

The Return of Aslan

A Masked Play Written by Helen Wood



Inspired by C. S. Lewis's classic, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

Dramatis Personae

ASLAN	The Lion-King of Narnia			
FOUR CHILDREN	Lucy and Susan, Daughters of Eve (No masks are worn) Peter and Edmund, Sons of Adam (No masks are worn)			
NARNIA CREATURES	Lions	Dogs	Centaur	Birch-girls
	Unicorns	Birds	Fauns	Beech-girls
	Kangaroos	Foxes	Satyrs	Larch-girls
	Horses	Dwarfs	Giants	
WHITE WITCH	Also called the Queen of Narnia (no mask worn)			
FLOWERS				
MOON & SUN	One who holds a double-sided mask: one is the moon, the other the sun			
4 NARRATORS	Hold flashlights to read in the dark			
WARDROBE CHOIR	Actors. Hold masks over their faces when NOT singing.			

Staging

Stage Left:	The Choir (When not acting, all characters except the narrators sit here.)
Stage Right:	The Narrators
Center Stage:	Where the acting takes place

Scenery

Narnia mural that was painted by the children

Introduction

(Narrators stand with flashlights and read their scripts with animation.)

- NARRATOR 1: Welcome to our production of *The Return of Aslan*, a short play inspired by C. S. Lewis's children's fantasy, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.
- NARRATOR 2: When Lewis wrote and published this story in 1950, it became so popular that he wrote six more stories and published them as *The Chronicles of Narnia*.
- NARRATOR 3: C. S. Lewis loved God and was a student of the Bible, so his children's stories are filled with biblical imagery, symbols, and Christian themes.
- NARRATOR 4: This story is loved by children all over the world. Its primary theme is the same as the Bible—In the battle between good and evil, good triumphs over evil!
- NARRATOR 1: Our play takes place in . . .
- NARRATOR 2: (Holding finger to mouth) Ssshhhh . . . I hear voices!

SCENE I

The Land of Narnia

(Enter 10 Narnia Creatures: 8 scurrying around the stage and 2 walking through the audience toward the stage.)

- NARNIANS: Have you heard?
Have you heard the good news?
Aslan is coming!
Aslan is coming!
The King has returned to the Land of Narnia!
And he's is on the move!

(Lights dim.)

- NARRATOR 3: There once was a mythological land called Narnia. It was a beautiful land with forests and lakes and the sea on its border to the east.
- NARRATOR 4: This land was full of strange and fascinating creatures. There were talking beasts and gentle giants. And dwarfs and fauns and unicorns!

(10 Narnia Creatures move about and mime the action.)

- NARRATOR 1: Narnia had a king, who was terrible yet **good**! He was a lion named Aslan.
- NARRATOR 2: Although Aslan was the king of Narnia, he was not always there, for he had other lands besides Narnia to govern.

(Enter White Witch with crown and wand.)

- NARRATOR 3: It was during one of Aslan's absences that a terrible spell was cast over Narnia.

NARRATOR 4: With a wave of her wand, a witch turned Narnia into a land where it was always winter, but never Christmas!

*(Witch dramatically waves her wand over the setting.
Fake snow flakes could be tossed into the setting.)*

NARRATOR 1: She established herself as the Queen of Narnia, but the creatures called her the White Witch, because everything in Narnia became as cold and white as winter.

NARRATOR 2: The witch ruled her subjects by fear with the evil power of her wand. When the Narnians did not obey her, she turned them into stone statues.

(Creatures freeze in a position as Witch waves her wand.)

NARRATOR 3: The Narnians could only hope that an old prophecy would soon come true. It predicted a time when the king of Narnia would return and restore all of Narnia to its former state.

NARRATOR 4: “Wrong will be right, when Aslan comes in sight.
At the sound of his roar, sorrows will be no more.
When he bares his teeth, winter meets its death.
And when he shakes his mane, we will have spring again.”

NARRATOR 1: But for the prophecy to come true, two Sons of Adam and Two Daughters of Eve must visit Narnia.

NARRATOR 2: And of all things, the entrance into Narnia for these humans was through a wardrobe! How peculiar!

NARRATOR 3: The time finally came when two brothers and two sisters found themselves in the Land of Narnia. Their names were Peter, Edmund, Susan and Lucy.

(Enter four children, looking all around with surprised expressions.)

NARRATOR 4: It was not easy to overcome the schemes of the White Witch. Her Turkish Delight tricked Edmund, one of the children, and he betrayed the others and joined her ranks.

(Witch offers Edmund candy, and then he follows her offstage.)

NARRATOR 1: According to a Narnian law written at the dawn of time, the Witch had the right to punish him for being a traitor.

NARRATOR 2: However, king Aslan knew there was deeper magic from **before** the dawn of time. He knew that if one who was willing and innocent took the place of the traitor, the traitor would be set free.

(Enter Aslan, who hugs the 3 children. They exit holding hands.)

(Lights off.)

NARRATOR 3: Aslan loved children very much, so he decided to take Edmund’s place. He willingly gave himself to be sacrificed by the White Witch, so that Edmund could be free from this terrible punishment.

(Aslan enters and is “tied” to the Stone Table.)

NARRATOR 4: Our play begins just after Aslan’s great sacrifice for Edmund on the Stone Table.

SCENE 2

Stone Table Hill

(Lights on to a dim setting.)

(Enter Moon / Sun)

MOON / SUN: (Holds mask so silvery blue moon side is seen by audience.)

NARRATOR I: Aslan lays bound and dead on the Stone Table. The witch has killed him. And Lucy and Susan saw it all!

(Enter Susan and Lucy)

LUCY & SUSAN: (Kneel by Aslan's body. Weep softly. Pet his mane and hug him.)

ASLAN: (Begins to stir and wake up.)

SUSAN: (Startled and amazed:) Oh! . . . Aslan!

MOON / SUN: (Moon turns his mask around to become the fiery red, glittery Sun. Sun gets on his knees low to the ground and very slowly rises to his feet as the sun would rise in the sky.)

(Lights turned up.)

LUCY: Aren't you dead?

ASLAN: Not any more!

SUSAN: What does this mean? Is this more magic?

ASLAN: Yes, it's magic from **before** the dawn of time! Death will now work backwards. Oh children, I feel my strength coming back to me.

LUCY: Oh, you're alive again, you're really alive! Oh, Aslan!

(Lucy and Susan fling their arms around Aslan and hug him.)

CHOIR: (Sings one verse of "Alive, Forever, Amen.")

LUCY & SUSAN: (Laugh and hug Aslan joyously. Join him to play "Ring Around the Roses.")

ASLAN: (Plays and sings "Ring Around the Roses.")

CHOIR: Sings another verse of "Alive, Forever, Amen."

ASLAN: I am alive again! I am alive!
And now to business! I feel I am going to roar.
You'd better put your fingers in your ears.

LUCY & SUSAN: (Put their fingers in their ears to block the noise of his loud roar.)

ASLAN: Roars a fierce and very loud roar! Now, we have a long journey ahead of us.
We must travel to the witch's castle. Hurry, children, let's go!

(Exit Aslan, Susan and Lucy as they run off stage.)

(Lights dim.)

SCENE 3

The Witch's Castle

(Enter all Narnians, Lucy, Susan and Aslan.)

- NARNIANS (Holding masks over their faces, all stand very still, frozen like statues.)
- LUCY: What an extraordinary place! Look at all these stone animals—and people too! It's like a museum.
- SUSAN: Hush! Aslan is doing something.
- ASLAN: (Bounds around and breathes on the statues, which come to life. Suggestion: To help the audience “see Aslan breathing” on the statues, he could blow glitter off his paws onto the statues.)
- LUCY: (Pointing excitedly at a lion statue.) Oh, Susan! Look! Look at the lion statue!
- (Someone off stage shines a flashlight or spot light on the lion statue.)*
- LION: (Slowly begins to move and stretch and then comes alive. Shows excitement by bounding around the stage freely!)
- NARNIANS: (Come alive with movement and sound. The animals begin to dance about. Each makes his own animal sound.)
- (Enter Flowers.
Others mime the action.)*
- FLOWERS: (Join in the dancing and excitement.)
- SUSAN: (Shouts excitedly:) Spring is here! The spell of the witch has been broken!
- UNICORN: Narnia is free at last! All hail king Aslan, who has liberated us from the power of the wicked witch!
- ALL: (The crowd gives a shout of triumph. Have some bring pots of flower made in crafts class and set on the front sides of the setting.)
- NARRATOR 2: (In a triumphant voice:) It is written in the Song of Songs: “Behold, the winter is past. The rain is over and gone. The flowers have appeared . . . and the voice of the turtledoves has been heard in our land!
- NARRATOR 3: King Aslan then took the life of the witch. Good conquered evil! He then crowned the four children “Kings and Queens of Narnia.”
- NARRATOR 4: They governed well the Land of Narnia and made just laws. Aslan's sacrificial act of love forever restored his kingdom and even transformed the character of the children.
- NARRATOR 1: How this story sings with the imagery and symbols of the Gospel found in the Bible.
- NARRATOR 2: We would like to honor the eternal Lion of Judah, Jesus Christ, who became the perfect sacrificial Lamb. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life!
- ALL: Sing “ Alive, Forever, Amen” and “Victory Chant”

The End

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