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# Clockwork: Complete & Unabridged



## Synopsis

The apprentice's friends think hearing the latest story by Fritz, the writer, will cheer poor Karl up. At least it will distract Karl from the fact that he hasn't produced a new moving figure for the great timepiece at the center of town, as he was supposed to. But to Fritz's horror the story he tells Karl begins to come true, and one of the main characters -- the evil Dr. Kalmenius -- shows up with a terrifying piece of clockwork. It's a knight called Sir Ironsoul. And when Karl decides to accept Dr. Kalmenius's offer and try to pass Sir Ironsoul off as his own work, the results are...well, deadly.

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## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

While Philip Pullman's greatest popularity is as a creator of novel-length magical realism for young adults, such as *The Golden Compass*, he continues to explore and stretch the limits of other children's and young adult genres. *Clockwork* is no exception. With its inspiration lying solidly in the German romantic tradition of E.T.A. Hoffmann and the Brothers Grimm, the story begins, as all good fairy tales do, with someone whose human weakness sets events inescapably in motion. As the townspeople of Glockenheim gather in the White Horse Tavern on the eve of the unveiling of a new figure for their great town clock, Karl, the clockmaker's apprentice, reveals to Fritz, a young storyteller, that he has not been able to construct the figure. A new clock figure is expected of all apprentices, and Karl is the first in hundreds of years to fail. Fritz, in his turn, has the beginnings of a new story to tell, and as it rolls off his tongue, its dark antagonist materializes and offers Karl his dearest wish. Not surprisingly, Karl's Faustian pact brings him destruction, but an innocent child is the *deus ex machina* that saves another child and the spirit of the town from seemingly ineluctable

oblivion. With its eerie black-and-white illustrations by Leonid Gore and its happily-ever-after ending to some thrilling suspense, Clockwork is a fine fairy tale for younger children and a thought-provoking twist on the art of narrative for older ones. --Barrie Trinkle --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"In this tightly wound tale, clockmaking and clockmakers serve as metaphors for fiction and its practitioners," said PW in a starred review. "A tale to return to time after time." Ages 8-12. (Oct.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I loved this! I couldn't believe it was a children's book, that's how engaged I was. Perfect spooky bedtime story, for the older ones.

Even if you've never read anything by Phillip Pullman, BUY IT NOW. It's a beautiful, haunting, and understated little gem of a book. I first bought this book at around 8 or 9 and it was one of the first books (and boy do I read), that stuck with me. Sadly, I lost mine years ago and put picking up another copy on my to do list about five years ago, figuring I'd eventually stumble upon it again. I looked everywhere- including the giant five story Barnes & Noble in New York, then hitting up The Strand which boasts 18 miles of books. Usually in either of those stores I find what I'm looking for and then some, but not "Clockwork". I finally bought it here last week, and I'm so glad I did. I'm 23 now and I was a bit concerned that over time it might have lost its charm. If anything, I appreciate it even more. It's very similar to a Brothers Grimm story, quite dark at some points, but most certainly a fairy tale of sorts. I encourage anyone reading this review to grab a copy. "Clockwork" is like one of those warning labels on games- "Fun for ages 8 to 108!". It's a short read too, more of a novella really. Buy it, get a beverage, put on some classical music and be taken into a marvelous world. If you're older like I am, you should be done in an hour or so and will enjoy every moment. I promise you'll have a good time.

Having read and enjoyed Pullman's 'His Dark Materials' trilogy, I decided to read this tale. It is definitely a fairy story in the tradition of the Brothers Grimm -- not for very young readers, but very entertaining for kids over 10, I'd say. Three interconnected stories revolve around the deeds of the mysterious and ingenious Dr. Kalmenius and his dealings with princes, apprentices and clockwork mechanisms. Though it is 109 pages long, the type is big and there are over 20 full-page

illustrations, so this would be a good book for a child who shows an interest in the genre and seems ready to move on to a lengthier and more complex format.

A delightful journey into a wonderful world of adventure that literally unwinds as you read it! I live Pullmans work and once again was not let down. The story teller "Fritz" had me on the edge of my seat as if I was sitting in the parlor with the guests in the story. The best part of the book was the small boxes on the left or right of a page, that tell the, sometimes hilarious, details and descriptions of characters or objects just talked about. A wonderful story for anyone and everyone!

I finished this book in an evening. For such a short story, it has many twists and turns. True to its name, the story is tightly wound up from the start, set in motion, and doesn't slow down until the end. Pullman deftly pulls the reader through fear and laughter without missing a beat. Superbly done. The story seems so simple after the first read, but there's much more to it. It's like a Pinocchio-Faustian-Frankenstein fairy tale. A bizarre combination, yet it works so well. It'll be worth many re-reads, especially for kids as they grow older and can grasp Pullman's deeper meanings.

Creepy, intense, creative, fanciful. A hint of steampunk. Not for little children.

Clockwork is an amazing book. It's easy to read, yet tells a very vast and alluring tale. I definitely love having it as part of my collection of books.

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