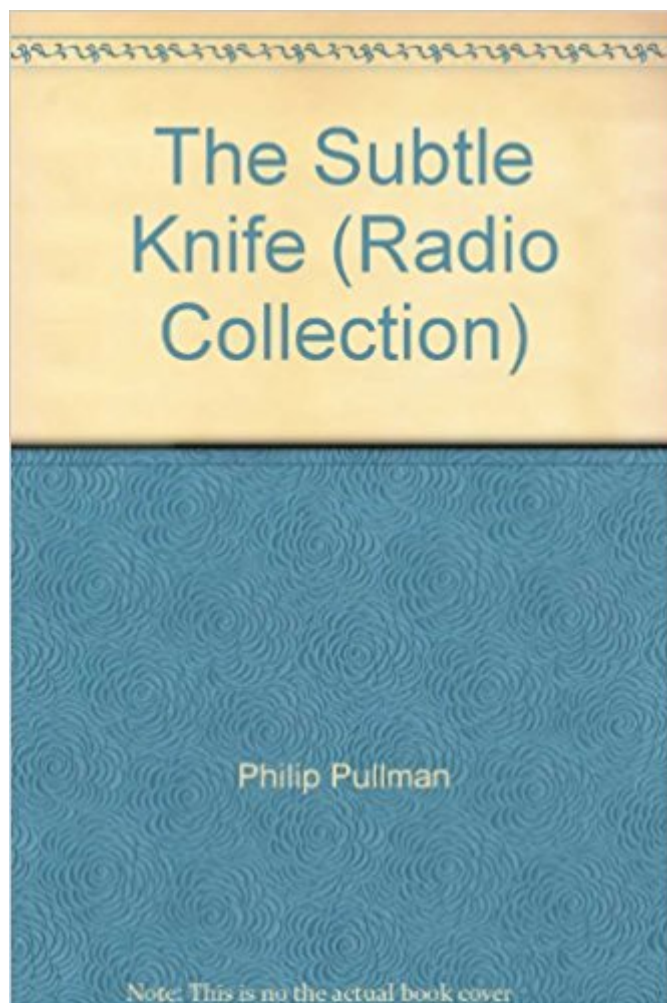


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The Subtle Knife (Radio Collection)



Synopsis

Read by the author and a full cast 8 hours 55 minutes, 8 CDs The universe has broken wide, and Lyra's friend lies dead. Desperate for answers and set on revenge, Lyra bursts into a new world in pursuit of his killer. Instead, she finds Will, just twelve years old and already a murderer himself. He's on a quest as fierce as Lyra's, and together they strike out into this sunlit otherworld. On this journey marked by danger, Will and Lyra forge ahead. But with every step and each new horror, they move closer to the greatest threat of all -- and the shattering truth of their own destiny. In this stunning sequel to *The Golden Compass*, Philip Pullman continues His Dark Materials trilogy and confirms it as an undoubted and enduring classic.

AWARDS AND HONORS

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Book Information

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Audio CD

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Authors, A-Z > (P) > Pullman, Philip #3039 in Books > Books on CD > Children's Fiction >

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Customer Reviews

With *The Golden Compass* Philip Pullman garnered every accolade under the sun. Critics lobbed around such superlatives as "elegant," "awe-inspiring," "grand," and "glittering," and used "magnificent" with gay abandon. Each reader had a favorite chapter--or, more likely, several--from the opening tour de force to Lyra's close call at Bolvangar to the great armored-bear battle. And Pullman was no less profligate when it came to intellectual firepower or singular characters. The

dæmons alone grant him a place in world literature. Could the second installment of his trilogy keep up this pitch, or had his heroine and her too, too sullied parents consumed him? And what of the belief system that pervaded his alternate universe, not to mention the mystery of Dust? More revelations and an equal number of wonders and new players were definitely in order. The Subtle Knife offers everything we could have wished for, and more. For a start, there's a young hero--from our world--who is a match for Lyra Silvertongue and whose destiny is every bit as shattering. Like Lyra, Will Parry has spent his childhood playing games. Unlike hers, though, his have been deadly serious. This 12-year-old long ago learned the art of invisibility: if he could erase himself, no one would discover his mother's increasing instability and separate them. As the novel opens, Will's enemies will do anything for information about his missing father, a soldier and Arctic explorer who has been very much airbrushed from the official picture. Now Will must get his mother into safe seclusion and make his way toward Oxford, which may hold the key to John Parry's disappearance. But en route and on the lam from both the police and his family's tormentors, he comes upon a cat with more than a mouse on her mind: "She reached out a paw to pat something in the air in front of her, something quite invisible to Will." What seems to him a patch of everyday Oxford conceals far more: "The cat stepped forward and vanished." Will, too, scrambles through and into another oddly deserted landscape--one in which children rule and adults (and felines) are very much at risk. Here in this deathly silent city by the sea, he will soon have a dustup with a fierce, flinty little girl: "Her expression was a mixture of the very young--when she first tasted the cola--and a kind of deep, sad wariness." Soon Will and Lyra (and, of course, her dæmon, Pantalaimon) uneasily embark on a great adventure and head into greater tragedy. As Pullman moves between his young warriors and the witch Serafina Pekkala, the magnetic, ever-manipulative Mrs. Coulter, and Lee Scoresby and his hare dæmon, Hester, there are clear signs of approaching war and earthly chaos. There are new faces as well. The author introduces Oxford dark-matter researcher Mary Malone; the Latvian witch queen Ruta Skadi, who "had trafficked with spirits, and it showed"; Stanislaus Grumman, a shaman in search of a weapon crucial to the cause of Lord Asriel, Lyra's father; and a serpentine old man whom Lyra and Pan can't quite place. Also on hand are the Specters, beings that make cliff-ghasts look like rank amateurs. Throughout, Pullman is in absolute control of his several worlds, his plot and pace equal to his inspiration. Any number of astonishing scenes--small- and large-scale--will have readers on edge, and many are cause for tears. "You think things have to be possible," Will demands. "Things have to be true!" It is Philip Pullman's gift to turn what quotidian minds would term the impossible into a reality that is both heartbreaking and beautiful. --Kerry Fried --This text refers to the Kindle Edition edition.

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 the Kindle Edition edition.

Will, the main character wasn't developed enough. It's hard to relate to him. Too many details and moving parts without apt explanation. Good enough to read thru and be curious about the next book. But, I'm taking a break to read something else. Lyra seemed to change to some obedient child radically different from what she was before; a wild, adventurous, rule breaking, and raucous leader of all that she encountered. The specters are very similar to death eaters in Harry Potter. As the author's intent not all the questions are answered. So, in itself, not a very satisfying wholesome read. But, everything may come together in the end.

I love the His Dark Matter Trilogy. This is a second time reading the books after many years. Well told story & the full cast audio is fantastic. But I would recommend parents who have young teens to read the series first, there is some ideology that might not appeal to your religion. It's a fantastical plot, well written. I highly recommend the books. Good development of characters, you are pulled into the story quickly.

Mr. Pullman has created a magnificent trilogy. The story, characters, and worlds he has brought to life are unique and wonderfully magical.

This book was good but not as good as the first one in the series. I still did enjoy it though.

It was sooo good. True, it wasn't as good as the first one, and that's probably because Lyra isn't the only protagonist in this one. It's Will, and Will isn't as interesting as Lyra. However, the book pack some powerful emotional punches stronger than anything in the first book. The plot is amazing. The ending is just as great as the last one, and it leaves you just as hungry for more.

Very well written and acted. It's what I love most about audible books.

well written good story can't wait to see where it takes me

This book is a lot better than the last one. Well written and entertaining for a light read.

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