

Philip Pullman

The theocratic cast of mind is always reductive, whether it's in power or not.

Phillip Pullman is the best-selling author of the *His Dark Materials* trilogy of fantasy novels. The first volume of the trilogy, *Northern Lights*, won the Carnegie Medal for children's fiction in the UK in 1995 and the last volume, *The Amber Spyglass*, was awarded the Whitbread Book of the Year prize in 2002.

His Dark Materials is controversial, especially with fundamentalist Christian groups who believe that Pullman is actively pursuing an anti-Christian agenda. The Archbishop of Canterbury, meanwhile, proposed that *His Dark Materials* be taught as part of religious education in schools.

The first two books in his *Sally Lockhart* series have been filmed by the BBC

His latest book, *The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ* is, not surprisingly, causing considerable controversy.