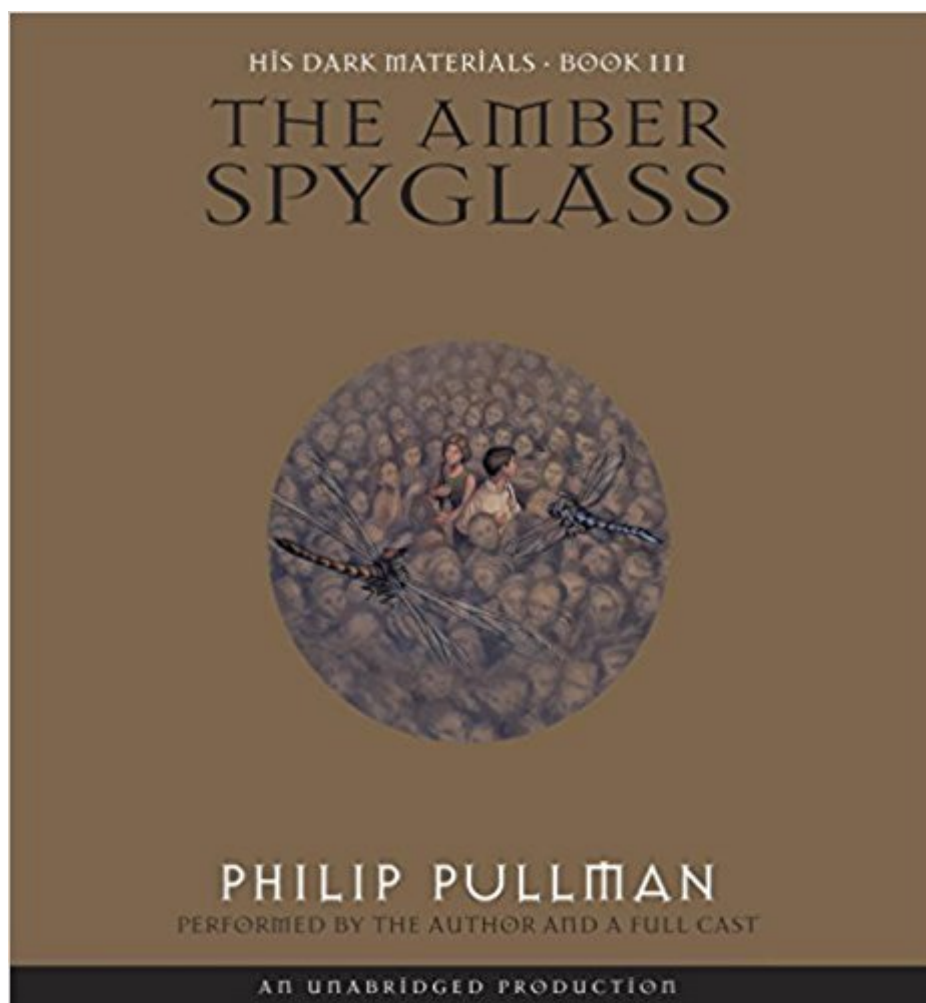


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Amber Spyglass, The (Lib)(CD) (His Dark Materials)



Synopsis

Just announced!
THE BOOK OF DUST, the long-awaited new work from Philip Pullman, set in the world of His Dark Materials, will be published as a work in three parts, with the first volume to arrive in October 2017!

The unforgettable His Dark Materials trilogy that began with *The Golden Compass* – the modern fantasy classic that Entertainment Weekly named an "All-Time Greatest Novel" and Newsweek hailed as a "Top 100 Book of All Time" – and continued with *The Subtle Knife*, reaches its astonishing conclusion in *The Amber Spyglass*. Throughout the worlds, the forces of both heaven and hell are mustering to take part in Lord Asriel's audacious rebellion. Each player in this epic drama has a role to play and a sacrifice to make. Witches, angels, spies, assassins, tempters, and pretenders, no one will remain unscathed. Lyra and Will have the most dangerous task of all. They must journey to a gray-lit world where no living soul has ever gone and from which there is no escape. As war rages and Dust drains from the sky, the fate of the living – and the dead – comes to depend on Lyra and Will. On the choices they make in love, and for love, forevermore.
A #1 New York Times Bestseller
Winner of the Whitbread Award
Winner of the British Book Award (Children's)
Published in 40 Countries
"Masterful.... This title confirms Pullman's inclusion in the company of C.S. Lewis and Tolkien."
"Smithsonian Magazine" Pullman has created the last great fantasy masterpiece of the twentieth century. An astounding achievement."
"The Cincinnati Enquirer" War, politics, magic, science, individual lives and cosmic destinies are all here . . . shaped and assembled into a narrative of tremendous pace by a man with a generous, precise intelligence. I am completely enchanted."
"The New York Times Book Review" Breathtaking adventure . . . a terrific story, eloquently told."
"The Boston Globe" --This text refers to the Audio Cassette edition.

Book Information

Series: His Dark Materials (Book 3)

Audio CD

Publisher: Listening Library; Unabridged edition (November 26, 2002)

Language: English

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Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces

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

Best Sellers Rank: #3,413,876 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \(P \) > Pullman, Philip](#) #1132 in [Books > Books on CD > Children's Fiction > Fantasy](#) #29302 in [Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

From the very start of its very first scene, *The Amber Spyglass* will set hearts fluttering and minds racing. All we'll say here is that we immediately discover who captured Lyra at the end of *The Subtle Knife*, though we've yet to discern whether this individual's intent is good, evil, or somewhere in between. We also learn that Will still possesses the blade that allows him to cut between worlds, and has been joined by two winged companions who are determined to escort him to Lord Asriel's mountain redoubt. The boy, however, has only one goal in mind--to rescue his friend and return to her the alethiometer, an instrument that has revealed so much to her and to readers of *The Golden Compass* and its follow-up. Within a short time, too, we get to experience the "tingle of the starlight" on Serafina Pekkala's skin as she seeks out a famished Iorek Byrnison and enlists him in Lord Asriel's crusade: A complex web of thoughts was weaving itself in the bear king's mind, with more strands in it than hunger and satisfaction. There was the memory of the little girl Lyra, whom he had named Silvertongue, and whom he had last seen crossing the fragile snow bridge across a crevasse in his own island of Svalbard. Then there was the agitation among the witches, the rumors of pacts and alliances and war; and then there was the surpassingly strange fact of this new world itself, and the witch's insistence that there were many more such worlds, and that the fate of them all hung somehow on the fate of the child. Meanwhile, two factions of the Church are vying to reach Lyra first. One is even prepared to give a priest "preemptive absolution" should he succeed in committing mortal sin. For these tyrants, killing this girl is no less than "a sacred task." In the final installment of his trilogy, Philip Pullman has set himself the highest hurdles. He must match its predecessors in terms of sheer action and originality and resolve the enigmas he already created. The good news is that there is no critical bad news--not that *The Amber Spyglass* doesn't contain standoffs and close calls galore. (Who would have it otherwise?) But Pullman brings his audacious revision of *Paradise Lost* to a conclusion that is both serene and devastating. In prose that is transparent yet lyrical and 3-D, the author weaves in and out of his principals' thoughts. He also offers up several additional worlds. In one, Dr. Mary Malone is welcomed into an apparently simple

society. The environment of the mulefa (again, we'll reveal nothing more) makes them rich in consciousness while their lives possess a slow and stately rhythm. These strange creatures can, however, be very fast on their feet (or on other things entirely) when necessary. Alas, they are on the verge of dying as Dust streams out of their idyllic landscape. Will the Oxford dark-matter researcher see her way to saving them, or does this require our young heroes? And while Mary is puzzling out a cure, Will and Lyra undertake a pilgrimage to a realm devoid of all light and hope, after having been forced into the cruelest of sacrifices--or betrayals. Throughout his galvanizing epic, Pullman sustains scenes of fierce beauty and tenderness. He also allows us a moment or two of comic respite. At one point, for instance, Lyra's mother bullies a series of ecclesiastical underlings: "The man bowed helplessly and led her away. The guard behind her blew out his cheeks with relief." Needless to say, Mrs. Coulter is as intoxicating and fluid as ever. And can it be that we will come to admire her as she plays out her desperate endgame? In this respect, as in many others, *The Amber Spyglass* is truly a book of revelations, moving from darkness visible to radiant truth. --Kerry Fried --This text refers to the Audio Cassette edition.

In concluding the spellbinding *His Dark Materials* trilogy, Pullman produces what may well be the most controversial children's book of recent years. The witch Serafina Pekkala, quoting an angel, sums up the central theme: "All the history of human life has been a struggle between wisdom and stupidity. The rebel angels, the followers of wisdom, have always tried to open minds; the Authority and his churches have always tried to keep them closed." Early on, this "Authority" is explicitly identified as the Judeo-Christian God, and he is far from omnipotent: his Kingdom is ruled by a regent. The cosmic battle to overthrow the Kingdom is only one of the many epic sequences in this novel. Also much happens, and the action is split among so many different imagined worlds, that readers will have to work hard to keep up with Pullman. In the opening, for example, Lyra is being hidden and kept in a drugged sleep in a Himalayan cave by her mother, the beautiful and treacherous Mrs. Coulter. Will is guided by two angels across different worlds to find Lyra. The physicist and former nun, Mary Malone, sojourns in an alternatively evolved world. In yet another universe, Lord Asriel has assembled a great horde of otherworldly beings--including the vividly imagined race of haughty, hand-high warriors called Gallivespians--to bring down the Kingdom. Along the way, Pullman riffs on the elemental chords of classical myth and fairy tale. While some sections seem rushed and the prose is not always as brightly polished as fans might expect, Pullman's exuberant work stays rigorously true to its own internal structure. Stirring and highly provocative. Ages 12-up. (Oct.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to

the Audio Cassette edition.

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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