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The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian


Clive Staples Lewis



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Prince Caspian

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Chapter One

The Island

ONCE there were four children whose names were Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy, and it has been told in another book called *The Lion, the Witch^① and the Wardrobe^②* how they had a remarkable adventure. They had opened the door of a magic wardrobe and found themselves in a quite different world from ours, and in that different world they had become Kings and Queens in a country called Narnia. While they were in Narnia they seemed to reign for years and years; but when they came back through the door and found themselves in England again, it all seemed to have taken no time at all. At any rate, no one noticed that they had

① witch: [wɪtʃ] *n.* 女巫; 巫婆; *vt.* 施巫术。

② wardrobe: ['wɔ:drəʊb] *n.* 衣橱, 衣柜; 全部服装。



ever been away, and they never told anyone except one very wise grown-up^①.

That had all happened a year ago, and now all four of them were sitting on a seat at a railway station with trunks^② and playboxes^③ piled up round them. They were, in fact, on their way back to school. They had travelled together as far as this station, which was a junction^④; and here, in a few minutes, one train would arrive and take the girls away to one school, and in about half an hour another train would arrive and the boys would go off to another school. The first part of the journey, when they were all together, always seemed to be part of the holidays; but now when they would be saying good-bye and going different ways so soon, everyone felt that the holidays were really over and everyone felt their term-time^⑤ feelings beginning again, and they were all rather gloomy^⑥ and no one could think of anything to say. Lucy was going to boarding school for the first time.

① grown-up: [grəʊn ʌp] *n.* 成年人; *adj.* 成人的。

② trunk [trʌŋk] *n.* 树干; (汽车后部)行李箱; 大箱子; 象鼻; 躯干。

③ playbox: ['pleɪbɒks] *n.* (尤指寄宿学校儿童的)个人玩具用品箱。

④ junction: ['dʒʌŋkʃn] *n.* 连接; 会合处; 交叉点。

⑤ term-time: [tɜ:m-taim] *n.* 学期。

⑥ gloomy: ['glu:mi] *adj.* 阴暗的; 幽暗的; 情绪黯淡的。



It was an empty, sleepy, country station and there was hardly anyone on the platform^① except themselves. Suddenly Lucy gave a sharp little cry, like someone who has been stung by a wasp^②.

“What’s up, Lu?” said Edmund—and then suddenly broke off and made a noise like “Ow!”

“What on earth—”, began Peter, and then he too suddenly changed what he had been going to say. Instead, he said, “Susan, let go! What are you doing? Where are you dragging me to?”

“I’m not touching you,” said Susan. “Someone is pulling me. Oh—oh—oh—stop it!”

Everyone noticed that all the others’ faces had gone very white.

“I felt just the same,” said Edmund in a breathless voice. “As if I were being dragged along. A most frightful^③ pulling-ugh! it’s beginning again.”

“Me too,” said Lucy. “Oh, I can’t bear it.”

“Look sharp!” shouted Edmund. “All catch hands

① platform: ['plætfɔ:m] *n.* 月台; 讲台; 平台; 站台。

② wasp: [wɒsp] *n.* 黄蜂; 胡蜂。

③ frightful: ['fraɪtfl] *adj.* 可怕的; 吓人的。



and keep together. This is magic—I can tell by the feeling. Quick!”

“Yes,” said Susan. “Hold hands. Oh, I do wish it would stop-oh!”

Next moment the luggage, the seat, the platform, and the station had completely vanished^①. The four children, holding hands and panting, found themselves standing in a woody place—such a woody place that branches were sticking into them and there was hardly room to move. They all rubbed their eyes and took a deep breath.

“Oh, Peter!” exclaimed Lucy. “Do you think we can possibly have got back to Narnia?”

“It might be anywhere,” said Peter. “I can’t see a yard in all these trees. Let’s try to get into the open—if there is any open.”

With some difficulty, and with some stings^② from nettles^③ and pricks^④ from thorns^⑤, they struggled out of the

① vanish: [ˈvæniʃ] *vi.* 消失; 绝迹; 不见了。

② sting: [stiŋ] *vt.* 刺痛; 使苦恼; *vi.* 叮; 刺痛; *n.* 刺; 刺痛; 讽刺。

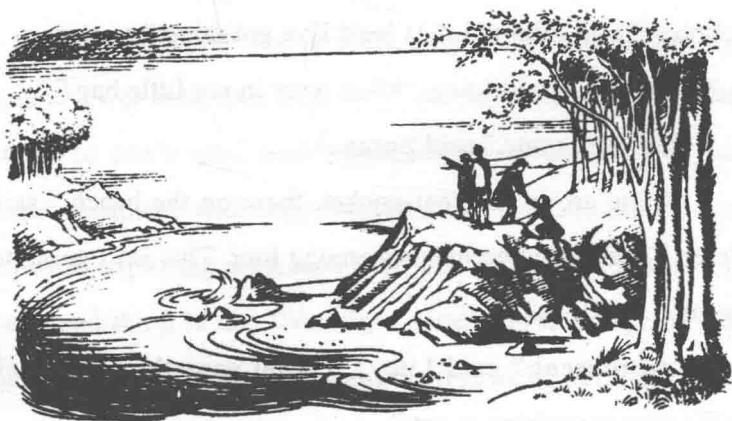
③ nettle: [ˈnetl] *n.* 荨麻; *v.* 以荨麻刺; 激怒。

④ prick: [prɪk] *v.* 刺; 扎; 竖起; 受责备; *n.* 扎; 刺; 刺痛。

⑤ thorn: [θɔːn] *n.* 刺; 荆棘。



thicket^①. Then they had another surprise. Everything became much brighter, and after a few steps they found themselves at the edge of the wood, looking down on a sandy beach. A few yards away a very calm sea was falling on the sand with such tiny ripples^② that it made hardly any sound. There was no land in sight and no clouds in the sky. The sun was about where it ought to be at ten o'clock in the morning, and the sea was a dazzling blue. They stood sniffing^③ in the sea-smell.



“By Jove!” said Peter. “This is good enough.”

Five minutes later everyone was barefooted and

① thicket: ['θɪkɪt] *n.* 繁茂处; 丛林; 草丛。

② ripple: ['rɪpl] *n.* 涟漪; 波纹; 潺潺声; *v.* 使其涟漪; 使其波纹; 使发出潺潺声。

③ sniff: [snɪf] *vi.* 嗅; *vt.* 嗅到; 吸入; *n.* 嗅; 吸气; 气味。



wading^① in the cool clear water.

“This is better than being in a stuffy^② train on the way back to Latin and French and Algebra^③!” said Edmund. And then for quite a long time there was no more talking, only splashing and looking for shrimps^④ and crabs^⑤.

“All the same,” said Susan presently, “I suppose we’ll have to make some plans. We shall want something to eat before long.”

“We’ve got the sandwiches Mother gave us for the journey,” said Edmund. “At least I’ve got mine.”

“Not me,” said Lucy. “Mine were in my little bag.”

“So were mine,” said Susan.

“Mine are in my coat-pocket, there on the beach,” said Peter. “That’ll be two lunches among four. This isn’t going to be such fun.”

“At present,” said Lucy, “I want something to drink more than something to eat.”

Everyone else now felt thirsty, as one usually is after

① wade: [weɪd] *v.* 跋涉; 涉水; *n.* 跋涉。

② stuffy: [ˈstʌfɪ] *adj.* (房间等)不通气的; (人或事物)沉闷乏味的。

③ algebra: [ˈældʒɪbrə] *n.* 代数学。

④ shrimp: [ʃrɪmp] *n.* 虾; 瘦小的人; *vi.* 钓虾。

⑤ crab: [kræb] *n.* 蟹; 爱争吵的人; *v.* 捕蟹; 使横行; 批评; 抱怨。



wading in salt water under a hot sun.

“It’s like being shipwrecked^①,” remarked Edmund. “In the books they always find springs of clear, fresh water on the island. We’d better go and look for them.”

“Does that mean we have to go back into all that thick wood?” said Susan.

“Not a bit of it,” said Peter. “If there are streams they’re bound to come down to the sea, and if we walk along the beach we’re bound to come to them.”

They all now waded back and went first across the smooth, wet sand and then up to the dry, crumbly sand that sticks to one’s toes, and began putting on their shoes and socks. Edmund and Lucy wanted to leave them behind and do their exploring with bare feet, but Susan said this would be a mad thing to do. “We might never find them again,” she pointed out, “and we shall want them if we’re still here when night comes and it begins to be cold.”

When they were dressed again they set out along the shore with the sea on their left hand and the wood on their right. Except for an occasional^② seagull it was a very quiet

① shipwrecked: [ˈʃɪprekt] *adj.* 失事的；遭海难的。

② occasional [əˈkeɪʒənl] *adj.* 偶然的；临时的；不时的。



place. The wood was so thick and tangled that they could hardly see into it at all; and nothing in it moved—not a bird, not even an insect.

Shells and seaweed and anemones, or tiny crabs in rockpools, are all very well, but you soon get tired of them if you are thirsty. The children's feet, after the change from the cool water, felt hot and heavy. Susan and Lucy had raincoats to carry. Edmund had put down his coat on the station seat just before the magic overtook^① them, and he and Peter took it in turns to carry Peter's great-coat^②.

Presently the shore began to curve round to the right. About quarter of an hour later, after they had crossed a rocky ridge which ran out into a point, it made quite a sharp turn. Their backs were now to the part of the sea which had met them when they first came out of the wood, and now, looking ahead, they could see across the water another shore, thickly wooded like the one they were exploring.

"I wonder, is that an island or do we join on to it presently?" said Lucy.

"Don't know," said Peter and they all plodded on in

① overtake: [ˌəʊvə'teɪk] v. 赶上; 突然来袭; 压倒。

② great-coat: [g'reɪtkə'ɪt] n. 厚大衣。



silence.

The shore that they were walking on drew nearer and nearer to the opposite shore, and as they came round each promontory^① the children expected to find the place where the two joined. But in this they were disappointed. They came to some rocks which they had to climb and from the top they could see a fairway ahead and—"Oh bother!" said Edmund, "it's no good. We shan't be able to get to those other woods at all. We're on an island!"

It was true. At this point the channel between them and the opposite coast was only about thirty or forty yards wide; but they could now see that this was its narrowest^② place. After that, their own coast bent round to the right again and they could see open sea between it and the mainland. It was obvious that they had already come much more than halfway round the island.

"Look!" said Lucy suddenly. "What's that?" She pointed to a long, silvery, snake-like thing that lay across the beach.

"A stream! A stream!" shouted the others, and, tired as

① promontory: ['prɒməntri] *n.* 海角, 岬。

② narrow: ['nærəʊ] *adj.* 有限的; 狭窄的; 精密的; 度量小的;
n. 海峡; 隘路; 狭窄部份; *v.* 变窄。



they were, they lost no time in clattering down the rocks and racing to the fresh water. They knew that the stream would be better to drink farther up, away from the beach, so they went at once to the spot where it came out of the wood. The trees were as thick as ever, but the stream had made itself a deep course between high mossy banks so that by stooping you could follow it up in a sort of tunnel of leaves. They dropped on their knees by the first brown, dimply pool and drank and drank, and dipped their faces in the water, and then dipped their arms in up to the elbow.

“Now,” said Edmund, “what about those sandwiches^①?”

“Oh, hadn’t we better have them?” said Susan. “We may need them far worse later on.”

“I do wish,” said Lucy, “now that we’re not thirsty, we could go on feeling as not-hungry as we did when we were thirsty.”

“But what about those sandwiches?” repeated Edmund. “There’s no good saving them till they go bad. You’ve got to remember it’s a good deal hotter here than in England and we’ve been carrying them about in pockets for hours.” So they got out the two packets and divided them into four

① sandwich: [ˈsænwɪtʃ] *n.* 三明治; *vt.* 插入; 夹在中间。



portions^①, and nobody had quite enough, but it was a great deal better than nothing. Then they talked about their plans for the next meal. Lucy wanted to go back to the sea and catch shrimps^②, until someone pointed out that they had no nets. Edmund said they must gather gulls' eggs from the rocks, but when they came to think of it they couldn't remember having seen any gulls' eggs and wouldn't be able to cook them if they found any. Peter thought to himself that unless they had some stroke of luck they would soon be glad to eat eggs raw, but he didn't see any point in saying this out loud. Susan said it was a pity they had eaten the sandwiches so soon. One or two tempers^③ very nearly got lost at this stage. Finally Edmund said:

“Look here. There's only one thing to be done. We must explore the wood. Hermits and knights-errant and people like that always manage to live somehow if they're in a forest. They find roots and berries and things.”

“What sort of roots?” asked Susan.

“I always thought it meant roots of trees,” said Lucy.

① portion: ['pɔ:ʃn] *n.* 部分; 命运; 分担的责任; 份; *v.* 分配; 命运注定。

② shrimp: [ʃrɪmp] *n.* 虾; 瘦小的人(物); *vi.* 钓虾。

③ temper: ['tempə(r)] *n.* 脾气; 性情; *vt.* 使缓和; 调和; 锻炼。



“Come on,” said Peter, “Ed is right. And we must try to do something. And it’ll be better than going out into the glare and the sun again.”

So they all got up and began to follow the stream. It was very hard work. They had to stoop under branches and climb over branches, and they blundered^① through great masses of stuff like rhododendrons^② and tore their clothes and got their feet wet in the stream; and still there was no noise at all except the noise of the stream and the noises they were making themselves. They were beginning to get very tired of it when they noticed a delicious smell, and then a flash of bright colour high above them at the top of the right bank.

“I say!” exclaimed Lucy. “I do believe that’s an apple tree.”

It was. They panted up the steep bank, forced their way through some brambles^③, and found themselves standing round an old tree that was heavy with large yellowishgolden apples as firm and juicy as you could wish to see.

“And this is not the only tree,” said Edmund with his

① blunder: ['blʌndə(r)] *n.* 大错; *v.* 失策; 绊倒; 弄糟。

② rhododendron: [rəʊdə'dendrən] *n.* 杜鹃花。

③ bramble: ['bræmbəl] *n.* 荆棘; 黑莓灌木丛。



mouth full of apple. “Look there—and there.”

“Why, there are dozens of them,” said Susan, throwing away the core of her first apple and picking her second. “This must have been an orchard—long, long ago, before the place went wild and the wood grew up.”

“Then this was once an inhabited^① island,” said Peter.

“And what’s that?” said Lucy, pointing ahead.

“By Jove, it’s a wall,” said Peter. “An old stone wall.”

Pressing their way between the laden branches^② they reached the wall. It was very old, and broken down in places, with moss and wallflowers^③ growing on it, but it was higher than all but the tallest trees. And when they came quite close to it they found a great arch which must once have had a gate in it but was now almost filled up with the largest of all the apple trees. They had to break some of the branches to get past, and when they had done so they all blinked because the daylight became suddenly much brighter. They found themselves in a wide open place with walls all round it. In

① inhabit: [ɪn'hæbɪt] *v.* 居住于; 占据; 栖息。

② branch: [brɑ:ntʃ] *n.* 分部; 部门; 分店; 分支; 树枝; *v.* 分岔; 分支。

③ wallflower: ['wɔ:lflaʊə(r)] *n.* [植] 桂足香; 桂香香水; 壁花 (社交场合因羞涩而受人冷落之人)。