

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

C.S. Lewis Dramatised by Adrian Mitchell

First performed in 1998 at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon and transferred to the Barbican Theatre, London in 1999.

This is the story of four children, LUCY (the youngest), Susan, Edmund and Peter, who are evacuated to the country during the London Blitz. Exploring the attic in their new home, LUCY discovers an old wardrobe - it is the gateway opening out into the Land of Narnia. Narnia is under the spell of the wicked White Witch and the four children find themselves caught up in an adventure leading up to a final struggle between the powers of good and evil.

In this scene, LUCY takes the other three children to meet her new friend, the faun Mr Tumnus. On arriving at his cave she finds that it has been ransacked and there is a notice saying that Mr Tumnus has been captured and is about to stand trial on the charge of 'comforting Her Majesty's enemies and fraternising with Humans'!

LUCY

We'll see Mr Tumnus first. He's the faun I told you about. Come on, then. This way. I'll go in first! Oh! *(The door has been wrenched off its hinges)* Mr Tumnus! *(LUCY plunges into the cave)* *(Off)* Oh no! Mr Tumnus! . . . *(LUCY emerges slowly, sadly carrying a wrecked painting)* Poor Mr Tumnus. It was a lovely cave . . . It's as if somebody dropped a bomb. Everything's broken - all the plates and cups. And this painting of Mr Tumnus' father - it's been slashed to pieces by somebody's claws. *(She throws it back into the cave)*... I found this notice pinned up. *(Reads from paper)* 'The former occupant of these premises, the Faun Tumnus, is under arrest and awaiting his trial on a charge of High Treason against her Imperial Majesty Jadis, Queen of Narnia, Chatelaine of Cair Paravel etcetcetc, also of comforting her said Majesty's enemies and fraternising with Humans. Signed MAUGRIM, Captain of the Secret Police. LONG LIVE THE QUEEN!' . . . She's not a real queen. She's the White Witch. All the wood people hate her. She cast a spell over the whole country so that it's always winter here. Always winter but never Christmas ... That poor faun's in trouble because of me. He hid me from the Witch and showed me the way home. That's what is meant by comforting the Queen's enemies and fraternising with Humans. We've got to rescue him! . . . Look! A robin! It's the first bird I've seen here. I wonder if birds can talk in Narnia? *(Addressing the robin)* Please can you tell us where Tumnus the Faun has been taken? *(LUCY takes one step towards the bird, who flies to the next tree)* He wants us to follow him.