

philip pullman lyra's oxford

Philip Pullman Lyra's Oxford: Exploring the Real-Life Inspiration Behind the Beloved Character

Nestled in the heart of Oxford, England, lies a city rich in history, academia, and literary tradition. It is no wonder that author Philip Pullman drew inspiration from this enchanting city when creating the beloved character Lyra Belacqua. **Philip Pullman Lyra's Oxford** seamlessly blends real-world locations with fictional realms, offering fans and visitors alike a chance to step into the world of His Dark Materials and explore the very streets and sites that may have influenced Pullman's storytelling. In this guide, we delve into the significance of Oxford in Pullman's work, highlight key locations associated with Lyra, and provide practical tips for exploring the city through the lens of Pullman's literary universe.

Understanding the Connection Between Philip Pullman and Oxford

Pullman's Literary Roots in Oxford

Philip Pullman has long been associated with Oxford, a city renowned for its historic colleges, vibrant literary scene, and intellectual atmosphere. Pullman studied at Exeter College, Oxford, and the city's ambiance deeply influenced his writing style and settings.

Key points about Pullman's relationship with Oxford:

- Alumnus of Exeter College, Oxford
- Inspired by the city's architecture, history, and academic tradition
- Set several scenes from His Dark Materials within Oxford's storied locations
- Frequently visits and references Oxford in interviews and writings

This close connection has fostered a sense of authenticity and charm in Pullman's depiction of Oxford, making it an integral part of Lyra's adventures.

Oxford as a Character in His Dark Materials

Pullman's trilogy, His Dark Materials, vividly captures Oxford's essence—its colleges, libraries, and streets become characters themselves. The city's layered history and mystical ambiance lend depth to the narrative.

Notable ways Oxford features in the series:

1. The university's architecture and courtyards serve as backdrops for pivotal scenes
2. Specific locations are transformed into portals or mystical sites
3. Oxford's academic traditions mirror the series' themes of knowledge and power

By intertwining real locations with fantasy, Pullman creates a seamless blend of fact and fiction that invites readers to explore the city themselves.

Key Oxford Locations Associated with Lyra's World

Exploring Oxford through the lens of Pullman's universe involves visiting several iconic sites that either directly appear in the books or inspired their depiction.

Exeter College

As Pullman's alma mater, Exeter College holds a special place in his heart and in Lyra's journey.

Highlights:

- Founded in 1314, it boasts historic architecture and beautiful gardens
- Its quadrangles and cloisters evoke a sense of mystery and tradition
- Fans can visit the college grounds, respecting access policies, and imagine Lyra wandering through its corridors

While the college itself isn't a primary setting in the series, its atmosphere influences the ambiance of Lyra's Oxford.

The Bodleian Library

One of the oldest libraries in Europe, the Bodleian Library symbolizes knowledge and discovery.

Points of interest:

1. The historic Radcliffe Camera and Divinity School are architectural marvels
2. Accessible via guided tours, allowing visitors to explore its stunning interiors
3. Its vast collections inspire themes of wisdom and secrets, akin to Lyra's quest

Pullman's narrative often emphasizes the importance of books, learning, and hidden knowledge, making the Bodleian a fitting location for fans to explore.

Christ Church College

Famous for its grand architecture and connection to "Harry Potter," Christ Church also features prominently in Pullman's works.

Highlights:

- The Great Hall resembles the Hogwarts dining hall, blending fantasy and reality
- Beautiful cloisters and courtyards evoke mystical atmospheres
- Fans can tour the college grounds and imagine Lyra's adventures unfolding here

The college's blend of history and fantasy makes it a must-visit site for Pullman enthusiasts.

The Oxford Botanic Garden

A serene and inspiring location, the Botanic Garden offers a lush environment that echoes Lyra's connection to nature and the mystical aspects of her world.

Features:

- Established in 1621, it is the oldest botanic garden in Britain
- Contains a variety of rare plants and themed sections
- Ideal for reflective walks and connecting with the natural elements in Pullman's stories

Experiencing Oxford: Tips for Fans of Lyra and Pullman

For those eager to immerse themselves in Lyra's Oxford, planning a visit can be a rewarding experience. Here are practical tips to make the most of your trip:

Plan Your Itinerary

Create a route that includes:

1. Exeter College and other historic colleges
2. The Bodleian Library and Radcliffe Camera
3. Christ Church College and its iconic architecture
4. Oxford Botanic Garden for a natural touch

Prioritize locations based on your interests—whether architecture, history, or literary inspiration.

Join Guided Tours

Several companies offer themed tours exploring Oxford's role in literature and film, often highlighting Pullman-related sites.

Benefits:

- Learn fascinating stories and history behind each location
- Discover lesser-known sites linked to Pullman's work
- Engage with fellow fans and share experiences

Visit Literary Bookshops and Museums

Oxford boasts numerous bookstores and museums that celebrate its literary heritage.

Recommendations:

- Blackwell's Bookshop, one of the world's largest and most iconic
- The Oxford University Museum of Natural History, which offers insights into the

natural world that influence Pullman's themes

- The Museum of the History of Science, showcasing scientific instruments and ideas

Attend Special Events and Lectures

Keep an eye on Oxford's event calendar, which often features literary festivals, author talks, and exhibitions related to Philip Pullman and his works.

Beyond Locations: Embracing the Spirit of Lyra's Oxford

Visiting Oxford isn't just about seeing landmarks; it's about immersing yourself in the atmosphere that inspired Pullman's storytelling.

Suggestions:

- Read or revisit *His Dark Materials* to deepen your connection before exploring the city
- Participate in local book clubs or literary events focused on Pullman's work
- Engage with local guides and scholars for deeper insights into the city's influence on Lyra's adventures

Engaging with Oxford's literary culture enriches the experience and helps you see the city through Lyra's curious and adventurous eyes.

Conclusion: Embracing the Magic of Oxford and Pullman's World

Philip Pullman Lyra's Oxford is a testament to how real-world locations can inspire fantasy narratives that captivate readers and explorers alike. Oxford's historic streets, academic institutions, and natural beauty serve as a perfect backdrop for Lyra's adventures, offering fans a tangible connection to the stories they cherish. Whether you're a dedicated Pullman enthusiast or a curious traveler, exploring Oxford through the lens of Lyra's world promises a magical journey full of discovery, wonder, and inspiration. So, pack your

curiosity, immerse yourself in the city's rich history, and step into the enchanting universe that Pullman and Oxford have beautifully crafted together.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Philip Pullman's connection to Oxford in relation to Lyra's character?

Philip Pullman set parts of his 'His Dark Materials' series, including the character Lyra, in Oxford, drawing inspiration from the city's rich academic and historical environment.

Are there specific locations in Oxford associated with Lyra's adventures in Pullman's books?

Yes, landmarks like Christ Church College and the Bodleian Library feature in the series, reflecting Oxford's influence and serving as inspiration for Lyra's explorations.

Can fans visit locations in Oxford that inspired Lyra's story?

Absolutely. Fans often visit Oxford's historic sites such as Christ Church and the Radcliffe Camera to experience the settings that influenced Pullman's depiction of Lyra's world.

Has Philip Pullman ever spoken about his fondness for Oxford in relation to Lyra's character?

Yes, Pullman has expressed admiration for Oxford's academic atmosphere and history, which helped shape the settings and mood of Lyra's adventures.

Are there any guided tours in Oxford focusing on Lyra and Philip Pullman's works?

Several literary and city tours in Oxford highlight locations associated with Pullman's books, including sites linked to Lyra's story, offering fans an immersive experience.

How does Oxford's atmosphere contribute to the themes in Lyra's story?

Oxford's ancient colleges, libraries, and scholarly ambiance enhance themes of knowledge, mystery, and adventure central to Lyra's journey.

Is there a specific Oxford-based event celebrating Philip

Pullman's 'His Dark Materials' series?

While there are occasional literary festivals and events in Oxford celebrating Pullman's work, dedicated events focusing solely on Lyra are rare but cherished by fans.

Will Philip Pullman's depiction of Oxford influence future adaptations of Lyra's story?

It's likely, as the authentic Oxford settings add depth and familiarity, inspiring filmmakers and creators to incorporate these iconic locations in adaptations.

Additional Resources

Philip Pullman Lyra's Oxford: An In-Depth Exploration of the Literary and Cultural Landmark

Introduction

When it comes to exploring iconic literary settings, few places evoke as much imagination and curiosity as Lyra's Oxford—a fictional yet vividly realized locale from Philip Pullman's acclaimed "His Dark Materials" trilogy. For fans, scholars, and casual visitors alike, understanding the real-world inspiration behind Lyra's Oxford offers a fascinating window into Pullman's creative process, the city's historical layers, and the cultural significance of the setting. This article aims to serve as an expert guide, diving deep into the physical, literary, and cultural facets of Lyra's Oxford, and how this unique blend of fiction and reality continues to enchant visitors today.

The Origins of Lyra's Oxford in Literature

The Role of Philip Pullman and His Dark Materials

Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials trilogy—comprising Northern Lights (also known as The Golden Compass), The Subtle Knife, and The Amber Spyglass—revolves around Lyra Belacqua, a brave and inquisitive girl living in a parallel universe that closely mirrors our own. The city of Oxford serves as a central setting; a place where magic, science, and theology intertwine. Pullman's detailed descriptions evoke a city layered with history, academia, and mystery, making Oxford an ideal backdrop for this fantastical narrative.

Pullman's depiction of Oxford is richly inspired by the real city, but with creative embellishments that emphasize its role as a hub of knowledge, secret societies, and mystical phenomena. The fictional Lyra's Oxford incorporates real landmarks, streets, and traditions, filtered through the lens of fantasy, creating an immersive environment that bridges the physical and the imaginative.

Literary Significance

Lyra's Oxford stands as a testament to Pullman's storytelling mastery—blending factual history with fantastical elements. It acts as a character in its own right, embodying themes of curiosity, discovery, and the tension between tradition and innovation. For readers, the city is a symbol of intellectual adventure, a place where the boundaries of reality are challenged and redefined.

Exploring the Real-World Oxford: A Guide to Lyra's Oxford

Historical and Architectural Context

Oxford is a city steeped in history, renowned for its prestigious university, centuries-old architecture, and vibrant cultural scene. When Pullman crafted Lyra's Oxford, he drew inspiration from this rich tapestry, weaving in real landmarks and districts to create a believable yet fantastical setting.

Key features of Oxford that inform Lyra's Oxford include:

- The University of Oxford: The world's oldest university, with its historic colleges, libraries, and quadrangles, forms the academic backbone of Pullman's depiction.
- Radcliffe Camera and Bodleian Library: These iconic structures serve as visual anchors and symbols of knowledge and mystery.
- The Covered Market: A bustling marketplace that provides a lively, authentic atmosphere, akin to the markets Lyra might have explored.
- St. Mary's Church and Carfax Tower: Central landmarks that ground the city's medieval history, offering a sense of continuity with the fictional setting.

Pullman's Oxford is not a direct replica but a creative amalgamation—enhanced with fantastical elements like the Gobblers' secret societies, mysterious alleyways, and hidden portals.

The Physical Locations of Lyra's Oxford

Notable Landmarks and Their Fictional Counterparts

Pullman's detailed descriptions map onto real locations in Oxford, though with imaginative twists. Here's an extensive guide to some of the key sites:

1. The Hill of the University:

Lyra's Oxford features a prominent hill where the university's colleges sit, providing panoramic views and a sense of grandeur. In reality, this could correspond to University Parks or Headington Hill, areas with open spaces and proximity to academic buildings.

2. The Library and Study Areas:

The Bodleian Library and other university buildings are depicted as repositories of arcane knowledge, secret manuscripts, and mystical artifacts. The Radcliffe Camera acts as a visual inspiration, symbolizing the quest for knowledge.

3. The Market and Streets:

Pullman depicts vibrant market streets, reminiscent of The Covered Market and High Street, bustling with vendors, students, and mystics. Narrow alleys and courtyards evoke a sense of intrigue.

4. The River and Bridge:

The Cherwell River is a key geographical feature, with bridges and quays that serve as gateways to adventure and discovery.

5. The Oxford Botanic Garden and Parks:

These lush green spaces symbolize the natural world's connection to the mystical, aligning with scenes where Lyra explores the environment and encounters mystical creatures.

Hidden and Mystical Locations

Pullman's Oxford is replete with secret passages, underground chambers, and portals—often inspired by real underground tunnels, crypts, and hidden rooms within Oxford's historic buildings:

- The Crypts and Cellars: Some of the oldest parts of Oxford's architecture, like St. Mary's crypt, are envisioned as gateways to other worlds.
- Secret Passageways: Alleged underground tunnels connecting colleges, which have long fueled local legends, serve as inspiration for clandestine routes for Lyra and her friends.

Cultural Significance and Modern-Day Exploration

The Real Oxford as a Literary Pilgrimage

Many fans of Pullman's work undertake visits to Oxford, seeking to walk in Lyra's footsteps. This phenomenon has given rise to:

- Literary Tours: Guided walks highlighting Pullman's inspirations, including visits to the Bodleian Library, Magdalen College, and Christ Church.
- Fan Events: Gatherings and conventions celebrating His Dark Materials, often involving readings, cosplay, and themed activities.
- Academic Engagement: Universities and local institutions host lectures and exhibitions exploring Pullman's themes and his portrayal of Oxford.

Visiting Oxford Today: What You Can See

While Lyra's Oxford is a fictional construct, the city offers many real attractions aligned with Pullman's descriptions:

- The Bodleian Library: A must-visit for literary enthusiasts, with its historic reading rooms and exhibitions.
- Christ Church College: Known for its film appearances and stunning architecture, echoing the grandeur of Lyra's academic world.
- The Museum of the History of Science: Showcasing the city's scientific heritage, aligning with themes of knowledge and discovery.

- Walking Tours: Many firms offer Pullman-themed tours, connecting the dots between real locations and their fictional counterparts.

The Impact of Lyra's Oxford on Literature and Culture

Inspiring a New Generation of Readers

Lyra's Oxford has become more than just a setting in a novel; it is a symbol of curiosity, adventure, and the power of imagination. It encourages readers to explore their local environments with a sense of wonder, seeing the mundane through the lens of magic and mystery.

Literary and Educational Value

The blending of Oxford's history with Pullman's fantasy underscores the importance of place in storytelling. It also serves as an educational tool, inspiring interest in:

- History and architecture
- Literature and storytelling
- Philosophy and ethics (themes central to Pullman's work)

Conclusion

Philip Pullman Lyra's Oxford exemplifies the seamless integration of real-world history and architecture with rich, fantastical storytelling. Whether experienced through literary exploration, academic inquiry, or physical visits, the city remains a vibrant testament to the enduring power of imagination. It stands as a living, breathing monument to the inquisitive spirit of Lyra Belacqua herself, inviting all who venture into it to question, discover, and dream.

Fans and newcomers alike can find in Oxford a place where the boundary between reality and fantasy dissolves, offering endless avenues for exploration—both in the pages of Pullman's books and on the historic streets of one of the world's most captivating cities.

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philip pullman lyra s oxford: His Dark Materials: Lyra's Oxford, Gift Edition Philip Pullman, 2021-11-16 A stunning new edition of this tantalizing tale of Lyra and Pan set in the world of His Dark Materials. Now with full-color illustrations from Chris Wormell. A perfect gift for Pullman fans. This exciting companion to His Dark Materials tells a not-to-be-missed story about Lyra in the years

after the events of *The Amber Spyglass*. When a witch's daemon crashes onto the roof of Jordan College, Lyra and her daemon, Pan, are eager to help. But as this unlikely trio scours the winding streets of Oxford in search of a famed alchemist, their journey takes a deadly turn... Newly illustrated in full color by renowned print-maker Chris Wormell, this edition is a wonderfully gift-worthy production with foil, embossing, and a place-marker ribbon.

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philip pullman lyra s oxford: His Dark Materials: The Golden Compass (Book 1) Philip Pullman, 2002-09-10 The modern fantasy classic that *Entertainment Weekly* named an "All-Time Greatest Novel" and *Newsweek* hailed as a "Top 100 Book of All Time." Philip Pullman takes readers to a world where humans have animal familiars and where parallel universes are within reach. Lyra is rushing to the cold, far North, where witch clans and armored bears rule. North, where the Gobblers take the children they steal—including her friend Roger. North, where her fearsome uncle Asriel is trying to build a bridge to a parallel world. Can one small girl make a difference in such great and terrible endeavors? This is Lyra: a savage, a schemer, a liar, and as fierce and true a champion as Roger or Asriel could want. But what Lyra doesn't know is that to help one of them will be to betray the other... A masterwork of storytelling and suspense, Philip Pullman's award-winning *The Golden Compass* is the first in the *His Dark Materials* series, which continues with *The Subtle Knife* and *The Amber Spyglass*. A #1 New York Times Bestseller Winner of the Guardian Prize for Children's Fiction Published in 40 Countries Arguably the best juvenile fantasy novel of the past twenty years. —The Washington Post Very grand indeed. —The New York Times Pullman is quite possibly a genius. —Newsweek Don't miss Philip Pullman's epic new trilogy set in the world of *His Dark Materials*! ** THE BOOK OF DUST ** La Belle Sauvage The Secret Commonwealth

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philip pullman lyra s oxford: His Dark Materials Nicholas Wright, Philip Pullman, 2005 The stage adaptation of Philip Pullman's trilogy: *Northern lights*, *The subtle knife*, and *The amber spyglass*. Adapted under the series title, *His dark materials*.

philip pullman lyra s oxford: Philip Pullman Margaret Speaker Yuan, 2013-11

philip pullman lyra s oxford: Philip Pullman Laura La Bella, 2013-12-15 Philip Pullman is an award-winning author perhaps best known for his epic trilogy, *His Dark Materials*, one of the few fantasy classics to feature a strong female central protagonist. Pullman is a creator of new worlds and the captain of adventures, spinning intricate and fantastical yarns. His life story is every bit as fascinating as the tales he has created from life, transforming them with storytelling magic into classics of fantasy literature. This is the life story of a master storyteller, and readers will receive a privileged glimpse into the mind and working methods of a creative genius. This supports Common Core standards for the reading of biographies.

philip pullman lyra s oxford: Authenticity and Authentication of Heritage Deepak Chhabra, 2021-05-27 *Authenticity and Authentication of Heritage* presents an assimilation of chapters that critically address some of the key emerging areas associated with authenticity. It presents a variety of inspiring pieces of work that range from host-guest authentication and intangible heritage to knowledge transfer processes, authenticating heritage in fairy-tale settings, authenticity and anxiety in the smell of death and life, understanding the boundaries of authenticity, nostalgia, sustainability, marketing, destination competitiveness, examining affective connotations of authenticity, and their contribution towards optimizing hedonic and eudaimonic well-being during times of disruption. The contentious concept of authenticity continues to be valorised in heritage tourism. This scholarly initiative seeks to broaden the discursive parameters of authenticity and identify power mechanisms that shape the way authenticity is produced, marketed and consumed. This is an attempt to share contemporary views on how the contemporary notions of authenticity are derived, interpreted, applied, processed and legitimised in local and global contexts. Furthermore, the significant relationship between health and authenticity is explored. To put it simply, this pandemic has significantly halted the way people connect with their cultural resources and seek authenticity within their inner selves and the outside realms in the heritage tourism system. Heightened sense of global consciousness is a call to polish our authentic selves and elevate above inauthenticity or moral hypocrisy. So, is authenticity an evolving story or is it a story of floating immobility? Who can tell the story and who decides what elements to fossilise? How can existentialist authenticity and self authentication promote moral selving and well-being of the self and the society? Many questions like these have emerged in recent literature, and this book uses conceptual, empirical and theoretical explorations to identify and engage with such inquiries. The chapters in this book, except for the concluding chapter, were originally published as a special issue of the *Journal of Heritage Tourism*.

philip pullman lyra s oxford: Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials Leonard F. Wheat, 2010-03-05 ... a impressive case for multiple levels of allegory in Philip Pullman's brilliant *His Dark Materials* trilogy.... On a larger scale, Wheat demonstrates in meticulous detail that Pullman's theme of the war between knowledge and religious superstition operates not only at the surface level of the plot but also at deeper, symbolic levels.... His detailed case richly illuminates the religious and literary dimensions of the *His Dark Materials* trilogy. SUSANNA BRAUND Professor of Latin Poetry and Its Reception (Canada Research Chair) University of British Columbia Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* trilogy is one of the most popular fantasy works of our time. Both the trilogy and a new movie based on it are being marketed chiefly as YA (young adult) fare. But Leonard F. Wheat shows in this fascinating analysis that *His Dark Materials* is far more than a YA tale. At a deeper level it is a complex triple allegory-a surface story that uses 231 symbols to tell three hidden stories. As such, it is among the most profound, intellectually challenging, and thoroughly adult works ever written. Wheat brings the hidden stories to light. He demonstrates how Pullman retells two prominent works of British literature-C. S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and John Milton's *Paradise Lost*. Pullman's aim is to counter Lewis's pro-Christian allegory with his own anti-Christian allegory. Pullman does this in his second allegory by turning *Paradise Lost* upside down. Satan and his daughter, Sin, along with Adam's murderous son Cain, become heroes; God and Jesus become villains. This retold story depicts our society's warfare between knowledge (symbolized by Dust) and religious superstitions (symbolized by Specters). Pullman adds an original

third hidden story featuring Christian missionaries, Charles Darwin, agnostics, and atheists. Wheat's intriguing interpretation of Pullman's work is the first to point out the many allegorical features of *His Dark Materials* and to highlight the ingenious ways in which Pullman subtly attacks religious institutions and superstitions. Pullman fans as well as readers interested in fantasy or concerned about religious coercion will find Wheat's book not only stimulating but overflowing with surprises. Leonard F. Wheat, a retired economist living in Alexandria, VA, received his PhD from Harvard University in 1958 and is the author of five previous books dealing with economics, film, and religion. His books include *Kubrick's 2001: A Triple Allegory* and *Paul Tillich's Dialectical Humanism: Unmasking the God above God*.

philip pullman lyra s oxford: *Space and Place in Children's Literature, 1789 to the Present* Maria Sachiko Cecire, Hannah Field, Malini Roy, 2016-03-09 Focusing on questions of space and locale in children's literature, this collection explores how metaphorical and physical space can create landscapes of power, knowledge, and identity in texts from the early nineteenth century to the present. The collection is comprised of four sections that take up the space between children and adults, the representation of 'real world' places, fantasy travel and locales, and the physical space of the children's book-as-object. In their essays, the contributors analyze works from a range of sources and traditions by authors such as Sylvia Plath, Maria Edgeworth, Gloria Anzaldúa, Jenny Robson, C.S. Lewis, Elizabeth Knox, and Claude Ponti. While maintaining a focus on how location and spatiality aid in defining the child's relationship to the world, the essays also address themes of borders, displacement, diaspora, exile, fantasy, gender, history, home-leaving and homecoming, hybridity, mapping, and metatextuality. With an epilogue by Philip Pullman in which he discusses his own relationship to image and locale, this collection is also a valuable resource for understanding the work of this celebrated author of children's literature.

philip pullman lyra s oxford: *The Golden Compass* Philip Pullman, 2006 Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

philip pullman lyra s oxford: *Dark Matter* Tony Watkins, 2006-01-01 Uses a Christian perspective to interpret the popular trilogy, offering a look Pullman's life, an overview of the major dimensions of each book, and a critical evaluation of such major themes as sin and the death of God.

philip pullman lyra s oxford: *Unlocking the Love-Lock* Ceri Houlbrook, 2021-01-13 Explores the worldwide popularity of the love-lock as a ritual token of love and commitment by considering its history, symbolism, and heritage. "[T]his is an eminently enjoyable and thorough investigation of a popular phenomenon through the lens of heritage and folk tradition."—Sara De Nardi, Western Sydney University A padlock is a mundane object, designed to fulfil a specific – and secular – purpose. A contemporary custom has given padlocks new significance. This custom is 'love-locking', where padlocks are engraved with names and attached to bridges in declaration of romantic commitment. This custom became popular in the 2000s, and its dissemination was rapid, geographically unbound, and highly divisive, with love-locks emerging in locations as diverse as Paris and Taiwan; New York and Seoul; Melbourne and Moscow. From the introduction: I was distractedly perusing the photo frame aisle, my eyes skimming the generically sentimental stock pictures of happy families smiling at the camera, pretty landscapes, cute pets and couples walking hand-in-hand, when I came across one that jumped out at me.... I recognised the image instantly as a photograph of love-locks: the padlocks that had been appearing en masse on bridges and other public structures on a global scale since the early 2000s. And, having been researching the custom known as lovelocking for about five years at that point, it was with a peculiar sense of pride that I realised love-locks had accomplished the status of a stock image.

philip pullman lyra s oxford: *Lyra's Oxford*, 2017

philip pullman lyra s oxford: *His dark materials* Philip Pullman, 2007-08-28 Lyra Belacqua tries to prevent kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments, decides to help Will Parry search for his father, and finds that she and Will are caught in a battle between the forces of the Authority and those gathered by her uncle, Lord Asriel.

philip pullman lyra s oxford: Four British Fantasists Charles Butler, 2006-04-25 Four British Fantasists explores the work of four of the most successful and influential fantasy writers of the generation who rose to prominence in the second Golden Age of children's literature in Britain: Susan Cooper, Alan Garner, Diana Wynne Jones, and Penelope Lively. Drawing on history, archeology, social geography, anthropology, and postcolonial theory, as well as literary criticism, Butler provides a series of new perspectives through which to view these writers' achievements. He begins by highlighting some points of biographic coincidence (e.g. all four authors were children during WWII, all were born within a year or two of each other, and all attended Oxford University in the early 1950s-when C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien were publishing their seminal fantasies) and questions if these factors play any significant role in the development of these fantasy writers. The author then uses this question as the springboard for a case study in the assessment of biographical and literary influence. The book also considers the role played by Britain itself in determining the shape and preoccupations of these writers' fiction. Britain is a land with a long history in which contemporary life is constantly juxtaposed with evidence of the past in the form of ancient buildings, historic sites, and archeological remains. By placing the work of Cooper, Garner, Jones, and Lively in the context of British culture and of their own time, Butler provides a key to their fascination with history, mythology, and magic, and to the ways in which that fascination has found expression in their fiction. Students of children's literature and of fantasy literature as well as readers who are interested in the lives of these four subject authors will find this an insightful read.

philip pullman lyra s oxford: La Belle Sauvage: The Book of Dust Volume One Philip Pullman, 2017-10-19 WINNER- AUTHOR OF THE YEAR, BRITISH BOOK AWARDS SHORTLISTED-UK AUTHOR CATEGORY, NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS 2018 Philip Pullman's magnificent bestseller is now in paperback, with new additional illustrations. A coming of age story like no other . . . Malcolm Polstead's Oxford life has been one of routine, ordinary even. He is happiest playing with his daemon, Asta, in their canoe, La Belle Sauvage. But now as the rain builds, the world around Malcolm and Asta is, it seems, set to become increasingly far from ordinary. Finding himself linked to a baby by the name of Lyra Belacqua, Malcolm is forced to undertake the challenge of his life and to make a dangerous journey that will change him and Lyra for ever . . .

philip pullman lyra s oxford: The Victorian Era in Twenty-First Century Children's and Adolescent Literature and Culture Sonya Sawyer Fritz, Sara K. Day, 2018-01-19 Victorian literature for audiences of all ages provides a broad foundation upon which to explore complex and evolving ideas about young people. In turn, this collection argues, contemporary works for young people that draw on Victorian literature and culture ultimately reflect our own disruptions and upheavals, particularly as they relate to child and adolescent readers and our experiences of them. The essays therein suggest that we struggle now, as the Victorians did then, to assert a cohesive understanding of young readers, and that this lack of cohesion is a result of or a parallel to the disruptions taking place on a larger (even global) scale.

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