

The Firework-Maker's Daughter

By Philip Pullman

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Lila, the daughter of the Firework-Maker, was to follow in her father's footsteps, but she soon learns that to be a true Firework-Maker, she must face down the Fire-Fiend of Mount Merapi. So Lila sets off, ready to face anything that gets in her way. An ALA Booklist Editors' Choice. Illustrations.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

> *"A thousand miles ago, in a country east of the jungle and south of the mountains, there lived a firework-maker called Lalchand and his daughter, Lila."*

Lila, the heroine of Philip Pullman's charming fable, was, as a baby, "a cross little thing, always crying and refusing her food, but Lalchand built a cradle for her in the corner of the workshop, where she could see the sparks play and listen to the fizz and crackle of the gunpowder." Once out of her cradle, she showed a marked talent for pyrotechnics, even inventing her own fireworks with names like Tumbling Demons and Shimmering Coins. Nevertheless, when Lila tells her father she'd like to become a master firework-maker, he's shocked. Firework-making is no job for a girl, he tells her; besides, with her burned fingers and singed eyebrows, he's afraid he'll never be able to find a husband for her.

If Lalchand is horrified by Lila's ambitions, his daughter is equally appalled by the prospect of a husband. Instead, she decides to run away to Mount Merapi, where every firework-maker must go to claim some of the royal sulphur from Razvani the Fire-Fiend. Lila's adventures on the road to Merapi alternate with those of her best friend, Chulak, and his talking white elephant, Hamlet, who set out after her when they learn something that could mean life or death for Lila. Along the way, they meet pirates, wild animals, and supernatural beings of every stripe until, at last, Lila must face the scariest obstacle of all: her own fear. Pullman invests *The Firework-Maker's Daughter* with wit, wonder, and more than a few goose bumps. The charm of the prose is reflected in the black and white illustrations by S. Saelig Gallagher that punctuate this slim novel. Though not as sophisticated as Pullman's remarkable fantasy novels *The Golden Compass* and *The Subtle Knife*, this engaging story *does* share a courageous heroine, an exciting adventure, and a singular philosophy that ties everything together in a deeply satisfying denouement. (Ages 9 to 12) --*Alix Wilber*

From Publishers Weekly
"This comical adventure about a girl who longs to follow in her father's footsteps crackles with Pullman's usual flair," said PW. Ages 8-12.
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From Library Journal
Grade 3-6-A story set "A thousand miles ago" and very far away. Having grown up amid the clutter and creations in her firework-maker father's studio, Lila wants only to follow in his footsteps, but Lalchand thinks more of finding a husband for his daughter. Since he won't see things her way, Lila enlists the aid of her friend Chulak, keeper of the king's (talking) white elephant Hamlet, to help her find out what she needs to complete her apprenticeship and become a master firework-maker. Chulak learns that the final test is to obtain the royal sulfur from the Grotto of Razvani the Fire-Fiend, and Lila runs away to do this, before Chulak finds out that it takes more than determination to accomplish this quest. Now Lila's life is in danger, from more than the bumbling pirates who kidnap her along the way, and it is up to Chulak and Hamlet to find her before it is too late. Stately but expressive graphite drawings open each chapter and, along with decorated title and half-title pages, add to the expanded folktale feel of this story. This title is similar in length and probable audience to Pullman's Clockwork (Scholastic, 1998); however, where that book used horror and suspense to rivet readers to the page, this one will be remembered for its broad humor and gentle moral featuring a determined girl who reaches her goals through hard work, courage, and perseverance. Young readers will see, hear, smell, and be dazzled by the fireworks that burst forth, as Lila earns her heart's

desire.
Susan L. Rogers, Chestnut Hill Academy, PA
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Fernando Levering:

This The Firework-Maker's Daughter book is not really ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is usually information inside this e-book incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. That The Firework-Maker's Daughter without we understand teach the one who studying it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry The Firework-Maker's Daughter can bring whenever you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even cell phone. This The Firework-Maker's Daughter having fine arrangement in word and layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

Carol Ray:

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Sang O\'Connor:

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