I totally recomended it..

Now nominated for five Academy Awards including Best Adapted Screenplay and based on the award-winning and New York Times bestselling novel by Bernhard Schlink, legendary playwright and screenwriter David Hare's film adaptation of *The Reader* comes complete with an introduction by the author and is published to coincide with The Weinstein Company's upcoming release starring Kate Winslet and Ralph Fiennes. In 1958, 15-year-old Michael Berg becomes ill on the streets of Blumenstrasse, Germany, and 36-year-old tram conductor Hanna Schmitz, a complete stranger, helps him home. After months of battling scarlet fever, Michael visits Hannah to thank her when he catches her undressing. Instantly he is attracted. Overwhelmed by an obsession, he returns for another visit, where she asks for help carrying coal up to her apartment. He becomes dirty doing so, and she bathes him; after which they are drawn in to a passionate, secretive affair. As their physical relationship deepens, Hanna has him read aloud to her, chiefly from the great works of Western literature. While Hannah remains distant from Michael emotionally, he soon becomes enamored. Suddenly, Hanna disappears without a goodbye. Eight years later, as a student in law school, Michael attends a war crimes trial for a group of middle-aged women who had served as guards at Auschwitz. To Michael's surprise, Hanna is one of the defendants. Conflicted for having loved a felon but intrigued by Hanna's compliance to accept sole responsibility for the offense, Michael soon learns Hanna is protecting what is to her a far more terrible secret than a Nazi past...*The Reader* is a haunting story about truth and reconciliation, and about a generation that must come to terms with the crimes of another.

**About the Author** David Hare is one of Britain's most internationally performed playwrights. Fourteen of his plays have been presented at London's National Theatre and ten of his best-known plays including *Plenty*, *The Secret Rapture*, *Skylight*, *The Blue Room*, *Amy's View*, *The Judas Kiss*, *Via Dolorosa*-in which he also performed-and *The Vertical Hour* have been presented on Broadway. His new play *Gethsemane* is now playing at the National Theatre. He has written the screenplays for many feature films including *Wetherby*, *Paris by Night*, *Strapless*, *Plenty*, *Damage*, and *The Hours*.