

## 2006 Phoenix Award Winner

### *Howl's Moving Castle*

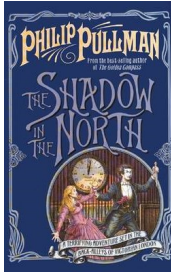
by Diana Wynne Jones

(Greenwillow, 1986)



Just when Sophie has resigned herself to a boring life working in a hat shop, her world is changed irrevocably by the appearance of the evil Witch of the Waste who, ostensibly to remove potential competition, turns her into an old woman. Sophie then seeks help from the great wizard Howl, who lives in a strange moving castle that haunts the nearby countryside. Working as a servant, she gradually becomes accustomed to the castle's strangeness. The hearth is kept heated by a captive fire demon. The castle door opens on several, different, alternate universes. And Howl, with his enormous powers, is himself laboring under a curse placed on him by the Witch. Despite Howl's generally black disposition, Sophie finds herself gradually falling in love. She also discovers that she herself has magical powers. Jones turns the conventions of traditional fantasy upside down in this complex, compelling, and delightfully madcap tale in which no one and nothing is what it seems to be.

## 2006 Phoenix Honor Book



*The Shadow in the Plate/*

*The Shadow in the North*

by Philip Pullman

(Oxford, 1986; Knopf, 1988)