



A Reader's Guide to Caspian,
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The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian In Movie Theaters May 16, 2008

Before you see the new Narnia movie, and before you pick up *A Reader's Guide to Caspian: A Journey into C. S. Lewis's Narnia*, the new literary guide from C. S. Lewis scholar Marjorie Lamp Mead and literary specialist Leland Ryken, the coauthors want to lay down one rule:

“Curl up in a corner somewhere quiet and settle down to read C. S. Lewis’s delightful story of *Prince Caspian* on your own. And once you have enjoyed this classic tale in its superb and unique richness, then pick up this reader’s guide once again and join with us in conversation about story generally and the tale of *Prince Caspian* in particular.”

Following up on their first book, *A Reader's Guide Through the Wardrobe* (August 2005) about Lewis’s *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, Ryken and Mead offer a literary journey of this second book from C. S. Lewis’s *Chronicles of Narnia*. Together Ryken and Mead set up the context for Lewis’s writing of *Prince Caspian* and then walk you step by step through the literary details of Lewis’s work. Finally, they look at contemporary criticisms and reviews of *Prince Caspian*, and sketch out a brief biography on C. S. Lewis.

Ryken and Mead write: “This guidebook has two basic purposes—to introduce C. S. Lewis’s *Prince Caspian* and to give readers some assistance in the basic principles of reading literature. After our earlier volume on *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* was published (*A Reader's Guide Through the Wardrobe*, InterVarsity Press, 2005), we found that many of our readers responded as appreciatively to the general helps on the reading of story as they did to our specific focus on Lewis’s Narnian tale. We hope that will be true for this volume as well.”

“Like its predecessor, *A Reader's Guide Through the Wardrobe*, *A Reader's Guide to Caspian* . . . help[s] the reader to interpret their experience through an explanation of the literary art of the author, at the same time expanding and enhancing the reader’s understanding through thoughtful commentary and reflection. In other words, Mead and Ryken have succeeded in getting themselves out of the way of the reader’s encounter with the story while helping to broaden and deepen their own experience of reading the text.”

—Christopher W. Mitchell, Director,
 Marion E. Wade Center, Wheaton College
