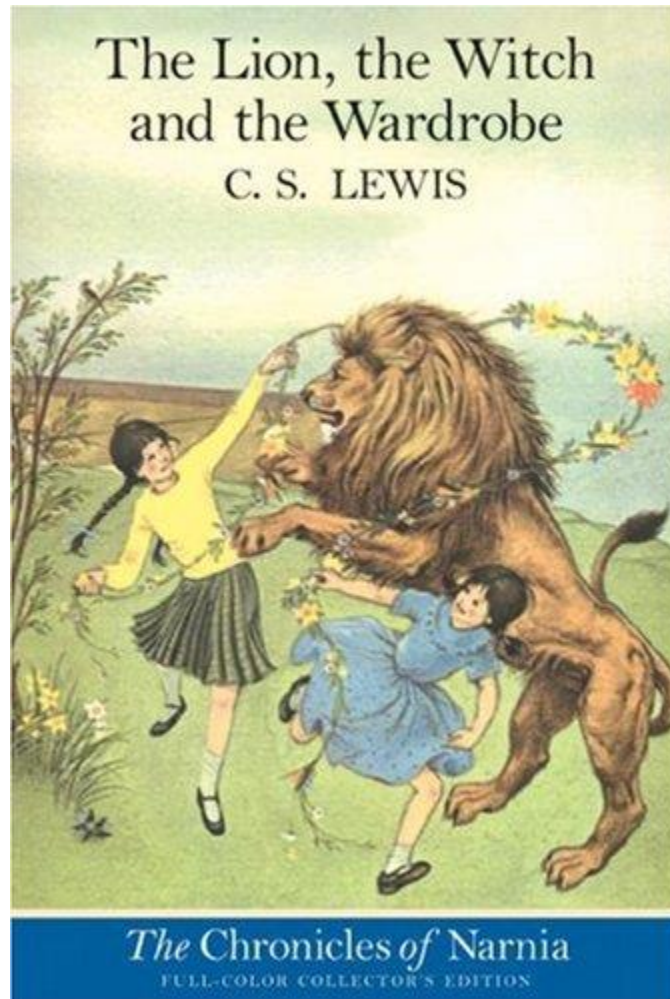


A Summary of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis



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About the Author

Clive Staples Lewis was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in 1898. As a young man he received a scholarship to the University of Oxford. He studied there until he enlisted in the army in 1917, but he was discharged in 1918 after being wounded in combat. After being discharged, Lewis continued to study at Oxford, and was elected a fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford in 1925. In 1929, Lewis renounced his atheism and in 1931 converted to Christianity.

Lewis wrote many works throughout the years, and in 1950 he published *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*, the first book of what was to become the Chronicles of Narnia series. Over the next six years, six more books would be published in the series, ending with *The Last Battle* published in 1956.

Lewis married Joy Davidman Gresham in 1956, and they lived a happy life until her death in 1960. Lewis died three years later, in 1963. He was buried in Oxford in the yard of Holy Trinity Church.

General Overview

The four Pevensie children, Peter, Susan, Lucy, and Edmund, are sent to the country for safety during the London air-raids in World War II. In the country manor where they are staying, Lucy, the youngest, finds a wardrobe that leads to another world, the world of Narnia. In that world it is always winter and never Christmas due the spell of the White Witch, who has banished the true ruler of the kingdom, Aslan the Lion, from her dominions. In order to break the witch's spell, two sons of Adam and two daughters of Eve, must sit in the four thrones in the palace of Cair Paravel by the sea.

After the initial discovery of Narnia, Edmund defects to the White Witch's side, and the three remaining children must hurry to meet Aslan before the witch captures and kills them all. After a time, Edmund sees the error of his ways and returns to his brothers and sisters, but Aslan must pay the price of Edmund's treason to the White Witch with his own life. A battle takes place between the army of the White Witch and another army of those faithful to Aslan and Narnia lead by Peter. Aslan rises from the dead. The battle led by Peter against the army of the White Witch is won with her death. The four children are installed in their thrones at Cair Paravel. The children live in Narnia until they are grown, but find their way back to their own world, where it appears as if no time has passed at all and they are children once more.

Chapter One: Lucy Looks into a Wardrobe

Peter, Susan, Lucy, and Edmund are sent to live with an old, unmarried Professor in the English countryside because of the air-raids in London. The Professor is a kind, but intimidating man, who has a large home with many curious things inside, and much land outside. The city children are excited to have the opportunity to live in the countryside for a while. However, despite the children's excitement to play outdoors, it rains heavily the first morning at the Professors house.

Instead of going outside, the children decide to explore the large country house. They find many empty spare rooms; one room is completely empty except for a large wardrobe. Seeing that there was nothing else in this room, Peter, Susan and Edmund continue on with their exploration of the house.

But, as the other children troop out of the room, Lucy stays behind to look into the wardrobe. She opens the door and finds lots of fur coats and mothballs inside. Lucy likes the smell and feel of fur so she steps inside the wardrobe to snuggle in the soft fur. But as she goes further into the wardrobe she finds that it does not have a back. She steps out of the coats into a forest that is covered in snow.

Not far ahead there is a lamppost burning in the forest. As she looks at the lamppost, a faun comes walking up to her. Upon seeing Lucy the faun drops his packages and his umbrella in surprise.

Chapter Two: What Lucy Found There

The faun regains his composure and questions Lucy, asking her if she is human. After Lucy affirms that she is indeed human, the faun introduces himself to Lucy as Tumnus, and asks her how she came to be in the land of Narnia. Lucy explains that she came through the wardrobe. Mr. Tumnus invites Lucy to come to tea at his home.

Mr. Tumnus' home is situated in a cave in a large rock. While they have their tea, Mr. Tumnus tells Lucy of dances he and the other fauns used to have with the Nymphs and Dryads before it was winter. After talking for a while, Mr. Tumnus began to play on a small flute in, which promptly causes Lucy to fall asleep.

Later, when Lucy wakes from her music-induced stupor, Mr. Tumnus explains that he is supposed to turn her over to the White Witch, who also calls herself the Queen of Narnia. He explains that it is the White Witch who makes it always winter in Narnia. Mr. Tumnus has been ordered by her to turn any human child he finds in Narnia over to the White Witch. Now that Mr. Tumnus has met a real human, he does not want to turn it into the White Witch so he agrees to help Lucy get back to the lamppost. Lucy explains that from the lamppost she can find the wardrobe.

Mr. Tumnus helps Lucy to the lamppost and just before she leaves, Lucy gives Mr. Tumnus her handkerchief.

Chapter Three: Edmund and the Wardrobe

Although many hours had passed while Lucy was in Narnia, no time had passed at all in England. Therefore, when she tells her siblings that she had been gone for hours and hours and talked with a faun, none of them believe her. They all think that she is making the whole story up. They even go to the wardrobe and show Lucy that it has a back and there is no wood. Lucy is heartbroken about the affair and Edmund continues to tease her horribly about the whole incident.

A few days later the children are playing a game of hide and seek, and Lucy decides to hide in the wardrobe. Edmund sees her go into it and follows her.

Edmund is surprised to find trees and snow, and not Lucy, inside the wardrobe. He starts to walk around, trying to find Lucy to tell her that he is sorry he has teased her and that he now believes there really is another world in the Wardrobe.

Before Edmund can find Lucy, a beautiful, white woman appears. She is pulled in a sleigh by reindeer with a dwarf driving. The sleigh stops when the woman sees Edmund. The woman asks who Edmund is and makes it quite clear that she is the Queen of Narnia.

Chapter Four: Turkish Delight

The Queen questions Edmund for a while as to what he is. Edmund gives his name and explains that he is a boy, a human boy. The queen invites him to sit with her in her sleigh under a warm fur. She magically produces something warm for him to drink and then asks Edmund what he would like to eat. Upon his request, the Queen magically produces a box of Turkish Delight.

As he eats, the Queen questions Edmund, and she discovers that he had two sisters and another brother. She also finds that one of the sisters has already been to Narnia and has met a faun.

The food the Queen provides for Edmund to eat is really magic food, and whoever eats it wants more and more. But the Queen says she will not give Edmund any more until he brings his siblings to her palace. There she will make him a prince and his siblings as courtiers under him.

The Queen points the Lamppost out to Edmund so that he can make his way back to his own world. She also shows him how to get to her house from the Lamppost. On the way back to the lamppost, Edmund meets Lucy, who had been visiting Mr. Tumnus. She is happy that Edmund has got in too, and is excited that someone else can vouch that there really is another world in the wardrobe.

Chapter Five: Back on This Side of the Door

Once again it seems as if no time had passed at all, and Susan and Peter are still looking for Edmund and Lucy in the game of hide-and-seek. But when Lucy tells Peter and Susan that Edmund has made it to her magic world too, Edmund denies that he has been there. He says that he has merely been humoring Lucy. Lucy is very upset at this and Peter and Susan are mad at Edmund for making Lucy upset.

Later that day, Peter and Susan talk to the Professor about Lucy's magic world. The Professor sympathizes with Lucy, and gives several reasons as to why Lucy could be telling the truth.

Things calm down, but a few days later the children find themselves running away from the housekeeper, Mrs. Macready, who is in the process of showing some tourists around the house. Mrs. Macready does not like to have the children around while she is showing the house and the children look for somewhere to hide. In the end, there is nowhere to hide but the wardrobe and all four children pile inside.

Chapter Six: Into the Forest

As the children wait for Mrs. Macready to go by, they find that the wardrobe is getting colder, and that there are tree branches and snow further back. All four children stumble out into the snowy world of Narnia. They all put on some of the fur coats from the wardrobe. Edmund betrays that he had been in Narnia before, which makes Peter angry. Then they all decide to go to Mr. Tumnus' house.

Upon arriving at the home of Mr. Tumnus, they find that all the lights are out and that the cave has been broken into. Mr. Tumnus is gone and a note is found inside declaring Mr. Tumnus a traitor to the Queen of Narnia for harboring humans.

The children decide that they must do something to try and help Mr. Tumnus. Just as they are leaving the cave, there is a robin that appears to have understood that they want to help Mr. Tumnus and motions for the children to follow him further in to the woods. After thinking a moment, the children start after the robin.

Chapter Seven: A Day with the Beavers

After following the robin for a while, the little bird leads the children to a clearing in the woods and leaves them there. Soon, the children are met by a talking beaver. Mr. Beaver declares his alliance with the children by showing them the handkerchief that Lucy gave to Mr. Tumnus. He tells the children that Aslan is coming, and then explains that they cannot talk in the open and invites them to come with him to his home.

At Mr. Beaver's house the children meet Mrs. Beaver. Mrs. Beaver prepares a delicious dinner and after dinner, the Beavers and the children begin to talk about Narnia, and what is to be done for Mr. Tumnus.

Chapter Eight: What Happened After Dinner

After dinner the Beavers begin to tell the children about Narnia and its true ruler, Aslan. The Beavers explain that the White Witch is not the real ruler of Narnia, and there is a prophecy that her power will break when two sons of Adam and two daughters of Eve sit in the four thrones at the palace of Cair Paravel. The best way the children can help Mr. Tumnus is to meet Aslan and fulfill the prophecy.

After a while, the children realize that Edmund is missing. Mr. Beaver asks if Edmund was ever left alone in Narnia. When the children admit that he has, Mr. Beaver deduces that Edmund has gone to the White Witch. The Beavers convince the children that they must leave immediately to see Aslan before the Queen can get to them. Though it is hard for them, they understand they must leave without Edmund.

Chapter Nine: In the Witch's House

Edmund was craving more of the Turkish Delight he had from the Witch and slipped out while no one was looking, but not before he had heard about Aslan and the plan to meet him at the Stone Table. As he walks through the cold and snow toward the White Witch's house, Edmund thinks mean things about Peter and the other children, which are not really true.

Before he reaches the White Witch's house, Edmund first has to walk through a courtyard full of stone statues. These statues are creatures that the White Witch had turned to stone with her magic wand. Among the statues is one of a lion. Edmund calls this lion Aslan, mocks it and draws spectacles and a mustache on it with pencil.

Just before Edmund reaches the door to the White Witch's house, he stumbles across a wolf, Fernis Ulf, who is head of the Queen's secret police. Fernis Ulf escorts Edmund into the house of the White Witch.

When Edmund meets the White Witch she is outraged to find that Edmund has not brought his siblings with him. Edmund explains that he had brought them as far as he could, and that they are with the Beavers. Edmund also tells the Witch that Aslan is coming, something she did not know until now. The White Witch orders her sleigh and prepares to catch the other three children.

Chapter Ten: The Spell Begins to Break

Peter, Susan, Lucy and the Beavers, quickly pack what is necessary for their journey and start walking toward the Stone Table, the place where they will meet Aslan. They walk until Mr. Beaver finds an old, cave-like, hiding place where they all sleep for the night.

They wake in the morning to the sound of sleigh bells and they all fear that the White Witch has caught up with them. Mr. Beaver sneaks out to see who it is, and a moment later he calls the children to come to him. The person with the sleigh is Father Christmas, not the White Witch. The White Witch's powers are weakening with the coming of Aslan and Christmas has finally come to Narnia. Before he leaves, Father Christmas gives the children gifts. Peter receives a sword and shield. Susan is given a bow with a quiver of arrows and a horn that will always summon help. Finally, Lucy is given a magic cordial that will heal any sickness or injury.

Chapter Eleven: Aslan is Nearer

Meanwhile, Edmund is with the Queen speeding toward the Stone Table. The White Witch sends Fernis Ulf with his wolves to kill anyone who might be left at the Beavers home, but they find no one. Edmund still had not received any Turkish Delight from the Queen and is beginning to feel remorseful for having left the others.

As they are speeding along, they come across a party of animals that are celebrating Christmas with the gifts Father Christmas has given them. The White Witch proceeds to turn the whole group into stone.

The weather is also beginning to get warmer. The White Witch's power is quickly diminishing. Soon the sleigh will no longer run because the snow is too slushy. The White Witch, Edmund, and the Dwarf who was driving the sleigh are forced to start walking. But before they start walking anywhere, the White Witch makes sure that Edmund is tied up. The further the three of them walk the more spring like it becomes until there is no longer any trace of winter.

Chapter Twelve: Peter's First Battle

Peter, Susan, Lucy and the Beavers are also experiencing the coming of spring as they walk toward the Stone Table. After walking for a long time, they finally reach the Stone Table, where Aslan and his people are waiting for the children.

The children and the Beavers meet Aslan, and they explain why Edmund is not with them. Aslan says that all will be done to help Edmund, but in the mean time they must rest.

While the girls were resting, Aslan takes Peter to the top of a mountain to show him the palace of Cair Paravel by the sea. There Aslan explains to Peter that he is to be high king of all of Narnia.

While Aslan is showing Peter Cair Paravel, Susan's horn is heard. Peter runs to where the horn is blowing and finds Susan trapped in a tree with a wolf snapping at her feet. Peter kills the wolf and saves Susan. After the fight and after Peter has cleaned his sword, Aslan knights Peter, Sir Peter Fernis-Bane.

Chapter Thirteen: Deep Magic from the Dawn of Time

Edmund, the White Witch, and the Dwarf are still walking toward the Stone Table. The Witch and the Dwarf are trying to plan a way to stop the prophecy from being fulfilled, since it seems that they will not reach the three other children before the children reach Aslan. Meanwhile, a wolf comes up to them to tell the White Witch that Fernis Ulf has been killed by Peter. The White Witch tells the wolf to summon to her all the evil things he possible can.

Since she cannot get the other three children, the White Witch decides to kill Edmund so that the prophecy can never be fulfilled. But, as the White Witch prepares to kill Edmund, creatures from Aslan's army storm the Witch's hideout and rescue Edmund. The Witch and the dwarf escape, and Edmund is brought back to his siblings.

The other children are reunited with Edmund but not before Edmund makes peace with Aslan for siding with the White Witch. The White Witch appears shortly afterwards, demanding her prisoner. Her argument is that any traitor belongs to her according to the Deep Magic, and both she and Aslan have been betrayed by Edmund. Aslan speaks to the Witch in private and is able to get the White Witch to release her claim on Edmund.

Chapter Fourteen: The Triumph of the Witch

It is apparent that there is going to be a battle between those faithful to Aslan and those faithful to the White Witch. In preparation, Aslan moves the camp away from the Stone Table and begins to instruct Peter in battle tactics. Peter is worried because it appears that Aslan will not be with him during the actual battle.

Later in the night, Lucy and Susan cannot sleep, so they leave their beds to find Aslan leaving the camp. As he appears very sad, the girls ask if they may walk with him for a while; Aslan agrees to this plan. After a while they come to the Stone Table, Aslan tells the girls they may follow him no further, and he bids them both good-bye. The girls hide a short distance away and watch the following events.

Waiting at the Stone Table is the White Witch and all her evil creatures. They bind, shear, and muzzle Aslan. Then they drag him to the Stone Table where the White Witch prepares to kill him. Just before the White Witch kills Aslan, she mocks the lion for dying in Edmund's stead. The witch then slays Aslan.

Chapter Fifteen: Deeper Magic from the Dawn of Time

The Witch and her creatures leave Aslan on the Stone Table as they go to prepare for war. Lucy and Susan leave their hiding place to go to Aslan; once they are with him they weep for his loss. Mice come and eat away the cords that bound him. It is now early morning and the girls walk away for a moment to warm themselves. When they return the body of the lion is gone.

The girls are angry at first, but a moment later Aslan appears risen from the dead and more glorious than ever. The girls are overjoyed but confused. They know they saw Aslan die. Aslan explains that according to the Magic that existed before time began, it was said that if a person died in another's stead for love of him, death itself would reverse itself.

Aslan tells the girls to climb on his back and they leave at once to rescue those who are trapped at the White Witch's house.

Chapter Sixteen: What Happened About the Statues?

Aslan and the girls arrive in the very same courtyard full of statues that Edmund walked through. Aslan begins to breathe on each statue and they turn back into living creatures. Mr. Tumnus is also found among the statues and is returned to his proper state.

After all the creatures are returned to their proper forms, they leave the White Witch's house to join the battle that is taking place between the White Witch and the Aslan's army led by Peter.

Chapter Seventeen: The Hunting of the White Stag

After Aslan arrives with the reinforcements, the battle is quickly over. The White Witch is killed and her army dispersed. Edmund is badly wounded, but a drop of the cordial that Father Christmas gave Lucy heals him. After helping Edmund, Lucy continued to heal other creatures that are wounded.

The next day the camp is moved to the palace at Cair Paravel, and there Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy are crowned kings and queens of Narnia. The children reign in Narnia until they are grown.

One day while hunting a white stag, the four consorts discover a lamppost in the forest that seems very familiar. As they walk past the lamppost they find the tree branches are turning into coats and a moment later all four children tumble out of the wardrobe, not a day older than when they first went inside.

Later the children speak to the Professor about their adventures, and the Professor tells them they might get back into Narnia but not by the same route.