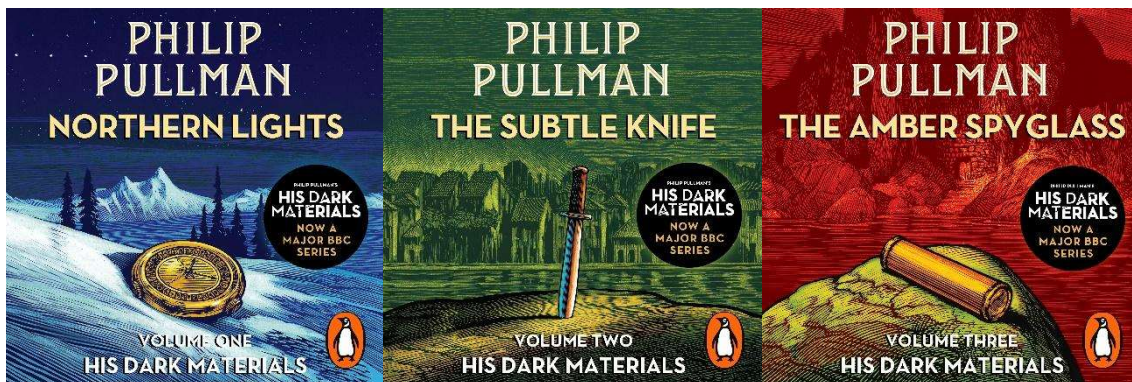
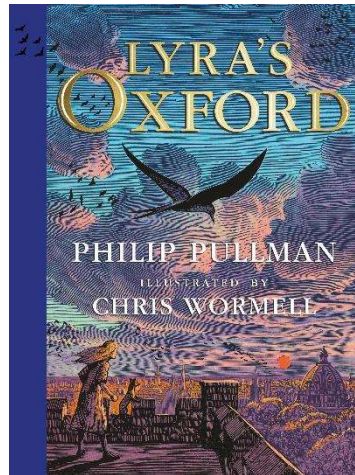


Strictly embargoed until 00.01hrs BST, Thursday 24th June 2021

Beautiful gift edition of *Lyra's Oxford*, illustrated for the first time by Chris Wormell, to be released along with new audio releases from Philip Pullman's catalogue

- A full-colour gift edition of *Lyra's Oxford* to be published in October 2021
- Audio editions of *His Dark Materials* republished by Penguin Random House Audio today
- New bonus interview with Philip Pullman and actress Ruth Wilson included in *Northern Lights*
- Twelve further audiobooks from Philip Pullman's catalogue to be released this autumn with new recordings



Thursday 24th June, London: Penguin Random House today announce a new full-colour hardback gift edition of *Lyra's Oxford* by Philip Pullman, illustrated throughout for the first time by Chris Wormell. This magical short story featuring Lyra and Pan is set in the world of Philip Pullman's ground-breaking *His Dark Materials* and *The Book of Dust*.

Lyra's Oxford is set two years after the events of *His Dark Materials* and, in an exciting additional look into the world, tells the story of beloved characters Lyra and Pan's interaction with a bird that they discover to be a witch's daemon, who claims that only Lyra can help him. The story was first published in 2003 and was illustrated in black and white by John Lawrence. This edition is still available.

This announcement coincides with Midsummer's Day, which is celebrated across the globe by fans of *His Dark Materials*. The pivotal date refers to a promise Lyra Silvertongue and Will Parry make to each other upon parting: to

each sit on a certain bench in the Oxford Botanic Garden in each of their respective worlds on Midsummer Day, at midday, every year, so that they can be close to one another.

Penguin Random House have also announced that audio rights of Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* series and further Pullman catalogue titles have been acquired, meaning that the entirety of the *His Dark Materials* world, including the award-winning *La Belle Sauvage* and *The Secret Commonwealth* are now published in audio by Penguin Random House. The *His Dark Materials* collection, comprising *Northern Lights*, *The Subtle Knife* and *The Amber Spyglass* are re-released today, 24th June, in audio, read by Philip Pullman with a full cast.

This audio edition of *Northern Lights* released today includes a new and exclusive conversation between Philip Pullman and actress Ruth Wilson, who plays Mrs Coulter in the BBC One adaptation of *His Dark Materials*. Discussing character choices, audiobook readings and the significance of Midsummer's Day, this recording took place at the Bodleian Library in Oxford earlier this month.

UK and Commonwealth rights were acquired by James Keyte, Senior Commissioning Editor, Penguin Audio, from Millie Hoskins and Caradoc King at United Agents. Beyond the *His Dark Materials* titles this new deal comprises twelve further audiobooks, which will be released in Autumn 2021 with new recordings.

Ruth Knowles, Publisher at Penguin Random House UK Children's, says: 'The pairing of Philip's spellbinding words with Chris's glorious art in recent years has delighted fans as well as readers experiencing the worlds of Pullman for the first time. In this edition of *Lyra's Oxford* their partnership is on display beautifully; Lyra, Pan, witches, the roofs of Oxford – it's an adventure-filled delight and the perfect gift to treasure. It feels extra special to be able to tell people about this book at Midsummer, a day so special to Lyra and because in this story she has an encounter with somebody who will turn out to be as important in her life as Will has been – she just doesn't know it yet . . .'

James Keyte, Senior Commissioning Audio Editor, says: 'Publishing Philip's work is an honour and a privilege. In recent years, we have loved producing award-winning editions of *The Book of Dust*, which set the standard for audio narration, and we are so excited to have the opportunity to make Philip's audio catalogue available to the widest possible audience, and to inspire a new generation of ardent fans.'

ENDS

For more information about *Lyra's Oxford* or media requests, please contact:

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Notes to Editors

- Audio previews of the *His Dark Materials* titles and finished copies of *Lyra's Oxford* are available to press
- Casting of the further catalogue titles is still to be announced
- *Lyra's Oxford* written by Philip Pullman and illustrated by Chris Wormell, publishes in hardback on 14th October by Penguin Random House, priced at £14.99 RRP.
- *Northern Lights*, *The Subtle Knife*, and *The Amber Spyglass*, written and read by Philip Pullman with a full cast are available as digital downloads from 24th June 2021. Each title is priced at £16.00 RRP.

About Philip Pullman

Sir Philip Pullman was born in Norwich, UK, in 1946 and educated in England, Zimbabwe, Australia and Wales. He read English at Exeter College, Oxford.

After graduating, Pullman went into teaching, at various Oxford Middle Schools before moving to Westminster College in 1986 for eight years. He retains a passionate interest in education.

His first children's book, *Count Karlstein*, was published in 1982 (later republished in 2002). It was followed by *The Ruby in the Smoke* (1986), the first in a quartet of books featuring the young Victorian adventurer, Sally Lockhart. He also published a number of shorter stories, which he calls fairy tales, including *The Firework-Maker's*

Daughter, Clockwork, I Was a Rat! and *The Scarecrow and His Servant*. To date, he has published 33 books, read by children and adults alike.

His most famous work is the *His Dark Materials* trilogy: *Northern Lights* (1995, published as *The Golden Compass* in the USA); *The Subtle Knife* (1997) and *The Amber Spyglass* (2000). These books have been honoured by several prizes, including the Carnegie Medal, the Guardian Children's Book Award, and (for *The Amber Spyglass*) the Whitbread Book of the Year Award—the first time in the history of that prize that it was given to a children's book. Pullman has received numerous other awards, including: the 2002 Eleanor Farjeon Award for children's literature, and the 2005 Astrid Lindgren Award, jointly with the Japanese illustrator Ryoji Arai. The first two volumes of *The Book of Dust – La Belle Sauvage* and *The Secret Commonwealth* were both published to great acclaim, in Octobers 2017 and 2019 respectively, with the former winning the 2017 Waterstones Book of the Year, securing Pullman 'Author of the Year' at both the British Book Awards 2018 and the Specsavers National Book Awards 2018, and the audiobook – narrated by Michael Sheen – 'Audiobook of the Year' at the British Book Awards 2018. Pullman was knighted for services to literature in the New Year's Honours 2019. Sir Philip Pullman lives in Oxford.

Further information can be found at www.philip-pullman.com

About Chris Wormell

Chris Wormell has been illustrating books since the early 1980s. His first book for children, *An Alphabet of Animals*, won the graphics prize at the Bologna Book Fair in 1990 and a number of his picture books have won awards, among them the Red House Best Picture Book and the BookTrust Best Picture Book. Most recently *Planetarium*, with Raman Prinja, won the 2019 Royal Society of Young People's Book Prize. He has designed numerous book jackets, notably *H is for Hawk* by Helen MacDonal, and in recent years has illustrated the first two volumes of Philip Pullman's *The Book of Dust* trilogy as well as the illustrated editions of the *His Dark Materials* trilogy. His first novel for children, *The Magic Place*, was published in 2019

About Penguin Random House UK Children's

Penguin Random House UK Children's is a Penguin Random House company. Penguin Random House (<http://global.penguinrandomhouse.com/>) is the world's most global trade book publisher. Penguin Random House comprises the adult and children's fiction and nonfiction print and digital trade book publishing businesses of Penguin and Random House in the US, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India and South Africa, and Penguin's trade publishing activity in Asia and Brazil; DK worldwide; and Penguin Random House Group Editorial's Spanish-language companies in Spain, Mexico, Argentina, Uruguay, Colombia, and Chile. Penguin Random House employs more than 10,000 people globally across almost 250 editorially and creatively independent imprints and publishing houses that collectively publish more than 15,000 new titles annually. Its publishing lists include more than 70 Nobel Prize laureates and hundreds of the world's most widely read authors.