

C.S. Lewis
The Chronicles of Narnia
The Silver Chair



THE CLASSIC BBC RADIO 4 FULL-CAST DRAMATISATIONS

C.S. LEWIS

C.S. (Clive Staples) Lewis, or 'Jack' as he was known, was born in Belfast in 1898. He was educated at several schools in England, going away to the first just days after his mother died in 1908.

Throughout his childhood, Jack made up stories. At around the age of eight he wrote a play called *The King's Ring*, about the reign of King Bunny 1st, and went on to write a complete history of the land where the play was set.

In 1917 Jack went to Oxford University, but his studies were interrupted by the First World War – from which he was sent home wounded. He returned to Oxford in 1919 and, after successfully finishing his studies, stayed on as a tutor. One of his friends during this time was J.R.R. Tolkien, who would later write the fantastical tales *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

Jack himself wrote many books for adults, but it wasn't until much later in life that he first decided to write a story for children. The first Narnia book, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, began with an image that Jack had kept in his mind since he was a teenager – that of a faun carrying packages through the snow. Meanwhile, the adventures of Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy were partly inspired by real-life evacuee children who stayed at

Jack's house near Oxford during the war. Interestingly, his first choice for the children's names was Ann, Martin, Rose and Peter!

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe was published in 1950, by which time Jack had already written another two Narnia stories – *Prince Caspian* and *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. Next came *The Silver Chair*, followed by *The Horse and His Boy*.

Fascinated by the difference in time between our own world and Narnia, Jack wrote some of the books in a different order to the events which they portrayed. An example of this is his sixth, *The Magician's Nephew*, which details the early history of Narnia and is intended to be read before all the others. Finally, the aptly named *The Last Battle* is the concluding story of seven. Bounding through each book is the magnificent Aslan, the all-powerful lion who befriends and protects the land of Narnia – and the children who visit it.

C.S. Lewis, who died in 1963, once said of his children's books: 'I wrote the stories I should have liked to read. That's always been my reason for writing.' More than fifty years after the first book was published, millions of children and adults continue to share his taste, and the magic of Narnia still captivates and thrills all those who go there...

The Silver Chair

King Caspian has grown old and sad in the ten years since the disappearance of his only son. With time running out, Jill and Eustace embark on a perilous quest to find the Prince and bring back tranquillity to the magical land of Narnia.

Journeying to the wild lands of the North, the friends and their companion Puddleglum go through some hair-raising adventures. There are mighty storms to battle and a terrifying encounter with a race of giants who like nothing better than a tasty snack – of human children!

Searching deep underground in the grim land of the Earthmen, they finally encounter the wicked Green Lady whose evil plan is to overthrow King Caspian and become Queen of Narnia. Can they stop her?

This sixth adventure in the Chronicles of Narnia is a thrilling trip through an enchanted land where heroes must fight the forces of darkness.

THE RECORDING

The Silver Chair

WRITTEN BY

C.S. Lewis

FIRST BROADCAST

BBC Radio 4

15 September 1996

NUMBER OF EPISODES

Four

LAST BROADCAST

6 October 1996

ILLUSTRATION

Line work by Pauline

Baynes (1953) supplied by
Harper Collins.

Colouring of line work by
D'Israeli (2000)

CAST & CREDITS

Dramatised by Brian Sibley

Puddleglum.....	Bernard Cribbins
Eustace	Marco Williamson
Jill	Victoria Shalet
Trumpkin	Richard Griffiths
Drinian.....	Robin Bailey
Aslan.....	Stephen Thorne
Green Lady.....	Frances Tomelty
Glimfeather	Anthony Jackson
Edmund.....	Peter England
Lucy	Ellie Beavan
Ramandu's Daughter	Teresa McIlroy
Older Caspian	Geoffrey Whitehead
Younger Caspian	Nicholas Farr
Young Caspian	Richard Puddifoot
Boy Bully.....	Richard Claxton
Girl Bully	Becky Hindley
Owl/Golg	Jonathan Adams
Giant King.....	Keith Drinkel
Giant Queen	Jane Whittenshaw
Giant Nurse	Anne Beach
Giant Cook	Joyce James

Music by Peter Howell

of the BBC Radiophonic Workshop

Produced by John Taylor