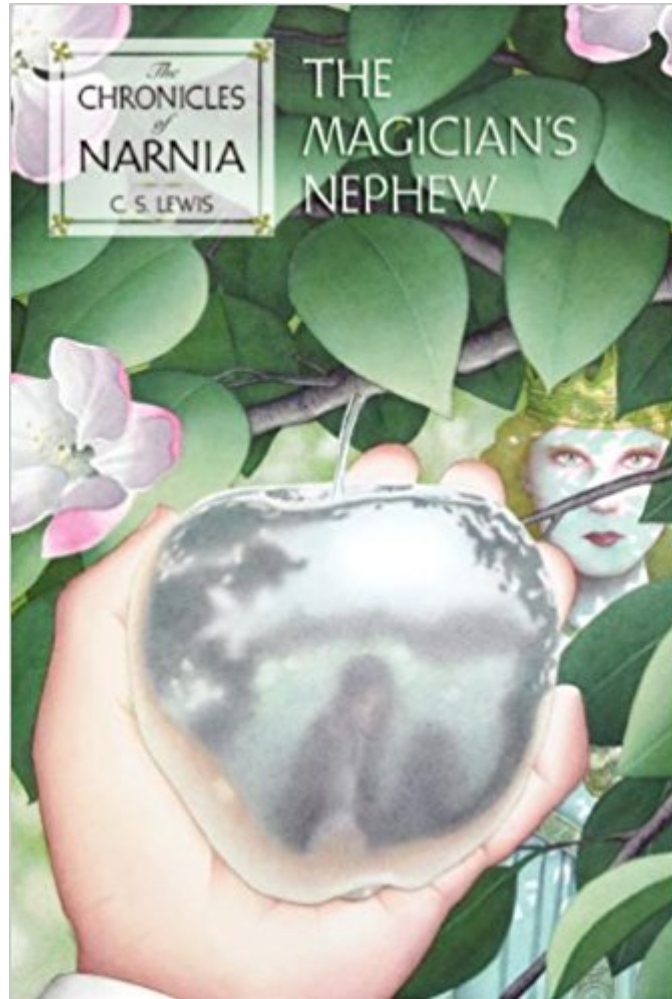




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The Magician's Nephew



Synopsis

Narnia . . . a land frozen in eternal winter . . . a country waiting to be set free. Witness the creation of a magical land in *The Magician's Nephew*, the first title in C. S. Lewis's classic fantasy series, which has captivated readers of all ages for over sixty years. This paperback features cover art by three-time Caldecott Medal-winning illustrator David Wiesner and black-and-white interior art by the series' original illustrator, Pauline Baynes. On a daring quest to save a life, two friends are hurled into another world, where an evil sorceress seeks to enslave them. But then the lion Aslan's song weaves itself into the fabric of a new land, a land that will be known as Narnia. And in Narnia, all things are possible. This is a stand-alone novel, but if you want to journey back to Narnia, read *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the second book in *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 and up

Grade Level: 3 and up

Customer Reviews

This large, deluxe hardcover edition of the first title in the classic *Chronicles of Narnia* series, *The Magician's Nephew*, is a gorgeous introduction to the magical land of Narnia. The many readers who discovered C.S. Lewis's *Chronicles* through *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* will be delighted to find that the next volume in the series is actually the first in the sequence--and a step back in time. In this unforgettable story, British schoolchildren Polly and Digory inadvertently tumble

into the Wood Between the Worlds, where they meet the evil Queen Jadis and, ultimately, the great, mysterious King Aslan. We witness the birth of Narnia and discover the legendary source of all the adventures that are to follow in the seven books that comprise the series. Rich, heavy pages, a gold-embossed cover, and Pauline Baynes's original illustrations (hand-colored by the illustrator herself 40 years later) make this special edition of a classic a bona fide treasure. (Ages 9 and older)

--Emilie Coulter --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“This classic journey of destiny, discovery, and imagination is a great family read-aloud for elementary or middle school kids.” (Brightly.com)

Everyone should love Narnia. I was supposed to read this as a school project. Needless to say, that wasn't exactly a chore for me! I have read the lion, the witch, and the wardrobe before and this really does explain every part of that, from how the white witch started to how there was another world to who the professor was other than just "professor" and even how the wardrobe got there and became a portal practically. Not to mention the warning here from Aslan made sense, with the whole world war 2 setting the lion, the witch, and the wardrobe has. I feel like this should be a big formal review for a book like this, but I can't do that. But I do know if you're 8 or younger, you won't really get Narnia, so you might as well leave it alone. I had to read Narnia when I was about 8. And not only was I bored, but I had no idea what was going on. But reading Narnia now, a few years later, and I can't put it down. So it's great unless you're a smallish child.

If you like the Narnia Chronicles and you haven't read this one, you are missing out on something wonderful. It's like if you had tasted chocolate but not sugar. I loved this book because it told how the land of Narnia came to be. I only wish that Polly and Digory had gone into more of the pools. (You'll know what I'm talking about when you read the book) I wish that everyone in the world could have a copy of this wonderfully intriguing book. It's my second favorite, second only to the giver.

Long before the events of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (The Chronicles of Narnia, Book 2) and the stories that followed it, C. S. Lewis presents the beginning of Narnia. Polly and Digory are two children growing up in London around the time of Sherlock Holmes (that is, around 1895) in the same row of houses. Digory's uncle has been experimenting with Magic and has devised a way to visit other worlds. Digory and Polly become his guinea pigs to test it out, visiting two worlds: the dying world of Charn, and the newborn world of Narnia. Along the way we meet the

White Witch, the first Talking Animals of Narnia, the first joke, the first Narnian king and queen, and -- of course -- Aslan. We see how evil first enters Narnia, and we see how that evil is addressed. Within the Narnian arc, of course, this story is important simply for explaining how Narnia started and why a certain wardrobe acted as it did. (And why a certain professor in a future story expressed less incredulity than expected, once.) It may also be interesting for the Biblical stories it's obviously intended to varyingly echo and evoke, blended with classical mythological references. (On that note, this time reading I noticed that in Narnia it wasn't woman who sinned and offered man the opportunity to sin, but rather man who sinned with the woman at worst egging him on. I don't think anyone should particularly care about the gender blame game in either instance. But it is interesting to note nonetheless.) Outside the Narnian context, the story itself doesn't have as much to recommend it as other Narnian entries do. Narnia's primal magic is excellent -- a world where anything planted just grows? including coins, toffee, and lamp-posts? -- and the world feels distinctly and uniquely new. But other than that, there's not a whole lot to heighten interest. There isn't an obvious driving question to the story. (Digory's mother, sure, but she's not mentioned enough to carry that story, or at least wasn't during this read.) The characters have their own identities, but they exist more to play out the story than to be intriguing themselves. And the story itself is interesting more along the lines of being informative about Narnia than being interesting so much in its own right. Plus there are its unaddressed magical loose ends -- what's the nature of the in-between place or the mark, are those green and yellow items good or evil or simply too powerful, and so on -- which are totally unlike the magic in any of the other stories. Which isn't bad per se, but it's less rationalized than one might want. Overall, this story is definitely worth reading to get the whole picture of Narnia. And that's why you should definitely read it. But on its own it's not as great as some of the entries in the Chronicles of Narnia. One last topic: for the newcomer to Narnia, what reading order should be followed? Lewis wrote the stories in one order, but that order is not the chronological one, so a choice must be made.

Chronological order:

1. *The Magician's Nephew* (The Chronicles of Narnia)
2. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (The Chronicles of Narnia, Book 2)
3. *The Horse and His Boy* (The Chronicles of Narnia, Book 3)
4. *Prince Caspian* (The Chronicles of Narnia, Book 4)
5. *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* (The Chronicles of Narnia, Book 5)
6. *The Silver Chair* (The Chronicles of Narnia, Book 6)
7. *The Last Battle* (The Chronicles of Narnia, Book 7)

Publication order:

1. *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*
2. *Prince Caspian*
3. *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*
4. *The Silver Chair*
5. *The Horse and His Boy*
6. *The Magician's Nephew*
7. *The Last Battle*

The chronological ordering is more straightforward, but a chronological book may "spoil" a later-in-time, previously-published book. So there are potential concerns with either ordering. As publication order often coincided with actual

order, the only books where caution might be needed are *The Horse and His Boy*, *The Magician's Nephew*, and *The Last Battle*. The last of these is last in either sequence. No books after *The Horse and His Boy* directly refer to it (as best as I recall), so it too may be ignored. That leaves only this book. The allusions this story makes to the contents of the other are few: at start explaining that this story would explain how "the comings and goings" between our world and Narnia started, and at end to set up the mechanism of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. I don't believe these brief allusions damage those stories. Knowing that there is a lamp-post in Narnia from this book doesn't really spoil *Lantern Waste* in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, except to prove that that is Narnia. But a series reader won't be surprised by this, so it hardly matters. (And even someone not seriously reading through the series doesn't need to know these details -- the story setup primes the reader to expect magical events and explanations.) In the end, then, I think the chronological order is the right order to read through these stories, if you intend to read them all. (And you definitely should!) If you're quite sure you're not reading them all -- but really, they're all short enough and enjoyable enough, that why bother? -- publication order might be reasonable. But I think there's enough magic to each entry that you might as well still read chronologically.

After she is tricked by Digory's uncle into touching a yellow ring, Polly disappears. Digory has no choice but to follow with a different ring, one that will bring her back. The kids end up in a dead land where Digory awakens an evil witch/queen. Later, Polly, Digory, Uncle Andrew, the witch, a horse, and a cabby end up in a completely dark land. Soon Aslan the Lion appears and wakes the magical world called Narnia with his song. *The Magician's Nephew* tells the story of Professor Kirke as a child (Digory) and the beginning of Narnia. It was slightly interesting, but mostly a lot of words and not much actual action. It was just okay.

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