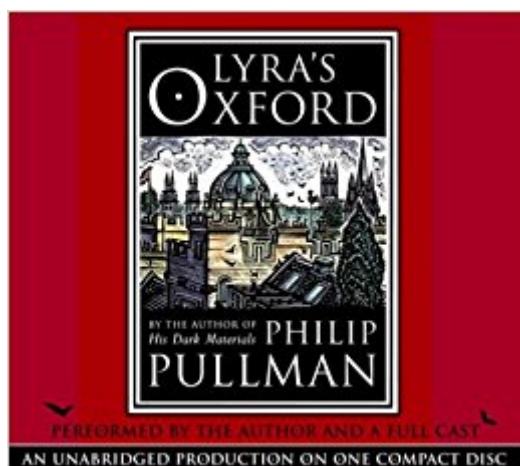


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# Lyra's Oxford



## Synopsis

An exciting new tale set in the world of Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials saga. This collectible hardcover volume includes a short story by Mr. Pullman, plus a fold-out map of Oxford and various "souvenirs" from the past. The book is illustrated throughout with woodcut illustrations by John Lawrence.

## Book Information

Series: His Dark Materials

Audio CD

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## Customer Reviews

Attention all serious book collectors and fans of Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials. This undoubtedly beautiful package--cloth-bound in a classy red and adorned by numerous illustrations by master engraver and illustrator John Lawrence--is a must-purchase. A pint-sized pocket volume, Lyra's Oxford packages together a short story set in the same universe as his famous trilogy, a fold-out map of the alternate-reality city of Oxford, a short brochure for a cruise to The Levant aboard the S.S. Zenobia, and a postcard from the inventor of the amber spyglass, Mary Malone. Pullman, in his introduction, suggests that the peripheral items within "might be connected with the story, or they might not; they might be connected to stories that haven't appeared yet. It's difficult to tell." A very sumptuous and lovingly crafted but tantalizingly brief book, Lyra's Oxford begins when Lyra and Pantalaimon spot a witch's daemon called Ragi being pursued over the rooftops of Oxford by a frenzied pack of birds. The daemon heads straight for Lyra (the creature was given Lyra's name as somebody who might help) and is given shelter. Together Lyra and Pan try to guide the daemon to the home of Sebastian Makepeace; an alchemist living in a

part of Oxford known as Jericho--but it is a journey fraught with more danger than they had at first anticipated. (Age 10 and over) --John McLay --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Grade 5-9-Pullman returns to the universe of "His Dark Materials" with this gift-book package anchored by a new short story, "Lyra and the Birds." There are a few other goodies, including a pullout map of Oxford and a postcard from Dr. Mary Malone. In his preface, Pullman indicates that these "-other things might be connected with the story, or they might not; they might be connected to stories that haven't appeared yet. It's not easy to tell." These "souvenirs" give readers something to puzzle out, and to determine how they might (or might not) relate to anything. The short story itself doesn't lack for action. Lyra and her daemon companion, Pantalaimon, happen upon a witch's daemon named Ragi, who has sought out Lyra's help to find an alchemist named Sebastian Makepeace, who may be able to help his witch, Yelena Pazhets, who has been struck by a mysterious illness. The story winds its way through Oxford toward the alchemist's home, ending with an unexpected but ultimately hopeful resolution. The lovely woodcut engravings fit both the design of the book and the tone of the tale perfectly. Full appreciation of the story is very much dependent on having read Pullman's much-acclaimed trilogy. Tim Wadham, Maricopa County Library District, Phoenix, AZ Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I had just finished reading (nay, devouring!) the His Dark Materials trilogy, and thought it was excellent. When I was looking for more from Pullman, the first thing I spotted was Lyra's Oxford, so I decided to get it. Unfortunately, I didn't read the item description closely enough -- I had not realized that this was only a booklet, and not a book. As such, it is outrageously overpriced, even had it been a good read -- and it is not. No spoilers here, but I can tell you that this is a very brief and uninteresting vignette from Lyra's life after the close of the original trilogy. We learn nothing new about the world, the character is not developed any further, and there is essentially no plot; just the recounting of an at best mildly interesting incident. This is forty pages of large-print text, and a couple of worthless "extras" inserted. That's less than a typical chapter of Pullman's original trilogy. Even the slowest of readers (that would be me) will be done with this in under an hour, and probably never give it a second thought. And although I don't know him personally, I'd guess that Pullman probably put about as much time and effort into writing it as I put into reading it. In short -- you are throwing away your money if you purchase this booklet; I did not look at it closely enough, and have no one to blame but myself. So here's fair warning to any others who might be tempted to make the

same mistake I did.

Do not buy this in kindle... It is a waste of \$6.99. It a short beginning of a story that is over before it really goes anywhere. It is cute, but I was expecting a book... I thought I had accidentally downloaded the book sample... Then realized that was all there was. Big rip-off!

I am a Lyra admirer, a Pullman fan, a fan of Will and the witches and lorek Byrnison, king of the bears and Gyprians and ghosts and all the wonderful worlds we gained entry to in the Dark Materials series but this story was just too tiny a taste, not even an amuse bouche of story and it left me longing for an update, a real update. Surely they will not be kept apart. SURELY.

I only WISH that they made this series into a movie. It would be such a wonderful addition to "The Golden Compass"

Giving just a taste of the former glory that was the His Dark Materials Trilogy, Pullman unfortunately disappoints the reader with this near-gimmick of a short story. Taking up space with what should have been words are (albeit charming) black prints depicting some of the scenes described, as well as (again, albeit charming) postcards and maps that have the ability of confusing the reader. Luckily, the actual story line is decent, and whilst in the middle of it, found myself getting pulled right back into the fantasy world he created. The ending hints at something more to come, and the entire tone of the piece is quite suspicious, as if the clever author had something hiding up his proverbial sleeve. The descriptions lacked the luster of his previous work, and one finds themselves wishing for the insanely visual imagery that he is known for. The characters were a bit flat, but the story still gripped. We all know Pullman is capable of so much more - so why this interlude?

I am a huge fan of the "His Dark Materials" book series. This short story however was exactly that, short. Especially for the price you had to pay, and the story itself did not have the same magical feel as the books did by any means. If you were a fan of the series, I suggest going to your local library and reading this instead of buying it

I bought this book for the Original Kindle. This is the 4th book by Philip Pullman about the Gold Compass series. The first book is titled The Golden Compass, the 2nd is titled The Subtle Knife, the 3rd is titled The Amber Spyglass. The first 3 books as well as the DVD of The Golden Compass was

given to me by a friend of my mother's. This book has floor plans and other paraphanelia of the Golden Compass books. I liked them all. P. Corti.

More like a chapter than a novel. Very dissapointed

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