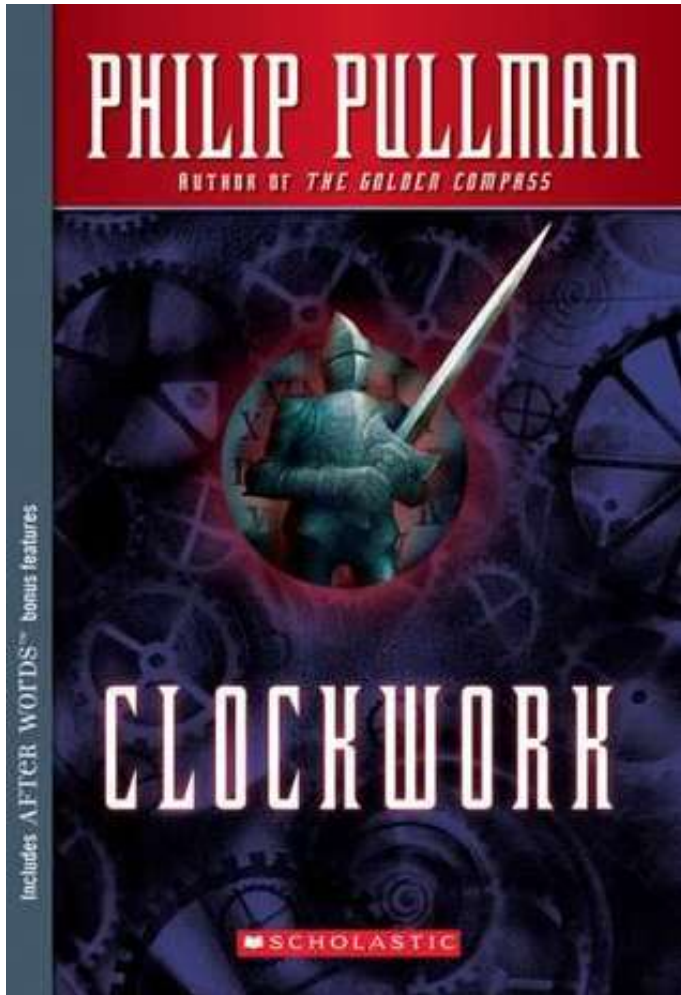

Philip Pullman

Clockwork



Title: Clockwork

Author: Philip Pullman

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Description

Fritz, the writer, spins a spine-tingling tale to cheer up Karl, the apprentice clockmaker. But rather than helping matters, the story begins to come true....

The stories of Karl, the apprentice; Dr. Kalmenius, his nefarious "savior"; Gretl, the brave daughter of the town innkeeper; and a young prince whose clockwork heart is in danger of winding down come together in surprising and magical ways in a story that has the relentless urgency of a ticking clock.

Insightful reviews

David: I downloaded this from Audible this morning and listened to it while shoveling snow, wishing I had a clockwork automaton to do that for me.

Philip Pullman's *Clockwork* is a fairy tale set in Germany in (presumably) the 19th century, in a world where clockwork devices can be made so intricately precise that they can, if constructed by a particularly ingenious clockmaker, pass for little boys. There are elements of Pinocchio, Faust, and any number of Hans Christian Andersen fables in this story that actually weaves three stories together.

There is Franz, the storyteller who entertains the townspeople with fabulous and hair-raising stories, until he ends up invoking someone who shows up in the tavern while Franz is telling a tale about him.

Karl, the clockmaker's apprentice, approaching the day of the end of his apprenticeship where his great creation will emerge from the town clock tower, has a big problem: he hasn't actually created anything. So of course he is pulling his hair out and swearing he'd do *anything* to get out of this mess, and you know where that leads in fairy tales.

Finally, there is the story of the proud and arrogant prince and his pretty, fashionable wife, in need of an heir. When their only son dies stillborn, the prince goes looking for a replacement, and procures a clockwork boy.

Everything wraps up with the bad getting more or less what they deserved, the good living happily ever after. Pullman is a good storyteller, especially when he stays concise and doesn't drag trilogies off the rails in the final book (**cough* The Amber Spyglass *cough**). *Clockwork* really is just a modern fairy tale, so don't expect any brilliant subversion or some kind of steampunk twist. 3.5 stars.

Becky: I picked this book up on a whim at the thrift store today. I'd never read any of Pullman's 'other' stories, meaning the ones that are not part of the His Dark Materials trilogy, so I wanted to see what this would be like.

From the description, it sounded very different than what it actually was. It was OK, but I had

expected better. HDM isn't a favorite of mine, but it would be a lie to say that it didn't affect me. The characters in that book, and their connections with each other, really left a lasting impression. This, not so much. It really felt written for children in a way that *The Golden Compass* et al was not written for children, and by that, I mean, kind of simplistically and felt kind of dumbed down. I hate using that phrase when talking about children's and young adult books, because I do not think that a book written for children is "dumbed down" when read by an adult. I love children's books and stories, and I continue to enjoy them to this day. But I know that Pullman can write much better than shown here. Much, much better, which is why I use the term.

There was just something that felt missing here. It felt like a story with no life in it, which is ironic given the subject of the story. It felt very "telly" and not at all "showy". I wanted more. I wanted a better resolution, I wanted... something.

If I was 7 or 8, maybe, this story would have been cool. A little twisted, but still with the same recognizable themes. But today, I just didn't feel it, and knowing what Pullman CAN do, I was not at all impressed with what he DID do in this one.

Ivonne Rovira: Don't go into the novella-length fable *Clockwork* expecting something of the inestimable caliber of the *His Dark Materials* trilogy. I enjoyed this tale of a story told by a tavern's fireside that comes eerily to life. However, while worth reading, it's not up to Bill Pullman's usual high standard.

Joanne: evaluation for *Clockwork* by way of Phillip Pullman This is a brief yet tough booklet to read. i feel that it really is geared toward key degree and probably 12 months 6 children. the tale includes a tale inside of it which probably tougher for more youthful readers to comprehend. the writer introduces the tale by means of atmosphere the scene in an outdated German city that is run by means of clockwork. it's a chilly winters night and the characters are established within the previous resort with the owner and the landlords daughter. a guy known as Fritz is a novelist and starts to inform one in all his stories. because the readers we're given additional information than the characters within the story. Fritz plans on making the tip half up of his tale as he is going along. the tale is set a tender prince Florian who has a son who dies. although Florian has a reproduction made up of his son with a clockwork heart. i believe that it's a very ethical story, simply because if the characters Karl and Fritz can promote their souls, Gretl the barmaid will be in a position to provide her middle away to Prince Florian, and preserve it on the comparable time. i feel that the ethical of the tale teaches teenagers there's undesirable on the planet despite the fact that there's goodness too.

Steve Rogers: *Clockwork, Or All Wound Up* 'Tick, tock, tick, tock! a few tales are like that. upon getting wound them up, not anything will cease them; they stream on ahead until eventually they achieve their destined end'....This is surely a type of books that you simply can't positioned down. With a cliff-hanger on each page, the suspense is tangible all through and, at times, virtually unbearable. the writer alludes to a sequence of tragic occasions from the offset together with his ominous assertion that, 'no subject how a lot the characters wish to swap their fate, they can't'. From this second on, Pullman's masterful skill to create pressure and a feeling of foreboding, makes us all too conscious that point is working out. similar to clockwork.

the tale happens on a winters night in an previous German city referred to as Glockenheim. within the first bankruptcy we're brought to Karl, the clock-makers apprentice who at the eve of showing his masterpiece faces ridicule for his failure to supply a brand new clockwork determine to be offered within the tower. determined and resigned to his destiny he joins a bunch of colorful characters within the neighborhood tavern to listen to a skilled novelist learn his most recent story. Fritz, well known for his ghostly tales, has a situation of his own, as he's but to come back up with an appropriate finishing to this actual story. Yet, in contrast to Karl, he's an optimist and so he starts off to enthrall his viewers along with his so much terrifying and bad story to date. For me, this can be the place this e-book comes into its personal since it is a narrative inside of a story; the only Fritz recites, pretty much as good because the other. At this early stage, already, a minimum of 3 feedback for the way this ebook might be utilized in a classroom, including; a comprehension activity easily drawing the tavern scene and the characters involved, type discussions approximately optimism / pessimism or how we will take care of issues that we're discovering difficult, after which referring to our reports with these of the critical characters. (Please, undergo in mind, we're simply on web page 21). Anyway, Fritz's tale is fantastic, mysterious, and terrible all whilst and that i completely can't wait to learn it to a category of unsuspecting pupils. quite because it culminates with a sinister character, from the story, abruptly coming into the tavern. "Creative writing anyone? Who can write the scariest ghost story?" appealing from web page one this publication is concurrently beautiful, enthralling and haunting; a narrative that would continue kids guessing each step of the way. it really is dark, it truly is frightening however it is admittedly brilliant! And, I've no longer even pointed out Gretl, our heroine and probably the one rather 'good' individual during this story, or the lethal knight, or the well mannered cat named Putzi. Yes, occasionally the characters look a bit one-dimensional, and i'm now not for one second suggesting that 'Clockwork' is Philip Pullman's most sensible paintings since it isn't via a long, lengthy way. However, it's a superbly crafted fairy-tale, a great transition for kids relocating directly to extra refined literature and it truly is completely suffering from nice fabric for lessons. From artistic writing, illustrated storyboards, discussions approximately greed, sturdy and evil via to role-play. This booklet has it in abundance and all in ninety two pages. I enjoyed it from the instant I picked it up. in case you have now not learn 'Clockwork', learn it and optimistically you'll see its potential, as I did. i'd suggest whole-heartedly that it's going to study to 12 months five / 6, even if, for the only real goal of encouraging youngsters to learn extra Philip Pullman.

Colleen Mckenna: Having learn Phillip Pullman's His darkish fabrics trilogy i actually loved and that i used to be encouraged to learn extra of his work. even if i did not in my view get pleasure from Clockworks as a lot the trilogy it's nonetheless an exceptional tale which i feel is much extra baby pleasant and readable. each one web page is gripping and the characters are tremendous good drawn. I additionally loved the best way that Pullman cleverly constructs the tale simply because because the identify Clockworks indicates it really is informed in separate components which come jointly on the end. This ebook bargains nice possibilities for older readers to discover literacy. I used this with my 12 months six class. The descriptions are so vibrant that we recreated the tavern scene by way of making tavern models. the kids additionally had the chance to discover the characters via drama in addition to artistic writing. i might certainly suggest this as a very good school room tale for top key level 2 because the kids fairly loved this being learn to them.

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