

C.S. Lewis
The Chronicles of Narnia
Prince Caspian



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...

Prince Caspian

Narnia has been at peace since Peter, Susan, Lucy and Edmund helped rid the kingdom of the evil White Witch. But now the children have returned to their own world, and in their absence a dark presence rules the once harmonious land.

Wicked King Miraz has imposed a destructive new order of persecution and imprisonment, but the King's nephew and rightful heir Prince Caspian, realising the evil of his uncle's régime, vows to revive Narnia's glorious past.

Fearing for his life, he is forced to flee and calls on the four children, the magic of the mighty lion Aslan and an army of fauns, dwarfs and woodland spirits to help him in his seemingly impossible task.

Follow Aslan and his human friends on yet another escapade, as they take up the challenge to win back freedom and happiness for the fabulous land of Narnia in the fourth adventure in C.S. Lewis' magical series.

THE RECORDING

Prince Caspian

WRITTEN BY

C.S. Lewis

FIRST BROADCAST

BBC Radio 4

18 June 1995

NUMBER OF EPISODES

Four

LAST BROADCAST

9 September 1995

ILLUSTRATION

Line work by Pauline

Baynes (1951) supplied by
Harper Collins.

Colouring of line work by
D'Israeli (2000)

CAST & CREDITS

Dramatised by Brian Sibley

Professor	Maurice Denham
Dr Cornelius	Tom Wilkinson
Trumpkin	Richard Griffiths
Prince Caspian	Richard Puddifoot
Aslan	Stephen Thorne
Susan	Susie Hay
Peter	Tom Puccin
Lucy	Ellie Beavan
Edmund	Peter England
Nikabrik	Timothy Bateson
Reepicheep	Sylvester McCoy
Trufflehunter	John Turner
Miraz	Derek Waring
Mrs Pevensy	Pippa Sparkes
Young Caspian	Tom Godfrey
Pattertwig/Sopespian	Andrew Branch
Brother Dwarf/Wer-wolf	Peter Yapp
Glenstorm	Jonathan Keeble
Clodsley Shovel/Glozelle	Roger May
Hag	Jilly Bond

Music by Peter Howell and Elizabeth Parker
of the BBC Radiophonic Workshop

Produced by John Taylor