

HERE
I AM!
series

C.S. LEWIS

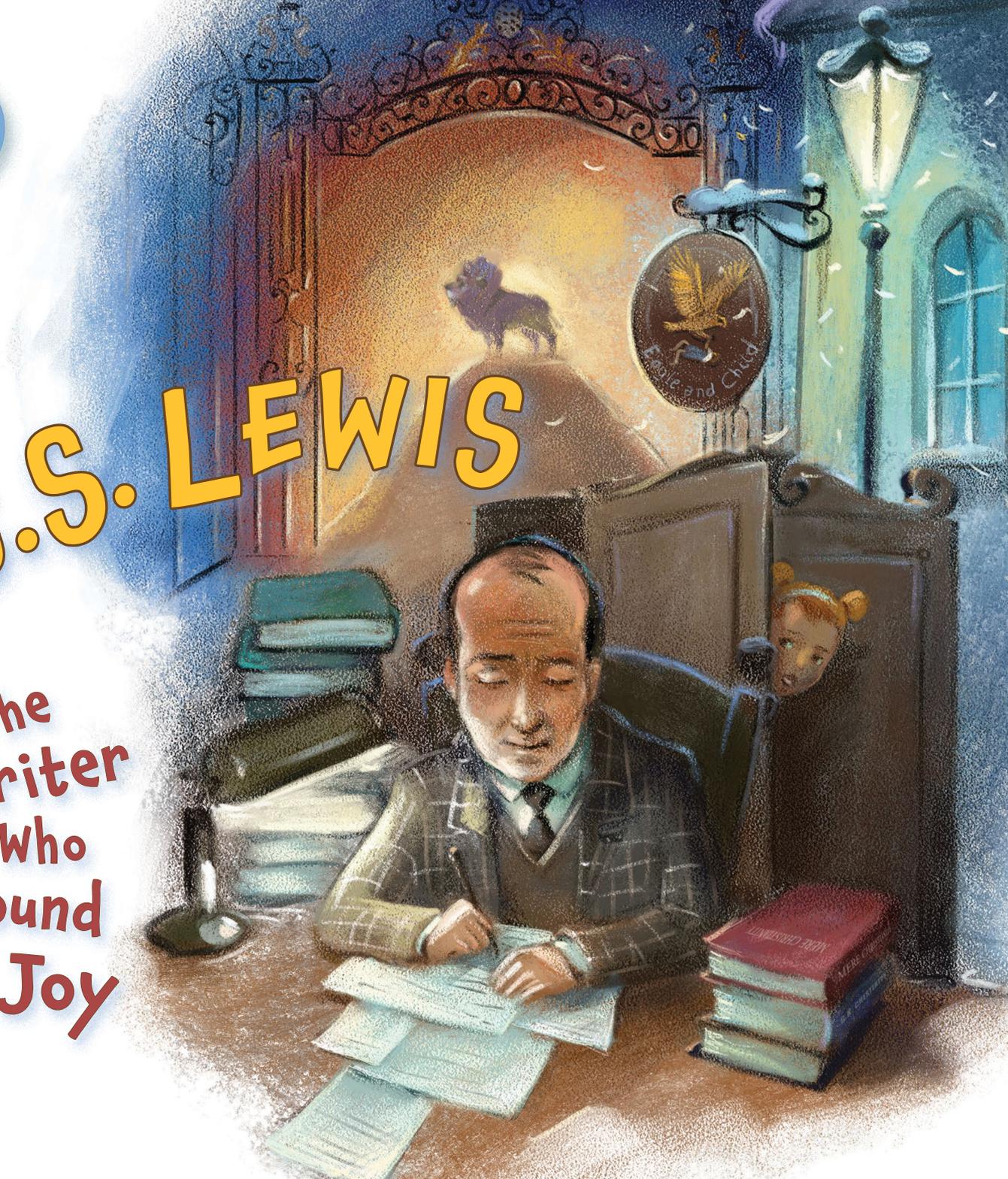
The
Writer
Who
Found
Joy



narrated by Gilbert the Owl

Daniel DeWitt

illustrated by Marcin Piwowarski



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BH
Kids
Brentwood TN

*Dedicated to Addilynn Joy,
the girl who stole her father's heart.*



*Can you find 20 lions inside
this book? Look carefully
from page 1 to 32—they are
many shapes and sizes!*

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Greetings!

I'm Gilbert the Owl. I get to tell you a story about a writer who spent half his life looking for joy and the other half telling the world about the joy he found in God.

Once upon a time, in a faraway land filled with green hills, craggy cliffs, and shiny seashores, there was a boy who lost his mom.

The boy's name was Clive Staples Lewis, but he didn't like his name all that much. When the neighborhood dog Jacksie died, Clive took that name for himself. He later shortened it to Jack, which is what most of his friends called him.



WARDROBE →

An illustration of a child in a red vest and white shirt walking through a hallway towards a man sitting in a green armchair reading a book. The hallway has a checkered floor, a large potted plant on the left, and two framed pictures of a lion's head on the wall. An arched doorway leads to a study with bookshelves. In the foreground, an owl with large blue and yellow eyes is looking towards the viewer.

Jack grew up with a big brother named Warnie and a dad named Albert. He lived in a huge house filled with long hallways, loads of books, and an old wardrobe made by his grandfather.

Jack's grandfather carved the wardrobe's wood and made the very nails that held it together. No wonder Jack never forgot it. He even used the wardrobe to tell an amazing story about four children who found a magical land. I'll get to that in a bit.

Questions popped into Jack's thoughts like popcorn. They popped up in books he read. They even popped up in conversations with friends—like the time Jack went for a late-night walk with his good friend J.R.R. Tolkien, who was a Christian. They talked about God for hours.



You might have heard of J.R.R. Tolkien. He wrote famous stories, too, although his were about happy hobbits and a smelly dragon.

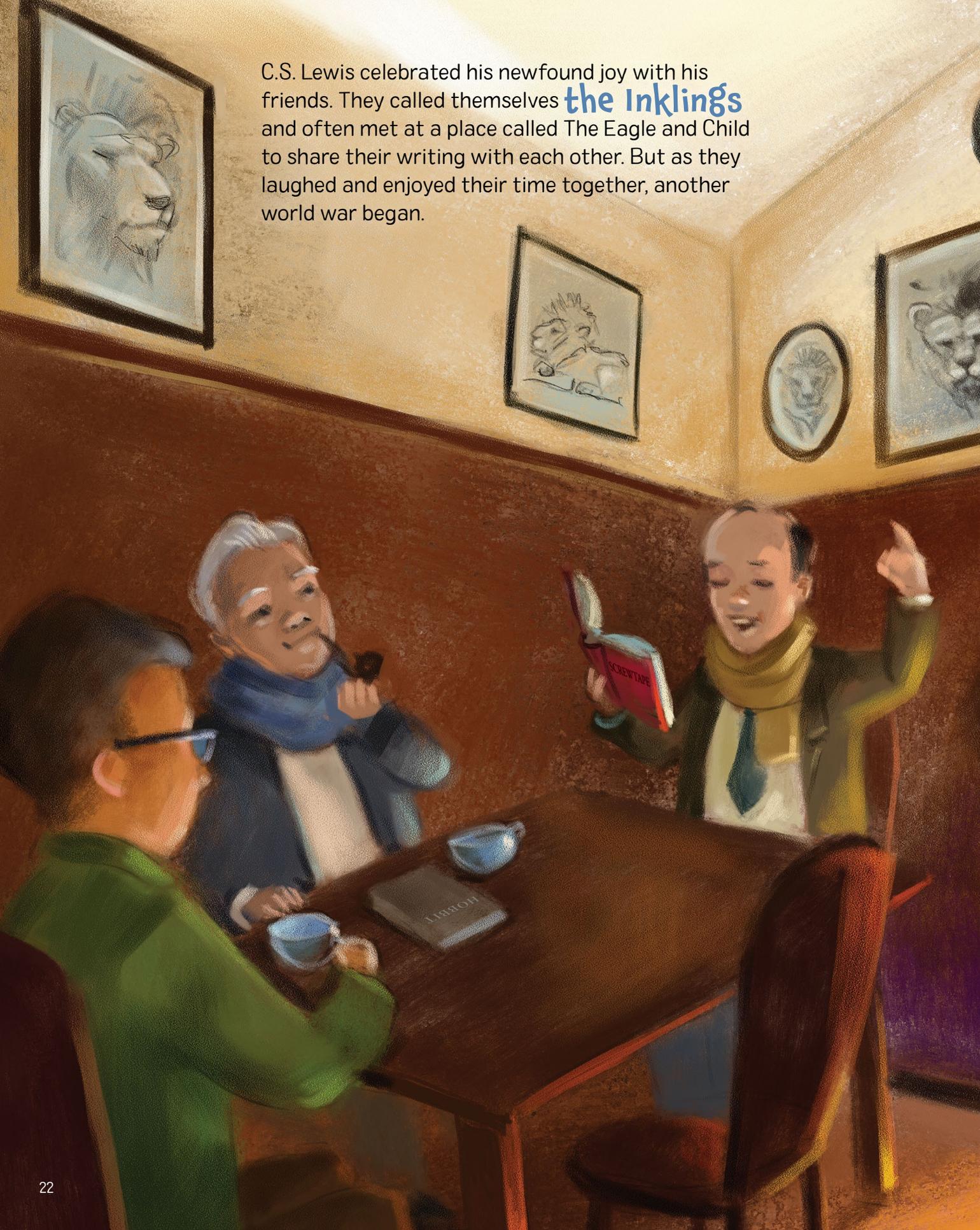


Their conversation made Jack think harder than he had thought in all his life. He couldn't deny it any longer. This young man who had lost faith in God as a child had found it again. He didn't have all the answers, but he knew one thing for certain:

he believed in God.

So he prayed and told God all about it.

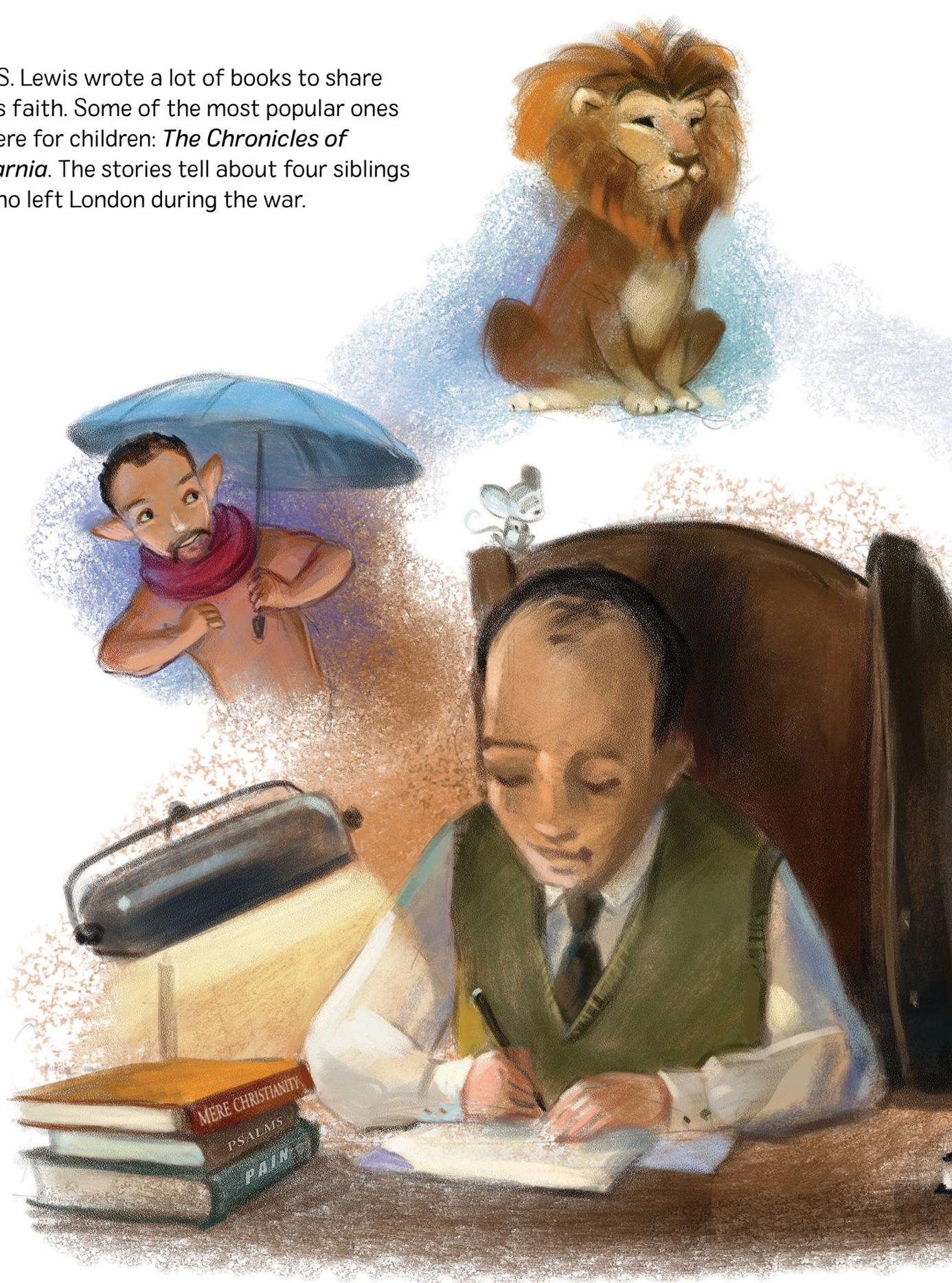
C.S. Lewis celebrated his newfound joy with his friends. They called themselves **the Inklings** and often met at a place called The Eagle and Child to share their writing with each other. But as they laughed and enjoyed their time together, another world war began.





Members of the Inklings came and went, but C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien stayed. The books they read to each other are still loved by hundreds of thousands of readers around the world.

C.S. Lewis wrote a lot of books to share his faith. Some of the most popular ones were for children: *The Chronicles of Narnia*. The stories tell about four siblings who left London during the war.



Their adventures begin when they enter a wardrobe and discover a magical world. There they meet a talking faun named Mr. Tumnus, some very polite beavers, a brave mouse, and, most importantly, a mighty lion named **Aslan**.



Does that wardrobe remind you of anything? Stories often give us pictures of writers' real lives. The children who found Narnia were much like those staying at C.S. Lewis's house during the war. And the beloved Aslan is a picture of how much the writer loved Jesus.

But C.S. Lewis didn't stop believing in God like he had after his mother died of cancer so many years before. He clung even more tightly to his belief, like you might cling to a blanket, a stuffed animal, or a parent when you're troubled at night.



Through good times and bad,
C.S. Lewis had learned to trust
God. His belief helped him make
sense of the world. It showed
him how to find joy even when
he felt stuck in sadness.





On a cool November day in 1963,
C.S. Lewis took his final breath.
I like to imagine that if you
were walking around Oxford
that day and listening closely,

**you might have
heard a lion roar.**

C.S. Lewis found joy by finding God. He was a truly
happy Christian. And I have no doubt—he would
want you to know you can find joy in God too.

The lion, the writer, and the search for JOY.

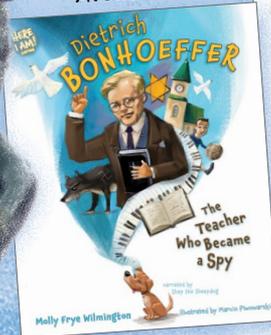
Not every author can write about theology, literature, and a talking lion and end up delighting readers for generations. But not every author is C.S. Lewis. This biographical picture book welcomes readers to get to know the man behind Aslan and the magical wardrobe and to experience the joy that fueled his imagination.

Young Clive Staples Lewis once loved wonder and play but was unable to trust God after the death of his mother. He left behind his belief in God and became a soldier and a professor. But he never stopped hoping to find true joy. This unique picture book, narrated by a bespectacled owl, tells the tale of how the man known as Jack embraced Christianity, was surprised by joy, and then used his words and writings to share that joy with the world.

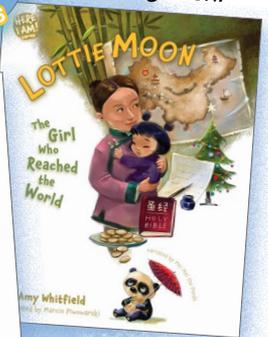


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Daniel DeWitt (PhD, Southern Seminary) is a senior fellow at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri, where he leads the Center for Worldview & Culture. DeWitt regularly teaches on C.S. Lewis for conferences and academic events. He is the author of several books, the host of the podcast Mere Caffeination, and regularly writes at Theolatte.com.

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