

# BOOKS BY C.S. LEWIS

Lewis wrote in a wide variety of genres. His first work was *Dymer*, a long narrative poem. His early works were in the area of Medieval and Renaissance literature, published by the university presses of Oxford and Cambridge.

On becoming a Christian he wrote a lot of popular theology. Some of this arose from sermons and talks on the BBC. These were published by Geoffrey Bles.

He wrote some science fiction, some more poetry and essays on ethics, philosophy, education and even a tract for the Anti Vivisectionist Society.

Probably he is most known for the Narnia stories. These were also published by Geoffrey Bles.

After his death in 1963 his unpublished manuscripts were edited by Walter Hooper, Lewis's literary secretary at the very end of Lewis's life.

## POETRY

### **DYMER**

**Dent 1926**

A long narrative poem, begun when he was 17, and published a decade later, under the pseudonym Clive Hamilton. Hamilton was his mother's maiden name. It follows the adventures of Dymer from his birth in a totalitarian state to his death at the hands of a monster.

This monster was conceived by a sexual encounter between Dyer and an unseen woman who comes to him in the night at an empty mansion that he comes across in a forest.

**\*POEMS**

**Bles 1964 edited by Walter Hooper 130pp**

Shorter poems arranged under headings such as: The Hidden Country, The Backward Glance, A Larger World, Further Up & Further In.

**\* NARRATIVE POEMS**

**Bles 1969 edited by Walter Hooper 178pp**

These are long narrative poems, including his first published work, Dyer. Others are Launcelot, The Nameless Isle and The Queen of Drum.

## **LITERARY CRITICISM:**

**\* THE PERSONAL HERESY: A CONTROVERSY**

**Oxford 1939 150pp**

Alternate chapters by C.S. Lewis and E.M.W. Tillyard. Lewis attacks the widely held belief that poetry is, or should be, the expression of the poet's personality.

**\*A PREFACE TO PARADISE LOST**

**Oxford 1942 143pp**

This defence of the Epic as a literary form resolves itself into a plea that ritual and splendour, and joy itself, have a right to exist.

**\* THE ABOLITION OF MAN**

**Bles 1943 64pp**

Reflections on education with special reference to the teaching of English in the upper forms of schools.

**\* ENGLISH LITERATURE IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY EXCLUDING DRAMA**

**Oxford 1944 696pp**

**Book I: LATE MEDIEVAL**

The close of the middle ages in Scotland and England

**Book II: 'DRAB'**

Religious Controversy and Translation, Drab Age Verse, Drab and transitional Prose

('Drab' means will little metaphor and often refers to the lyrics of a moving song, where the accompaniment provides the emotional excitement)

**Book III: 'GOLDEN'**

Sidney and Spenser, Poetry and Prose in the Golden period

**\* THE ALLEGORY OF LOVE**

**Oxford 1958 378pp**

A Study in Medieval Tradition, and courtly love. It includes chapters on *The Romance of the Rose* and *The Faerie Queene*.

**\* STUDIES IN WORDS**

**Cambridge 1960 240pp**

Nature, Sad, Wit, Free, Sense, Simple, Conscious, Conscience

**\* AN EXPERIMENT IN CRITICISM**

**Cambridge 1961 143pp**

Lewis's experiment is to judge books not by their intrinsic worth but by the way men and women read them.

**\* THE DISCARDED IMAGE**

**Cambridge 1964 232pp**

An introduction to Medieval and Renaissance literature. Includes chapters on The Heavens, The Earth and The Human Soul.

**\* SPENSER'S IMAGES OF LIFE**

**Cambridge 1967 144pp**

Much in Spenser must be seen as 'pageant' and the scenes and figures in these pageants must be read with a full knowledge of neo-platonism as well as Renaissance iconography.

# **POPULAR THEOLOGY**

## **\* THE PROBLEM OF PAIN**

**Bles 1940 148pp**

How can an all powerful, and all loving, God allow pain. Chapters on Divine Omnipotence and Goodness, Human Wickedness, The Fall, Human and Animal Pain, Heaven & Hell.

## **\* THE WEIGHT OF GLORY**

**SPCK 1942 23pp**

In this small tract, Lewis contrasts Unselfishness with Love, arguing that these days most Christians would cite unselfishness as the central theme of Christianity. But he points out that unselfishness involves self-denial, while love focuses on the other.

## **\* BROADCAST TALKS**

**Bles 1942 62pp**

Scripts of Lewis's wartime talks on the BBC.

Right and Wrong as a Clue to the Meaning of the Universe

What Christians Believe

## **\* THE GREAT DIVORCE**

**Bles 1946 118pp**

A fantasy about Heaven and Hell. Hell is a dark, dirty, dreary industrial town while Heaven is a bright vibrant garden. There is a daily bus service that leaves Hell every

morning and returns from Heaven every evening. Those who catch the bus from Hell, believing that they ended up in the wrong place by some mistake, find Heaven too bright. The air is so pure their diseased lungs can't cope and the grass is so real it cuts their feet. They can't wait to get back to the comfort of Hell!

**\* MIRACLES**

**Bles 1947 220pp**

**\* MERE CHRISTIANITY**

**Bles 1952 177pp**

A revised and amplified edition of Broadcast Talks, Christian Behaviour and Beyond Personality (first steps in the doctrine of the Trinity). The book is a reasoned account of the Christian Gospel, much as a mathematician might write. His mother had gained a first class honours degree in mathematics so her logical genes found expression in her son's writing.

**\* SURPRISED BY JOY**

**Bles 1955 224pp**

This traces his early life and, in particular his journey from Atheism to Theism and then on to Christianity. (It has nothing to do with Joy Davidman whom he met and married years later!)

**\* REFLECTIONS ON THE PSALMS**

**Bles 1958 152pp**

Chapters on Judgement, death, Connivance, Nature, Praising as seen from the Psalms. About half of the 150 Psalms are referred to specifically.

**\* THE FOUR LOVES**

**Bles 1960 160pp**

Affection, Friendship, Eros, Charity

**\* THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS**

**Bles 1961 157pp**

Supposed letters from Screwtape, a senior devil, to Wormwood, an apprentice devil offering advice on how to corrupt his patient. Some editions include *Screwtape Proposes A Toast* an after-dinner speech.

**\* A GRIEF OBSERVED**

**Faber 1961 60pp**

When his wife, Joy Davidman, died of bone cancer, Lewis was severely cut up and almost lost his faith. As a way of letting off his anger to God he wrote about his feelings in an old exercise book. A friend persuaded him to publish it anonymously. Many of his friends gave him a copy saying, "I think this might help you." He didn't have the heart to tell them that *he* was the author!

**\* CHRISTIAN REFLECTIONS**

**Bles 1967 edited by Walter Hooper**

Includes chapters on Christianity & Literature, Church Music and Modern Theology.

## **ESSAYS AND TALKS**

**\* TRANSPOSITION AND OTHER ADDRESSES**

**Bles 1949 64pp**

Sermons and Talks

Transposition, The Weight of Glory, Membership, Learning in Wartime, The Inner Ring.

**\* THEY ASKED FOR A PAPER**

**Bles 1962 211pp**

Includes sermons (Transposition and The Weight of Glory) and talks (The Authorised Version of the Bible, Hamlet, Kipling, Walter Scott).

**\* OF OTHER WORLDS**

**Bles 1966 edited by Walter Hooper 148pp**

**ESSAYS:** include On Stories, Writing For Children, Literary Criticism, Science Fiction.

**STORIES:** include The Shoddy Lands, Ministering Angels, Poems of Things Unknown, After Ten Years



**\* A MIND AWAKE**

**Bles 1968 edited by Clyde Kilby 252pp**

Essays, including The Nature of Man, The Moral World, The Bible, The Trinity, Sin, Christian Commitment, Heaven & Hell, Love & Sex, Nature, The Post-Christian World.

**\* UNDECEPTIONS**

**Bles 1971 edited by Walter Hooper 285pp**

Essays on Theology and Ethics

**\* FERN-SEED AND ELEPHANTS**

**Fontana 1975 edited by Walter Hooper 125pp**

The book takes its name from one of the essays. Others include Membership, Learning in Wartime, Forgiveness, Historicism, The World's Last Night, Religion & Rocketry and The Efficacy of Prayer.

# **LETTERS**

**\* LETTERS TO MALCOLM CHIEFLY ON PRAYER**

**Bles 1964**

22 actual letters to a friend

**\* LETTERS OF C.S. LEWIS**

**Bles 1966 edited by Warnie (C.S.'s older brother)  
308pp**

These are letters that C.S. Lewis wrote to many people. The book also includes a memoir by Warnie. Major Lewis was an author in his own right, in the area of military history.

**\* MARK vs. TRISTRAM**

**Privately printed edited by Walter Hooper 10pp**

Correspondence between Lewis and Owen Barfield (one of the Inklings)

# **NARNIA**

**Illustrated by Pauline Baynes**

**\* THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE**

**Bles 1950 173pp**

Theological theme: Death & Resurrection

**\* PRINCE CASPIAN**

**Bles 1951 195pp**

**\* THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER**

**Bles 1952 223pp**

**\* THE SILVER CHAIR**

**Bles 1953 217pp**

**\* THE HORSE AND HIS BOY**

**Bles 1954 199pp**

**\* THE MAGICIAN'S NEPHEW**

**Bodley Head 1955 183pp**

Theological theme: Creation

**\* THE LAST BATTLE**

**Bodley Head 1956 184pp**

Theological Theme: The Second Coming

**ORDER OF THE BOOKS:**

<b>BOOK</b>	<b>Public'n</b>	<b>Earth Time</b>	<b>Narnia Time</b>
WARDROBE	1950	1940	1000
CASPIAN	1951	1941	2303
VOYAGE	1952	Aug 1942	2306
SILVER	1953	Oct 1942	2356
HORSE	1954	1940	1014
NEPHEW	1955	1900	1
BATTLE	1956	1949	2555

## **SCIENCE FICTION**

**\* OUT OF THE SILENT PLANET**

**Bodley Head 1938 182pp**

Dr Ransom is kidnapped and transported to another planet. Lewis writes partly in the manner of H.G. Wells but is not so certain about the beneficence of science and the importance of the human race.

**\* PERELANDRA**

**Bodley Head 1943 256pp**

Ransom is transported to a world of sweet smells and delicious taste, where beasts are friendly and naked beauty is unashamed – a new Garden of Eden.

**\* THAT HIDEOUS STRENGTH**

**Bodley Head 1945 476pp**

Ransom returns from his planetary travels and now lives just outside an English University town.

## **OTHER NOVELS**

**\* THE PILGRIM'S REGRESS**

**Bles 1933 199pp**

This is loosely based on Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*

**\* TILL WE HAVE FACES**

**Bles 1956 320pp**

A retelling of the classical myth of Psyche and Cupid. This was written while Lewis was married and it is said that Joy Davidman provided some of the inspiration.