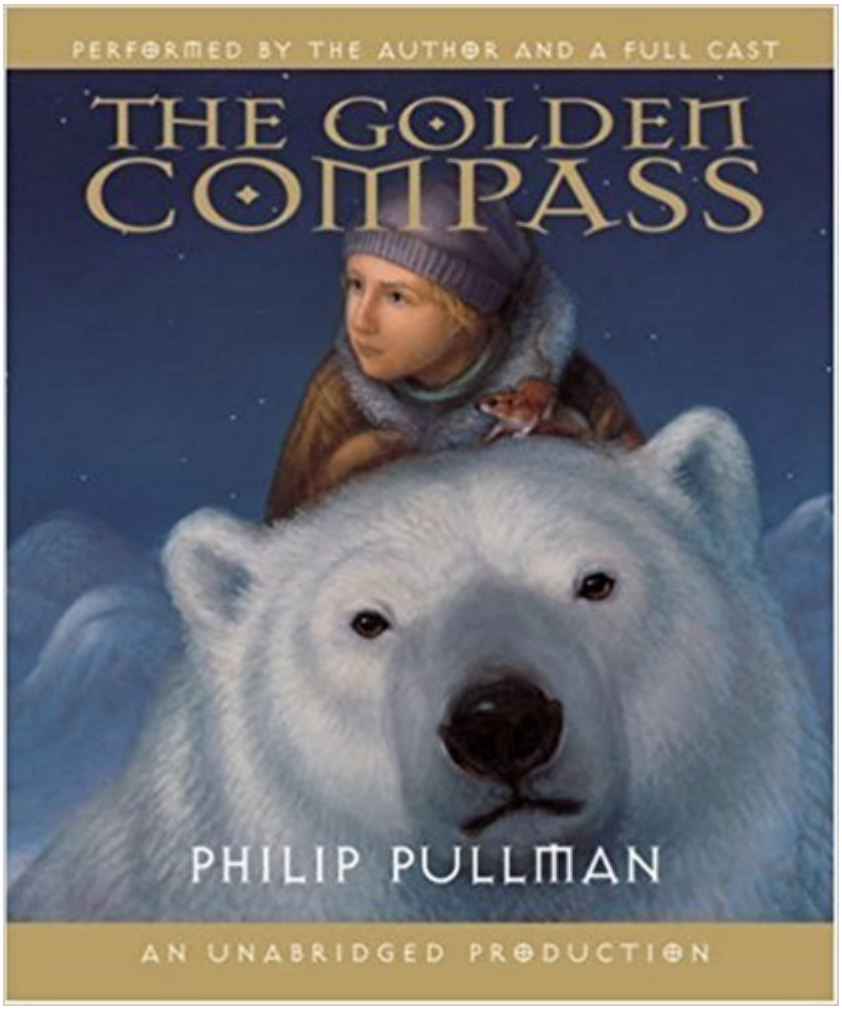
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The Golden Compass (His Dark Materials)



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Synopsis

Read by the author and a full cast10 hours, 49 minutes9 CDsWhen Lyra and her daemon Pantalaimon decide to spy on a presentation her uncle, the commanding Lord Asriel, is making to the elders of Jordan College they have no idea that they will become witnesses to an attempted murderÃ¢â ¬â •and even less that they are taking the first steps in a journey that will lead them into danger and adventure unlike anything Lyra's unfettered imagination has conjured up.Though she has been reised at the college in an atmosphere of benign neglect that has allowed her to become a half-wild child of the streets, Lyra soon finds herself apprenticed to the elegant Mrs. CoulterÃ¢â ¬â •and in possession of a strange device called the alethiometer, a "golden compass" that reads not true worth, but truth itself.But truth is a precious commodity, and before long Lyra and Pan are running for their lives, the object of an obsessive hunt by mysterious forces who have been stealing children for dark purposes that no one understands. Lyra will need all her street-learned wiles if she and Pan are to survive.An international sensation from the moment it was published, The Golden Compass comes to spectacular new life in this unabridged recording, narrated by Philip Pullman himself, with the support of some of the finest actors of the London stage.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Some books improve with age--the age of the reader, that is. Such is certainly the case with Philip Pullman's heroic, at times heart-wrenching novel, The Golden Compass, a story ostensibly for children but one perhaps even better appreciated by adults. The protagonist of this complex fantasy

is young Lyra Belacqua, a precocious orphan growing up within the precincts of Oxford University. But it quickly becomes clear that Lyra's Oxford is not precisely like our own--nor is her world. For one thing, people there each have a personal daemon, the manifestation of their souls in animal form. For another, hers is a universe in which science, theology, and magic are closely allied: As for what experimental theology was, Lyra had no more idea than the urchins. She had formed the notion that it was concerned with magic, with the movements of the stars and planets, with tiny particles of matter, but that was guesswork, really. Probably the stars had daemons just as humans did, and experimental theology involved talking to them. Not that Lyra spends much time worrying about it; what she likes best is "clambering over the College roofs with Roger the kitchen boy who was her particular friend, to spit plum stones on the heads of passing Scholars or to hoot like owls outside a window where a tutorial was going on, or racing through the narrow streets, or stealing apples from the market, or waging war." But Lyra's carefree existence changes forever when she and her daemon, Pantalaimon, first prevent an assassination attempt against her uncle, the powerful Lord Asriel, and then overhear a secret discussion about a mysterious entity known as Dust. Soon she and Pan are swept up in a dangerous game involving disappearing children, a beautiful woman with a golden monkey daemon, a trip to the far north, and a set of allies ranging from "gyptians" to witches to an armor-clad polar bear. In The Golden Compass, Philip Pullman has written a masterpiece that transcends genre. It is a children's book that will appeal to adults, a fantasy novel that will charm even the most hardened realist. Best of all, the author doesn't speak down to his audience, nor does he pull his punches; there is genuine terror in this book, and heartbreak, betrayal, and loss. There is also love, loyalty, and an abiding morality that infuses the story but never overwhelms it. This is one of those rare novels that one wishes would never end. Fortunately, its sequel, The Subtle Knife, will help put off that inevitability for a while longer. --Alix Wilber --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials trilogy now appears in sophisticated trade paperback editions, each title embossed within a runic emblem of antiqued gold. The backdrop of The Golden Compass: His Dark Materials, Book I sports a midnight blue map of the cosmos with the zodiacal ram at its center. The Subtle Knife and The Amber Spyglass carry similarly intriguing cover art, and all three titles offer details not seen in the originals: in Compass and Knife, for example, Pullman's stamp-size b&w art introduces each chapter; Spyglass chapters open with literary quotes from Blake, the Bible, Dickinson and more. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ahhhhhhh!!!!! I had skimmed this when I was a kid looking for something to fill the emptiness that was finishing the latest Harry Potter and I didn't like it. All these years later I listened to it and it is the bomb!!!!!! Love it!!!!!!! The movie didn't do it justice! Highly recommend!!!! In Audio too!

What a great story! I saw the movie before I knew that it was a book, and it in no sense detracted from my enjoyment of reading the story. I'm now reading Book 2: The Subtle Knife; so far, just as good a read as Book 1: The Golden Compass.

Just about to purchase the other two books in this series so I can continue my enjoyment. Interesting characters in a unique story.

Very fine work. Kept my attention waiting to find out what will happen next. Fascinating characters were developed and believable.

This particular book was an amazing read. I read the whole thing on a train while traveling and it kept me completely entertained and even reluctant to leave the train. The plot turns so many times and the pressure of suspense even makes you a tad bit stressed. ;) But the end does not actually end, it leaves even more doors opening into the next book, which I really liked. Over all, I found the concept completely original and gripping. 100% suggest!!!

Saw the movie years ago and loved it.I am equally enjoying the unabridged Audiobook version.Very well acted.

Although the film leaves out much that was in the book, I'm glad I watched it before beginning to read the novel. Pullman's writing focuses on what people are doing with very little physical description. Not usually a problem for me, but in this case, there are so many characters, that it helped to have mental images of them from the movie before reading the book. And it's a good movie anyway. Lot's of big-name talent--Nicole Kidman, Derek Jacobi, Ian McKellen, Sam Elliot, Christopher Lee, Jim Carter (Carson of Downton Abbey).

As someone who has been deeply moved (emotionally and intellectually) by this trilogy of books, owning such an extraordinary copy of the first book is nothing short of immensely satisfying. The

box, the cover slip, and the hardback cover are all beautifully rendered. An excellent purchase I do not regret. I only hope to see 20th Anniversary Editions made in this same style for the subsequent two books in the near future.

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