

## His dark materials – Season 1 (TV series)

Reviewed by Skye



As a reader, I always approach book adaptations with a mixture of excitement and dread. I'm never sure if the intricacies and nuance of a novel can be translated to film.

But I really enjoyed the books that this series is based on, and it's been a year or so since I read them so I knew I wouldn't be all caught up in the details that the series omitted! So, I set aside a day and binged the entire season!

This season follows the first book in the series, *The Northern Lights* by Philip Pullman, and essentially stays true to the novel (if with a little re-arranging and contemporising).

The imagery of the novel is wonderfully portrayed, however the tone and pace aren't quite right. The novel takes its time, laying the possibilities of the meaning of dust, the role of the Magisterium and the part that Lyra has to play, slowly and carefully developing the characters and plot. The series kind of jumps in and tells you all these things in the first couple of episodes, which felt a little sad to me – sometimes the beauty is in the subtleties.

It's definitely a series that takes a few episodes to really get engrossed in. It took me some time to accept the talking animals (which actually are really well done), and to feel engaged and invested in the characters. That all being said, I'll definitely watch the following seasons (and probably re-read the books too!).

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