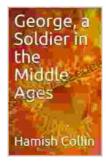
### The Life of a Soldier in the Middle Ages



#### George, a Soldier in the Middle Ages by K.A.S. Quinn

★ ★ ★ ★ 4.2 out of 5 Language : English : 2478 KB File size Text-to-Speech : Enabled Enhanced typesetting: Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 328 pages Lending : Enabled Screen Reader : Supported



The life of a soldier in the Middle Ages was one of hard work, danger, and sacrifice. Soldiers were often recruited from the lower classes of society, and they had to undergo rigorous training in order to prepare for battle.

#### **Training**

The training of a medieval soldier began at a young age. Boys as young as seven or eight years old were sent to live with a knight or other experienced soldier, where they would learn the basics of combat. These young boys were called pages, and their duties included cleaning the knight's armor, running errands, and assisting the knight in battle.

As the pages grew older, they began to receive more advanced training. They learned how to use a variety of weapons, including swords, spears, and bows and arrows. They also learned how to ride horses and how to fight in formation.

#### Combat

Medieval warfare was a brutal and bloody affair. Soldiers fought in close quarters, using a variety of weapons to kill or maim their opponents. The most common weapons used in medieval combat were swords, spears, and axes. Soldiers also used bows and arrows to attack from a distance.

Medieval battles were often decided by the use of heavy cavalry. Knights, who were heavily armored and mounted on horseback, were the most powerful soldiers on the battlefield. They could charge into enemy lines and break them apart with their weight and momentum.

#### Life on Campaign

When a medieval army went on campaign, it was often accompanied by a large number of camp followers. These camp followers included servants, cooks, blacksmiths, and other craftsmen. The camp followers provided the army with food, supplies, and repairs.

Life on campaign was hard for both the soldiers and the camp followers. The soldiers were constantly exposed to the elements, and they often suffered from disease and malnutrition. The camp followers were also vulnerable to attack from enemy forces.

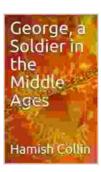
#### **Life after Service**

If a medieval soldier survived the war, he would often return home to a life of poverty. Soldiers were not paid very much, and they often had to rely on the charity of others to survive. Some soldiers became mercenaries, fighting for whoever would pay them the most. Other soldiers found work as guards or bodyguards. A few lucky soldiers were able to rise through the ranks and become knights themselves.

The life of a soldier in the Middle Ages was one of hardship and danger. Soldiers were often recruited from the lower classes of society, and they had to undergo rigorous training in order to prepare for battle. Medieval warfare was a brutal and bloody affair, and soldiers often died in combat. Even if they survived the war, soldiers often faced a life of poverty and hardship. However, despite the dangers and hardships, many men were drawn to the life of a soldier. For these men, the chance to serve their lord and country was worth the risks.

#### **Image Credits:**

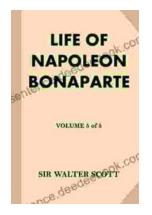
- The Battle of Agincourt, by an unknown artist
- The Battle of Hastings, from the Bayeux Tapestry
- A medieval knight, from the Royal Armouries



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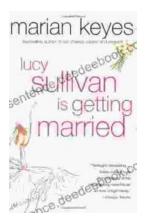
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