## Days of the Knights: A Journey into the Realm of Chivalry and Honor



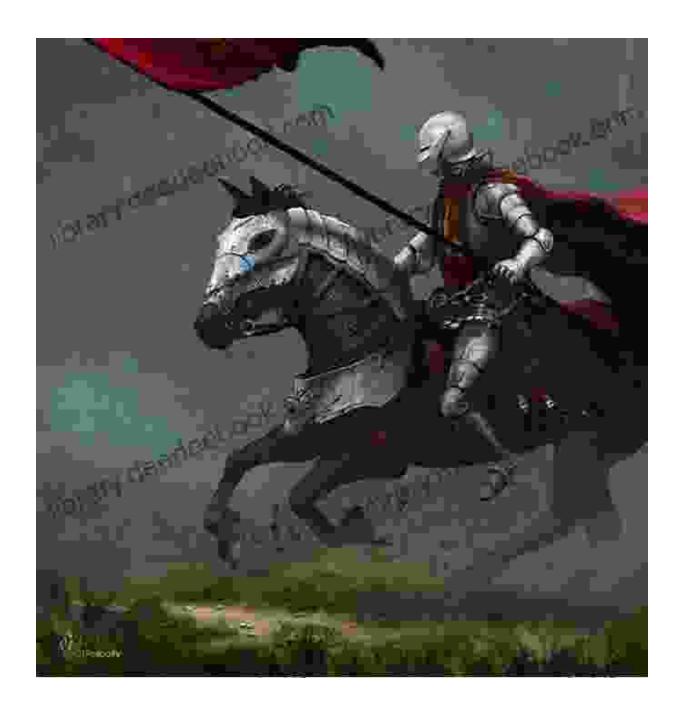
#### Scholastic Reader Level 2: Tales of the Time Dragon #1:

Days of the Knights by Robert Neubecker

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The Birth of Chivalry



The concept of chivalry emerged in Europe during the High Middle Ages, around the 11th century. It was a code of conduct that governed the behavior of knights and nobles, emphasizing values such as honor, loyalty, and bravery. Knights were expected to uphold justice, protect the weak, and fight for their lord or sovereign.

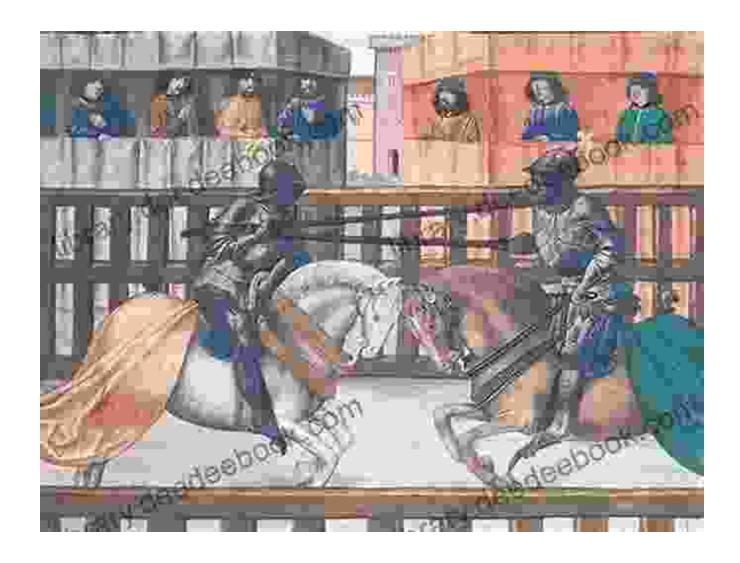
The ideals of chivalry were largely influenced by the writings of medieval poets and storytellers, who romanticized the lives of knights errant. These stories depicted knights as valiant warriors who embarked on perilous quests to prove their worth and win the favor of their ladies.

#### The Code of Chivalry

- Speak the truth at all times.
- Be loyal to your lord and country.
- Protect the weak and defenseless.
- Be courageous in battle.
- Be courteous to all, even your enemies.
- Keep your promises.
- Live a life of honor and integrity.

The Code of Chivalry was not simply a set of rules, but a way of life for medieval knights. It shaped their thoughts, actions, and aspirations. Knights who lived up to the code were highly respected and admired by their peers and society as a whole.

#### Life as a Knight



Becoming a knight was a long and challenging process. Young boys would begin their training as pages at a young age, learning the basics of horsemanship, swordsmanship, and combat. As they grew older, they would become squires, serving as assistants to more experienced knights.

After years of training and service, a squire could be knighted by his lord or sovereign in a solemn ceremony. Knighthood was a great honor, and it came with a heavy responsibility to live up to the ideals of chivalry.

The daily life of a knight revolved around training, tournaments, and battles. Knights spent hours practicing their combat skills, preparing for the next

battle or jousting tournament. They also attended feasts and social events, where they could display their wealth and prowess.

#### The Battlefields



Knights played a crucial role in medieval warfare. They formed the elite cavalry of armies, charging into battle with lances and swords. Knights were heavily armored, making them formidable opponents on the battlefield.

Battles in the Middle Ages were often brutal and bloody affairs. Knights fought hand-to-hand, using a variety of weapons including swords, axes, and maces. The outcome of a battle could often depend on the skill and courage of the knights involved.

#### The Legacy of Chivalry



The ideals of chivalry continue to resonate today, even though the age of knights has long passed. The concepts of honor, bravery, and loyalty are still valued in modern society.

Chivalry has also left a lasting legacy in art, literature, and popular culture. From the tales of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table to the chivalrous heroes of modern-day films and television shows, the legacy of knights continues to inspire and entertain generations.

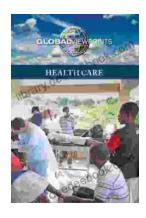
The Days of the Knights were a fascinating era in history, marked by the rise of chivalry and the valiant knights who lived by its code. The ideals of honor, loyalty, and bravery that defined medieval knights continue to inspire us today, reminding us of the enduring power of human spirit.



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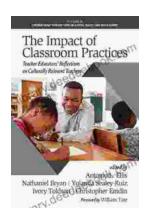
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