

THE LION, THE WITCH

EDMUND (*in great fear*). No, please... what are you going to do to me?

WITCH. The very same that your wretched brother did to my beloved Captain. (*She takes out a dagger and raises it above her head. Suddenly, offstage VOICES are heard.*)

VOICES (*off*). There they are! Quick! After them! (*Exc.*)

WITCH. What is that?

DWARF. The Forces of Aslan!

WITCH. We are outnumbered. Quick, we must disappear.

(*The WITCH and the DWARF quickly hide behind trees as the OTHERS enter in a rush.*)

ALL. Is he dead? He's all right. He only fainted. Where are the Witch and the Dwarf? Quick, let us get the boy back to Aslan. (*Exc. They lift EDMUND and carry him as they exit. The WITCH and DWARF slowly come out of hiding.*)

WITCH (*with anger and determination*). Very well, my old adversary — Aslan, Aslan... yes, I can speak the name, for he will soon be mine. The Deep Magic is on my side. Perhaps he has forgotten the Deep Magic, but I shall remind him. (*A pause.*) Dwarf, we must summon our allies to meet us as soon as possible. Call the Ghoul, the Boggles, the Ogres. Bring forth the Cruels, the Spectres, the Hags. This is war! And we shall fight with one aim in mind — to end forever the name of Aslan! (*They exit quickly.*)

(NOTE: An intermission may occur at this point if desired.)

(*ASLAN, PETER, SUSAN and LUCY enter.*)

PETER. I'm worried, Aslan. We should have gone with the others to help rescue Ed. (*He lifts his sword.*)

ASLAN. No, we cannot chance losing more children of Adam and Eve. I have every confidence in those who followed the wolf. (*The voices of a CROWD are heard offstage.*)

SUSAN. Listen... they're coming back!

LUCY. Is Edmund with them?

PETER. I can't tell... Yes, I think he is!

(*The OTHERS enter. They set EDMUND down. Unsteadily, he gains his footing. LUCY, SUSAN and PETER rush to him.*)

LUCY. Edmund!

SUSAN. What happened?

PETER. Ed, are you all right?

EDMUND. The Queen — I mean, the Witch — she — it was awful. (*He cries. ASLAN goes to him and gently puts his arm around him.*)

ASLAN. It's all right, my son. You are among friends now.

EDMUND (*in awe*). You're... Aslan?

ASLAN. Yes. Come with me for a moment. (*He takes EDMUND aside. In a soft voice, unheard by the OTHERS, he gently lectures to EDMUND.*)

1ST ANIMAL. What is he saying to the boy?

MRS. BEAVER. Whatever it is, it will be the right and proper thing.

LUCY. I wish I could hear.

MR. BEAVER. It's only for them to know.