

The
CHRONICLES
of
NARNIA

C. S. LEWIS

THE LAST
BATTLE



The Last Battle

C. S. Lewis.

C. S. Lewis

Book Seven

The Last Battle

Illustrated by Pauline Baynes

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The Last Battle

Contents

Map

One

By Caldron Pool

Two

The Rashness of the King

Three

The Ape in Its Glory

Four

What Happened That Night

Five

How Help Came to the King

Six

A Good Night's Work

Seven

Mainly About Dwarfs

Eight

What News the Eagle Brought

Nine

The Great Meeting on Stable Hill

Ten

Who Will Go Into the Stable

Eleven

The Pace Quickens

Twelve

Through the Stable Door

Thirteen

**How the Dwarfs Refused to Be
Taken In**

Fourteen

Night Falls on Narnia

[Fifteen](#)

Further Up and Further In

[Sixteen](#)

Farewell to Shadowlands

[About the Author](#)

[Other Books in the Narnia Series](#)

[Credits](#)

[Copyright](#)

[About the Publisher](#)

Map



The Last Battle

One

BY CALDRON POOL

IN THE LAST DAYS OF NARNIA, FAR UP to the west beyond Lantern Waste and close beside the great waterfall, there lived an Ape. He was so old that no one could remember when he had first come to live in those parts, and he was the cleverest, ugliest, most wrinkled Ape you can imagine. He had a little house, built of wood and thatched with leaves, up in the fork of a great tree, and his name was Shift. There were very few Talking Beasts or Men or Dwarfs, or people of any sort, in that part of the wood, but Shift had one friend and neighbor who was a donkey called Puzzle. At least they both said they were friends, but from the way things went on you might have thought Puzzle was more like Shift's servant than his friend. He did all the work. When they went together to the river, Shift filled the big skin bottles with water but it was Puzzle who carried them back. When they wanted anything from the towns further down the river it was Puzzle who went down with empty panniers on his back and came back with the panniers full and heavy. And all the nicest things that Puzzle brought back were eaten by Shift; for as Shift said, "You see, Puzzle, I can't eat grass and thistles like you, so it's only fair I should make it up in other ways." And Puzzle always said, "Of course, Shift, of course. I see that." Puzzle never complained, because he knew that Shift was far cleverer than himself and he thought it was very kind of Shift to be friends with him at all. And if ever Puzzle did try to argue about anything, Shift would always say, "Now, Puzzle, I understand what needs to be done better than you. You know you're not clever, Puzzle." And Puzzle always said, "No, Shift. It's quite true. I'm *not* clever." Then he would sigh and do whatever Shift had said.

One morning early in the year the pair of them were out walking along the shore of Caldron Pool. Caldron Pool is the big pool right under the cliffs