

THE SHORT VERSION: Four children are sent to live with an elderly professor in the countryside. But when the youngest opens a wardrobe in his house, she discovers a magical country on the other side, where talking animals and mythical beasts suffer under the merciless reign of the White Witch. The children learn that they are the ones who have been prophesied to bring about the Witch's downfall. When the Witch learns that they have arrived, she is determined to destroy them. Even worse, one of the children betrays his siblings to her, and it starts to look as if the Witch's victory is inevitable. Only Aslan, the mysterious lion, has a chance of setting everything back to rights.

THE LONG VERSION:

Lucy, while playing hide and seek one day, discovers that her hiding spot in the wardrobe leads to a magical place. While there, she meets Mr. Tumnus, a faun, who Lucy agrees to have cocoa with, not knowing he is the White Witch's spy.

On the next rainy day, Edmund and Lucy enter the land of Narnia. Edmund finds himself faced with the White Witch, who offers him Turkish Delight. The Witch realizes that Edmund and his family are the children spoken of in a prophecy resulting in the Witch's demise. Trying to trick Edmund, the Witch offers to make him a prince, ruling over his brothers and sisters, if he brings them to the queen's castle.

Then Lucy and Edmund return with their brother and sister to meet Mr. Beaver and learn the truth about the White Witch's evil plans for Narnia. Mr. Beaver tells the children the curse of the White Witch can be broken with Aslan's help. As the group sets out to find Aslan, Edmund decides to go and seek the White Witch's castle. When he finds the White Witch, she is not happy to see him without his brother and sisters and they set off to find them, even as her curse is beginning to give way. The other children find Aslan and tell him about Edmund. They decide they must find the queen and retrieve Edmund.

When the two groups meet, there is a great battle. Aslan is slain, but a magic much deeper than the White Witch causes Aslan to return. All of the creatures under the Witch's curse are rescued. Edmund, in a moment of inspiration, breaks the Witch's wand in two. Narnia is freed. Edmund, Lucy, Peter, and Susan are crowned kings and queens and govern the land of Narnia for thirty years until one day they return through the Wardrobe to find themselves young children once again