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WORLD LEADERS

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Who Was Genghis Khan?

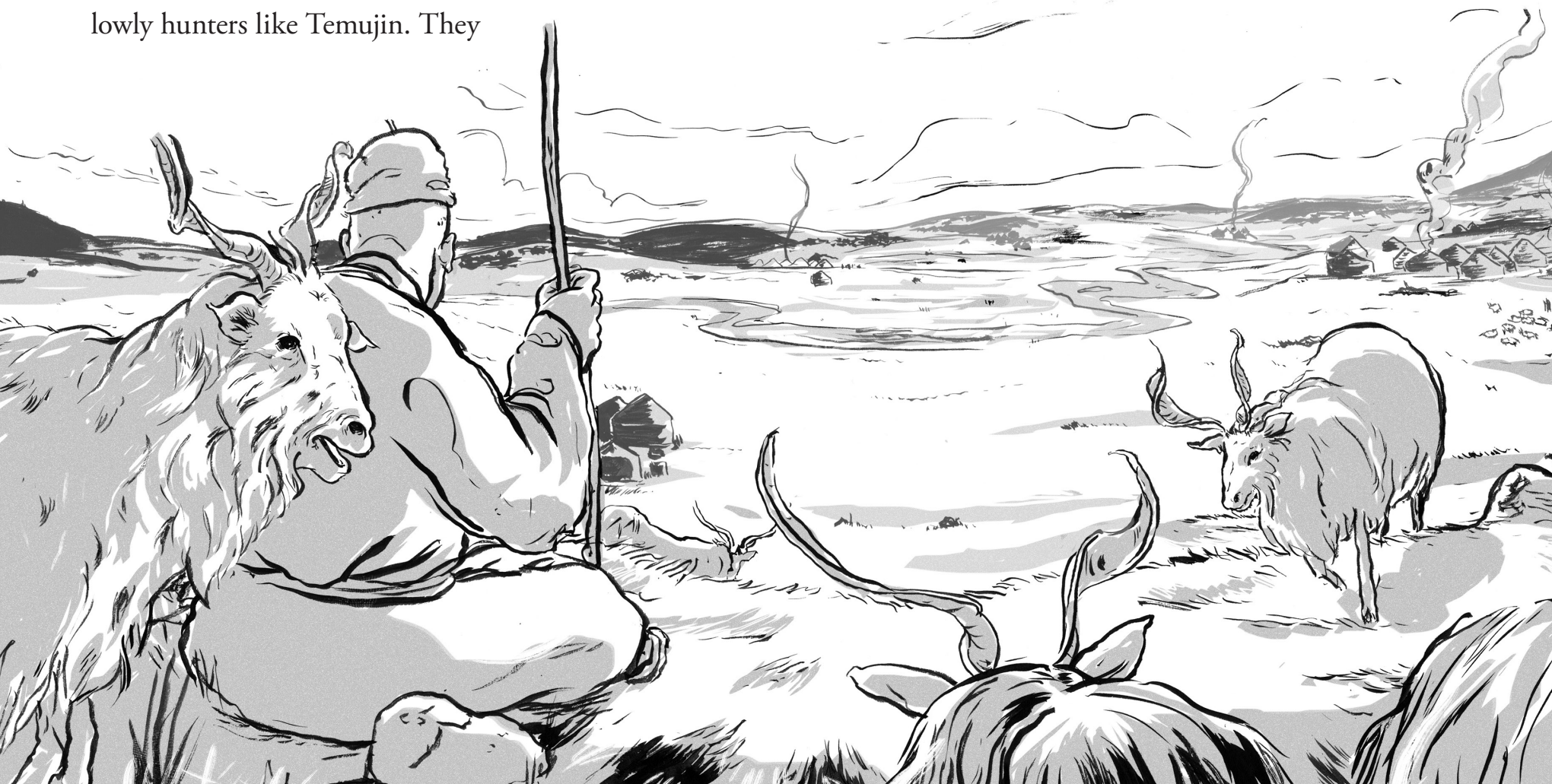


By
Nico Medina
Illustrated by
Andrew Thomson

Chapter 4 Power Struggle

Jamuka's people were animal herders, not lowly hunters like Temujin. They

lived on the open grassland where their sheep, goats, and other livestock could graze. For the first time, Temujin's people enjoyed a steady diet of milk, cheese, and meat. They grew strong, and they were truly part of a tribe.



Jamuka wanted to unite all the warring Mongol clans of the steppe into one, powerful tribe. Temujin wanted the same thing.

As Jamuka's *anda*, Temujin enjoyed a position of power within the clan. He was always at Jamuka's side, helping him and learning from him.

But after a year and a half, Jamuka began treating Temujin more like a little brother than an equal. One night, he told Temujin to camp alongside the river, where the sheep and goats could graze. Jamuka would camp on the steppe with the horses, cows, and camels. This was an insult.

Borte became angry. She told Temujin that Jamuka had grown tired of them. They should leave Jamuka's tribe. Whoever else wished to leave could join them.

That's just what Temujin did.

One night when Jamuka stopped to camp, Temujin's group kept moving. Some people



deserted Jamuka to go with them. They marched all night.

Jamuka did not pursue Temujin, but over the next two decades, the two became bitter enemies.

Over the years, Temujin gained more followers, and three more sons: Chaghatai, Ogodei, and

Tolui. Unlike other tribal leaders, Temujin rewarded positions of power to men based on their ability



rather than their family ties. His servant Jelme and friend Boorchu became close advisers. His younger brother Khasar was in charge of security.

One summer day in 1189, Temujin summoned his followers to a meeting at Blue Lake. Here, he was named the leader of the Mongols. But Jamuka still had many followers of his own.



Temujin sent word to his powerful ally, Toghril. He promised that he was not going to challenge Toghril's authority. He wished only to unite the Mongols under one leader, and that the Mongols would remain subservient to the Kereyid. Toghril was pleased that someone was challenging Jamuka's growing power.

Jamuka became angry at this news. He attacked Temujin's camp. Temujin and his men escaped to the mountains. While they hid, Jamuka returned to Temujin's camp.

Mongols had always preferred to hunt and fight by shooting arrows from far away. They avoided hand-to-hand combat whenever possible. But Jamuka beheaded one of Temujin's followers and tied the head to the tail of a horse. Then, he boiled seventy of Temujin's followers alive.

To the Mongols, the head was the most sacred part of the body, and the spilling of blood was a grave offense. Boiling a man killed his soul as well



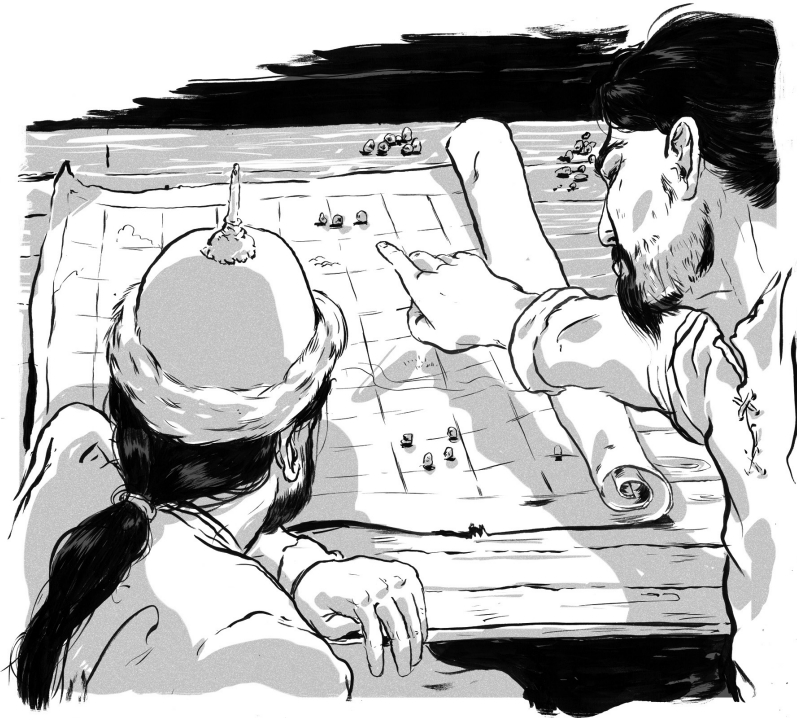
as his body. After these gruesome incidents, many deserted Jamuka in favor of Temujin.

Temujin and his men recovered from the attack. Five years later, in 1195, a great opportunity arose when Toghril asked Temujin to help raid the Tatars of the eastern steppe. There was much treasure to be had.

The vast and wealthy Jurched Empire lay south of the Gobi Desert, in northern China. Fifty million people lived there, and they called their

leader the Golden Khan. Toghril had been asked by the leader of the Jurchen people to attack the Tatars.

For years, the Tatars had protected the Jurchen from other steppe tribes. In return, the Jurchen provided the Tatars luxury goods like silk, iron weapons, and jewelry. But now the Golden Khan worried that the Tatars had become too powerful.

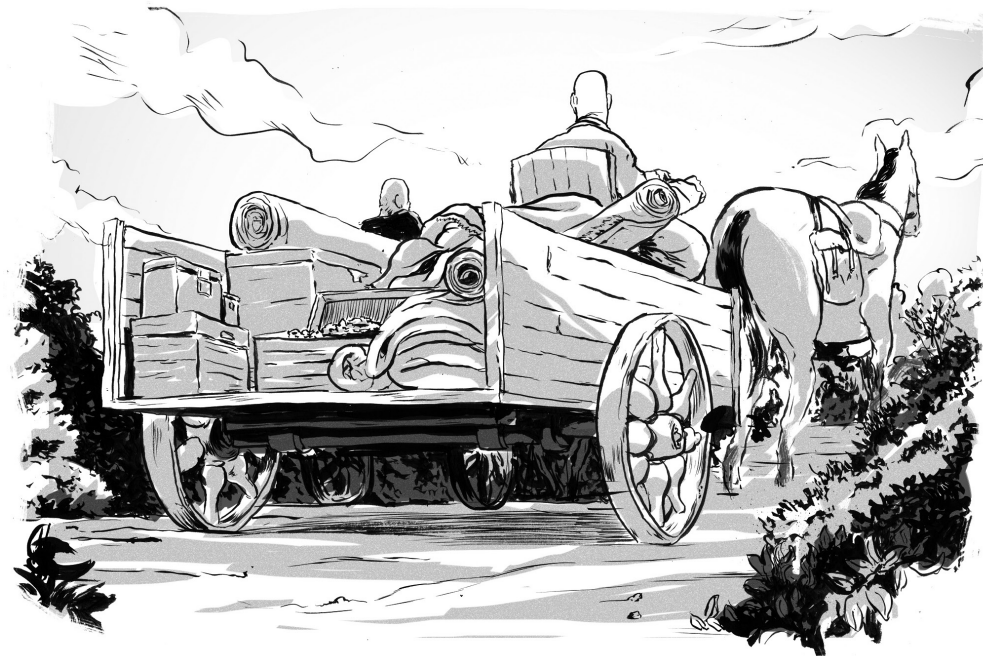


He feared the Tatars might one day attack his people, so he decided to attack them first.

Temujin was happy to help. The Tatars had poisoned his father—and on the steppe, it was never too late for revenge.

The battle was decisive. The Tatars were beaten. Temujin returned home rich with loot. Satin clothing threaded with gold, a cradle embossed with silver, blankets made of silk. His people had never seen such luxury!

From then on Temujin sought to expand his own territory. A tribe to his south had promised



to help him fight the Tatars. But they had never shown up. Instead, while Temujin was away, they'd raided his camp.

In 1197, Temujin decided to attack and raid this tribe in revenge. The tribe's leaders were beheaded for betraying him. But rather than take everyone else as prisoners or slaves—as was common on the steppe—he welcomed them into his tribe. This was a new way for a leader to behave.

By unifying the two tribes, Temujin's tribe grew bigger than ever. Temujin moved his people onto the newly conquered land. With wide-open grazing lands, it was the perfect place to settle. It was also near a natural spring, so they called their new home Aurag, Mongolian for *source*.

Four years later, in 1201, Jamuka summoned his own followers to a meeting. There, he was named Gur-Khan, “khan of all khans.” This was a direct challenge to Temujin.



The men who were once as close as brothers faced off in battle. But Jamuka realized he was outnumbered and fled.

During the fight, Temujin had been shot in the neck by an arrow. It may have been tipped with poison, because as the battle died down for the night, Temujin lost consciousness. His faithful friend and servant Jelme sucked blood from the wound for hours. When Temujin awoke and asked for a drink, Jelme snuck across the battlefield and brought back some yogurt. Temujin survived, and he never forgot Jelme's devotion.

The next day, Temujin chased down and captured all his enemies who had snuck away during the night. Once again, he had the leaders executed and accepted the rest of the tribe into his own.

Jamuka had escaped.

The final showdown between the blood brothers would have to wait.



Who Was Joan of Arc?



by
Pam Pollack and
Meg Belviso

Chapter 2 Leaving Home



In the summer of 1428, Domrémy was raided by the French soldiers who sided with England. Joan's family left to stay at an inn in a nearby town.

Joan thought that the French people who sided with England were betraying their country. Joan's visions told her that with her help, Charles, the dauphin, could drive the English out of France. Joan didn't understand what that help would be, but she trusted that her visions were true. At that time, the dauphin was in the town of Chinon, over 350 miles away.

Joan had a cousin who lived not far from the commander of a French fortress. Joan told her parents she wanted to visit her cousin, who was going to have a baby. What Joan really wanted was to speak



ROBERT DE
BAUDRICOURT

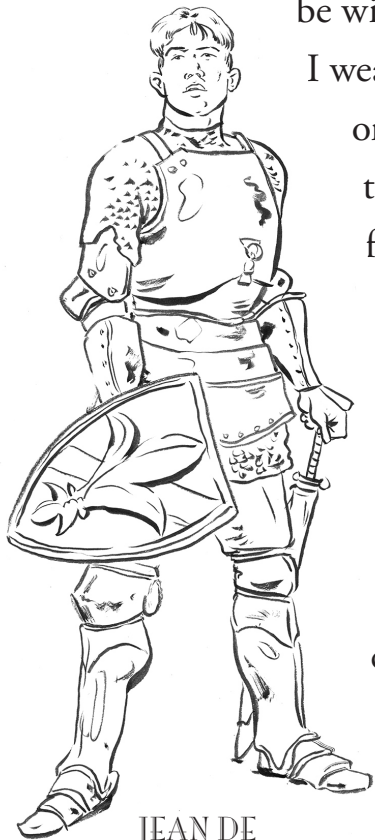
to the commander—Robert de Baudricourt.

When Joan arrived in December, her cousin's husband took her to meet Baudricourt. Joan explained that she needed to get to Charles. Like many Frenchmen, Baudricourt had heard of a prophecy—a prediction about the future—that a maid (an unmarried girl) would win France back from the English. Perhaps the maid was Joan! But Baudricourt was not so easily convinced. When Joan told him that God said that she would make



Charles king of France, Baudricourt did not believe her. He told Joan's escort to take her back to her father and have him punish her for telling stories.

But Joan did not go home. She remained in the town, determined to convince Baudricourt of the truth of her visions. She said, "I must be with the king . . . though I wear my legs to my knees on the road!" Joan meant that she didn't care how far she would have to walk to meet him. Like most poor people, she had never learned to ride a horse. The people of the town all heard about the girl in the red dress who claimed she was going to save France. One of these people was a young



JEAN DE
METZ



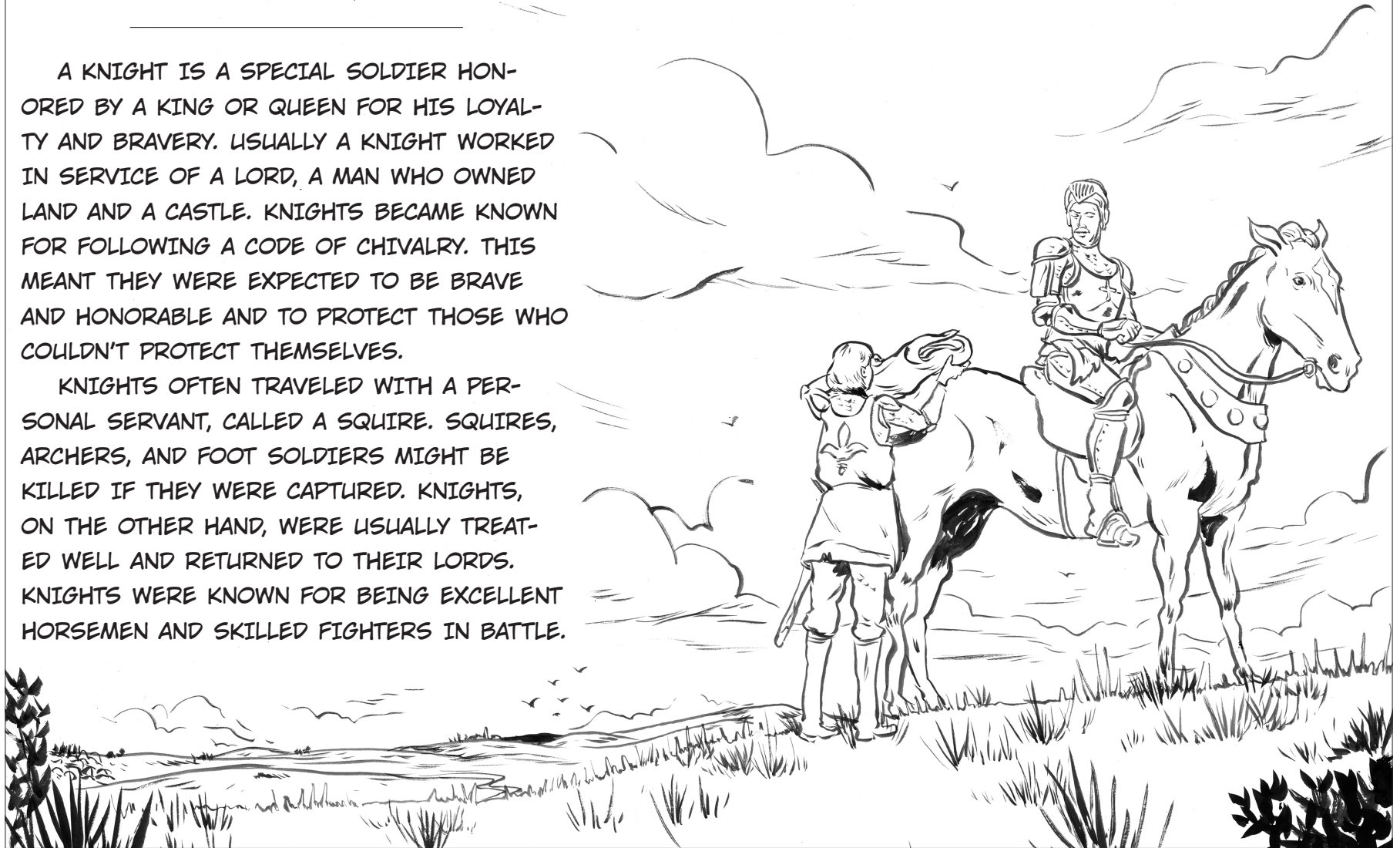
knight called Jean de Metz. He soon became her most loyal supporter.

Commander Baudricourt was surprised when Joan didn't give up. Eventually he was won over

KNIGHTS

A KNIGHT IS A SPECIAL SOLDIER HONORED BY A KING OR QUEEN FOR HIS LOYALTY AND BRAVERY. USUALLY A KNIGHT WORKED IN SERVICE OF A LORD, A MAN WHO OWNED LAND AND A CASTLE. KNIGHTS BECAME KNOWN FOR FOLLOWING A CODE OF CHIVALRY. THIS MEANT THEY WERE EXPECTED TO BE BRAVE AND HONORABLE AND TO PROTECT THOSE WHO COULDN'T PROTECT THEMSELVES.

KNIGHTS OFTEN TRAVELED WITH A PERSONAL SERVANT, CALLED A SQUIRE. SQUIRES, ARCHERS, AND FOOT SOLDIERS MIGHT BE KILLED IF THEY WERE CAPTURED. KNIGHTS, ON THE OTHER HAND, WERE USUALLY TREATED WELL AND RETURNED TO THEIR LORDS. KNIGHTS WERE KNOWN FOR BEING EXCELLENT HORSEMEN AND SKILLED FIGHTERS IN BATTLE.



by her determination. He wrote to the dauphin about her. Amazingly, Charles agreed to a meeting.

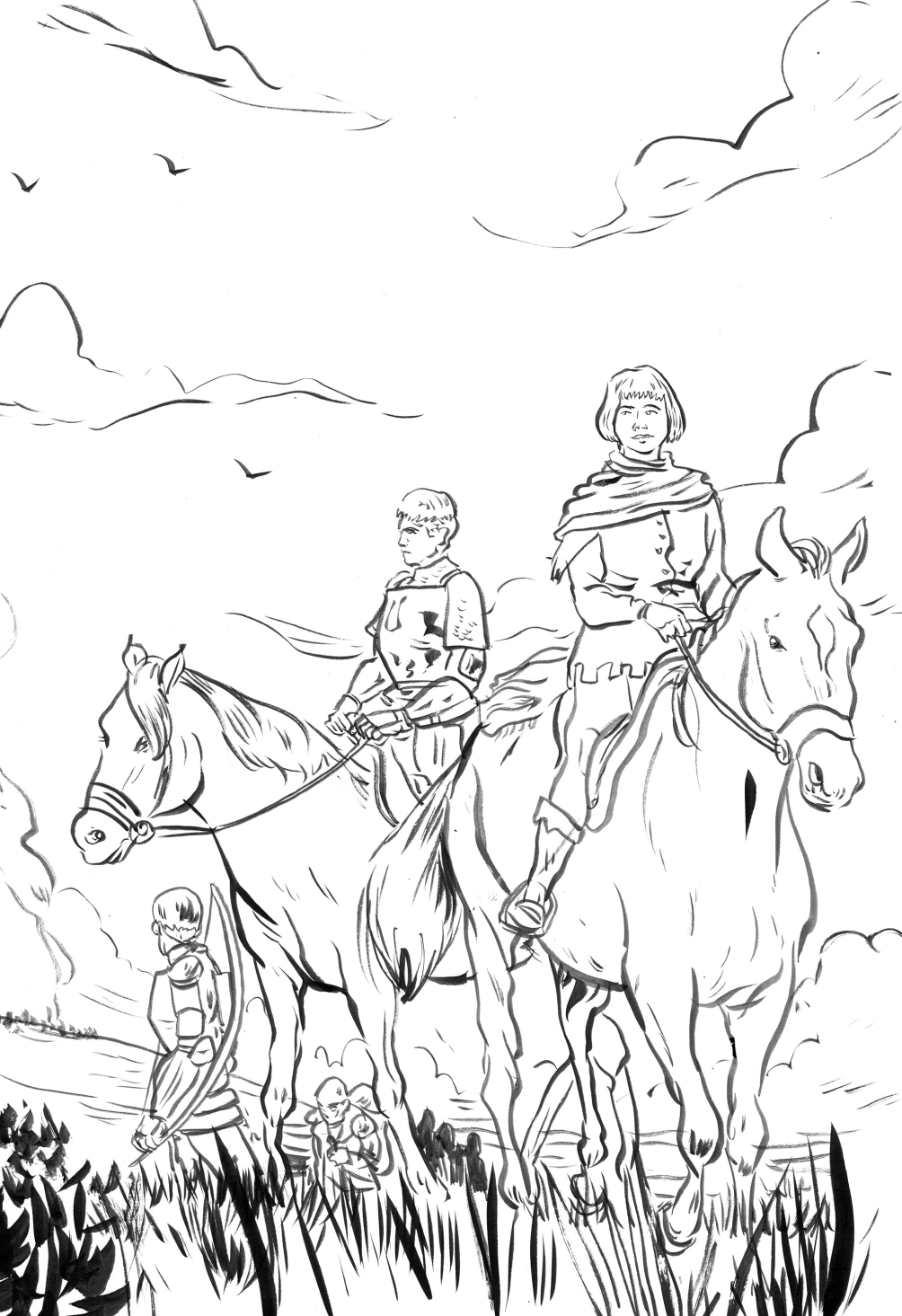
News of the girl who talked to angels and was going to save France quickly spread. Joan was so confident about God's orders that people began to believe in her. They were thrilled when Charles said he would meet with her. That made Joan's mission seem even more real. If this poor girl had managed to get the dauphin's attention, what else could she do?

Before she left for Chinon, Joan told Baudricourt that she had received a new message from the saints. She told him the French army had been defeated that very day in a faraway city. Baudricourt was puzzled. The battle had taken place many miles away. No one could have heard the outcome yet.

In 1429, Joan left to meet with the dauphin. She traveled with Jean de Metz, his squire, an



archer, and three servants. Crowds came to see them off at the city gate. In preparation for the 350-mile trip, Joan cut her long hair and changed her red dress for a boy's traveling



clothes. The saints had requested that she dress this way, even though it was considered very shocking for a girl to wear boys' clothes.

Days later, news of a French defeat reached Commander Baudricourt. Everything had happened just as Joan said it did. The voices Joan had been hearing seemed to know details that even important officials did not. This seemed to prove to Baudricourt that she really was being guided by God. But could Joan really predict the future?

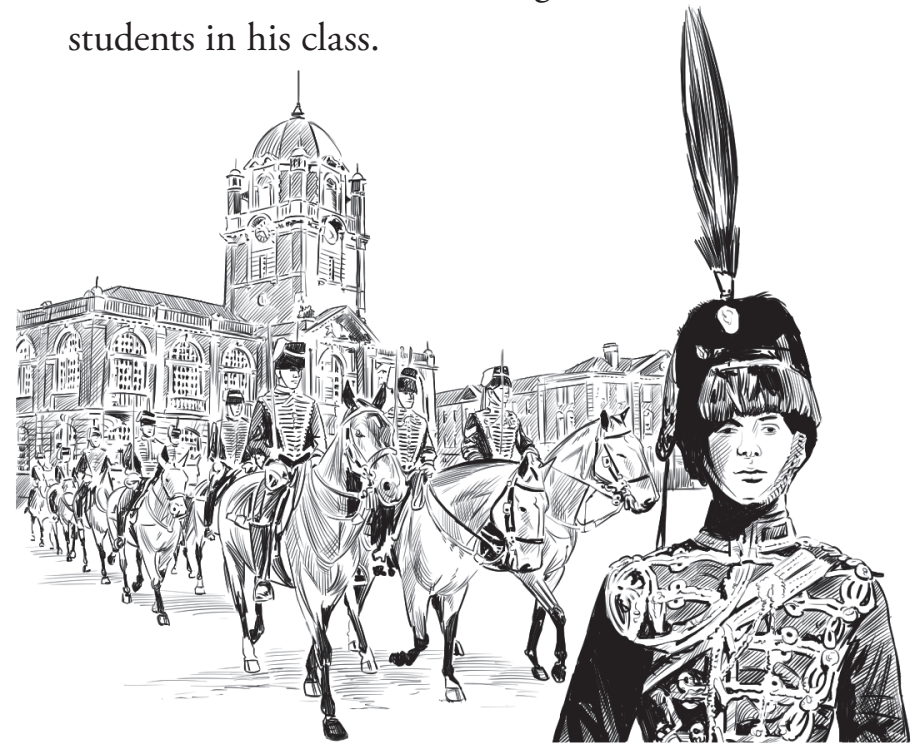
Who Was Winston Churchill?



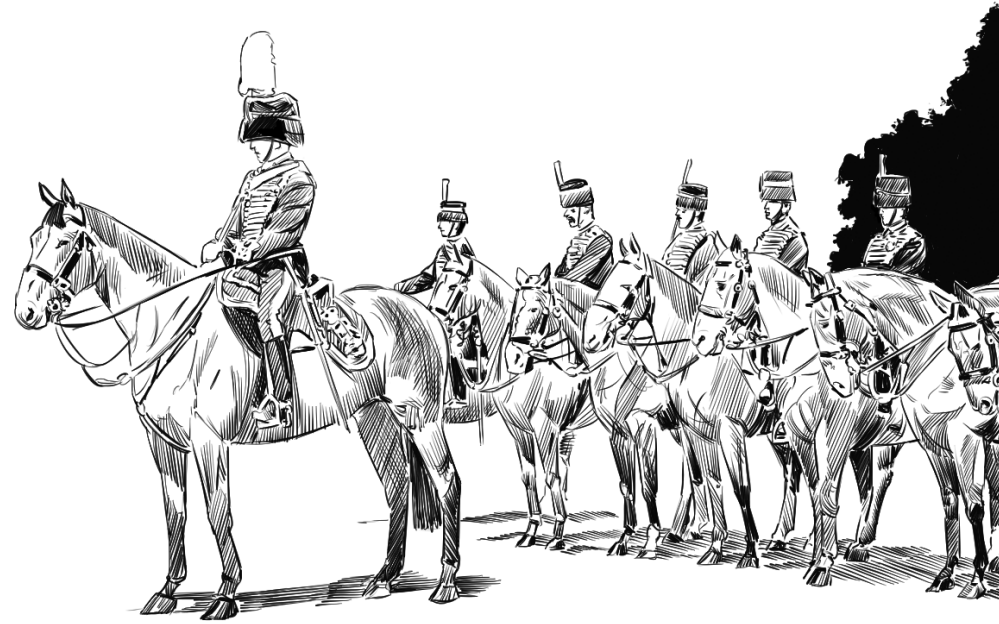
By
Ellen Labrecque
Illustrated by
Jerry Hoare

Chapter 2 Soldier and Writer

Winston Churchill spent fifteen months at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. He learned how to ride horses and how to lead soldiers in battle. Now that he was learning about something he loved, he excelled. Winston graduated in December 1894. He ranked eighth of the 150 students in his class.



As Winston's career was beginning, his father's life was ending. Lord Randolph had been sick for years. He died on January 24, 1895. He was forty-five years old. Winston was sad about his father's death. But he was crushed when his beloved nanny, Mrs. Everest, died later that same year. Home on leave from the army, Winston was at her bedside when she passed away. "She had been my dearest and most intimate friend during the whole of the twenty years I had lived," Winston wrote about her.



After Sandhurst, Winston was made a second lieutenant in the cavalry. The cavalry was a section of the army that fought on horseback. He spent six months in training. But Winston wanted to see real fighting. In November 1895, he traveled to Cuba as a reporter covering the Cuban War of Independence. He had a deal with a London newspaper, the *Daily Graphic*. He was to write articles for them describing his adventures.

While in Cuba, Winston formed his lifelong love of Cuban cigars. Later in his life, he was frequently seen with one clenched between his teeth.



After Cuba, Winston was sent with his regiment to Bangalore, India. Great Britain had ruled India since 1858.



They kept an army station in the hills of Bangalore to protect their land and the people. At first, Winston had a lot of free time. He used it to read books and write stories about his adventures. But during his nearly three years in India, he was also called to fight in two wars against the Indian people who wanted to be free from British rule. Winston helped squash both of these rebellions.

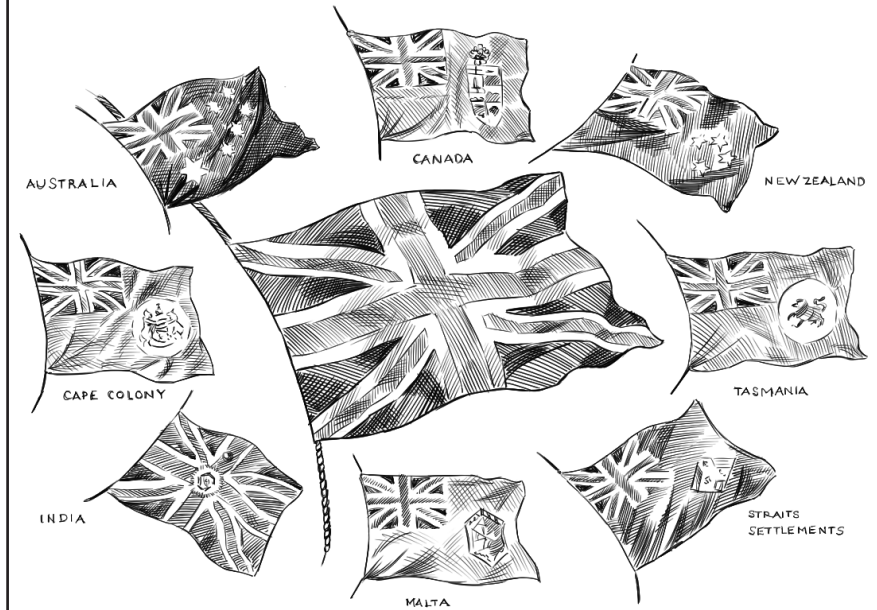
Winston left India in March 1899. Later that same year, he went to South Africa to fight in the Boer War. The war was a struggle between the British and the Dutch-speaking settlers, the Boers. The Boers wanted to rule South Africa, and so did the British.

During one of the South African battles, Winston helped rescue a British train that had been ambushed by Boer soldiers. He was captured and taken as a prisoner of war in Pretoria, South Africa. He spent his twenty-fifth birthday locked up. Eventually, Winston escaped through a

bathroom window. After newspapers reported on his daring prison escape, Winston became famous back home in Great Britain.



THE BRITISH EMPIRE



DURING THE VICTORIAN ERA, THE REIGN OF QUEEN VICTORIA (1837-1901), THE BRITISH EMPIRE REACHED ITS GREATEST HEIGHTS. BY THE DAWN OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, IT HAD GROWN TO ENCOMPASS ONE-QUARTER OF THE EARTH'S LANDMASS, INCLUDING A POPULATION OF FOUR HUNDRED MILLION PEOPLE. IT WAS CALLED "THE EMPIRE ON WHICH THE SUN NEVER SETS." DURING THIS TIME, GREAT BRITAIN RULED ALL OF CANADA, INDIA, AND AUSTRALIA, AS WELL AS MANY COUNTRIES IN AFRICA.

THE

Who Was?

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