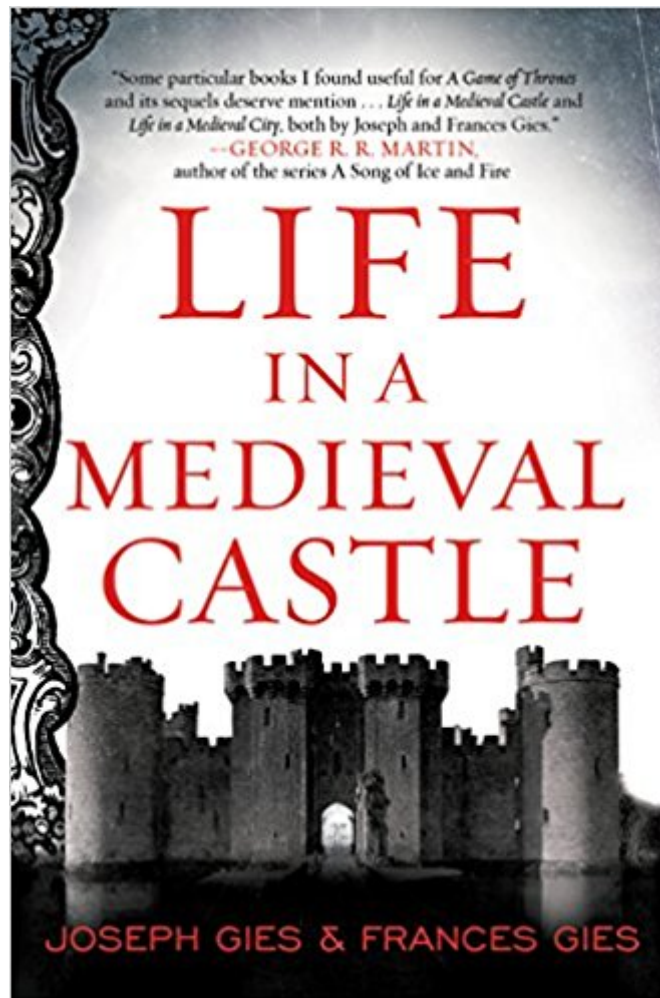




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Life In A Medieval Castle (P.S. (Paperback))



Synopsis

"Some particular books I found useful for A Game of Thrones and its sequels deserve mention... Life in a Medieval Castle and Life in a Medieval City, both by Joseph and Frances Gies."

—George R.R. Martin, author of the series A Song of Ice and Fire

Medieval history comes alive in Joseph and Frances Gies's Life in a Medieval Castle, used as a research resource by George R. R. Martin in creating the world of A Game of Thrones. Newly reissued for the first time in decades, Life in a Medieval Castle is the bestselling classic that has introduced countless readers to the wonders of the Middle Ages. Focusing on a castle called Chepstow on the border between England and Wales, acclaimed Medievalists Joseph and Frances Gies offer an exquisite portrait of what day-to-day life was actually like during the era, and of the key role the castle played. The Gieses write eloquently about the many people whose lives revolved around the castle, from the lord and lady to the commoners of the surrounding village. We discover what lords and serfs alike would have worn, eaten, and done for leisure; the songs sung; and the codes of sexual conduct that maintained order. We learn of the essential role of honor in medieval culture, the initiation process undertaken by knights, and how castles attempted to keep the constant threats of outside violence at bay. Exhaustively researched and as engaging as any novel, Life in a Medieval Castle is the definitive text for anyone wishing to learn more about this fascinating era.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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Gies. (George R.R. Martin, author of the A Song of Ice and Fire series) "The Gieses succeed in making a remote and unfamiliar world accessible. (Kirkus Reviews) "The authors allow medieval man and woman to speak for themselves through selections from past journals, songs, even account books. (Time)

Medieval history comes alive in Joseph and Frances Gies's *Life in a Medieval Castle*, used as a research resource by George R. R. Martin in creating the world of *A Game of Thrones*. Newly reissued for the first time in decades, *Life in a Medieval Castle* is the bestselling classic that has introduced countless readers to the wonders of the Middle Ages. Focusing on a castle called Chepstow on the border between England and Wales, acclaimed Medievalists Joseph and Frances Gies offer an exquisite portrait of what day-to-day life was actually like during the era, and of the key role the castle played. The Gieses write eloquently about the many people whose lives revolved around the castle, from the lord and lady to the commoners of the surrounding village. We discover what lords and serfs alike would have worn, eaten, and done for leisure; the songs sung; and the codes of sexual conduct that maintained order. We learn of the essential role of honor in medieval culture, the initiation process undertaken by knights, and how castles attempted to keep the constant threats of outside violence at bay. Exhaustively researched and as engaging as any novel, *Life in a Medieval Castle* is the definitive text for anyone wishing to learn more about this fascinating era.

A very readable, extremely well organized survey that brings us close to life in and around castles of the 10-12th centuries, mainly in England and France. Conveying passionate interest of the authors, the book covers the seasons, times of day, conditions of life, work, pleasures and meals of each social class: including daily activities, economics, as well as military techniques of attack and defense of castles. The book also provides a clear explanation of English and French feudalism and its evolution. This book is best read together with a historical survey of the period such as R.H.C. Davis's brilliant "*History of Medieval Europe*". The current paperback edition of "*Medieval Castle*" however is ruined by poor quality production from HarperCollins. Printed on rough paper that will age quickly, the many excellent black and white photos are so badly reproduced that some are nearly indecipherable. With today's technology there's no excuse for this shoddy production. Many low volume books at this price level have excellent photo reproduction. Get an older used copy of Gies, if possible from another publisher, which might well have better and more lasting reproduction of this excellent book and its illustrations.

Let me start off by saying: I love my Kindle and I really like the book "Life in a Medieval Castle". That being said these two are not made for each other. In the book there are photographs and drawings interspersed with text. This is easy to follow in hard copy. On the Kindle, the text is interrupted by sometimes one or more illustrations with captions. As a result this reader lost the train of thought from the written text. The book itself is easy to read and understand, even if you are not a Medieval scholar. You can appreciate the engineering genius that helped the castle evolve. Many people may not realize that William the Conqueror had a relatively easy time consolidating his hold over England, The Saxon Lords only had 5 castles before 1066. There were hundreds by the 1100s. What I liked most about the narrative is that this was not a romanticized or patronizing account of Medieval times. The descriptions were easy and interesting enough for the lay reader. I found myself always wanting to read a little further. If the next chapter was about, say, the castle gardener, I still wanted to go on based on the interest that was built before it. It definitely is not a novel. It could, though, provide source material for an aspiring Historical or Fantasy novelist. To sum up buy the hard copy book and not the digital edition. The book is only .20 cents more. Sorry Kindle not this time.

Kind of interesting.

An interesting read and quite educational, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Quite detailed, it provided a step by step analysis of not only the building of a castle, but the reason of it's being.

The only letdown for me was that the book didn't really discuss daily life in the 15th century. Otherwise, it was thorough and engaging enough to not be dull.

even more information of life, all aspects of life during this are...part of a must read set if you are interested learning of this time period and how it impacts us today

Wonderful book if you are interested in how people lived in earlier times.. I enjoy getting insight and understanding of how things were done and why.

I liked "Life in a Medieval Castle" very much. Not only does it give a detailed insight into everyday life and "management" of a castle, it also describes the politics in and around it. I very much

appreciated the description of how the connections between various lords and the king play a big role in how the castles are built and run. Rather than being self-centered single units, there are intricate political networks between the lords and the manifestation of their power, their castles.

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