

till we have faces setting

till we have faces setting plays a crucial role in understanding the depth and themes of C.S. Lewis's renowned novel, **Till We Have Faces**. The setting not only grounds the narrative in a mythical, ancient world but also enhances the exploration of complex psychological and philosophical ideas. This article delves into the geographical, cultural, and temporal aspects of the novel's setting, highlighting how these elements contribute to the story's meaning and impact. By examining the imaginary kingdom of Glome, the surrounding natural landscape, and the historical influences that inspired Lewis's creation, readers can gain a deeper appreciation of the novel. Additionally, this discussion will explore how the setting interacts with the characters and themes, reinforcing the novel's timeless relevance. The following sections provide a detailed exploration of these facets.

- The Geographical Setting of Till We Have Faces
- Cultural and Historical Influences on the Setting
- The Role of the Setting in Shaping the Narrative
- Symbolism Embedded in the Setting
- Comparisons with Classical and Mythological Settings

The Geographical Setting of Till We Have Faces

The geographical setting of **till we have faces setting** is the fictional kingdom of Glome, an isolated mountainous region that serves as the primary backdrop for the novel. Glome is depicted as a rugged, harsh environment surrounded by steep cliffs and dense forests, which contributes to the novel's atmosphere of mystery and tension. Lewis's descriptions evoke a sense of ancient wilderness, emphasizing both the physical and emotional isolation experienced by the characters. The natural features of Glome, including the mountain where the temple of the god is located, create a dramatic stage for the unfolding events of the story.

Landscape and Environment

The landscape of Glome is characterized by its stark contrasts—rocky cliffs loom above fertile valleys, and the wilderness encroaches upon human settlements. This environment reflects the inner turmoil of the protagonist

and the broader themes of conflict between civilization and nature. The mountain, a central geographical feature, symbolizes both spiritual ascent and danger, serving as a place of worship and sacrifice. The wild terrain also underscores the difficulties faced by the characters, influencing their decisions and interactions throughout the novel.

Climate and Atmosphere

The climate in Glome is implied to be temperate but often severe, with weather patterns that enhance the story's somber mood. Storms, cold winds, and foggy conditions contribute to the novel's sense of foreboding and uncertainty. This atmospheric setting complements the psychological intensity of the narrative, reinforcing themes of fear, faith, and transformation. The weather also plays a role in key plot points, affecting travel, communication, and the characters' emotional states.

Cultural and Historical Influences on the Setting

While **till we have faces setting** is fictional, it draws heavily on ancient cultures, particularly those of classical Greece and pre-Christian Europe. Lewis crafted Glome with elements reminiscent of Hellenistic and early pagan societies, blending mythological motifs with historical realism. This fusion allows the novel to explore universal themes within a believable cultural framework. The society depicted is tribal and hierarchical, with strong religious traditions centered on the worship of a mountain god.

Religious Practices and Social Structure

The religious practices in Glome are integral to the setting, reflecting a polytheistic belief system with rituals involving sacrifice and temple worship. The temple on the mountain is a focal point of spiritual life, and the priesthood holds significant power. Socially, Glome is organized around familial clans, with strong patriarchal authority. These cultural elements create a world where divine influence and human politics intersect, shaping the characters' motivations and conflicts.

Historical Inspirations

Lewis's background in classical literature and mythology heavily influenced the setting's historical aspects. The society of Glome mirrors ancient

civilizations in its values, customs, and worldview, providing readers with a familiar yet distinct environment. The novel's timeline is ambiguous but suggests a pre-Christian era, allowing for exploration of timeless human experiences without the constraints of a specific historical period. This historical ambiguity enhances the mythic quality of the setting.

The Role of the Setting in Shaping the Narrative

The setting of **till we have faces setting** is not merely a backdrop but an active participant in the narrative. The physical and cultural environment influences character development, plot progression, and thematic expression. The isolation and harshness of Glome intensify the emotional struggles of the protagonist, Orual, and the divine presence associated with the mountain shapes the spiritual journey central to the story.

Impact on Character Development

The setting's influence on Orual and other characters is profound. The isolation of Glome contributes to Orual's sense of loneliness and misunderstanding, which drives much of her internal conflict. The social customs and religious expectations of the kingdom shape her role as a princess and later as a queen, impacting her decisions and relationships. The setting thus acts as a catalyst for personal transformation and self-discovery.

Advancing the Plot through Setting

Key events in the plot are closely tied to the setting. The mountain temple serves as a stage for critical moments of sacrifice, confrontation, and revelation. The physical challenges posed by the terrain affect travel and communication, creating obstacles that heighten tension. The cultural setting also frames the political intrigue and interpersonal dynamics that propel the story forward.

Symbolism Embedded in the Setting

Symbolism is deeply woven into the **till we have faces setting**, enriching the novel's thematic complexity. The mountain, the temple, and the natural landscape all carry symbolic weight that reflects the novel's exploration of identity, faith, and transformation. These symbols contribute to the

allegorical dimension of the story, inviting readers to reflect on deeper meanings.

The Mountain as a Symbol

The mountain in Glome symbolizes the divine and the unattainable, representing both spiritual aspiration and the barriers between humans and gods. Its imposing presence dominates the landscape and the lives of the characters, serving as a constant reminder of the tension between mortal desires and divine will. The ascent of the mountain is emblematic of personal and spiritual journeys.

The Temple and Religious Symbolism

The temple on the mountain is a symbol of faith, sacrifice, and the human quest for meaning. It embodies the cultural and spiritual heart of Glome, where mortal and divine realms intersect. The rituals performed there highlight themes of surrender, transformation, and the search for truth, all central to the novel's message.

Comparisons with Classical and Mythological Settings

Till we have faces setting invites comparison with classical and mythological settings, reflecting Lewis's engagement with ancient narratives. The novel reinterprets the myth of Cupid and Psyche, placing it within a richly imagined cultural and geographical context that echoes classical traditions while offering fresh insights.

Influence of Greek Mythology

The setting draws on Greek mythological motifs, such as the divine mountain and the interplay between gods and mortals. Lewis's adaptation transforms these elements, using the setting to explore psychological and theological themes rather than simply retelling a myth. This approach creates a layered narrative that resonates with classical literature enthusiasts.

Distinctive Features of Lewis's Imaginary World

Although inspired by classical settings, Glome is distinctive in its detailed cultural construction and symbolic depth. Lewis integrates elements of ancient paganism with a nuanced portrayal of human nature, making the setting a unique fusion of myth and realism. This originality enhances the novel's enduring appeal and critical acclaim.

Key Elements of Till We Have Faces Setting

- Fictional kingdom of Glome characterized by mountainous terrain
- Harsh climate contributing to the novel's atmosphere
- Ancient tribal society with strong religious traditions
- Mountain temple as a spiritual and symbolic center
- Inspiration from classical and pre-Christian cultures

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the primary setting of 'Till We Have Faces'?

'Till We Have Faces' is primarily set in the ancient kingdom of Glome, a fictional place inspired by classical mythological settings.

How does the setting of Glome influence the story in 'Till We Have Faces'?

The setting of Glome, with its isolated and harsh environment, reflects the themes of love, sacrifice, and identity, shaping the characters' experiences and the novel's mythic atmosphere.

Is the timeline of 'Till We Have Faces' based on a specific historical period?

While not tied to a specific historical period, the novel's setting evokes a timeless, ancient world reminiscent of classical Greek and Roman mythology.

How does the setting contribute to the novel's reinterpretation of the Cupid and Psyche myth?

The setting of Glome provides a grounded, realistic backdrop that contrasts with the mythological elements, allowing a fresh and psychological exploration of the Cupid and Psyche story.

Are there significant locations within Glome that are important to the plot?

Yes, key locations such as the palace, the temple dedicated to the god of love, and the wilderness surrounding Glome play crucial roles in the development of the narrative.

Does the setting change throughout the novel?

While the majority of the story is set in Glome, the narrative includes shifts in time and perspective that reveal different facets of the setting and its impact on the characters.

What role does the temple in Glome play in the setting of 'Till We Have Faces'?

The temple is a central location symbolizing faith, sacrifice, and the divine presence in the story, influencing the characters' beliefs and actions.

How does the setting affect the protagonist's journey in 'Till We Have Faces'?

The isolated and rigid society of Glome challenges the protagonist's understanding of love and self, driving her transformation and self-discovery.

Why did C.S. Lewis choose a mythical setting for 'Till We Have Faces'?

C.S. Lewis used a mythical setting to explore universal themes through the lens of myth, allowing a timeless and symbolic examination of human nature and divine relationships.

Additional Resources

1. *Till We Have Faces* by C.S. Lewis

This novel is a retelling of the myth of Cupid and Psyche, set in the ancient kingdom of Glome. It explores themes of love, faith, and identity through the perspective of Psyche's sister, Orual. The story combines mythology with deep

psychological insight, making it a profound and enduring work.

2. *The King Must Die* by Mary Renault

Set in the Bronze Age Greek world, this novel reimagines the myth of Theseus. It vividly portrays the ancient setting with rich cultural details and follows Theseus's journey from boyhood to king. The book delves into themes of destiny, heroism, and the clash between old beliefs and new ideas.

3. *The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller

A fresh take on the events of the Trojan War, focusing on the relationship between Achilles and Patroclus. The novel captures the ancient Greek world with lyrical prose and emotional depth. It explores themes of love, honor, and the impact of war on individuals.

4. *Circe* by Madeline Miller

Set in the world of Greek mythology, this novel follows Circe, the enchantress from Homer's *Odyssey*. It brings to life the ancient Mediterranean setting with vivid descriptions and a strong female protagonist. The story focuses on transformation, power, and self-discovery.

5. *The Silence of the Girls* by Pat Barker

This novel retells the Trojan War from the perspective of Briseis, a captive queen. It offers an intimate look at the lives of women during wartime in ancient Greece. The book highlights themes of survival, trauma, and the often overlooked voices in mythic tales.

6. *Gates of Fire* by Steven Pressfield

A historical novel about the Battle of Thermopylae, told from the perspective of a Spartan soldier. It provides a gritty, realistic portrayal of ancient Greek military culture and the values of Sparta. The book emphasizes courage, sacrifice, and the harsh realities of war.

7. *Ransom* by David Malouf

Set during the Trojan War, this novel imagines the story of King Priam's attempt to ransom his son Hector's body from Achilles. It explores themes of grief, reconciliation, and humanity amid conflict. The narrative is poetic and deeply reflective of ancient values and emotions.

8. *The Penelopiad* by Margaret Atwood

A retelling of Homer's *Odyssey* from the perspective of Penelope, Odysseus's wife. The novel gives voice to a character often sidelined in myth, exploring themes of loyalty, power, and gender roles in ancient Greek society. It blends myth with modern feminist insight.

9. *Mythos* by Stephen Fry

A contemporary retelling of classic Greek myths, providing entertaining and accessible versions of ancient stories. The book covers the origins of the gods, heroes, and monsters that populate Greek mythology. It's rich in humor and offers a fresh perspective on the mythic world similar to that of *Till We Have Faces*.

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till we have faces setting: *TILL WE HAVE FACES* C. S. Lewis, 2023-12-08 In *Till We Have Faces*, C. S. Lewis crafts a profound retelling of the myth of Cupid and Psyche, exploring themes of love, identity, and the divine through the eyes of Orual, Psyche's sister. Lewis transforms what is traditionally a romantic narrative into a rich psychological exploration, employing first-person narrative to delve into Orual's conflicted emotions and philosophical inquiries. This literary style, imbued with lyrical prose and complex character development, situates the novel within the broader context of mid-20th-century literature, where existential questions often intersected with mythology and spirituality. C. S. Lewis, a renowned scholar and Christian apologist, drew upon his deep understanding of mythology, psychology, and theology to create this unique work. His own experiences with love and loss, compounded by his background in classical literature and philosophy, informed his portrayal of Orual's tumultuous journey from jealousy to understanding. Lewis's conversion to Christianity also plays a significant role in shaping the novel's underlying themes of redemption and the nature of the divine. *Till We Have Faces* is not merely a retelling; it is an inquiry into the essence of what it means to truly know and love. Recommended for readers of mythology, philosophy, and spiritual exploration, this powerful narrative invites deep reflection on the complexities of human experience and the transformative power of love.

till we have faces setting: *TILL WE HAVE FACES (Cupid & Psyche - The Story Behind the Myth)* C. S. Lewis, 2023-12-05 C. S. Lewis's *Till We Have Faces* reinterprets the ancient myth of Cupid and Psyche through a richly layered narrative that blends allegory with philosophical inquiry. Set in the fictional realm of Glome, the novel is narrated by Orual, Psyche's elder sister, who grapples with issues of love, jealousy, and the human condition. Lewis employs an elegant prose style, imbued with a mythic quality, that engages readers in profound moral and ethical dilemmas, challenging conventional views on divine love and personal sacrifice. This work is often regarded as Lewis's most mature fiction, embodying a synthesis of classical mythology and Christian thought, and stands out within the canon of modern literary explorations of myth and identity. C. S. Lewis, renowned for his theological works and fantasy novels, was deeply influenced by his own spiritual journey and interest in mythology. His background in literature, as well as his profound Christian faith, guided him to create a nuanced tale that examines the interplay between the mortal and the divine. Lewis sought to delve deeper into the motivations of characters often portrayed in simplistic terms, offering a fresh perspective that resonates with contemporary audiences by addressing timeless questions about human nature. I wholeheartedly recommend *Till We Have Faces* to those interested in a thought-provoking exploration of mythology reimagined through a lens of psychological depth and moral complexity. Lewis's masterful storytelling invites readers to navigate the labyrinth of the human heart, making it an essential read for anyone seeking a profound understanding of love, identity, and the sometimes turbulent relationship between humanity and the divine.

till we have faces setting: **C. S. Lewis's List** David Werther, Susan Werther, 2015-04-09 In 1962, *The Christian Century* published C. S. Lewis's answer to the question, "What books did most to shape your vocational attitude and your philosophy of life?" Lewis responded with ten titles, ranging from Virgil's *Aeneid* to James Boswell's *The Life of Samuel Johnson* and from George Herbert's *The Temple* to Boethius's *The Consolation of Philosophy*. C. S. Lewis's List brings together experts on each of the ten books to discuss their significance for Lewis's life and work, illuminating

his own writing through those he most admired.

till we have faces setting: Bareface Doris T. Myers, 2004-02-16 C. S. Lewis wanted to name his last novel "Bareface." Now Doris T. Myers's *Bareface* provides a welcome study of Lewis's last, most profound, and most skillfully written novel, *Till We Have Faces*. Although many claim it is his best novel, *Till We Have Faces* is a radical departure from the fantasy genre of Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia* and *The Screwtape Letters* and has been less popular than Lewis's earlier works. In *Bareface*, Myers supplies background information on this difficult work and suggests reading techniques designed to make it more accessible to general readers. She also presents a fresh approach to Lewis criticism for the enjoyment of specialists. Previous studies have often treated the novel as mere myth, ignoring Lewis's effort to present the story of Cupid and Psyche as something that could have happened. Myers emphasizes the historical background, the grounding of the characterizations in modern psychology, and the thoroughly realistic narrative presentation. She identifies key books in ancient and medieval literature, history, and philosophy that influenced Lewis's thinking as well as pointing out a previously unnoticed affinity with William James. From this context, a clearer understanding of *Till We Have Faces* can emerge. Approached in this way, the work can be seen as a realistic twentieth-century novel using modernist techniques such as the unreliable narrator and the manipulation of time. The major characters fit neatly into William James's typology of religious experience, and Orual, the narrator-heroine, also develops the kind of personal maturity described by Carl Jung. At the same time, both setting and plot provide insights into the ancient world and pre-Christian modes of thought. Organized to facilitate browsing according to the reader's personal interests and needs, this study helps readers explore this complex and subtle novel in their own way. Containing fresh insights that even the most experienced Lewis scholar will appreciate, *Bareface* is an accomplishment worthy of Lewis's lifelong contemplation.

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till we have faces setting: The Cambridge Companion to C. S. Lewis Robert MacSwain, Michael Ward, 2010-09-09 A comprehensive single-volume study surveying C. S. Lewis's career as an academic, Christian thinker, and creative writer.

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Christian theology in the genre is dismantled, re-imagined and transformed from the margins of gender and sexuality. Aligning fantasy with Derrida's theories of deconstruction, Taylor Driggers explores how the genre can re-figure God as the 'other' excluded and erased from theology. Through careful readings of C.S. Lewis's *Till We Have Faces*, Angela Carter's *The Passion of New Eve*, and Ursula K. Le Guin's *The Left Hand of Darkness* and the *Earthsea* novels, Driggers contends that fantasy can challenge cis-normative, heterosexual, and patriarchal theology. Also engaging with the theories of Hélène Cixous, Luce Irigaray, Marcella Althaus-Reid, and Linn Marie Tonstad, this book demonstrates that whilst fantasy cannot save Christianity from itself, nor rehabilitate it for marginalised subjects, it confronts theology with its silenced others in a way that bypasses institutional debates on inclusion and leadership, asking how theology might be imagined otherwise.

till we have faces setting: *The Magical World of the Inklings* Gareth Knight, 2010 Because of the combination of information, understanding and insight on which it is founded, *The Magical World of the Inklings* is more than outstanding. It is not in the same league with anything else I have come across. - Owen Barfield The works of J. R. R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, Charles Williams and Owen Barfield have had a profound impact on the contemporary world. Together they were *The Inklings*, a small literary group of friends who set out to explore the 'mythopoeic' or myth-making element in imaginative fiction. *The Magical World of the Inklings* reveals how each of these writers created a 'magical world' which initiated the reader into hidden and powerful realms of the creative imagination.

till we have faces setting: *The Christian Mind of C. S. Lewis* Andrew J. Spencer, 2019-12-05 C. S. Lewis embodied the Christian mind because he saw the world as a coherent unity. His writing consistently pursued the good, the true, and the beautiful. He used nonfiction to point out the reasonableness of Christianity and used his fiction to create compelling illustrations that make faith in Christ an obvious and attractive conclusion. This book explores the Christian mind of C. S. Lewis across the spectrum of the genres he worked in. With contributors from diverse disciplines and interests, the volume illuminates the many facets of Lewis's work. *The Christian Mind of C. S. Lewis* assists readers to read Lewis better and also to read other works better. The overarching goal is, just as Lewis would have desired, to help people see Christ more clearly in the world and to be more like Christ.

till we have faces setting: *C.S. Lewis For Beginners* Louis Markos, 2022-06-05 C.S. Lewis *For Beginners* is a thorough examination of C. S. Lewis, the greatest Christian apologist of the twentieth century, throughout his career as an author and as a professor at Oxford University. A Christian apologist defends Christianity as a consistent and coherent worldview that squares with human reason, history, and desire. It offers answers to every facet of our lives on earth as well as answers to our questions about what happens after we die. What makes C.S. Lewis unique as an apologist is the way he balanced so perfectly reason and imagination, logic and intuition, and head and heart. In addition to writing such non-fiction apologetics books as *Mere Christianity*, *The Problem of Pain*, and *Miracles*, he wrote eleven novels: the seven *Chronicles of Narnia*, a trilogy of science-fiction adventures, and a haunting retelling of an old myth set in the ancient world. All eleven tell wonderful, captivating stories that stand on their own as fiction but that also support and bring to life the kinds of apologetical arguments he makes in his non-fiction. He also wrote two utterly unique works of fiction, *The Screwtape Letters* and *The Great Divorce*, that offer a fresh, highly original take on sin and temptation, angels and devils, and heaven and hell. And that's not all. Lewis the apologist and novelist had a day job. He was a celebrated English professor at Oxford, and then Cambridge, University who wrote works of literary criticism that are still famous today. C.S. Lewis *For Beginners* takes the reader through the wardrobe of his complete catalog of writing.

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Oxford don's legacy fifteen years after his death--his poetry, visionary fiction, and space fiction; The Chronicles of Narnia; Till We Have Faces; his criticism; and his religious-philosophical writing. Lewis emerges as an archetypal Christian and the creator of some of the most original books of our century.

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till we have faces setting: Till We Have Faces -- a Myth Retold Annotated Clive Staples Lewis, 2021-12-21 Till We Have Faces: A Myth Retold is a 1956 novel by C. S. Lewis. It is a retelling of Cupid and Psyche, based on its telling in a chapter of The Golden Ass of Apuleius. This story had haunted Lewis all his life, because he realized that some of the main characters' actions were illogical. As a consequence, his retelling of the story is characterized by a highly developed character, the narrator, with the reader being drawn into her reasoning and her emotions. This was his last novel, and he considered it his most mature, written in conjunction with his wife, Joy Davidman. The first part of the book is written from the perspective of Psyche's older sister Orual, as an accusation against the gods. The story is set in the fictive kingdom of Glome, a primitive city-state whose people have occasional contact with civilized Hellenistic Greece. In the second part of the book, the narrator undergoes a change of mindset (Lewis would use the term conversion) and understands that her initial accusation was tainted by her own failings and shortcomings, and that the gods are lovingly present in humans' lives.

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detailed close readings for a better understanding and appreciation of Lewis's fiction as works of art. Following three general studies, a section of the book is devoted to each of Lewis's major efforts in fiction--the Ransom trilogy, the Chronicles of Narnia, and *Till We Have Faces*--considering the distinctive literary features of each group and individual books within the group. Running through the book is an emphasis on form--as literary kind and as structure--and a recurrent attention to three themes of particular importance in Lewis as a writer of fiction: objectivism, longing, and the literary artist as creator. Individually, the essays supply fresh insights into the style and meaning of specific works by Lewis; as a group they illustrate a depth, technical skill, and unity of thought and theme which have not previously been accorded Lewis as an artist in fiction.

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TILL Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster Many assume that till is an abbreviated form of until. In fact, it is a distinct word that existed in English at least a century before until, both as a preposition meaning "to" and as a conjunction

Is The Correct Word "'Til" Or "Till"? | By the end of this article, you'll know the differences between until, till, and 'til, including in terms of origin, level of formality, and use. Until, till, and 'til all mean the same

Until, Till, 'Til and 'Till: Correct Usage | Merriam-Webster Until, till, and 'til are all used to indicate the time when a particular situation or period ends, or when something will happen. Until and till are both standard (but, perhaps surprisingly, till is

TILL | English meaning - Cambridge Dictionary till verb [T] (PREPARE LAND) to prepare and use land for growing crops: to till the soil

TILL Definition & Meaning | Till is a variant of until that is acceptable at all levels of language. Until is, however, often preferred at the beginning of a sentence in formal writing: until his behaviour improves, he cannot

Until, Till, and 'Til—Which Is Correct? | Grammarly Till means the same thing as until. Till is not an abbreviation of until—it's actually older than until—and it should not be written with an apostrophe. 'Til turns up now and then,

till - Wiktionary, the free dictionary till (third-person singular simple present tills, present participle tilling, simple past and past participle tilled) (transitive) To develop so as to improve or prepare for usage; to

TILL definition and meaning | Collins English Dictionary In a shop or other place of business, a till is a counter or cash register where money is kept, and where customers pay for what they have bought

Till - definition of till by The Free Dictionary 1. up to the time of; until: to fight till death. 2. before (used in negative constructions): They didn't come till today

Usage and Difference: Till, Until, 'Til - The terms "till," "until," and "'til" are often used interchangeably, but they have subtle differences in their usage. Let's explore each term and provide examples to illustrate their distinct applications

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