In The Silver Chair (Narnia) by C. S. Lewis, C.S. Lewis has once again worked his magic in this sixth book of The Chronicles of Narnia. This master of fantasy brings us ever farther in an unforgettable world filled with adventure and mystery.

Features:
* ISBN13: 9780060234959
* Condition: New
* Notes: BRAND NEW FROM PUBLISHER! 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. Tracking provided on most orders. Buy with Confidence! Millions of books sold!

My Personal Review:
This is an incredibly important book.

For some reason, this was the one Narnia book I could never get all the way through as a boy even though I was an otherwise voracious reader. I'm not really sure why. I just finished reading it to one of my own sons and he seemed to enjoy it quite a bit. I wish now that I'd read it all the way through a long time ago. This is nothing less than a children's introduction to Christian spiritual warfare, in some ways far more general and comprehensive than Lewis Screwtape Letters which covers the same subject for adults.

In order of authorship and according to the original ordering of the series The Silver Chair is number 4, coming between The Voyage of the Dawn Treader and The Horse and his Boy. Under the current numbering by the internal chronology of the narrative, its second to last. In many ways neither ordering is really the most useful. In broad terms, the books divide thematically between allegorical (or better, fanciful) representations of salvation history, and guides to Christian living. Into the first category fall
The Magicians Nephew, The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, Prince Caspian, and The Last Battle. The second category has The Horse and his Boy, The Voyage of the Dawn Treader, and The Silver Chair. I believe this last is the most significant.

Lewis himself always denied his works were intended to be strictly allegorical, and in the case of the salvation history volumes this may well be the case. Element by element assignment from reality to story usually breaks down once you get past Aslan as Christ, and even where characters or events are not made to do double duty at different points (such as Edmund in Lion) its not alway possible to carry out this operation reliably. (Applicability, as Lewis friend J.R.R. Tolkien termed it, is another matter.) But The Silver Chair is far more nearly allegorical than the others, with symbolism thats crystal clear. This makes the lessons it teaches, in the context of a high fantasy adventure, all the more accessible.

It would take a long essay to explore all the lessons in this book so Im not going to do that here, but theyre not difficult to identify for an adult with a moderately thorough Christian education. Lewis packs an incredible number of subjects into this short book, everything from repentance and forgiveness to the basics of the theology of the image of God in our human nature. (Although in other works Lewis has promulgated what is, to Eastern Christian eyes, a faulty Augustinian Pneumatology, his treatment of the image here makes me think he must have been familiar with at least some Eastern Church Fathers.)

Lewis also anticipates, and armors his readers against, modern trends already evident in his time such as the despair engendered by the prevailing nihilism, extreme materialism, secular humanism, and others. He was very much spot-on in indentifying those ideas that would come to present the greatest temptations to Christian believers in the decades to follow, and this work, among others, reflects that. This means its useful and relevant even today, over 50 years since it was written.

I now regret deeply that I never gave this book the attention it deserved when I was younger. I dont know, of course, how much of a difference it would have made, but it might have made at least some. As difficult as it is these days to be a Christian, no help can be neglected. If youre a parent of a Narnia reader, do what you can to make sure they dont skip this one. If you *are* a Narnia reader, The Silver Chair is worth your full attention and then some. Its a fun adventure too.

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