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# His Dark Materials: The Golden Compass / The Subtle Knife / The Amber Spyglass



## Synopsis

The only hardcover omnibus of the best-selling and award-winning fantasy trilogy, in a Contemporary Classics edition. Philip Pullman's trilogy is a masterpiece that transcends genre and appeals to readers of all ages. His heroine, Lyra, is an orphan living in a parallel universe in which science, theology, and magic are entwined. The epic story that takes us through the three novels is not only a spellbinding adventure featuring armored polar bears, magical devices, witches, and daemons, it is also an audacious and profound reimagining of Milton's *Paradise Lost* that has already inspired a number of serious books of literary criticism. Like J. R. R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis before him, Pullman has invented a richly detailed and marvelously imagined world, complex and thought-provoking enough to enthrall adults as well as younger readers. An utterly entrancing blend of metaphysical speculation and bravura storytelling, *His Dark Materials* is a monumental and enduring achievement.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 1144 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 2,796 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #63,169 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Toys & Models > Toymaking #22 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Papercrafts, Stamping & Stenciling > Origami #177 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Metaphysical & Visionary

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

In the epic trilogy *His Dark Materials*, Philip Pullman unlocks the door to worlds parallel to our own. Daemons and winged creatures live side by side with humans, and a mysterious entity called Dust just might have the power to unite the universes--if it isn't destroyed first. The three books in Pullman's heroic fantasy series, published as mass-market paperbacks with new covers, are united

here in one boxed set that includes *The Golden Compass*, *The Subtle Knife*, and *The Amber Spyglass*. Join Lyra, Pantalaimon, Will, and the rest as they embark on the most breathtaking, heartbreaking adventure of their lives. The fate of the universe is in their hands. (Ages 13 and older)  
--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"One of the supreme literary dreamers and magicians of our time" *The Guardian* "Philip Pullman. Is he the best storyteller ever?" *The Observer* --The Observer --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The storytelling slowed down to such a pace that, at times, I would lose interest. This mainly happened in the first book, but also a bit in the second and third. But the pay off for pushing through was a good story. It felt lived in, experienced. I felt like I was sitting down with an Elder listening to a secret story from their life. That requires a good storyteller to accomplish. The only reason I have given it 4 instead of 5 stars is the slower parts where I had to carry myself through the story instead of the story carrying me along.

Not as good as the second book but still decent. The beginning leading up to the big showdown upon finding Lyra was exciting. I also liked the description of the various beings from different worlds. The middle was a bit slow and there were some elements of how characters were saved or won their battles were too convenient. The end was also not as exciting as I'd hoped but still overall I enjoyed the book. I'd give it a 3.5

I love this series and am so happy to have a single book containing all three stories! The dust jacket is made of pretty thick paper with a beautiful design. Underneath, the book is bound in a rich, red textile. I would like to mention that the font is very small and the pages are thin, I'm sure to keep the book a portable size. Definitely would recommend.

Amazing! The books are amazing, and it's nice not having to lug around a 15 lb 6 inch thick tome just to read them one after the other. Lyra, the main character, goes through one of the most honest and radical changes from practically a sociopathic pre-adolescent- no parents, way too smart and little to no accountability, nevermind humans are pretty much sociopaths until we reach about 17 anyways- to a passionate, kind, authentic human being. In fact every character, even those I believed to be unredeemable evolved within reasonable character arches (no about-face changes

but consistent, logical developments). The worlds building- and there are many- is stupendous, and the science and philosophy mind-expanding, and even heartbreaking. I want a daemon, even though I know I have one inside, like Mary and Will. I have my master's in theology and religion, and while that doesn't make me an authority or expert, Philip Pullman's analysis of the fundamental problem of organized religion is troubling the way that we're troubled when we realize our parents are human beings and flawed. A truth we spent a lot of mental time and energy ignoring, that might hurt when we stop ignoring it, but ultimately our lives are better for accepting. Within the context of the narrative, and extended to our world in some cases, what Pullman's characters do, what they must do, makes sense. It is the right choice. All I'm saying is, don't let the hype (even if it's died down) turn you away. It can be as fictitious as you want it to be, but it doesn't change the fact that the books are amazing fantasy. I also bought the audiobooks from audible, and I loved the full cast. My only complaint is that because the audiobooks and the omnibus aren't the same products Whispersync doesn't work. So each time I had to switch between the two I had to spend a few minutes flipping through the files to find where'd I'd left off. A small annoyance that did not detract from this book.

Love this trilogy. Unfortunately, the UK seller who I purchased from mailed me a completely different book and wanted me to pay to ship it back. Goodbye, third party sellers! Back to the story: it's truly a beautiful read. If you have allergies like me, you might find yourself rubbing them a bit at a couple parts. Pullman crafted a wonderful story with interesting and unforgettable characters. Even if you disagree with the subtext, I would recommend reading this trilogy for the story itself. The first two books are my favorite. I feel like I tolerate the final book, but LOVED the first two. Weird... same thing happened with Anne Rice's vampire trilogy. I digress.

Having seen the movie first, I had no idea what to expect and it was so much more than anticipated! The ending wrecked me and made this truly much more than a children's movie! The book had some light wear to it, but the book was still readable.

What a wonderful delightful and complex story, beautifully told! Full of everything I've ever wondered and imagined, woven skillfully together into a fascinating and far-reaching narrative - from dark matter and consciousness to the hierarchy of angels to shamanic shape shifting and non-ordinary states of attention to the evolution of form to the Biblical tale of the Old Testament God and the story of the fallen angels to ideas reminiscent of Jung in his Answer to Job and his concept of the daimon!

Highly recommend. And as much as I thoroughly enjoyed this story, the truth of our reality is even more magical and amazing. That's the best part - and this trilogy reminds us that this is true.

To start, these three books are great. I'm a Christian and was not offended by the book, it's fiction so I take it with a grain of salt. Besides, the books are so well written that I respect the author regardless of his views. Again, these books are very good because the author Phillip Pullman is an exceptional writer. This format (3 books in one giant volume) is very nicely done. The book is solid & it has style. I own all three as separate novels also. I would recommend this volume. The Trilogy is great.

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