

The Tin Princess: A Sally Lockhart Mystery

By Philip Pullman

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AFTER WITNESSING A mysterious explosion, three young Londoners—Becky, Jim, and Adelaide—journey to a tiny country high in the mountains of Central Europe in 1882. They're an unlikely trio to lead a country, but when Adelaide's husband, the new king, is assassinated, she finds herself fighting for the crown—and for her very life.

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The Tin Princess: A Sally Lockhart Mystery By Philip Pullman Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Fans of Sally Lockhart, heroine of the Victorian-era thrillers that concluded with *The Ruby in the Smoke*, may at first be disappointed that, as Mrs. Goldberg, Sally has only a minor role here. However, Pullman more than makes it up to his audience by introducing a marvelous heroine, plucky 16-year-old Becky, and by bringing back--in starring roles--the resourceful Jim, Sally's former assistant, and the incomparable Adelaide, who disappeared as a child in *Shadow in the North*. This action-packed romp, in plot and mitteleuropaische setting, is a breathtaking blend of Saturday matinee cliffhanger and Viennese light opera. Pullman throws in everything but the kitchen sink: a secret marriage, spies, bombings, Machiavellian schemes, regicide, a vengeful Spanish actress, even Otto von Bismarck and that hoariest of chestnuts, a secretly imprisoned mad prince. In less able hands, this bulging confection would burst apart, but it all works due to impeccable pacing, sly social commentary and superb characterizations. Adelaide and Jim make an even more electrifying couple than did Sally and her ill-fated lover. Readers are sure to clamor for more. Ages 10-up. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal

Grade 8 Up-A complex tale of romance, intrigue, and adventure. Adelaide, Mrs. Holland's maid, vanished towards the end of *The Ruby in the Smoke* (Knopf, 1987). Now, 10 years later, in 1882, detective Jim Taylor tracks her down. Beautiful, tough, and illiterate, 22-year-old Adelaide has secretly married Prince Rudolf of Razkavia. When his brother is shot, the couple travels to that tiny European country. Jim accompanies them, as does Becky Winter, 16, Adelaide's tutor and interpreter. In rapid succession the old king dies, Rudolf is crowned and assassinated, and Adelaide becomes queen. Surprisingly, she's remarkably good at the job. She's not without enemies, though, and Becky and Jim have their hands full as they try to stay one step ahead of the schemers. Pullman writes fluently and descriptively, and his wealth of detail brings the period alive. The unexpected twists and turns will grip readers and make it difficult to set the novel down. At times, the large cast and numerous subplots needlessly complicate matters, and the introductory list of names and family tree are more a distraction than a help. Pullman's habit of shifting perspective (from Becky to Jim to assorted others) can also be annoying. Still, this book stands above most YA novels of its type due to its richness, its fascinating characters, and its story that, while sometimes far-fetched, is firmly rooted in reality. *Ann W. Moore, Schenectady County Public Library, NY*
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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 9-12. Employing some of the same characters introduced in the *Ruby in the Smoke* trilogy, Pullman offers a swashbuckling adventure story set in the tiny kingdom of Razkavia, nestled between the hungry jaws of Germany and Austria, and filled with deception, political intrigue, and romance. The coheroines are Cockney Adelaide, former prostitute and now unlikely queen of the country, and her companion and translator, Becky Winter. Then there's Jim Taylor, consulting detective, who has long loved Adelaide but is loyal to her husband, the king. Pullman's passion for details gets in the way of his story; there are too many names and places and plot twists for readers to keep track of properly. But when he zeros in on his main characters, the story takes off, and it's their complex relationships that hold attention. Fans of Pullman's writing may have to stretch a bit in trading Victorian ambience for Germanic saber rattling, but they should find much to enjoy here. *Ilene Cooper*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joyce Greenberg:

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Marjorie Calhoun:

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