

The White Mercedes

By Philip Pullman

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The White Mercedes By Philip Pullman

A chance meeting with Jenny at an Oxford party leaves seventeen-year-old Chris with hope for a summer romance—and no premonition of trouble. Busy with his job and soon in love with Jenny, whose cheerful surface belies the dark uncertainty of her past, Chris misses all the signs of danger. Before he knows it, he's caught in the sinister web of a criminal whose desire for revenge crushes all those who stand in his way.

"The story line will hook readers and hold them . . . a pageturner that raises some unsettling questions about trust and betrayal and the nature of good and evil."—*School Library Journal*

"An engrossing, tragic story with rare depth of feeling. . . . Readers won't be able to turn the pages fast enough."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Fans of Robert Cormier should appreciate this tense thriller."—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
The menacing darkness that lurked at the edges of Pullman's trilogy of Victorian-era thrillers (The Ruby in the Smoke et al.) comes to the fore in this contemporary tale of shattered innocence and betrayed love set in Oxford, England. From the first line--"Chris Marshall met the girl he was going to kill on a warm night in early June"--the sense of imminent evil and inexorable doom builds unrelentingly to the novel's violent, gutwrenching climax. Naive and well-intentioned, 17-year-old Chris has love, not murder, on his mind when he meets and later beds Jenny (described in lyric and intimate detail), who has run away from her abusive father. Indeed, it is precisely Chris's trusting nature and sense of justice that cause the youth to be duped by a vengeful felon into causing Jenny's death--and only then because she is mistaken for someone else. Here is a modern-day Shakespearean tragedy, with star-crossed lovers separated by fate, a terrifyingly philosophical villain and assorted innocents, cads and buffoons. Its evocative narrative and throat-tightening suspense make this novel a compelling read; however, the graphic sex, moral ambiguity and somber ending make it most suitable for mature YA readers. Ages 12-up.
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About the Author
PHILIP PULLMAN is one of the most acclaimed writers working today. He is best known for the His Dark Materials trilogy (*The Golden Compass, The Subtle Knife, The Amber Spyglass*), which has been named one of the top 100 novels of all time by *Newsweek* and one of the all-time greatest novels by *Entertainment Weekly*. He has also won many distinguished prizes, including the Carnegie Medal for *The Golden Compass* (and the reader-voted "Carnegie of Carnegies" for the best children's book of the past seventy years); the Whitbread (now Costa) Award for *The Amber Spyglass*; a Booker Prize long-list nomination (*The Amber Spyglass*); Parents' Choice Gold Awards (*The Subtle Knife* and *The Amber Spyglass*); and the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, in honor of his body of work. In 2004, he was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

It has recently been announced that *The Book of Dust*, the much anticipated new book from Mr. Pullman, also set in the world of His Dark Materials, will be published as a major work in three parts, with the first part to arrive in October 2017.

Philip Pullman is the author of many other much-lauded novels. Other volumes related to His Dark Materials: *Lyra's Oxford, Once Upon a Time in the North,* and *The Collectors*. For younger readers: *I Was a Rat!; Count Karlstein; Two Crafty Criminals; Spring-Heeled Jack,* and *The Scarecrow and His Servant.* For older readers: the Sally Lockhart quartet: *The Ruby in the Smoke, The Shadow in the North, The Tiger in the Well,* and *The Tin Princess*; *The White Mercedes*; and *The Broken Bridge*.

Philip Pullman lives in Oxford, England. To learn more, please visit philip-pullman.com and hisdarkmaterials.com. Or follow him on Twitter at @PhilipPullman.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Diane Reid:

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