

Lucy
Aslan
Susan

ASLAN intently. *He becomes aware of their presence. They try to hide.*

ASLAN. Children—children. Why did you not go with the others?

LUCY. We're very worried, Aslan.

SUSAN. We're sure something dreadful is going to happen.

LUCY. May we stay with you, Aslan?

SUSAN. Please?

ASLAN *(after a pause)*. Yes...yes. I will be happy to have your company for a few moments. But when I tell you to leave, you must.

LUCY. Oh, we will.

SUSAN. Thank you. Thank you. *(He turns from them and drops to his knees wearily.)*

LUCY. Aslan! Dear Aslan, what is wrong?

SUSAN. Are you ill, dear Aslan?

ASLAN. No. I am sad and lonely. Lay your hands on my mane so that I can feel you close to me. *(LUCY and SUSAN kneel with ASLAN and stroke his mane. After a few moments, he rises.)* Now, children, you must leave me alone at this time. If you wish to stay nearby, you may. But you must hide.

LUCY. But, Aslan—

ASLAN. Under no circumstances can you let yourselves be seen. *(Loud, strange noises are heard offstage.)*

SUSAN *(alarmed)*. What is that?

VOICES *(off)*. Here is the place! Do you see him? We will end his visit here! He is ours! *(Etc.)*

ASLAN. Farewell, my children. Leave this instant.

LUCY. But we're afraid you'll—

ASLAN. Hide quickly. Now!