



NARNIA

C.S. LEWIS

Clive Staples Lewis was born on 29 November 1898 in Belfast and held academic positions at both Oxford and Cambridge universities. He is best known for his fictional work, especially *The Chronicles of Narnia* where his Christian faith had a profound effect on his work.

The *Lion, the witch and the Wardrobe* is set in the fictional land of Narnia, a fantasy world of magic, mythical beasts and talking animals. The book is about the adventures of four children who play the central roles in the story of that world and who are transported there via a wardrobe.

Later, they are called upon by the lion Aslan to protect Narnia from evil, where he is the guardian and saviour of Narnia.

When the children meet Aslan, they are awed by him, but they quickly grow more comfortable in his presence. They love him immediately, despite their fear.

He takes Peter aside to show him the castle where he will be king. As they are talking, they hear Susan blowing the magic horn that Father Christmas gave her to her, signalling that she is in danger. Aslan sees another wolf vanishing into a thicket, and sends his followers to trail it, hoping it will lead them to the wicked Witch.

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The queen said, "It is dull, Son of Adam, to drink without eating," said the queen **presently**. "What would you like best to eat?" "Turkish Delight, please, your majesty," said Edmund. The queen let another drop fall from her bottle onto the snow and instantly there appeared a round box, tied with green silk ribbon which, when opened, turned out to contain several kilos of the best Turkish Delight.

Each piece was sweet and light to the very centre and Edmund had never tasted anything more delicious. He was quite warm now and very comfortable. She got him to tell her that he had one brother and two sisters and that one of his sisters had already been in Narnia and had met a faun there.

He said that no one except he, his brother and his sisters knew anything about Narnia. "Son of Adam, I should so much like to see your brother and your two sisters. Will you bring them to see me?" "I'll try," said Edmund, still looking at the empty box.

"Once you were in my house," said the queen, "you would be enjoying yourself so much

that you wouldn't want the bother of going to fetch them. No, you must go back to your own country now and come to me another day with them, you understand.

"It is no good coming without them." "But I don't even know the way back to my own country," pleaded Edmund. "That's easy," answered the queen. "Do you see that lamp?" She pointed with her wand and Edmund turned and saw the same lamppost under which Lucy had met the faun.

"Straight on, beyond that, is the way to the World of Men. And now look the other way." She pointed in the opposite direction. "And tell me if you can see two little hills rising above the trees." "I think I can," said Edmund.

"Well, my house is between those two hills. So next time you come you have only to find the lamppost and look for those two hills and walk through the wood till you reach my house. But remember, you must bring the others with you. I might get very angry with you if you came alone." "I'll do my best," said Edmund and stood there gazing at her.

Edmund was still staring after the sledge when he heard someone calling his name, and looking round he saw Lucy coming towards him from another part of the wood. "Oh, Edmund," she cried. "So you've got in too. Isn't it wonderful." "All right," said Edmund, "I see you were right and it is a magic wardrobe after all. I'll say I'm sorry if you like. But where on earth have you been all this time? I've been looking for you everywhere."

"If I'd known you had got in I'd have waited for you," said Lucy, who was too happy and excited to notice how **snappishly** Edmund spoke or how flushed and strange his face was. "I've been having lunch with dear Mr. Tumnus, the faun, and he's very well and the White Witch has done nothing to him for letting me go, so he thinks she can't have found out." "The White Witch?" said Edmund. "Who's she?"

"She is a perfectly terrible person," said Lucy. "She calls herself the Queen of Narnia though she has no right to be queen at all, and all fauns and the other animals simply hate her. And she can turn people into stone."

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"She does all kinds of horrible things and she has made magic so that it is always winter in Narnia. It is always winter but it never gets to Christmas. And she drives about on a sledge drawn by reindeer, with her wand in her hand and a crown on her head. Come on then," continued Lucy, "let's find the others. What a lot we shall have to tell them."

Because there was game of **hide-and-seek** still going on, it took Edmund and Lucy some time to find the others. But when at last they were all together Lucy **burst out**, "Peter! Susan! It's all true. Edmund has seen it too. There is a country you can get to through the wardrobe. Edmund and I both got in. We met one another in there, in the wood. Go on, Edmund, tell them all about it."

When Peter suddenly asked him he decided to do the meanest and most spiteful thing he could think of. He decided to **let Lucy down**. Edmund gave a very superior look as if he were far older than Lucy and then with a little snigger he said, "Oh, yes, Lucy and I have been playing, pretending that her story about a country in the

wardrobe is true, just for fun, of course. There's nothing there really." Poor Lucy gave Edmund a look and rushed out of the room.

A few mornings later Peter and Edmund were looking at the suit of armour and wondering if they could **take it to bits** when the two girls rushed into the room and said, "Look out! Here comes Macready and a whole gang with her."

"**Sharp's the word**," said Peter, and all four made off through the door at the far end of the room. When they were safe, Susan said, "Let's get into the Wardrobe Room till they've passed. No one will follow us in there." But the moment they were inside they heard voices in the passage and someone **fumbling** at the door and then they saw the handle turning.

"Quick!" said Peter, "there's nowhere else," and flung open the wardrobe. All four of them **bundled** inside it and sat there panting in the dark. Peter held the door closed but did not shut it, for he remembered, as every sensible person does, that you should never ever shut yourself in a wardrobe.

"Isn't it cold?" said Susan. "**Now that you come to mention it**, it is cold," said Peter, "and **hang it all**, it's wet too. What's the matter with this place? I'm sitting on something wet. It's getting wetter every minute." He struggled to his feet. "Let's get out," said Edmund, "they've gone."

"I'm sitting against a tree," said Susan, "and look, it's getting light over there." "You're right," said Peter, "and look there, and there. There are trees all round. And this wet stuff is snow. Why, I do believe we've got into Lucy's wood after all." And there was no mistaking it and all four children stood blinking in the daylight of a winter day.

Everyone agreed that Lucy should lead them into a little valley to find Mr. Tumnus' cave. But a terrible surprise awaited them. The door had been **wrenched** off its **hinges** and broken to bits.

Inside, the cave was dark and cold and had the damp feel and smell of a place that had not been lived in for several days. Snow had drifted in from the doorway and was heaped on the floor. The **crockery** lay smashed on the

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floor and the picture of the faun's father had been slashed into shreds with a knife.

Peter had just noticed a piece of paper which had been nailed through the carpet to the floor. "I can't read it in this light. Let's get out into the open air." They all went out in the daylight and crowded round Peter as he read out the following words. It read, The former occupant of these premises, the faun Tumnus, is under arrest and awaiting his trial on a charge of **High Treason** against her Imperial Majesty Jadis, Queen of Narnia, and also of comforting her said Majesty's enemies, harbouring spies and **fraternising** with humans.

They were all still wondering what to do next, when Lucy said, "Look, there's a robin. It's the first bird I've seen here. I wonder if birds can talk in Narnia? It almost looks as if it wanted to say something to us." Then she turned to the robin and said, "Please, can you tell us where Tumnus the faun has been taken to?"

They started to follow it but Peter soon realised they were following a guide they knew nothing about. "How do we

know which side that bird is on? Shouldn't it be leading us into a trap?"

After following the robin for some time they stopped. "The robin," cried Lucy, "has flown away." And so it had. Right out of sight. "And now what are we to do?" said Edmund, giving Peter a look which was as much as to say, "What did I tell you?" Susan suddenly said, "There's something moving among the trees over there to the left." "What is it?" asked Lucy, trying very hard not to sound nervous.

They all saw a whiskered furry face which had looked out at them from behind a tree. The animal put its paw against its mouth just as humans put their finger on their lips when they are signalling to you to be quiet. Then it disappeared again. The children all stood holding their breath.

A moment later the stranger came out from behind the tree, glanced all round as if it were afraid someone was watching and said "hush", made signs to them to join it in the thicker bit of wood where it was standing, and then once more disappeared. So the children all got close together and walked up to

the tree and in behind it, sure enough, they found a beaver. It still **drew back**, saying to them in a hoarse, throaty whisper, "Further in, come further in. Right in here. We're not safe in the open."

They all became acquainted and after they had eaten Lucy said, "And now, do please tell us what's happened to Mr. Tumnus." "Ah, that's bad," said Mr. Beaver, shaking his head. "That's a very, very bad business. There's no doubt he was taken off by the police. I got that from a bird who saw it done." "But where's he been taken to?" asked Lucy. "Well, they were heading northwards when they were last seen and we all know what that means."

The children didn't understand and told him so. "I'm afraid it means they were taking him to her house," he said. "But what'll they do to him, Mr. Beaver?" **gasped** Lucy. "Well," said Mr. Beaver, "you can't exactly say for sure but there's not many taken in there that ever came out again. "People she's turned..." he paused and shuddered, "turned into stone." "But, Mr Beaver," said Lucy, "can't we do something to save him. It's too dreadful.

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And it's all on my account." "I don't doubt you'd save him if you could," said Mrs Beaver, "but you've no chance of getting into that house against her will and ever coming out alive." "Couldn't we have some **stratagem**?" said Peter. "I mean couldn't we dress up as something or wait till she has gone out. There must be some way."

"It's no good, Son of Adam," said Mr. Beaver, "no good your trying, of all people. But now that Aslan is on the move..." "Oh, yes, tell us about Aslan," said several voices at once. "Who is Aslan?" asked Susan. "Aslan?" said Mr Beaver. "Why, don't you know? He's the king.

He's the lord of the whole wood, but not often here, you understand. Never in my time or my father's time. But word has reached us that he has come back. He is in Narnia at this moment. He'll settle with the White Queen all right. It is he, not you, that will save Mr. Tumnus."

"Is he a man?" asked Lucy. "Aslan a man?" said Mr Beaver sternly. "Certainly not. I tell you he is the king of the wood and the son of the great Emperor-beyond-the-Sea.

"Don't you know who is the King of Beasts? Aslan is a lion, the great lion." "I'd thought he was a man," said Susan. "Is he quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion." "That you will and **make no mistake**," said Mrs. Beaver. "If there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their **knees knocking**, they're either braver than most or else just silly."

"The quickest way you can help Mr. Tumnus is by going to meet Aslan," said Mr. Beaver. "Once he's with us, then we can begin doing things. Not that we don't need you too. **Come to speak of it**," said Mr. Beaver, "take my advice, when you meet anything that's going to be human and isn't yet, feel for your **hatchet**. And that's why the Witch is always on the lookout for any humans in Narnia. She's been watching and waiting for you for many years."

"Down at Cair Paravel," continued Mr. Beaver, "that's the castle on the sea down at the **mouth of this river** which ought to be the capital of the whole country if all was as it should be, there are four thrones and it's a saying in Narnia that when two Sons of

Adam and two Daughters of Eve sit in those four thrones, then it will be the end not only of the White Witch's reign but of her life, and that is why we have to be so cautious."

All the children had been attending so hard to what Mr. Beaver was telling them that they had noticed nothing else for a long time. Then during the moment of silence that followed his last remark, Lucy suddenly said, "Where's Edmund?"

There was a dreadful pause and everyone began asking "Who saw him last? How long has he been missing? Is he outside?" and they all rushed to the door and looked out. "He can't be far away yet. We've got to find him," said Susan.

"We'll send out a search party for him." "The reason there's no use looking," said Mr Beaver, "is that we know already where he's gone." Everyone stared in amazement. "Don't you understand?" said Mr Beaver. "He's gone to her, to the White Witch. He has betrayed us all." "**Mark my words**," said Mr. Beaver, "he has already met the White Witch.

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VOCABULARY

Presently: After a while.	you just said reminds me of something.	Gasped: A sudden intake of breath as in shock.
Turkish Delight: A sweet confection made of syrup and cornflour, dusted with icing sugar.	Hang it all: It doesn't matter, whatever the situation.	Stratagem: Plan.
Tucked it well in: Put it tightly inside his other clothes.	Wrench: To pull or jerk by a violent twist or force.	Settle with: Deal with.
Fetch them: Bring them to her.	Hinge: A device for opening and closing a door.	Make no mistake: Not being deceived into thinking otherwise, a certainty.
Snappishly: Irritable and curt.	Broken to bits: Completely broken.	Knees knocking: To be afraid.
Hide-and-seek: Children's game of hiding while others look for you.	Crockery: Plates and dishes.	Come to speak of it: To introduce an idea just thought of.
Burst out: Said excitedly.	Slashed: Cut violently.	Hatchet: A small axe.
Let Lucy down: Fail to support or help someone as they had hoped.	Shreds: Narrow strips.	Mouth of this river: Part of a river that flows into a sea.
Take it to bits: Disassemble it to find out how it is made or works.	High Treason: The crime of betraying one's country or monarch.	Betray: Deliver to an enemy by treachery or disloyalty.
Sharp's the word: To think quickly.	Fraternise: To associate or form a friendship with someone, especially when one is not supposed to.	Mark my words: Listen to me and believe me.
Fumbling: Grope about clumsily.	Robin: Bird with red breast.	
Bundled: Went inside as if bound together.	Trap: A contrivance used for catching someone.	
Now that you come to mention it: Idiom for what	Drew back: Retreat to at a safe distance.	
	Hoarse: Weakness in the voice, rough and harsh.	

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Q&A

Question 1: After the children arrive in Narnia, why do they do to Tumnus' house and what do they find?

Question 5: What does the White Witch do to people hoarse at her house in the north?

Overview: Write in your own words what you thought of the story so far and your interpretation of its meaning.

Question 2: After following the robin they meet Mr. Beaver. What is his solution to releasing Mr. Tumnus?

Question 6: What is Aslan and what can he do to save Mr. Tumnus?

Question 3: Why do you think Edmund went missing and what was the reason for his sudden departure?

Question 7: Why do you think Edmund has gone to find the White Witch?

Question 4: What would happen if two Sons of Adam and two Daughters of Eve sat at those four thrones?

Question 8: Do you really think Edmund has betrayed his brother and sisters? If so, why?