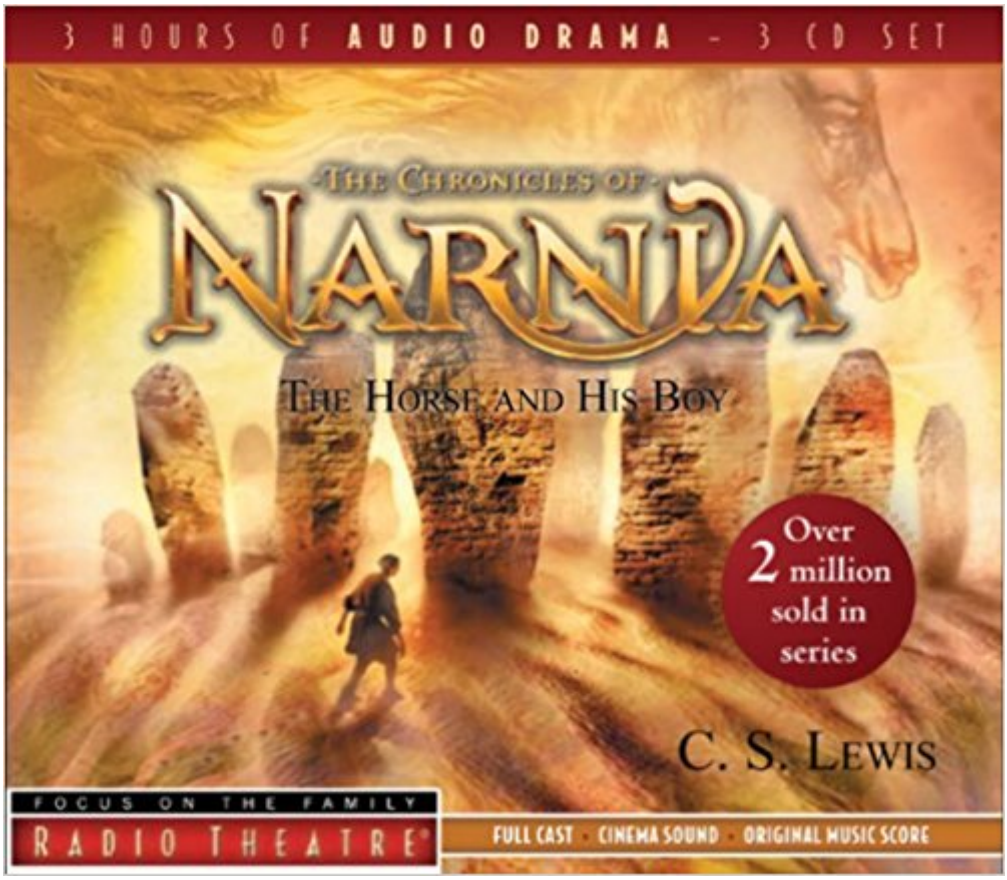
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The Horse And His Boy (Radio Theatre: Chronicles Of Narnia)



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Synopsis

Fully dramatized and produced with cinema-quality sound design and music, each title in Radio Theatre's Chronicles of Narnia is now available in a travel-friendly size. Hosted by Douglas Gresham, stepson of C. S. Lewis, these timeless classics have mesmerized millions around the world. Upon entering an enchanted world called Narnia, four ordinary children learn extraordinary lessons in courage, self-sacrifice, friendship, and honor. Brought to life in London by a cast of more than 100 actors, including award-winners Paul Scofield, David Suchet, and Ron Moody, the 7-part Chronicles of Narnia provides over 22 hours of exhilaring listening entertainment.A remarkable adventure for the imagination, The Horse and His Boy tells the story of a young boy named Shasta with a mysterious past, his escape from a life of slavery, and the talking horse who launches the adventure. As Shasta and Bree join forces, they find themselves escaping with a runaway princess and her talking horse, being pitted against a mad prince, and coming face to face with a terrifying lion. Faithfully adapted from C. S. Lewis' third novel in The Chronicles of Narnia, this Focus on the Family Radio Theatre presentation features some of England's finest actors, an award-winning production team, and film-quality sound effects.

Book Information

Series: Radio Theatre: Chronicles of Narnia
Audio CD
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Language: English
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Age Range: 8 - 12 years
Grade Level: 3 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 4-7-British narrator Alex Jennings does a smashing job with C. S. Lewis' delightful classic

(HarperCollins Children’s, 1994), the third story in the Narnia series. The tale begins with a poor slave boy named Shasta escaping from his adopted fisherman father who plans to sell him to a brutish stranger. A dignified talking war horse named Bree helps Shasta flee. Jennings plays Shasta with refreshing gentleness-listeners get a sense of the boy’s sensitivity and fear as he embarks on the adventure of his life. The talented narrator plays Bree with the right amount of dignity and haughtiness. This horse amuses with his witty observations about human behavior, and sense of equine superiority. The horse and his boy hope to travel north to Narnia, and encounter numerous adventures and strange characters, all beautifully portrayed by Jennings. The most memorable supporting characters are another escaped child, a tough girl named Aravis, and her talking mare called Hwin. Jennings brings these two adventure seekers to life with his crystal clear narration. Thanks to his skills as a storyteller, the action moves rapidly from one exciting episode to the next. Evocative music plays at the beginning and end of each side of the tape. This presentation will enchant young listeners and encourage them to read the other titles in the series. It is helpful for students to have read The Magician’s Nephew and The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe before enjoying this, but The Horse and the Boy stands alone as enthralling, self-contained entertainment.Brian E. Wilson, Evanston Public Library, ILCopyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

This is an all-cast dramatization of the third book in Lewis’s "Narnia" series. Those who have read all seven books will be better able to put this performance in context, but the uninitiated will enjoy this adventure tale in which, once again, intrepid children outwit nefarious grown-ups. Shasta is a young boy living in Calormene with a cruel man who claims to be his father. One night he overhears his "father" offering to sell him as a slave, so Shasta makes a break and sets out for the North. He meets Bree, a talking horse who becomes his companion. On their way they encounter Aravis, a high-born girl escaping an arranged marriage, and her talking horse. Despite their differences the children and horses learn to work together to reach the freedom they long for. In the meantime, they uncover a Calormene plot to conquer Narnia. The performances are energetic, and the characters easily distinguishable. This recording should not replace the book but rather should serve as an introduction to it. For family listening.ANann Blaine Hilyard, Lake Villa Dist. Lib., ILCopyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Of all of the beloved *The Chronicles of Narnia* books, my favorite since childhood has been *The Horse and His Boy*. The book is the closest to the idea of swash-buckling adventure that any young

boy wants to read. Sword fights, knights, and steel-clashing battles are all there, plus intrigue.The story starts with a young boy named Shasta who is doing chores for his fisherman father at their home in a country far south of Narnia. The story is said by Lewis to take place in the time of the reign of the Pevensies, alluded to at the end of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, during what is referred to in the books themselves as the "golden age" of Narnia.One evening, a wealthy Calormene lord (for Calormen was the country in which they lived) came for lodging, and Shasta was turned out with even less supper than he normally received. He was not well-brought up, as his father did not truly loved him, and so he had learned very few good habits. Because of this, just out of boredom, and no sense of guile, he eavesdropped. What he heard told him all he needed to know of his life at that time. Arsheesh was *not* his father. In fact, he didn't love him at all, but was going to sell him into slavery to the Calormene lord.Young Shasta wandered outside and went to the stable area to think. He murmured to the lord's horse that he wished the animal could somehow tell him if he was going to a good master, or one as bad as, or worse than, his "father". He was utterly shocked when the horse said that he could, in fact, talk, and that his lord was a horrible master. The horse went on to expalin that he had been kidnapped as a young foal from his home in the northern country of Narnia where animals were talking Beasts.He despaired of how to escape from his predicament when the horse (who gave his name as Bree) proposed an escape, noticing that Shasta's different looks from others of his countrymen was likely due to his having "northern blood", or being from Narnia or Archenland.During their escape, they eventually meet up with two fellow escapees, Aravis Tarkheena, a nobleman's daughter, and her talking horse Hwin. Aravis was desperate to escape from an arranged murder to an old, evil man who is an assistant to the Tisroc (the lord of the realm).Eventually, they learn of a plot to overthrow the northern countries, and must race against time to save the very countries, and very freedom, for which they are hoping to escape to.Beyond the high sword play and intrigue described, there are also important lessons taught. Above all, these pertain to the foolishness of pride and the sovereignty of God. These are linked together by C. S. Lewis in the story, and for good reason. Pride is, at heart, the elevation of self and denial of God. We decide that we are able to handle things ourselves, and don't need the Lord's help. Even those who *claim* to depend on God, and put him above themselves, often do not. In fact, we often look down on others and treat them as less than ourselves. It might be those who have less money, lower grades, less education, or any other of numerous areas that we see as "deficient".Sometimes, this is not because of the areas above. Sometimes, it is more insidious. We meet folks who are down in their sins, or grumpy, or in the midst of some other deep moral or personal difficulty. We look at them with derision, or sympathy, but false sympathy. Like the

Pharisee looking down on the tax collector in our Lord Jesus' parable in Luke 18:9-14. We are glad that we are not as "bad as they are", or we don't "have it as bad as they do". God has not made us suffer like *that*!This is what the characters in the story do to each other. Aravis the Human and Bree the Horse, look down on Shasta and Hwin. Shasta is of poor birth, and Hwin is not a great "warhorse" as Bree is. The ideas and views of Shasta and Hwin are viewed with contempt by Aravis and Bree, even when they are the views that are the ones that will work best.In the end, they see how they are not all that special in and of themselves, but special enough in the way that God, or Aslan, has chosen for them to be. Their pride and disdain for those of less supposed "nobility" or "worth" than themselves is laid to naught, and they are happier for it. They rejoice at the great plan of Aslan the Lion. Moreover, Shasta finds that the hard life he has suffered is something he has every reason to be upset about, but NOT to be bitter about. He has walked on the path that Aslan has chosen for him. The path that lead to him being the hero of the story.I have to admit that I did learn from this story myself. Indeed, I can see myself in all of the characters. I see my pride in Bree, but oddly mixed with Hwin's timidiy, and Shasta's self-doubt and self-pity. I am proud too often, but it is all bluster. When provoked, I am crushed like Hwin is, and I am filled with anger and self-pity as Shasta is. I feel angry for what I go through and have gone through, but I don't do what I need to go do get myself out of the situation. I am not even where Shasta is. My shyness, timidity, belief in my low worth, and other factors have put me here. I can see all of these fictional persons in my own self, and see a way out. With effort, I can put God first, put myself after Him where HE SEES FIT, and then, with His help, *do* what is necessary to better the situation.Before I close up this review. I want to deal with the perennial allegation that C. S. Lewis was being racist in this book. There are many arguments to point to against this ridiculous charge, but I will just point out the obvious fact that Aravis was a hero and racists don't do that, and moreover, part of the charge is purposeful dishonesty in support of relativism. Even those who acknowledge that Lewis was not racist by any standard defintion, still try to label him as such for daring to say that that countries of Narnia and Archenland, which are like the Christian countries he was used to in Great Britain and her one-time empire, are better culturally than other countries.This recognition that Lewis believed a Christian culture to be superior makes him a racist, in this pathetic reckoning. Well, I'm sorry, but if preferring one's culture to another, or one's country to another, or one's religion to another is racist, then man is naturally racist. He was a Christian, and an Englishman. As such, he favored the ideals and values inherent in these two characteristics of his own self.So for those who honestly think he was a racist, then the evidence is easily there that he wasn't. For those who think that he is a racist for viewing a Christian culture as superior than others, well, they are not worth the time. Ignore their

baiting remarks, pray for them, and treat them kindly.*The Horse and His Boy* has it all. Sword-fighting, action, adventure, good moral lessons and application are all there for the reader to enjoy and learn from. A superb book, and (though others may disagree with me on this) the very *best* of the seven *Chronicles of Narnia* books.Highly Recommended.

so Narnia isn't all about Peter and Susan and Edmund and Lucy, is it? I had read these books when I was younger but mostly forgot them except of course the lion, the witch and the wardrobe until the recent movies came out. this one is and the magicians nephew are just as good as the others and I wonder why they weren't made into movies. it explains a little about what happened during the reign of high king Peter before returning to earth and I think also sets up the war between Narnia and the Calormenes which is talked about in the next book Prince Caspian. speaking of which, I'm going to start that one right now! this is a fine book for kids and grown ups alike!

In this classical, C.S. Lewis takes us again in the imaginary rich Narnian lands. Shasta (the boy) is the main character, and I like the notion that he plays, of being predestined. Aslan is present, albeit he's not always shown as the kids-friendly lion we've known in previous book. Something that catches my attention is that normally humans posses horses, and not the other way around as the title suggests. I wonder exactly why Lewis chose that. The horse to me is a rather secondary character in the plot.All in all, a magnificent story for children and grown-ups alike.

I got this book because I couldn't find any more series to read so I figured I might give these a try. What was really lucky for me was that I decided this on the day that they all went on sale for around $2 a piece.This book doesn't completely follow the story of the four children but they are in it as the Kings and Queens of Narnia. This story actually follows the story of a boy named Shasta who finds a talking horse right outside his house. The horse, Bree, tells him all about Narnia and that starts their adventure to Narnia. They find another person and are then joined by Aravis, a girl, and Hwin, another Narnian horse, and continue to Narnia. When hears of a plan to attack they have to sprint across the desert to warn the Kings and Queens.I would recommend this book for anyone who likes adventure and fantasy books but wanting one that is a bit laid back at points.

The first two Narnia books were awesome. This one is very slow and drags on with boring description of various scenery. Yet it is starting to pick up a bit finally. I am hoping to get some Aslan going in the second half. Otherwise I would be tempted to skip it and go on to the next one.

Lewis' best Narnia book, hands-down! I've often wondered why I love this book best (and I've read the whole series several times and The Horse and His Boy several more times). It's very hard to pin down, but one strength is that it is all set in-world, letting us get to know the settings and characters more intimately, perhaps. It's a satisfying coming-of-age story, and has many small, satisfying details scattered throughout like chocolate chips in a cookie: descriptions of sumptuous meals or of the sea in the distance or of a difficult gallop across the desert. The Pevensie children have fun cameos.Such a fun, satisfying read!

An enjoyable tale of adventure that takes place mostly outside Narnia. A young boy finds courage and strength he didn't know he had, and in the end also finds his real family. The four children who became kings and queens in Narnia are not the central focus and the reader gets a view of the lands surrounding Aslan's country.

Somehow we could no longer find this book in our Narnia series. We simply don't ever want to be without a complete set. This particular book in the series answers for me, "Why isn't God fair?" Why does He treat people differently?

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