



The Shadow in the North

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"Fraud, fire, and bloody murder pursue Sally Lockhart in a fine sequel to "The Ruby in the Smoke." Sally, now 22, is in business as a financial consultant. When she and her friends challenge corrupt financial interests, they find themselves in a web of intrigue that stretches from fetid slums of the poor to the corporate offices of the richest man in Europe. Sally's detective work reveals the connections between corrupt power and broken lives. The action is fast, scenes are tight and dramatic, the language is vivid, and the wealth of minor characters are sharply individualized. An immensely entertaining thriller."--(starred) "Booklist." Reading level: 6.7.

The Shadow in the North Details

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From Reader Review The Shadow in the North for online ebook

Larissa says

The Shadow of the North has a lot going on, including runaway magicians, false mediums, and steampunk weapons of mass destruction. But the true heart of this story does not lie in its intricate and sometimes improbable plot. It's about love. Not that mushy, obsessive stuff so many YA novels devote their pages of purple prose to. This is about a love of equals, and all the sharp, bright angles such a love has to carve a path out where there seems to be none.

Philip Pullman's writing captures all the fire and wit of real people on the verge of greatness, in the grips of fear, in the throes of desperate obsession or evenly-matched love. But he's also great at describing him some mundane settings and activities in the smartest, most spare, clear way. I'd gladly read his description of a day at the DMV, or watching paint dry. So happy there's The Shadow of the North to read instead!

Marilag says

I hate Philip Pullman. I love this book, but I hate him so much right now. Because I can't think of reading this book again. And I don't know when I'll be compelled to read the third installation. Ugh. So much hate. Right about now.

I really liked *The Ruby in the Smoke*. It was such a great way to introduce a slew of characters, and while there were multiple points of views, I appreciated how the reader knew what the villains were thinking. This kind of writing followed through in *The Shadow in the North*, and it was fabulous to see the repeated cast the second time around.

It also helped that Sally Lockhart went from the fantastic 16-year-old to an even more fantastic 22-year-old in the second book. Someone I would have been able to relate to more (which is also probably why I like this character more than I do Lyra Belacqua in Pullman's *His Dark Materials* trilogy). But I'm not going to continue furnishing praise over characters. I'm still upset.

I enjoyed the book. The only reason it got one star less was I got so frustrated by what happened near the end that I almost threw a tantrum and chucked the book out the window. Seriously, I was on the verge of tears. Then I remembered that my window has a screen and I don't go about abusing books in the first place, so that was out of the question.

Seriously, Pullman? Seriously? I cannot.

Frannie Pan says

Anche questo secondo volume, davvero davvero ben fatto!
Sto adorando leggere questa serie, è perfetta per essere divorata d'estate :3

A fine quadrilogia, ci scriverò su un papiro!

(Uhm.. quelle sarebbero le mie buone intenzioni..)

Kika says

I rebelled for months against finishing this reread because THE ENDING HURTS SO MUCH. But the entire story is, of course, so well done and so complex and inviting that even the ouchiest of literary ouchies can't take away the joy of visiting Sally's world again.

That said, if Pullman could let some characters just be happy, I wouldn't be such a blubbery mess right now. JUST SAYING.

Jude says

book on CD: Anton Lesser is a delightful reader!

Kim says

This book annoyed me in several ways. First of all, it is set six years after the first book and changes many things about the characters with no explanation. A character who was only interested in photographic art is now a private detective. Etc. The plot I actually really enjoyed. It was a fun, light, Victorian adventure story. But then it became needlessly dark and depressing. Pullman doesn't seem to know what kind of book he's writing. He seems to be trying to force a YA book to be more adult. I was pretty traumatized by some of the events of the book. I can't imagine how a child would react. This could have been a really great, fun book, but it just left me annoyed.

Barb says

I'm hooked on the Sally Lockhart series. I listened to this right after listening to 'The Ruby in the Smoke' which is the first in the series and while I liked 'The Ruby in the Smoke', I think 'The Shadow in the North' is much better in both plot-line and character development.

I love Anton Lesser, he's such an amazing actor/reader listening to him read the book is a delight. I love the voices and the accents he gives the characters. I can't wait to listen to the next book in the series. (July 25, 2011)

10/2/2014: I just finished listening to this again and I loved it just as much as I did the first time, maybe more because I could appreciate Pullman's writing in a way I couldn't the first time because I was so engrossed in the action of the story. I highly recommend this series, I just love these characters.

3/31/2016 Still loving this after the third time!

Ging says

The ending sucks. Period.

Dannii Elle says

To give a Philip Pullman novel only two stars physically pains me! However, this just was not the book for me.

This is the second instalment in the Sally Lockhart quartet, which is a Victorian-era series following amateur-sleuth-turned-private-detective, Sally Lockhart, as she attempts to solve the mysteries of London's dark underbelly, as well as those muddying her own past.

I struggle to pinpoint exactly what made my experience of reading this so unenjoyable. I can only pinpoint it to my prior adoration of Pullman's writing. This was not a bad book, in any sense, but all the elements I have previously loved about him were just missing here.

This was an intriguing insight to historical London, had great character progression as it showed the alteration in 16-year-old Sally, from the first book, into the 22-year-old woman depicted in this one, and followed an intriguing and mysterious story-line.

And I think that is my ultimate issue with this. I have nothing more to say about this. It provided an enjoyable enough read, but one I have trouble recalling, only weeks after completing it. It had no major flaws but also, for me, no majorly redeeming qualities after I have come to expect much more from this author.

J says

seriously, why the heck do people waste their time with the golden compass? so good. intelligent, villains you love to hate, sinister plots...i normally hate this word applied to a book, but it was a delicious read. so dang good.

and now, major spoiler.....

.....seriously, don't read this if you value the experience of reading a book at all.....

.....no joke. leave now.....

don't say i didn't warn you.

fred dies! are you freaking kidding me?! stupidly, too. that dumb girl who wanted to die just dragged him down with her. he didn't want to die. he'd just hooked up with the girl of his dreams that very night! whatever. you are the reason you don't get five stars. stupid.

Jackie says

12/28/15:

The Shadow in the North is a much stronger book than *The Ruby in the Smoke*. It is tighter, more intricately plotted, and its characters are more human. Often frustratingly, infuriatingly human. Will I ever forgive that one secondary character? I wonder.

12/25/08:

I first read *The Shadow in the North* in France, when I was ten. *The Shadow in the North* was the first book I read with a sex scene. (It was entirely PG, of course, but I was still, naturally, shocked.) *The Shadow in the North* was the first book I read where I fell in love with one of the characters. I had read *Black Hearts in Battersea*, right before the Sally Lockhart trilogy (*Tin Princess* came later—that's another story) and, in retrospect, probably had a crush on her main character, Simon (who had not even been my favorite character; Dido Twite held that distinction).

But Frederick Garland was head and shoulders above the slightly wooden Simon. He was funny and dashing, and he benefitted from a flipped traditional male-female power dynamic. He was the one waiting in the

wings, longing. Frederick Garland was appealing because of the fact that he waited for her, but also because, while waiting, he went on with his life. (His spiritualist undercover investigation with Jim still makes me laugh to think about; “You can hook me up to your apparatus any time, dear.” Hee!)

The Shadow in the North was the first book that broke my heart. Fred dies pretty senselessly, at a pretty crucial juncture, in a way that nonetheless felt very mundane and ordinary by virtue of the fact that it came out of nowhere. Sometimes, tragedies just happen. There’s no buildup. Just, one day he’s there and the next day he’s not.

In Black Hearts in Battersea, my favorite character had apparently died, leaving me shocked and dismayed, only to appear again very much alive on a whaling boat bound for Nantucket. Fred, though, was dead, irrevocably, while the feisty Dido Twite eventually made it back to London, and Simon.

The BBC adaptation of The Shadow in the North was very, very good--I'll admit to crying--but it left out the part that was truly heartbreaking about the novel.

After Fred dies, Sally realizes that, although a photographer, although a man constantly surrounded by cameras (or something to that effect; I wish I had my book with me to quote directly), not a single photograph remains with him in it.

When I think about The Shadow in the North, I am carried back to the uncomfortable fold-out couch in our apartment in Paris, the Indian bedspread that covered it, and the noise of the traffic outside. I spent hour after nail-biting—and occasionally blushing—hour reading the book. I remember finishing the book with an upset stomach, convinced that I infinitely preferred The Ruby in the Smoke. It only took me a few years to change my mind.

They are geared towards younger readers. They are quick reads. But I cannot recommend them enough. In a lot of ways, The Shadow in the North was the first real book I read. And that’s not meant as a slight on the books that came before it. I just mean that The Shadow in the North forced me, at a pretty young age, to consider what, if anything, a book owes its reader. What a book can do. What a book can make you feel. Pullman had no intention of coddling his readers. He just meant to tell the story he had in mind.

Only the year before, my mom had burst into tears while reading Bridge to Terabithia to me, and I hadn’t gotten it. It was just a story, I thought. Why did she care so much?

It’s been fifteen years. I still miss Frederick Garland.

Tirill (forenya) says

I can pretend i finished this book but that is a lie i just really wanted to rate it and say that i found it very boring im so sorry, pullman, but i'll give you another try when i start reading the golden compass

Kathy says

Pullman is a great writer--characters, plot, setting are all beautifully and deftly developed. The Sally

Lockhart series is as engaging a mystery series as you'll find. Sally and her friends/business partners are a delightfully intelligent group who come upon a major mystery that joins a magician's trouble with some shadowy pursuers and a retired teacher's loss of investment money. Something insidious is entrapping Victorian England, and Sally's life becomes dependent upon discovering its source. I thoroughly enjoyed this story. However, I can't quite get over being mad at Pullman for something tragic that happens in this book. Childish? Unreasonable? Yes, it is, but I wanted something to go one way and it went another. Now, having gotten that off my chest, I thought this second in the Lockhart series was well-done, well-played, and I am already grabbing for #3, The Tiger in the Well.

Wigati Ambar Pertiwi says

setting Victorian London, sekitar abad ke-19.

- Sally Lockhart : sebagai perempuan single, di thn 1800an, termasuk tidak biasa. punya pekerjaan sendiri, sebagai financial consultant juga. jd pas dia membawa laki2 (yang mana kliennya) ganti2 ke kantornya, dia jadi dicurigai.

- Frederick Garland dan Jim Taylor: yang satu fotografer, punya usaha fotografi sama pamannya. satu lagi suka nulis naskah drama gitu, walaupun gak pernah sukses dipentasin, haha. Suka sama mereka berdua, apalagi pas lagi nyelidikin sesuatu. Frederick lebih supel, klo Jim lebih polos sih, haha.

--> pas baca, agak susah memahami karena setting-nya ternyata classic, ada bbrp kosakata yg bikin bingung. trus kasusnya sendiri, kasusnya berhubungan dengan kapal2 steamship atau apa gitu, banyak istilah yg berhubungan dengan kapal, juga senjata2 steam gun (atau apa ya), jd agak susah ngikutin. latar belakang financial consultant-nya Sally, banyak istilah2 finansial yg aku sendiri gak familiar, lumayan bikin mikir sih.

--> twist menjelang akhir (view spoiler). bikin aku lemes banget lho. susah mau ngelanjutin sampe ending, karena bener2 se-shock itu T____T

--> untuk ending, entah kenapa aku kurang suka sama endingnya. berharap Axel Bellman ditangkap, dikeblosin ke penjara atau digantung di muka umum. tapi malah (view spoiler). kayak sia-sia aja gitu perjuangan selama ini, haft.

P.S.: aku gak baca buku 1, jadi utk ngikutin karakternya sempet bingung sih. tapi gara2 baca ini, jadi penasaran sama buku 1 dan ke-3 nyaa.. haha.

Lara says

My experience with Philip Pullman is that he writes an excellent first book, but then starts doing nasty things to his characters and basically ruins it all. I hate that his romances never work out. And the books end up getting so dark and twisted.

Patrick says

Bleh! This is not YA in my opinion. The 16-yr-old Sally from the last book is now 22 and Frederick is something like 26. Their concerns and conversations are not YA I think. I like the writing and characters mostly again, but this is dark and deals very frankly with murder and sex.

MAJOR SPOILERS here:

It was 3-star again until the dumb ending. Sally and Frederick have been having a believable romantic conflict rooted in gender roles--very interesting--but when Sally realizes she does want to marry him, she drags him up the stairs, takes off her clothes, and tells him she wanted to have sex before they were engaged so he would know she really meant it? Huh? Sex = commitment? I don't think that was any more true in the Victorian Age than it is now.

Then Frederick dies literally a few hours later trying to rescue a different suicidal, lovesick woman from the arson of their home by the bad guy. Sally immediately confronts the powerful and evil industrialist, he asks her to marry him, she says OK, asks him to give her a tour of his incredibly dangerous weapon they've been trying to stop, he agrees with no concerns, she shoots the magazine and it explodes killing bad guy, but she survives (two books in a row where she saves herself with her gun in direct confrontation), and she finds out she is pregnant in Victorian England with dead Frederick's baby from their one night stand/engagement celebration.

Meh.

Michael Fitzgerald says

I did not enjoy this nearly as much as the first book in the series. I missed several characters (Rosa, Trembler). There were plot developments that I found predictable. I spotted them coming very early on. I just kept reading to see how those were going to be revealed to everyone else. There were a lot of unbelievable resolutions that really soured me.

I like Sally less in this book. I'm not impressed with the feminist agenda that is sprinkled throughout - it felt false. And the atomic bomb analogy was heavy-handed.

Everything after the Chaka incident was a big disappointment. I'll probably read the third installment, but maybe *The Ruby in the Smoke* should have been left as just a standalone book. Pretty much everything that was appealing about that book is gone in this one. Pullman really blew it.

Kate says

I didn't realize this was the second book in the series until about half way through, but I kept on going with it since I seemed able to figure most things out that I missed in the first book. The story is so incredibly woven, with the characters being given as much attention as the unfolding mystery. There were times of incredible sadness and moments of hilarity. I listened to the audiobook version and the narrator was good - he definitely had to grow on me (he does a wonderful Scottish accent). I am now into the 3rd book, and will eventually go back to read the first.

Lia says

What do I rate this audio book?

The reader is fabulous. Lesser reads brilliantly.

Pullman write a compelling story for more than 2/3 of the book.

The historical detail is seamless and breathtaking.

But ... yes, BUT. But then Pullman has three characters behave strongly out of character that results in the death of one of them. The story goes downhill from there. I just could not allow Pullman to take such a lame turn in his own plot. He's too good a writer to pull a stunt like this. If he's going to kill off a major character, he should do it in a way that MAKES SENSE with the rest of the book rather than derails it completely.

I finished this book feeling intensely miffed. Why did he have to ruin his book? I don't get it. I really don't. He could have still killed off his person and stayed true to his characters.

What a shame. Really, what a shame.

Miriam Mabelle says

Le début du livre est captivant; en plus, il y a une histoire de médium et perso les médium et le psychisme, j'adore! pourtant, ce livre est bien moins prenant que le premier, et l'auteur est ici loin de ses personnages, ce n'est plus un "ami", il ne les décrit plus avec son coeur mais avec son mentale et sa logique. En tout cas, quand je lis un tome 2 d'une histoire, d'abord, je m'attends a ce que ce soit une suite du tome 1; mais il n'en est rien, tout est différent, six ans se sont écoulés depuis le tome 1, les protagonistes ont vieill... hum, ont grandi! ils sont tout à coup tous détectives à présent. Et la petite Adelaide? disparue dans le tome 1 sous les mains de l'horrible Mme Hollande? J'avoue que la raison principale qui ait fait que j'ai posé mes mains sur ce livre était pour savoir ce qui lui était arrivé! L'auteur fait simplement comme si elle n'avait pas existé, et pourtant il nous a fait craindre pour elle tout le long du premier tome! cette petite fille sans parents et sans défense qui travaille pour une vieille mégère sous menaces et mots durs. Nous sommes encore dans ce Londres du XIX siècle, lugubre, mais cette fois ci l'auteur plonge dans des détails déprimants, dark et violents, en sortant de son imagination les trucs les plus choquants... je n'imagine pas l'effet que ces pages peuvent avoir sur des jeunes enfants et, sincèrement, si les éditeurs me lisent, il faudrait recadrer le publique à qui Le Mystère de l'étoile polaire est destiné. Je disais que le début est captivant, il y a une mystérieuse affaire de meurtre, un magicien qui est aussi télépathe et qui entrevoit le meurtrier dans une vision, ... mais le livre est long et le final est ... comment dire? franchement, difficile de s'exprimer sans spoiler. Mais perso j'aime pas trop les auteurs qui maltraitent les sentiments des lecteurs comme ça. Quand même! Là, j'ai vraiment peur de prendre en main le troisième tome! Surtout parce que je crains que l'auteur ne propose encore une atmosphère toute aussi lourde et pleine de scènes violentes et sadiques.
