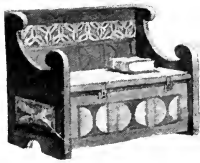
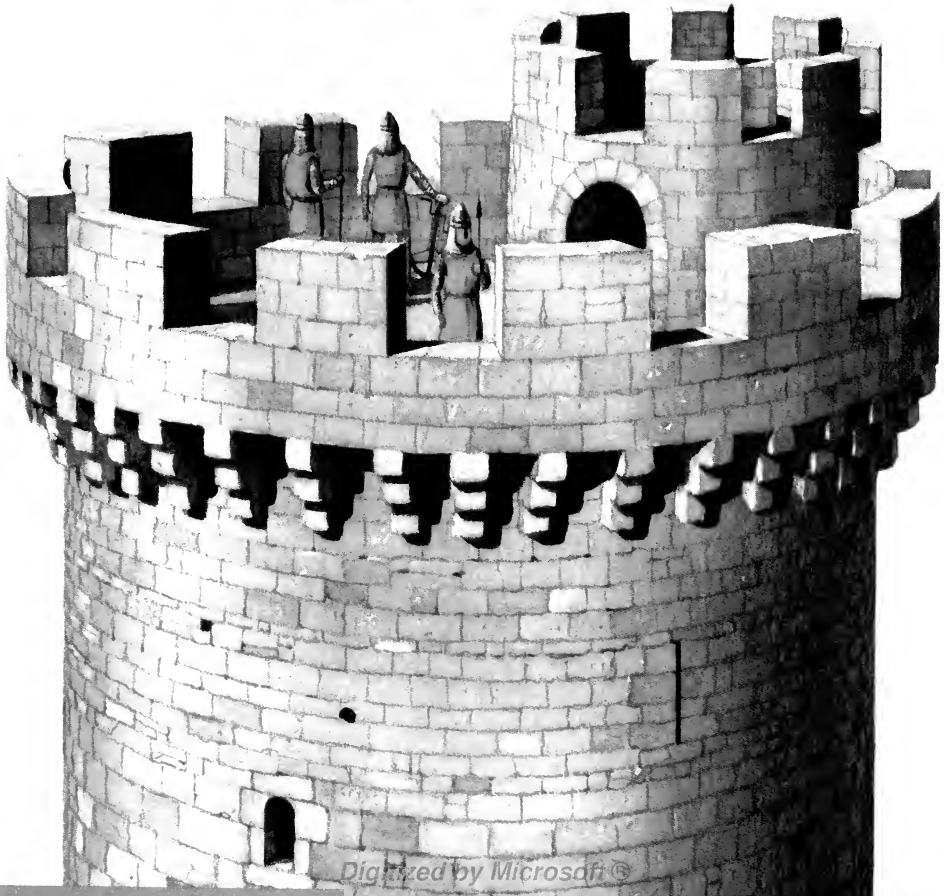


Castles



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CASTLES

Created by Gallimard Jeunesse,
Claude Delafosse and C. & D. Millet
Illustrated by C. & D. Millet

A FIRST DISCOVERY BOOK

Cartwheel BOOKS

SCHOLASTIC INC.
New York Toronto London Auckland Sydney

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Hundreds of years ago,
in the Middle Ages,
the nobles of Europe
lived in large, well-protected castles.

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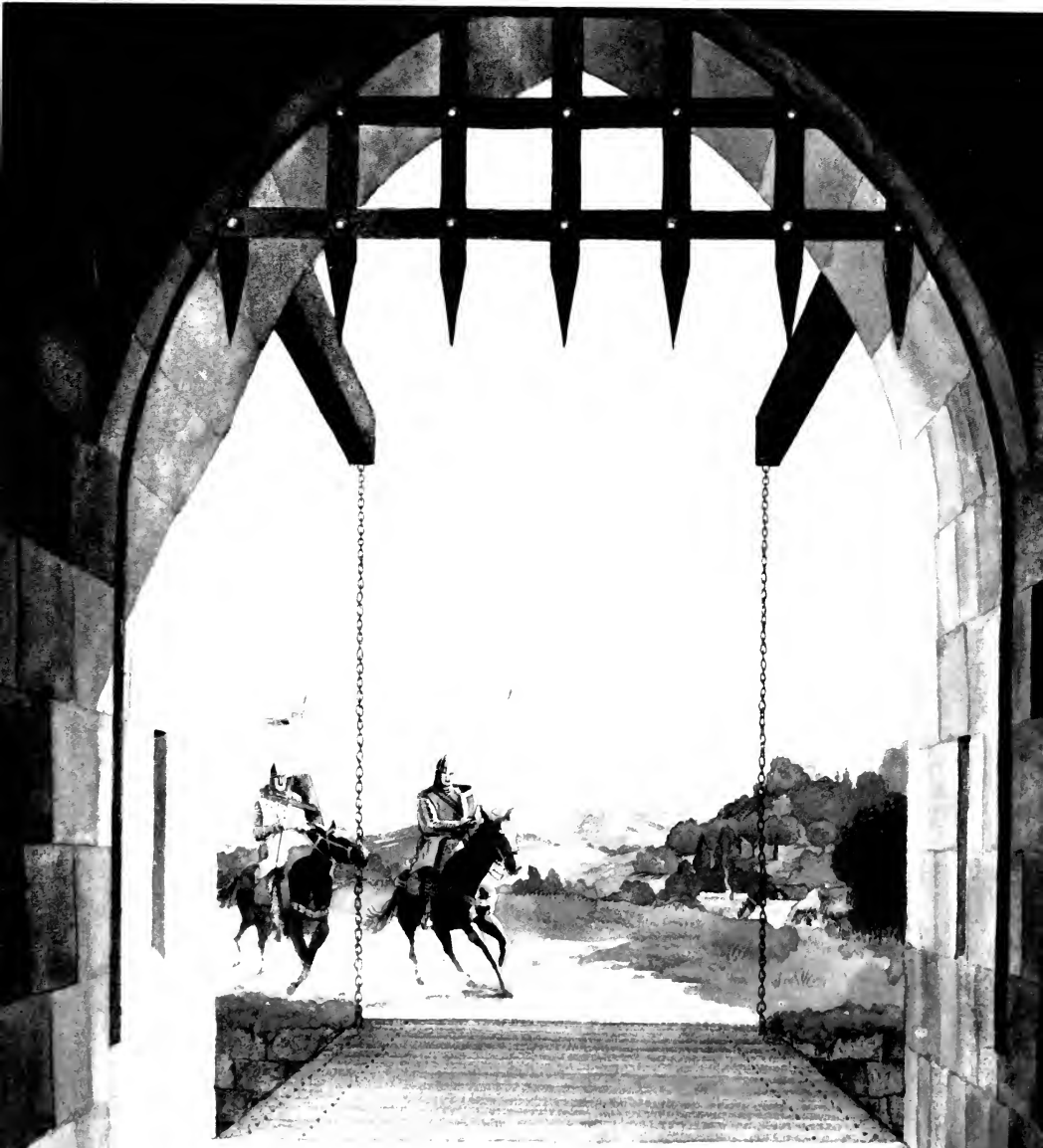
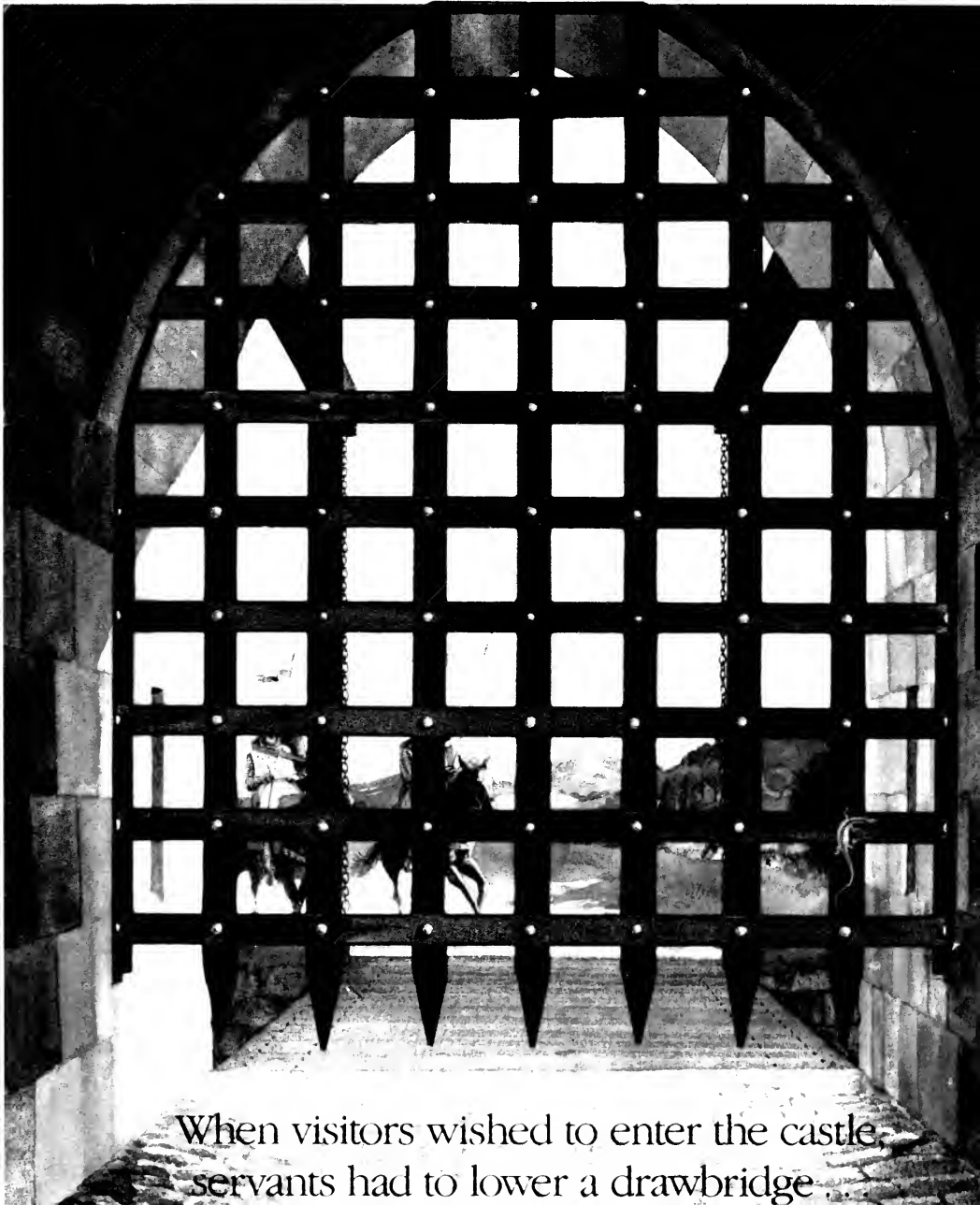
The castles were fortresses
surrounded by high stone walls.



When visitors wished to enter the castle, servants had to lower a drawbridge ...

and raise a heavy iron gate
called a portcullis.



When visitors wished to enter the castle, servants had to lower a drawbridge . . .

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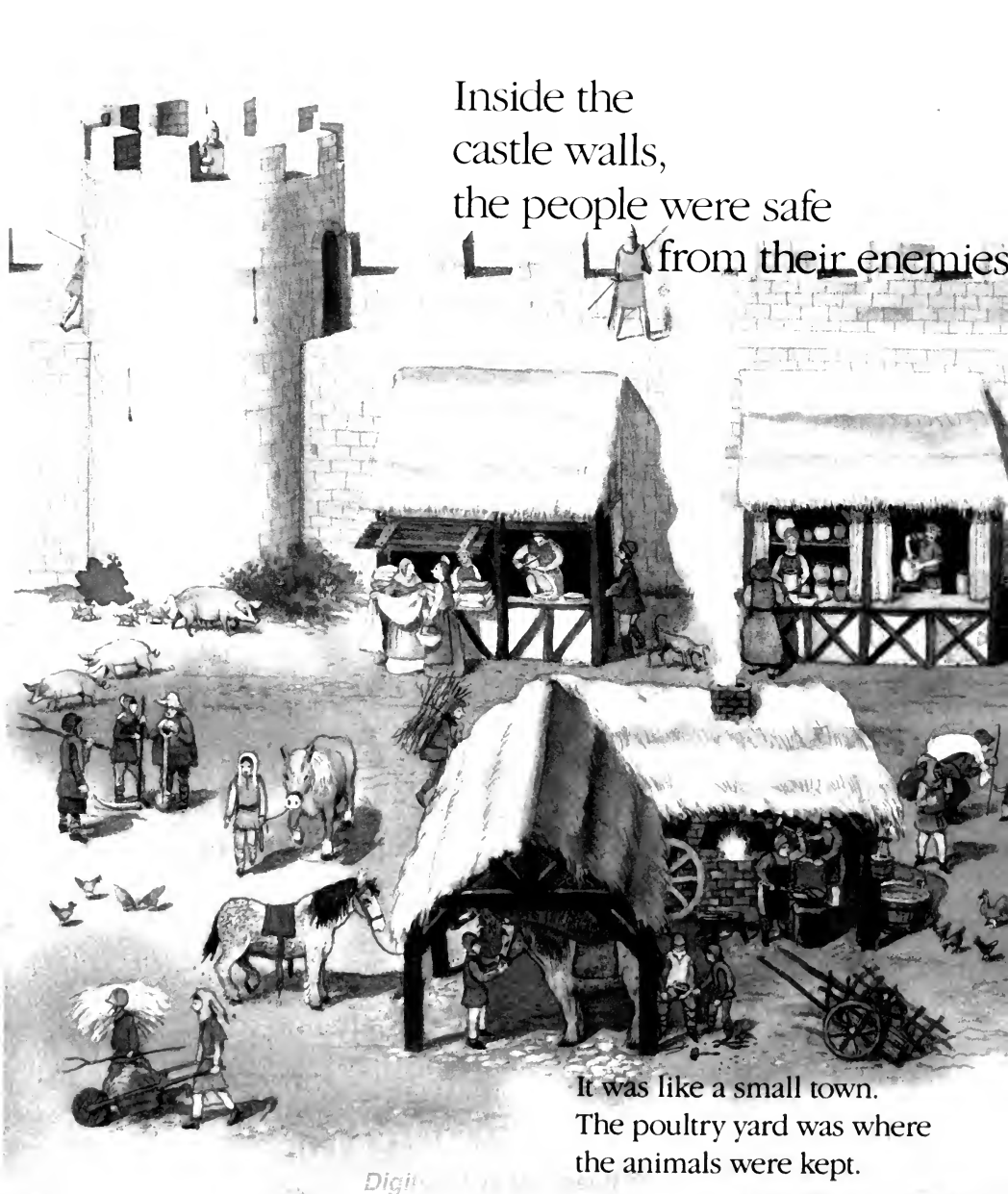
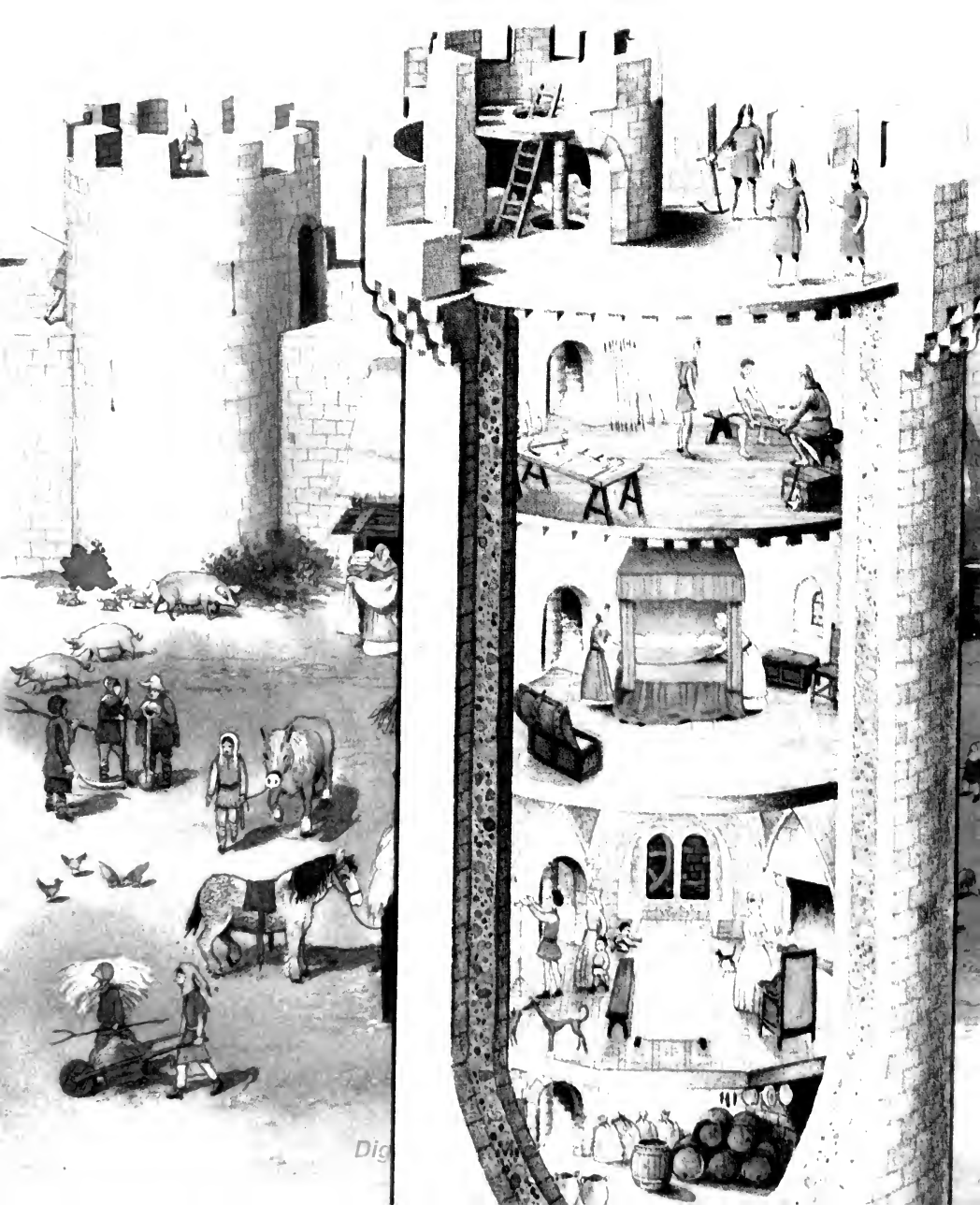


Inside the
castle walls,
the people were safe
from their enemies

It was like a small town.
The poultry yard was where
the animals were kept.



The nobleman's family lived in a round tower called a keep. Soldiers, skilled workers, servants, and their families also had homes within the castle walls.

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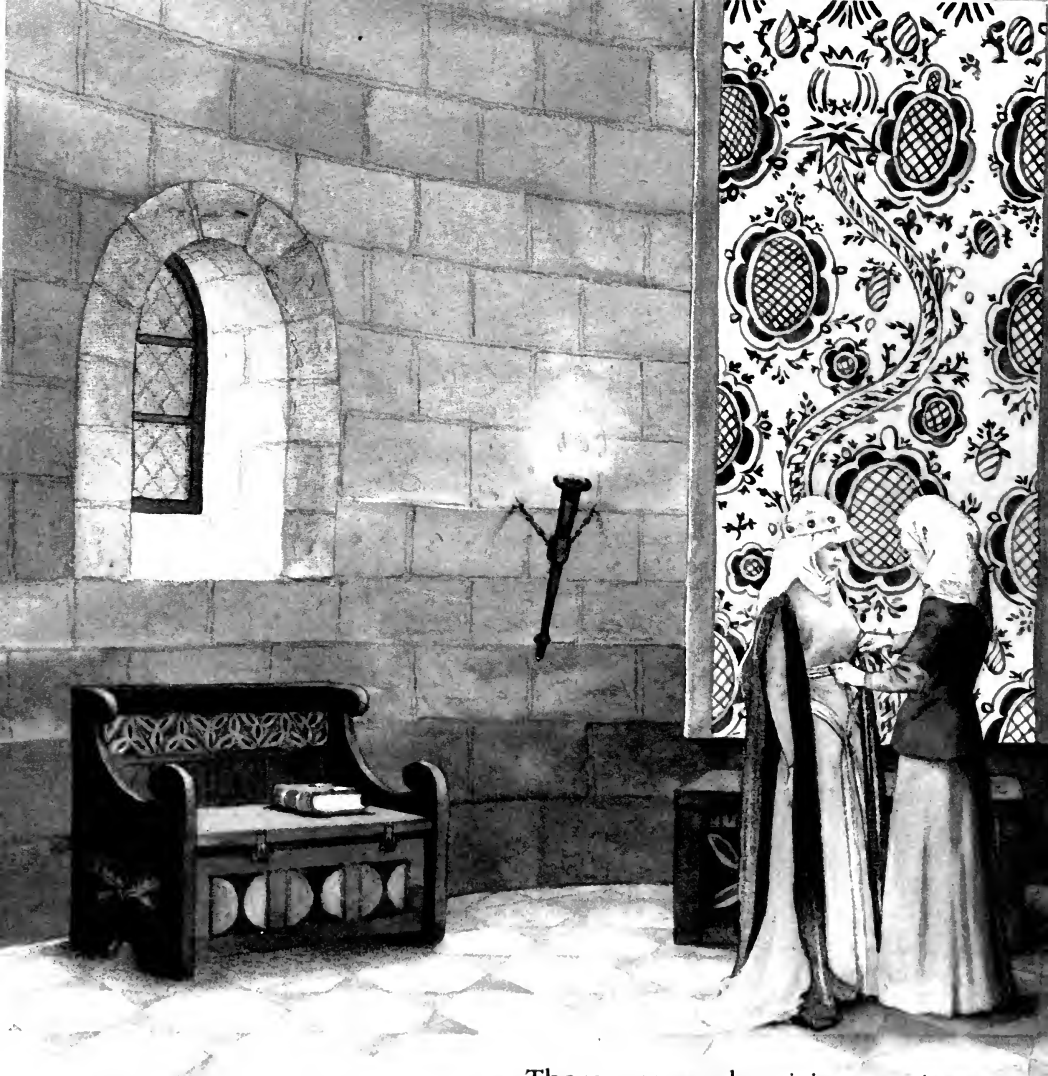
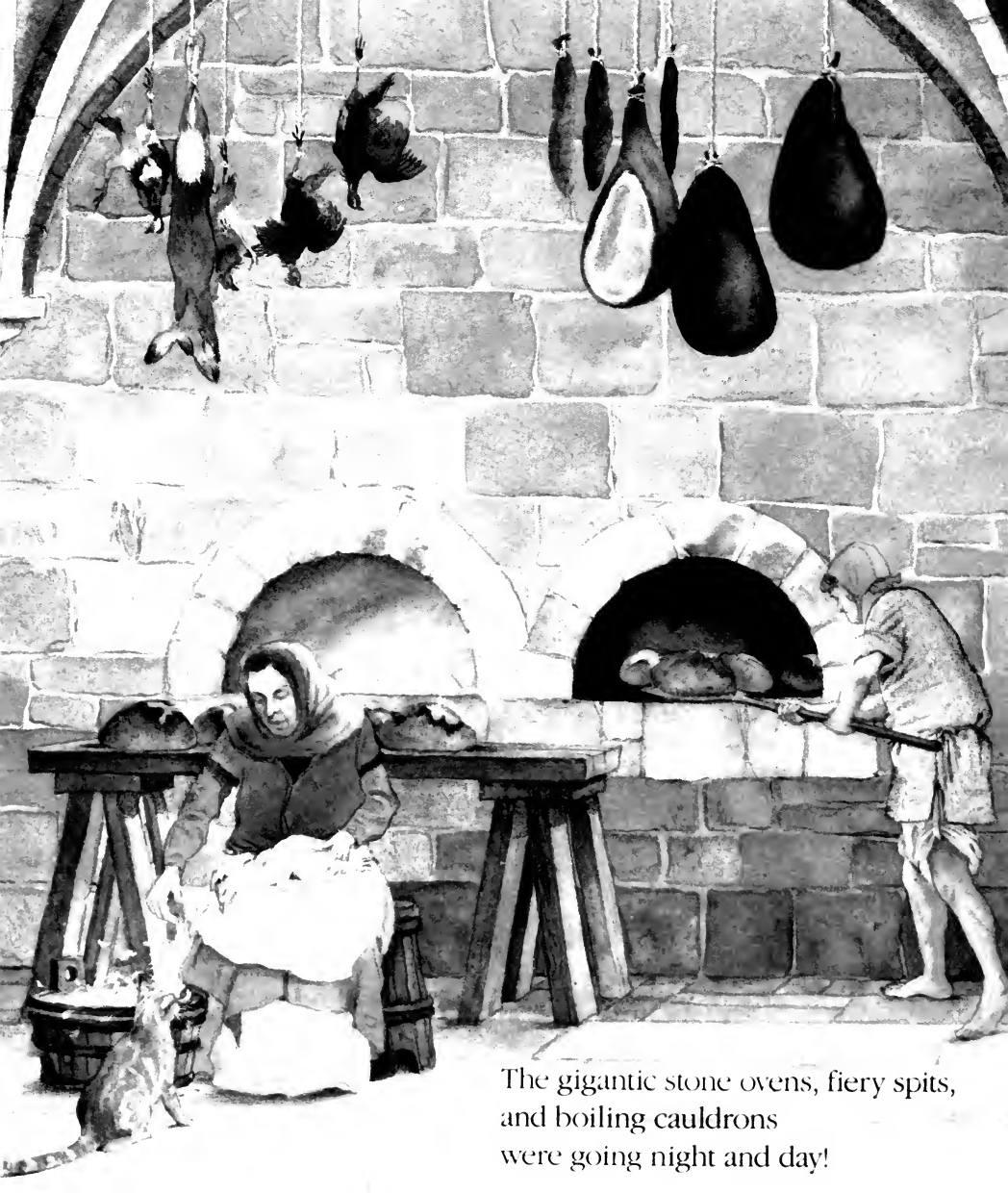


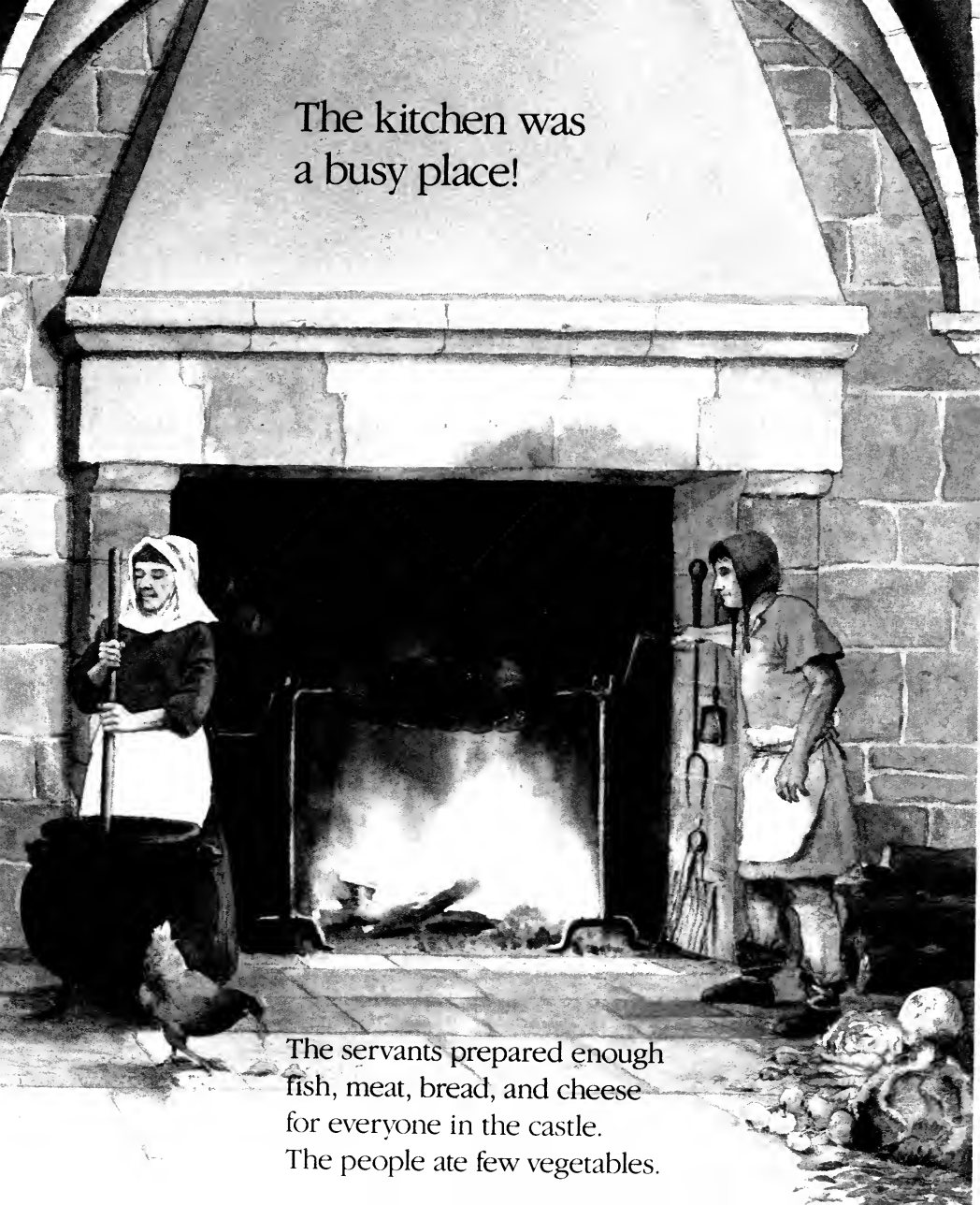
There was no electricity, running water,
or heat. On cold nights the
whole family might . . .

The bedrooms were decorated with beautiful tapestries.

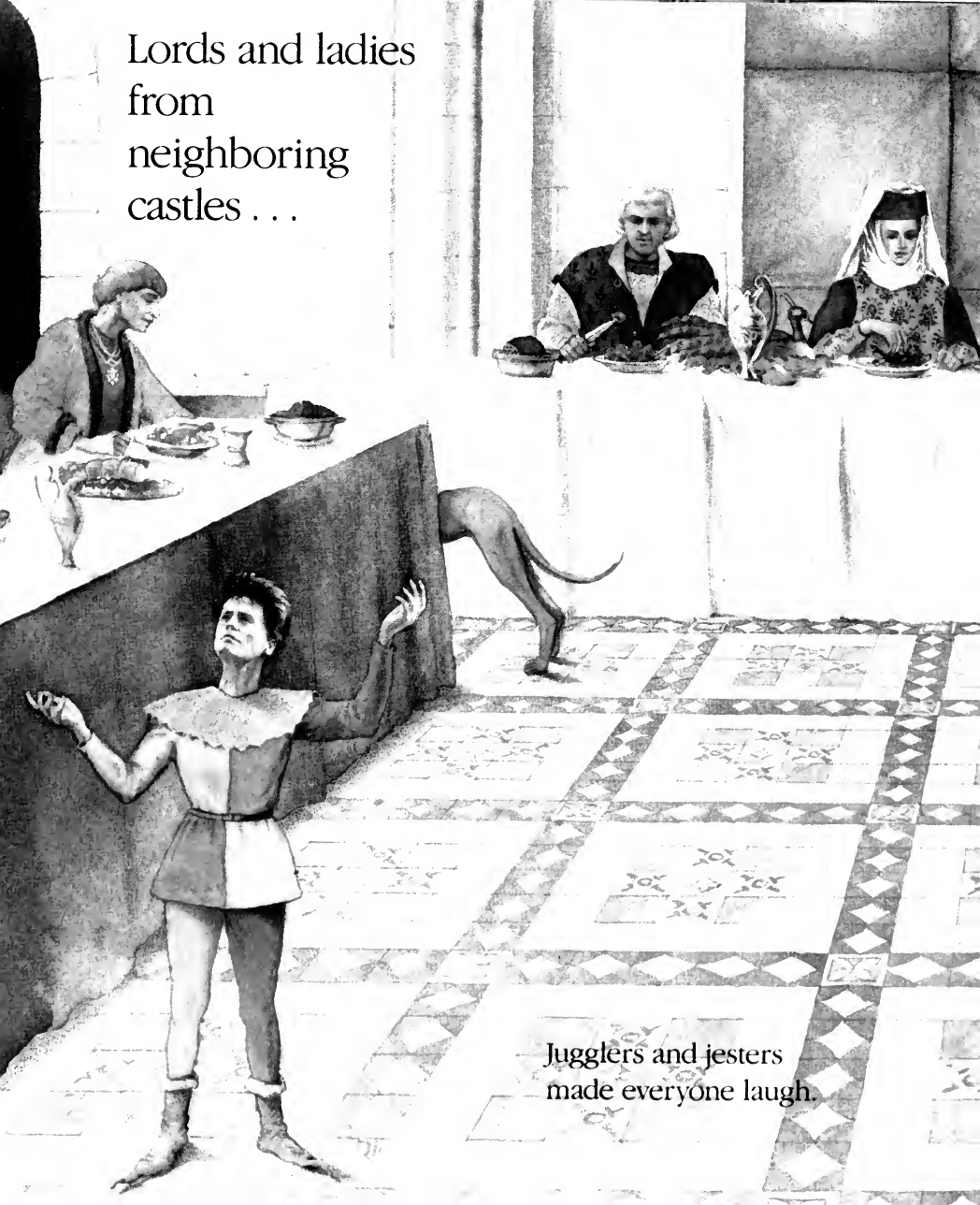
sleep in one bed
to keep warm!



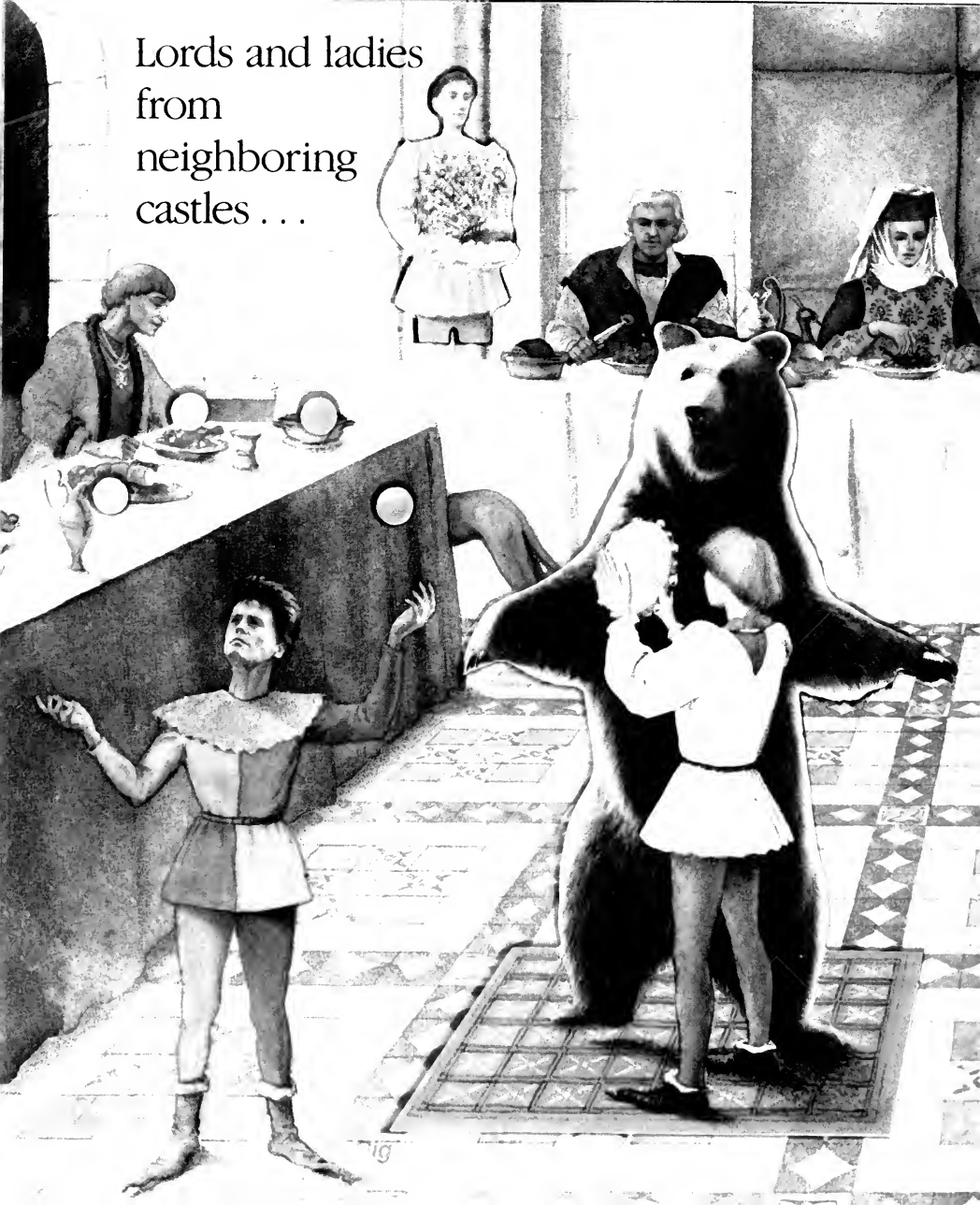
The gigantic stone ovens, fiery spits,
and boiling cauldrons
were going night and day!



The servants prepared enough
fish, meat, bread, and cheese
for everyone in the castle.
The people ate few vegetables.


Lords and ladies
from
neighboring
castles . . .
Jugglers and jesters
made everyone laugh.

came to feasts in the great hall.


Lords and ladies
from
neighboring
castles . . .

came to feasts in the great hall.

But the most popular performers were the trained bears.

Knights were the soldiers of their day. They wore heavy armor made of iron.

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A knight's metal armor was lined with soft quilting to protect his skin. The armor was so heavy, a knight needed help to mount his horse!

Knights often entertained the nobles with fighting contests called jousting tournaments.

The horses were protected from the swords and lances by their own armor.

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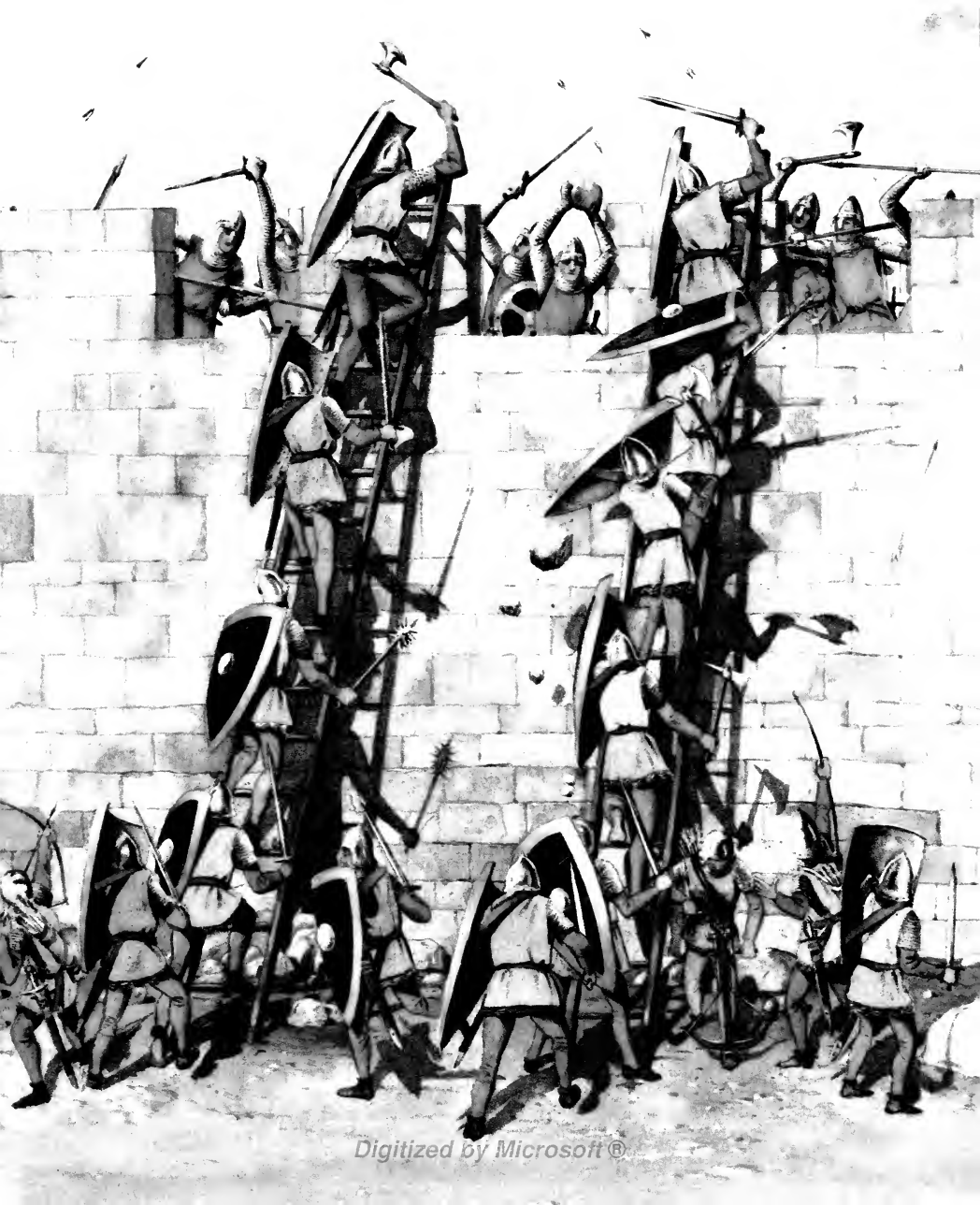
Sometimes war broke out between the nobles!



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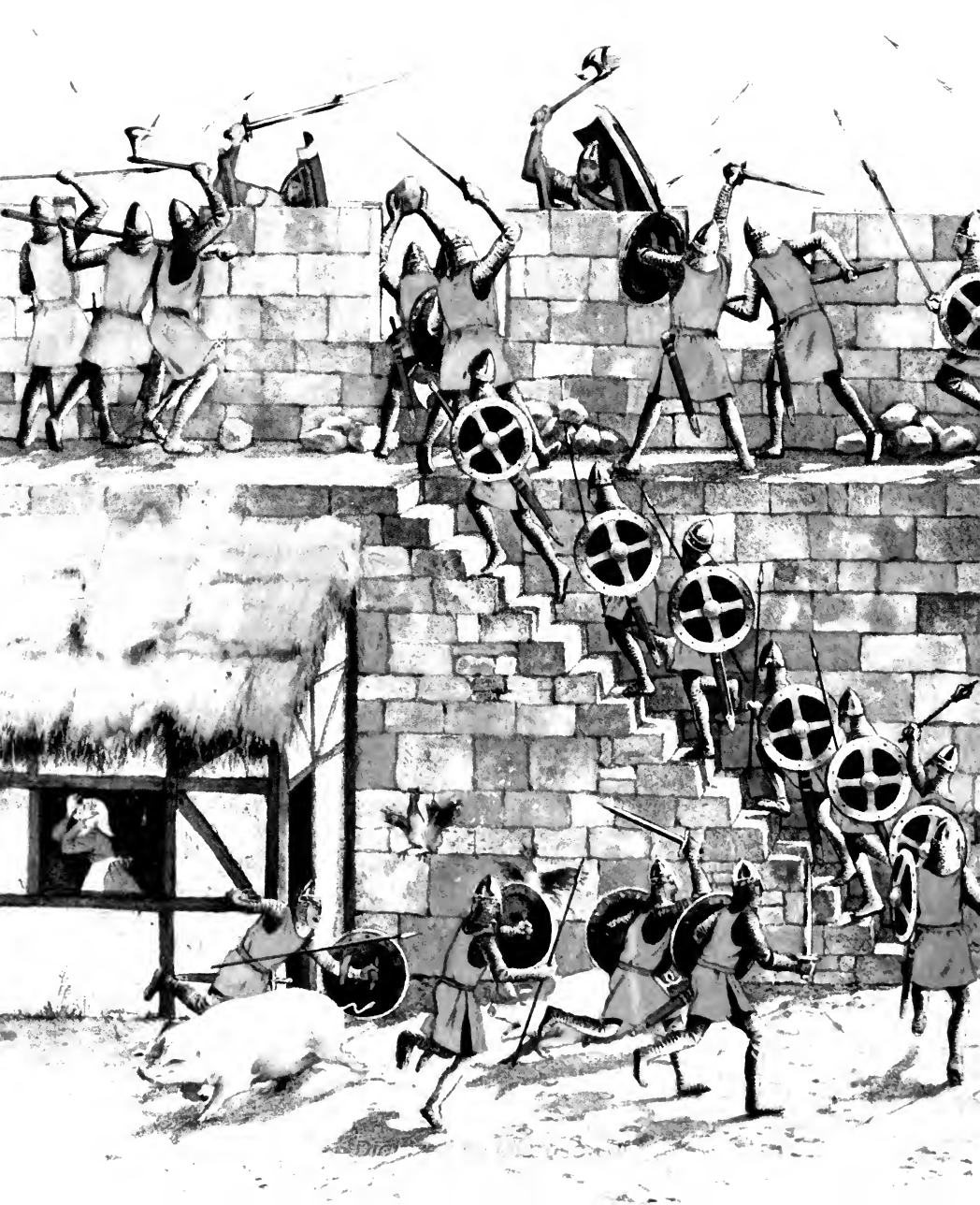

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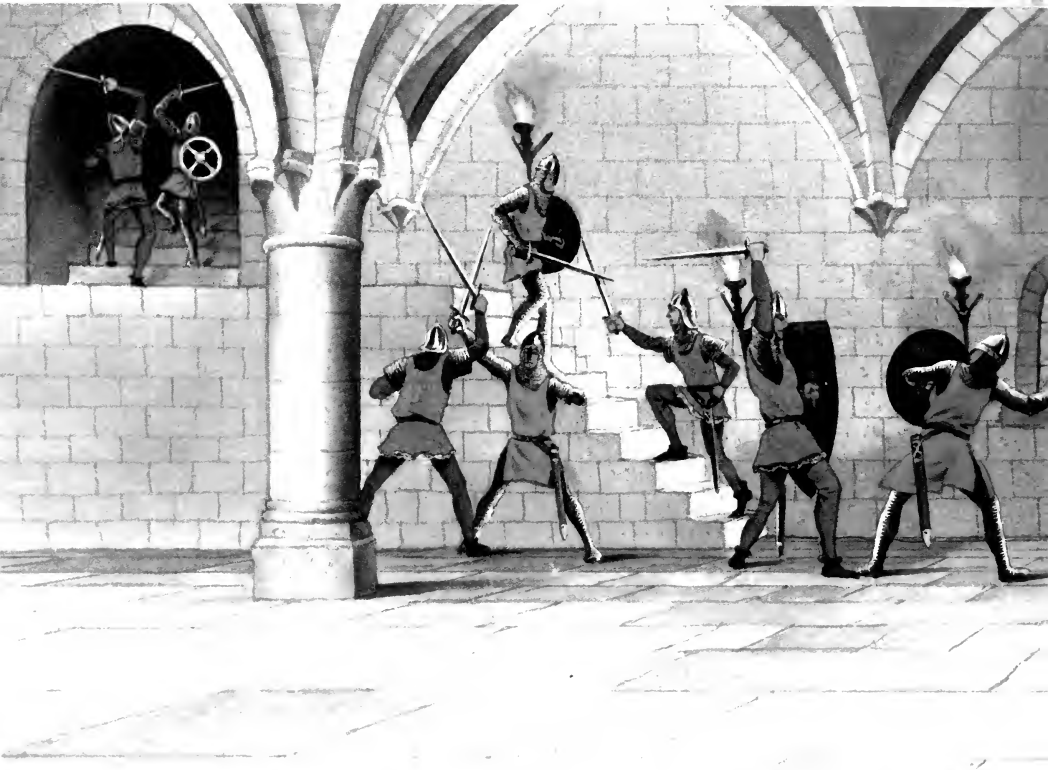
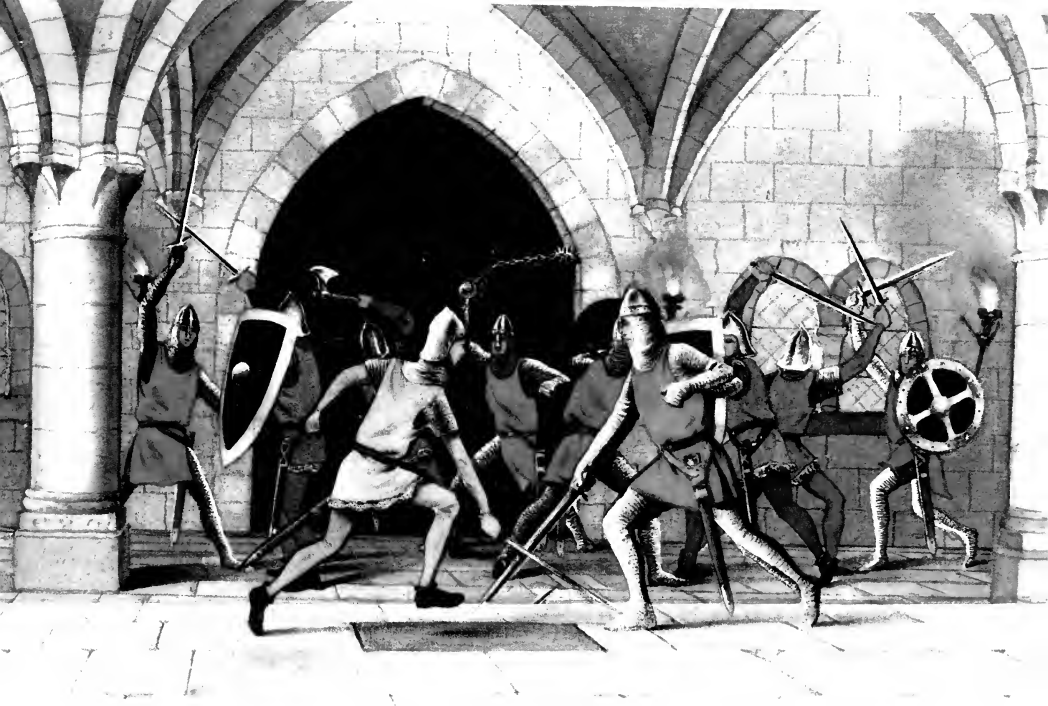
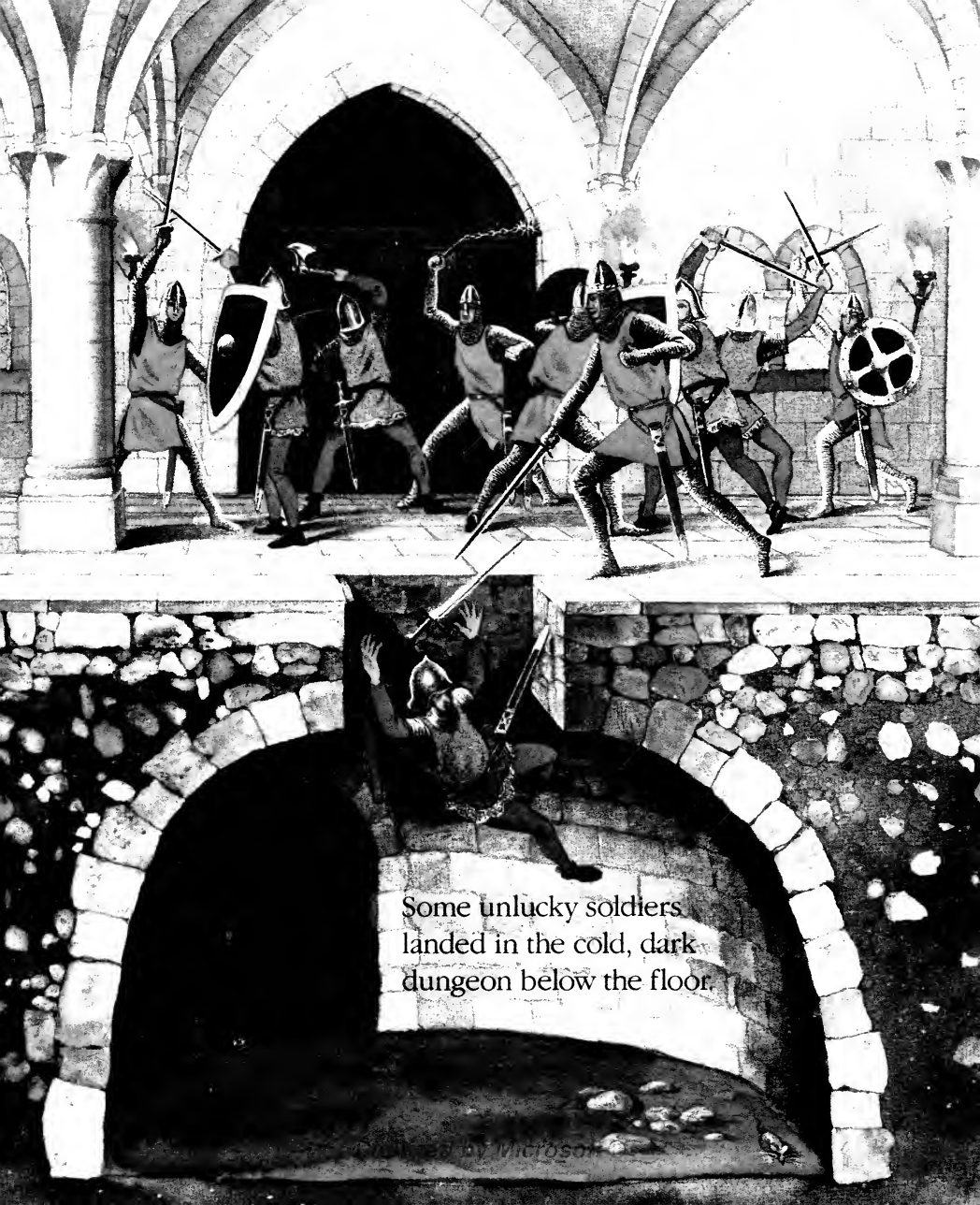


If the enemy succeeded in entering the castle,
the soldiers fought hand to hand
with shields, crossbows, swords,
mace clubs, and axes!





Some unlucky soldiers landed in the cold, dark dungeon below the floor.

Today, many castles
are left in ruins.

But a few still exist.
You can see suits of armor,
weapons, and tapestries in museums.
And you can read exciting books
about the days of lords, ladies, and knights
in shining armor!

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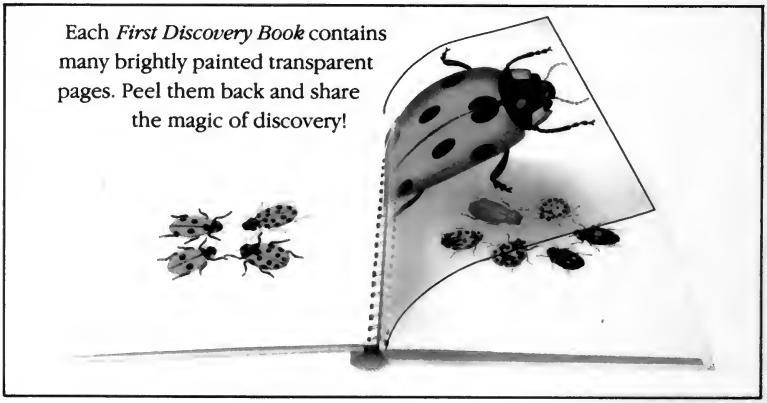

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