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Prince Caspian (The Chronicles Of Narnia, 2)



Book Information

Audio CD

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Customer Reviews

All of the stories in C.S. Lewis' excellent Chronicles of Narnia series are told in distinctly different ways. Prince Caspian could justifiably be said to be like an epic poem told in prose. It shares many qualities with other epics; most notably its beginning coming in the middle of the action. Prince Caspian, like other epics, contains a climactic battle. However, Prince Caspian (like all great epics) is not simply a book about battles. The great themes of Prince Caspian are those of awakenings, renewal and restoration. As the book opens, the Pevensie children (Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy) are suddenly called back to the magical land of Narnia from a British rail station. They return to find that the land of Narnia is suffering from the oppression of the evil Telmarine King Miraz who rules with an iron fist. The king's nephew, (and son of the murdered rightful king) Caspian, has discovered the truth about Narnia and has fled the palace in fear of his life. In his flight, Caspian encounters some "old Narnians" who used to live freely before the Telmarines came to rule Narnia. Under the Telmarines, the old Narnians have been facing extermination. After initial mistrust, the old Narnians agree to stand with Caspian in an attempt to reclaim his rightful throne from his uncle and to save those that are left of the old Narnians from certain death. A struggle then ensues. It is in the middle of this struggle that the Pevensies are called back to Narnia, where they once ruled as Kings and Queens. They encounter Caspian's loyal friend Trumpkin the dwarf. Trumpkin relates Caspian's story to them. The children agree to help Caspian. Together, the dwarf and the children set off to come to Caspian's aid.

Reader thoughts: An escape in the night, an abandoned castle, ancient ruins, a thwarted murder, a near-drowning, a werewolf, and a final duel. This book sounds like horror, but it's not. Part of that is probably because most of it is told through the story of a dwarf. I love the bear sucking his paw. I love Reepicheep and his tail. I love the teacher drawn into the dancing and singing parade. I love that Edmund forgets his flashlight. I love that the dwarf has to run to Aslan. I love that the

Telmarines were descendants of pirates. Caspian says, "I was wishing that I came of a more honourable lineage." Aslan replies, "You come of the Lord Adam and the Lady Eve. And that is both honour enough to erect the head of the poorest beggar, and shame enough to bow the shoulders of the greatest emperor on earth. Be content." Writer thoughts: Why is it that some books can be read over and over without exhaustion, and some books need only be read once? Is it the reader's preference, or is it something the writer has done to the writing or story? I suspect it is both. In the case of the Narnia books, I daresay the credit belongs to Lewis. His characters are real and complex, and his writing style is simple. I mean that it doesn't try to make the reader guess what's happening or why. It doesn't try to use fancy wording or strange metaphors with lots of purple prose. What are some other things Lewis does that make his books timeless? Happy endings. Clear good and evil. Problems relatable to our world. The frankness of the dialogue (on-the-nose dialogue is usually a bad idea, but his works well). The number one factor, though, is probably nostalgia.

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