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Opening extract from

The Golden Compass: Movie Poster Book

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Welcome to the world of *The Golden Compass*, an amazing place where mysterious explorers embark on epic quests, heroic aeronauts pilot elegant airships through Northern skies, and Gyptian warriors battle against the forces of evil.

The story of *The Golden Compass* follows the adventures of a twelve-year-old girl named Lyra Belacqua. Lyra's world exists in a parallel universe to our own. There are many similarities, including familiar continents and oceans. But there are also some incredible differences: here, everyone has a dæmon – a part of their soul that lives outside their body in the form of an animal.

Lyra's destiny leads her from her home amongst the spires of Jordan College in Oxford, Brytain to the frozen lands of the North. Equipped with an alethiometer – a magical, truth-telling device also known as the Golden Compass – Lyra encounters many challenges. She also meets some awe-inspiring characters, from the ageless, beautiful witches of the Northern forests to the fearsome, armoured Ice Bears of Svalbard.

In this book you'll discover lots of fascinating facts about Lyra and the characters that inhabit her incredible world. To find out more about her adventures, just turn the page and read on...





Lyra Belacqua

PROFILE

Name: *Lyra Belacqua, also known as Lyra Silvertongue*

Age: *12*

Who is she?: *An orphan, brought up by the Master and scholars of Jordan College, Oxford. Her parents died in an airship accident. She is sometimes visited by her Uncle Asriel; later Lyra is taken under the wing of the mysterious Mrs Coulter.*

Dæmon: *Pantalaimon (Pan)*

BACKGROUND

Lyra Belacqua is a feisty, inquisitive twelve-year-old girl. With dirty knees and tangled hair, she doesn't like being told what to do, and is happiest when she is running free with her friend Roger Parslow around the Oxford college that is her home.

However, Lyra has a destiny that she is unaware of. According to an ancient prophecy, she is the special child who will bring an end to a great war that began thousands of years ago.



Fortunately, Lyra is brave, resourceful, defiant and quick-thinking. She is also true to her word, and a loyal friend. When Lyra and Roger discuss the kidnapping of children in Oxford by the sinister Gobblers, she vows to rescue Roger if he is taken. Roger's sudden disappearance spurs Lyra into action, and she embarks on a quest to rescue him.

During this adventure she learns many new things, including how to master her fears and how to harness her acting and storytelling skills to make them work in her favour. These abilities come in handy when she takes on powerful opponents, such as Ragnar, the king of the Ice Bears.

Lyra has the makings of a lady, as well as a kind-hearted and lovable side. Despite being told she is impossible to educate, she is quick to learn and clever enough to outwit her enemies. She has an enormous desire to involve herself in situations – often against the advice of her faithful dæmon, Pan. However, it is this trait that enables her to influence events for the better, an ability that will ultimately help Lyra to fulfil her destiny.