

Book Review: Northern Lights

Author: Philip Pulman

This is a brilliant book, set in a world very similar to ours, but also so different.

Lyra Belacqua is an orphan under the care of Jordan College in the city of Oxford of a parallel world – we never really know when the book is set. At times it seems to be in the past and at times it seems to be in the future. Her only known relative is Lord Asriel, a well-known, feared explorer. She is invited to take up a post as secretary to the mysterious Mrs Coulter, a powerful widow who Lyra instantly admires.

Lyra demands that Mrs Coulter takes her best friend Roger as well, but the night before they are due to leave, Roger is kidnapped by the feared, child-snatching Gobblers. This starts a thrilling set of adventures that reveal who Lyra really is, the true aim of the Gobblers and a question that will change their world forever: What is Dust?

This book deserves every word of the praise it has often received. Once you pick it up, you struggle to put it down. A masterpiece.

Reviewed by: Mr. Newell