

Ruth Finley
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Dear C. S. Lewis,

One night as I snuggled up to my dad for a bedtime story, I wasn't very hopeful that *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* would be different than any of the other books he read: far too long and boring. At first I was right; the story was just about four children who go and live with an old man. But just as my eyelids began to droop, Lucy walks through a wardrobe door and is standing in a snowy wood! Once the excitement began, there was no end. It was the first time I had been held captive by a book. (I've read your book several times.) There was something else though, in the world where animals talk and fauns, dryads and naiads inhabit the woods, there was something...real.

Until *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the only stories I enjoyed started out "Once upon a time" and ended "Happily ever after." They forced me to think that I had to have blond hair, blue eyes and be a gorgeous princess. But I'm not! I have brown hair and eyes, and I haven't even *seen* a real princess. They made me think that instead of solving my problems I needed to wait for my fairy godmother. In Narnia, however, the four children had to work together, grow and learn to solve their problems.

My favorite of the four children is Lucy. In the beginning Lucy was a frightened, little girl who was forced to leave her home and parents amid the London Blitz. She is not sure she'll see her mother or father again. Though I have not been separated from my parents, we are going through some tough times. My dad lost his job as a doctor, and he is fighting for his right to keep his hospital privileges. We have seven people in our family with two in college. We have been without an income for more than half a year. Your book gave me hope to comfort *my* siblings and parents. It encourages so much to see that if a frightened girl like Lucy can become a valiant queen, I can face this trouble in life as bravely as she can and that God will help me through it just as Aslan helped Lucy.

So thank you for showing me that using the trials in your life to grow is a whole lot better than waiting for a fairy godmother.

Your forever fan,
Ruth Finley

P.S. I also have been bewitched by Turkish Delight.

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