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The here okay so just about the refurbishing a fairy tales.

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I, I, I fell in love with Lewis and Tolkien well before college. It took a mandatory reading in my undergraduate to make me read McDonald, and after I was mandated him.

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I fell in love with him. So, I.

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When you love something you want to share it and the best two chances you have of sharing is when my husband was courting me I thought I could get him to read and he made it about halfway through and put it down that shows you how hard it is to read

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some of his very stuff, and then I tried with my children who are now all in their 20s to do storytime you know so you can mandate storytime. And I found as I read.

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I had to update the language, I had to drop the sermons, and I had to skip the poetry. So, you know, screw it back to Narnia so they are all in Narnia read to them but I had to I had to drop my McDonald.

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So what I've done is I have just as a just for all honesty, I write under a pen name, and get my screen to go down. But what I've done is that work I do with my kids I've now flipped and made available.

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So, if you want to see easier to read versions, my goals for this, this, the seminar would be Hey, read McDonald is awesome.

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But my second would be if you can't, I'll give you an option for maybe something's a little easier to read. And. And thirdly read them both. And if you're a writer.

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He's completely on the public domain.

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So, and I have to say I did check with a lawyer, to make sure before I dove in, and I would recommend if you decide to take this stuff, because it's the front end of all my books I always give complete credit where this stuff comes from.

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So, I just let it go listen to him go read him.

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But if you can't spread the word to your friends and family. That's why I did what I did, and I have since then gone past Prufrock and some other old fairy tales that because I got on a roll.

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But is this is really my kids would call it maybe fanfiction ahead cannon I don't even know what the terms means but all the time. but this is just a gratitude.

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I ran out of gratitude.

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So let me start with McDonald, he wrote his first fantastical novel in 1857 and his last one in 1895, and I'm focusing on Lilith.

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He's a Victorian writer, he's Scottish so whoever translated them had to translate them out of a really deep brogue. I still have these books. I still have them marked up.

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And let me see what my goals are here.

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So, he wrote 53 books, seven of them can be considered fantasy, fantasy, and if you all heard the golden key the back the north wind the wise woman there's more known than as others, but these are the two assigned to me in, in.

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In my undergrad, and that's what this was made me fall in love, if you read them you can see where CS gets you know he said that fantastic he is baptized his imagination and it's pretty obvious.

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So,

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This is an interesting aside, and I made a little photoshopping that's that's George in the middle with a little bit of a Hero, Hero Halo, and you can see that Lewis looks upon him as a hero, get those words straight now talking was of two minds, he started

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off, you know, kind of, yeah, this this guy writes well and he has some things too often, but in about, oh it was 1967, he was asked to write a foreword on the golden key, and he sat down to look at McDonald again.

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And it was basically frustrated by him like a lot of people get.

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And so here he's asking. He's asked to look at a book 100 years old, and it actually, it, it inspires him to write with a major and if you're poking geek that's my favorite of all his, his short stories, but he tried to write golden key, set it aside

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never finished the interview, I mean he tried to write an introduction to the golden key because they were republishing McDonald the time.

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And he got frustrated with him like a lot of people do and wrote with Smith wouldn't major instead. So that's a little aside these guys are, he's of mixed minds about McDonald.

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Whereas, if you read the introduction to these.

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They're the same CS Lewis introduction to the two different books, but you know Lewis is like he baptized my imagination and I don't imagine I ever wrote anything without quoting from him, but let's just say it was another one of those disagreements between

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talking Lewis.

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Okay, so before.

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McDonald wrote all these amazing stories, he, he tried to be a preacher, and I'm going to touch a little bit on his theology because he got him into trouble but also inspired and also inspired a lot of what he wrote, especially, especially Lilith, and

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He kept getting in trouble with his beacons for universalism, which is amazing because he came out of a harsh Calvinistic Presbyterian Scottish thing and so he when he preaches, it's a much more open theology.

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And later, you know, masonry is all the rage Transcendentalism is all the rage everybody's, you know, is, in fact, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and he, the front matter of Lewis, he's pointing throat, so you can kind of see and I'll touch more on his influences

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at the time, but his universalism, which is a basic theology that everyone who's going to be saved, is much more in touch with with St. Gregory of Nisa, so he couldn't give a job as a preacher, but it's not the kind of universalism that it's okay everybody's

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going to be saved in the end and we're all, you know, live happily ever after.

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He had more of a universalism that everybody's going to repent, and it's going to be a brutal hard long repentance, which I only bring up the theology because in Lilith.

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Some people put down Lilith because you know there are more of a conservative mind but it's it's kind of a brutal repentance he takes takes his main character and puts her like through 12 chapters of repentance.

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And it's, it's just really magically done.

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So let me give you a little context for who he was, especially if he's not really touched McDonald much. So to put it in context, Melly Mary Shelley, she wrote Frankenstein and 1818 So, and then you have Ralph Waldo who gives them this grand tour in America

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when he you know he reaches finally a popularity after long, long hard impoverished days as a writer. He goes to America, Emerson not only gives him a grand tour and a speaking engagement at on speaking engagement and he was kind of talk of the town.

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He got him, he got an offer for a preacher position in a Universalist Church and McDonald turned it down because he's just kind of an enigma he drew from both sides.

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So he has this tour in 1870 post Civil War.

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These lauded and loved, but he goes back to Scotland. Now, and continues here, ended up having 11 children which will touch on as well but I touch on, just for context.

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A Darwin had had a published version of species in the midst of, well, before it because his Lilith is 1895 and Origin of Species is 1859. I touch on it because in toward the end of Lilith, there's a sense of reaching paradise.

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And there's this funny tongue in cheek where McDonald points out that there are no monkeys, but you kind of sense that he's not really threatened by it but it just helps put the, the pot into context.

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He also mentioned, there's these demonic creatures that have the, the wind Sidon, open, open, open minds and I thinking, golly, I wonder if post comes to mind there especially since there's such a prevalence there's this character that's a raven.

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So I just threw po in as a possible possible influence.

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A possible influence. Okay, so I want to touch on as well that okay there's throw Walden Pond because there's this beautiful, beautiful section pulled from that, in the beginning of little so clearly it's on his mind.

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And lastly, this group picture I have on the far right, that in the middle is not McDonald on the far left is McDonald's wife and either somebody Donald's kids but that's Lewis Carroll.

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Lewis Carroll and a golf, we're in fact, Alison Wonderland was read to McDonalds kids kind of as a test case and probably wouldn't ever come to publish it macdonald had said you need to flush this out.

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So you'll see some of that Who are you, they just borrowed back and forth. So this is kind of a context of where he is writing. And so when I lots of criticism comes with McDonald for his style, but he's really a pioneer, he's, he's a pioneer.

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He broke open a world writing that there was nobody sit down and go Hey Have I gone too far.

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How should I say this better how do I communicate these things.

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You have to kind of give them a lot of grace, because he he went into territories and lived his life, very differently to try to between these two worlds of the transcendental meditation and not meditation transcendental ism, and the this harsh Calvinism

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that he was brought up in. So it's really, he puts these strands together and brings a spiritual world alive that is very very new and we we owe him.

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His his gold mind, that our writers go back to again and again. But I want to make the case that he actually can stand up if we just kind of leave his plots alone and, and knock off some of the dust.

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So I think that covers that, okay.

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I want to touch on who Lilith is for a little bit.

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As not my doctoral thesis, I could have, there's a lot more to be done so let me just give you a broad, broad

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idea of this character. this was pretty ancient.

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She comes to be mentioned first in the Epic of Gilgamesh. Unfortunately you can't pin down the dates, it's within these this thousand year window, we find a.

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And I'm also very dependent on on the translators.

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But Gilgamesh is asked by a sister to rescue her.

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Her garden, which is you know very like eaten.

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But you want this character won't leave my tree. So there's a bird in the nest. And then there's Loulis inside the tree, and the only thing we really get of Lilith is she smashed her home and fled to the wild and uninhabited places.

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So, our first census least just kind of a wandering spirit in the, in the wilderness. I wanted to ask. Again, I love being interactive I'm talking too fast, people tell me that but it would you.

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Anybody want to guess how many times the little characters actually mentioned in the biblical canon.

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Anybody will take, I'm looking at my, my responses. Is she there at all. And how many times do you think perhaps.

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So Scott says none Vegas is 0000.

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Well, you're, you're pretty close, especially with the translations, we have available. She actually, if you are, you geek out and I had to find this on my own.

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There's one little too, in, in Hebrews, not in the creation story not anywhere near Adam and Eve, this is 1000 years after Gilgamesh, maybe, knowing, not knowing really what that was written but it was probably an added to story.

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If you go back to your Hebrew you might find it, it's, it's usually translated as screech owl. And that's only in Isaiah 34:14, and he's talking about the children of Israel being kicked out of their homeland and being in the wilderness.

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So there's a satire mentioned, and a screech owl because no one knows what to do that word.

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But I geek out, go to Strong's Concordance and there's actually one feminine noun, it's Lilith two is the legends of Lilith is kind of touched on probably borrowed from the Babylonian.

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But again, we don't get any more than what we get from Gilgamesh. It's just a wandering the desert spirit it's, it's, it's almost like a homeless female demonic thing.

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So we don't get any more until we get to Jesus been been Syriac 780 this is another thousand years.

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And this is where we get the crazy stuff about Lilith.

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It's really a body joke book where they use the, the letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

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And I don't know if L is for Lilith, because again, I speak English and broken Spanish maybe sometimes.

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But this is a body joke but kind of like the men pastor around and, and it was because they everything is from flatulence to to even jokes about masturbation and ancestors in here so they have this strange positioning.

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Probably the most well known, little iffy she gets mad at me. She's the first wife in this book it gets entered issues the first wife of Adam.

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She gets mad at him about certain positions and leaves them, and the angels chase after and beg her and he she just kind of declares war on on the family and then he was brought in as the second life.

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This is not introduced anywhere in lower until here it is 780 well past.

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You know Rabbinic Judaism has come into play.

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So, it's a different much different culture that this is really probably was never meant to be taken seriously but you never know. So the next time she's mentioned this by 1200 ad.

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It's in the book of splendour she's added to this she's added like she's a half demon. She has half demon children, and and from there.

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It just kind of, it's, it's every artists game you know to add to her, she gets introduced into Europe by Michael Angelo, that's her kind of a half serpent, half female fust introduce her again and 1810 Rosetta he paints his famous Lilith in the mirror

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and she's becoming now. The seductress of man and murder of children.

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So infant death syndrome, all kinds of off color things that we keep going to that she's, she's accused for and, and young men and and taking their innocence and.

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Anyway, it grows in the, the last thing I want to touch on is this is kind of come full, full into our day and age where Lilith is now.

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She's the title of a magazine of more liberal Jewish magazine, established in 1976 and there was kind of a tried for us by us, the female musicians getting together and having a little with concert fast but that kind of fell apart, and I'm a little bit

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Okay so McDonald tastes Lilith, and adds vampire ism, and the queen of hell. Now where he gets it. I did not have zoom on my doctoral thesis I'm sure there's more connections than I know I do wonder if Keats Lamia Shelley's Frankenstein, I don't know

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but the thing is is Bram Stoker's Dracula, was released two years after Lilith, so you can't you can't say he got his ideas there.

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And I doubt the men ever, although one was from Ireland one from Scotland I still dealt the mother ever met.

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So, Freud uses her as a study in hysteria and young user is a psychological type, and I'm about to touch on just how many times, Lewis borrows from McDonald and as Narnia series.

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You know talking I'm just showing where he is and the timeline, he's way after this influence and and Lewis.

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Clearly borrows and Tolkien i don't know i i don't see a whole lot of it but I'm sure somebody who knows a whole lot more about those things might be able to make analogous thing so the thing that surprised me when I was looking for I'm checking my time

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to when I was looking for a word it Louis. Louis pole is when I went through.

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I went through Lilith. There's this conversation between the main character of Mr Raven, and his, his kind of his, his Patty one for better or his disciple.

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He makes this conversation.

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Okay, how many people are familiar with lewis's argument for Christ where he in Mere Christianity where he says.

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Christ is either a lunatic Lord or liar. So, anybody there are familiar with that particular quote where.

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So yes, Scott is.

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Well it's shocking to me is, I would have thought.

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Lewis was not pulling from it wasn't writing fantasy.

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But it's embedded right into in a conversation in.

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When a guy had had a mystical experience and was trying to explain it to another man and he goes, Do you think I'm crazy.

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Then why don't you believe me and the parallels are on Kenny maybe I'm seeing things I shouldn't.

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But for the analogies for the line for the Narnia series.

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The white which is clearly pulled moments in Lilith but even more so is Janice in The Magician's Nephew, this, that, the lady the open up by the bell, if you guys remember, and then she grabs the little girl by the hair and gets dragged through worlds

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and then in through pools. It's very much how will it travels through worlds with her.

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with the protagonist. And so if the connections are really obvious, unfortunately, you really have to drag yourself through lots of preaching and bad poetry to see him but it's hats off.

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The, the originality, the Dawn Treader where they jump through a painting and into the pool and then come out another pool is very McDonald.

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The way, Mr. Vain the main character and Lilith snuggles with a leopard, and goes to sleeps in his arms is very, very much like when Lucy and Susan are smuggling with with as well and there's a time where as when castigates, the main character Diggory

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bringing this Janice character into Narnia and spoiling it in the magician's nephews, and the same kind of castigation happens where the main character Mr Raven is castigating his, his disciple, for, for You're the one that drug her enter this world and

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are she, she entered from your world into our world.

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Those crossovers.

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So there's this beautiful originality, a bit McDonald, and if you get my paper which I'm sure will be downloaded into a society I, I go on and on about that.

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But, so you asked herself, you know you got movies for Lewis you have movies for talking. What's up with McDonald. So I'm going to kind of slam my hero here for a little bit.

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Here, he, he has.

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He over explains he he tries to explain his magic, sometimes will, he'll just say, he'll clearly be trying to pander to maybe, maybe, the great thinkers of his day, where he explains that one of the monsters came out of your brain and one tiny, tiny trust

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explains this shape shifting of this, this Raven is so beautifully done where he goes from a man to a raven to a man. And, and McDonald wants to explain that meta physically for his day and age, not a big deal.

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That's why modern readers. Get lost, though.

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He does one time and if I don't think I'll bore you with this. He breaks the fourth wall and spends 270 words explaining to his readers. This is why I can't explain this stuff, you know, it's just too much even when I try to explain it it's not even close

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and if even if you experienced it too. So, it just box with those things but when he wrote Lilith. He literally sat down and couldn't quit writing he felt like he has been giving a message so it's hard to blame him for his overwhelmed sense.

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The other thing he does that is pretty popular criticism is his treatment of children. It's the strangeness of animals and then with women.

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He has this colony of children that adopt his main character, that this like this heap of kids go in and sleep in the same room and to keep it warm, and it just won't go over now I know this is a Victorian writer with 11 Kids pie his experience is all

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these children are pile on, but it doesn't really work when you have a 21 year old or 22 year old college grad going to this colony of children who he calls the lovers, which Prufrock does change because it's just too much.

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And it's going to trip up the modern modern sensibilities.

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The Second. Second thing is he's this proliferation of animals, which may be there's meanings and analogies and metaphors that fit the center he wrote in, but they're lost on me and I really really really want to understand.

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He's got amazing course in chapter 31 mR Raven, who's really a man who's really a raven he's really a man.

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He's got these great shape shifting leopards.

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But there's this proliferation in the middle and I'm sure.

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Scott might know what I'm talking about. It's.

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He's got elephants and ponies and birds and cats keep popping up, and I'm trying to figure out are you reading to your children and trying to make them happy because you have some really dark stuff and some sexual stuff with Lilith that I don't know who's

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your audience. I don't know if he, but it is a precursor to the Narnia and animals but Louis gets it right.

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So, there's almost too much. And so, I believe you can tell the story without all the elephants and ponies and it's a kind of a mishmash Menagerie and how they cooperate with the children, it gets a little saccharin and sappy.

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Again, I'm a dedicated McDonald's fan, but that's where you lose, that's where you lose most your readership.

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So my third problem that I'm just bringing up now is to get kids we got animals. And the third one is archetypal use of women, the only woman who's changes and grows as little with herself, he's got three others that you know some people will say embodies

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the tender mother another one the the virginal lover and another one, but they're just benign females who are archetypes, and I have theories, because Lewis does that a bit talking has been accused of that.

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All three of these authors lost their mothers young, so I mean I'm not Freud and I don't want to get into that but that's one explanation.

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Um, there's, you know he's kind of bogged in this romance in this message from God and yeah I think you've got a couple one too many benign women have to, to capture the imagination but there's so much to criticize.

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But when you compare him I'm watching my time Forgive me. When you compare him to to Stoker I mean you have Dracula runs Joker has this monster, and all these, these hysterical women running from continent to continent, waving crucifixes and and steaks

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and all this mystery.

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But in Lilith.

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You have a. If you can clear the clutter of the preaching, you can clear away the things that have stood the test of time.

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He pulls off a 12 chapter exorcism, and it is slow and as you're on the edge of your seats, wondering if this woman you paid it most of the most of the book, you're suddenly, hoping, hoping that she'll be brought to repentance, which takes back to that

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Universalist element.

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You hope you're cheering for the, you can't believe that your main character is not. First off, he's blinded by who she is. Benny sticks with our way too long, and now you're hoping she'll turn.

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It's really amazingly done, and in the weird way kind of realistic how you you know we've all hope for people who we consider enemies to tend to a degree but he is this 12 chapters, brings you the edge of your seat and has to go through five distinct

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distinct trials, where it's almost believable for this woman that you you know is causing all the havoc and all the pain in the story to maybe turn, and it's not this magical on a dime thing it's, it's, it's brutal and sometimes it's very very brutal.

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So, issues first like challenge with one with greater spiritual spiritual authority, it's an atom character.

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And then she's confronted by our own motherhood, which No, no spoiler, spoiler alert, I guess we want to kiss you actually pick this up, which is what I want you to do.

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It's, then there's this obstinate protagonist, you almost think.

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Are you stupid, why would you continue being engaged with this woman.

00:40:30.000 --> 00:40:35.000

My, my son had no patience for him.

00:40:35.000 --> 00:40:43.000

And then she's confronted by a female peer kind of an old figure and, and then at the end, there's a submission unto death.

00:40:43.000 --> 00:40:53.000

And it's really, it's really profound that McDonald pulls off even, especially when you realize he's got no precursors to this.

00:40:53.000 --> 00:41:08.000

So when I know people love him, I want to go, but is this text sacrosanct. Are we allowed to knock off all the people do we have to just leave him be pilfered from like, Louis to beautifully, or you just you just takes a moment here on a character here.

00:41:08.000 --> 00:41:17.000

here. Or could we keep his, his whole plot intact I really think it's possible to keep this plot intact.

00:41:17.000 --> 00:41:27.000

I mean if lewis is screwed type letters can be made into a play or a graphic novel. Why not, why not put up with the retelling of Lilith and.

00:41:27.000 --> 00:41:30.000

So,

00:41:30.000 --> 00:41:38.000

anyway, in conclusion, I do not want to have the corner on the market, I would love someone to take what I've done and even do it again and do it better.

00:41:38.000 --> 00:41:42.000

I think there's too much gold here.

00:41:42.000 --> 00:41:52.000

And so, I, I wish I could say the proof our version is is available but my editor says maybe in May.