

Mr. & Mrs. Beaver, Unicorn, Centaur

MR. BEAVER. The broken dam will just have to wait.

MRS. BEAVER. Yes. This other business is much more important. (Looking offstage.) Look, there's the Unicorn. We will tell him.

MR. BEAVER. Mr. Unicorn. Over here if you will.

(UNICORN enters.)

UNICORN. Oh, good. It's you. I was afraid it was that awful Fenris Ulf.

MR. BEAVER. He left some time ago.

MRS. BEAVER. Dragging the unfortunate Mr. Tumnus with him.

UNICORN. How do you know?

MR. BEAVER. They passed right by us. We hid behind the dam.

MRS. BEAVER. Fenris Ulf didn't see us, but Mr. Tumnus did. And he dropped this so we would find it. (She holds up Lucy's handkerchief.)

UNICORN. What is it?

MR. BEAVER (taking the handkerchief from MRS. BEAVER). We're not sure, but we believe it belongs to a human.

MRS. BEAVER. It has the smell of a Daughter of Eve.

UNICORN. You think that a human has been here?

MR. BEAVER. Yes, and that Tumnus let her go. That's why he was in such trouble with Fenris Ulf.

UNICORN. So where is this human now-if there was one?

MRS. BEAVER. Who knows?

UNICORN. If she's smart, she left Narnia the minute she had the chance. Never to return.

MR. BEAVER. Or to return with others.

UNICORN. Others? You mean humans?

MRS. BEAVER. Perhaps. Remember the prophesy.

UNICORN (thinking out loud). Two Sons of Adam-and two Daughters of Eve. Is it possible?

MR. BEAVER. Who knows? We'll just have to wait and see.

(CENTAUR enters.)

CENTAUR. Listen! I just heard the most wonderful news. They say He has arrived in these parts.

MRS. BEAVER. Our King?

CENTAUR. Yes. And that He is on the move. They say he will likely appear at the Stone Table any time now.

UNICORN. This is wonderful news.

MRS. BEAVER. Mr. Centaur, we are expecting the arrival of children-human children. They could be here at any minute. If they reach Him, the prophesy will be fulfilled.

CENTAUR. But what if the witch gets to them first?

MRS. BEAVER. We must protect the children from the moment they arrive until they reach the Stone Table.

UNICORN. And keep them hidden from the witch.

MR. BEAVER. Exactly.

CENTAUR. But which of us can help them? They might be afraid of me.

UNICORN. They might not trust me. Unicorns are only make-believe in their world.

CENTAUR. Mr. and Mrs. Beaver, will you help them - protect them from danger?

MR. BEAVER. But-but-erine voices of LUCY, EDMUND, PETER and SUSAN are heard off.)

VOICES (off). It's this way. Come on. I still don't believe you. It's here somewhere. Look for the lamppost. (Etc.)

CENTAUR. They're coming. Will you please take care of them?

MR. BEAVER. But - but-

MRS. BEAVER. Of course. I'll prepare some food for dinner. (She exits.)

UNICORN. Mr. Centaur, let us go and see if the good news you have heard is true.

CENTAUR. Yes, let us go immediately. (He and the UNICORN exit.)

MR. BEAVER (to himself). But-but-what if the children are afraid of me, too-or don't trust me? I'd better hide until I can get my wits together. (He exits.)