

C.S. Lewis  
The Chronicles of Narnia

# The Magician's Nephew



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 Magician's Nephew

## *The first adventure in C.S. Lewis' magical Narnia series*

Polly Plummer and her next-door-neighbour Digory are exploring one wet afternoon when the accidental discovery of some magic rings sends them off on the most exciting and dangerous journey of their life.

They fall through magic pools to the ruined city of Charn where Digory awakens the terrifying figure of Jadis, the last Queen. But with true evil comes true goodness, as the children discover when they come face-to-face with the mighty lion Aslan.

Soon the children's Uncle Andrew, along with an unwitting cabbie and footman, has joined them – and together they witness the lion Aslan's creation of a wondrous new world...

So begins the universally loved and acclaimed series of stories in which good and evil do battle in the spellbinding, magical land of Narnia.

## THE RECORDING

# The Magician's Nephew

### WRITTEN BY

C.S. Lewis

### FIRST BROADCAST

BBC Radio 4

14 January 1988

### NUMBER OF EPISODES

Five

### LAST BROADCAST

11 February 1988

### ILLUSTRATION

Line work by Pauline

Baynes (1955) supplied by  
Harper Collins.

Colouring of line work by  
D'Israeli (2000)

### CAST & CREDITS

Dramatised by Brian Sibley

Professor . . . . .	<b>Maurice Denham</b>
Uncle Andrew . . . . .	<b>Robert Eddison</b>
Jadis . . . . .	<b>Rosemary Martin</b>
Polly . . . . .	<b>Rowena Snaith</b>
Digory . . . . .	<b>Simeon Pearl</b>
Aslan. . . . .	<b>Stephen Thorne</b>
Aunt Letty/Mrs Lefay . . . . .	<b>Katherine Parr</b>
Digory's Mother . . . . .	<b>Joan Matheson</b>
Polly's Father . . . . .	<b>Michael Deacon</b>
Polly's Mother . . . . .	<b>Eva Stuart</b>
Fledge . . . . .	<b>Douglas Blackwell</b>
Cabby . . . . .	<b>Johne Hollis</b>
Helen or Nellie/Mole. . . . .	<b>Syd Ralph</b>
Jackdaw. . . . .	<b>John Talbot</b>
Beaver/Warthog. . . . .	<b>Stephen Tompkinson</b>
Panther/Bulldog. . . . .	<b>Peter Craze</b>
Bear. . . . .	<b>Paul Gregory</b>
Badger . . . . .	<b>David Goodland</b>
Elephant/Doctor . . . . .	<b>John Sampson</b>
Woman . . . . .	<b>Zelah Clarke</b>
Jeweller . . . . .	<b>Paul Sirr</b>

Music by Elizabeth Parker

of the BBC Radiophonic Workshop

Produced by Geoffrey Marshall-Taylor