

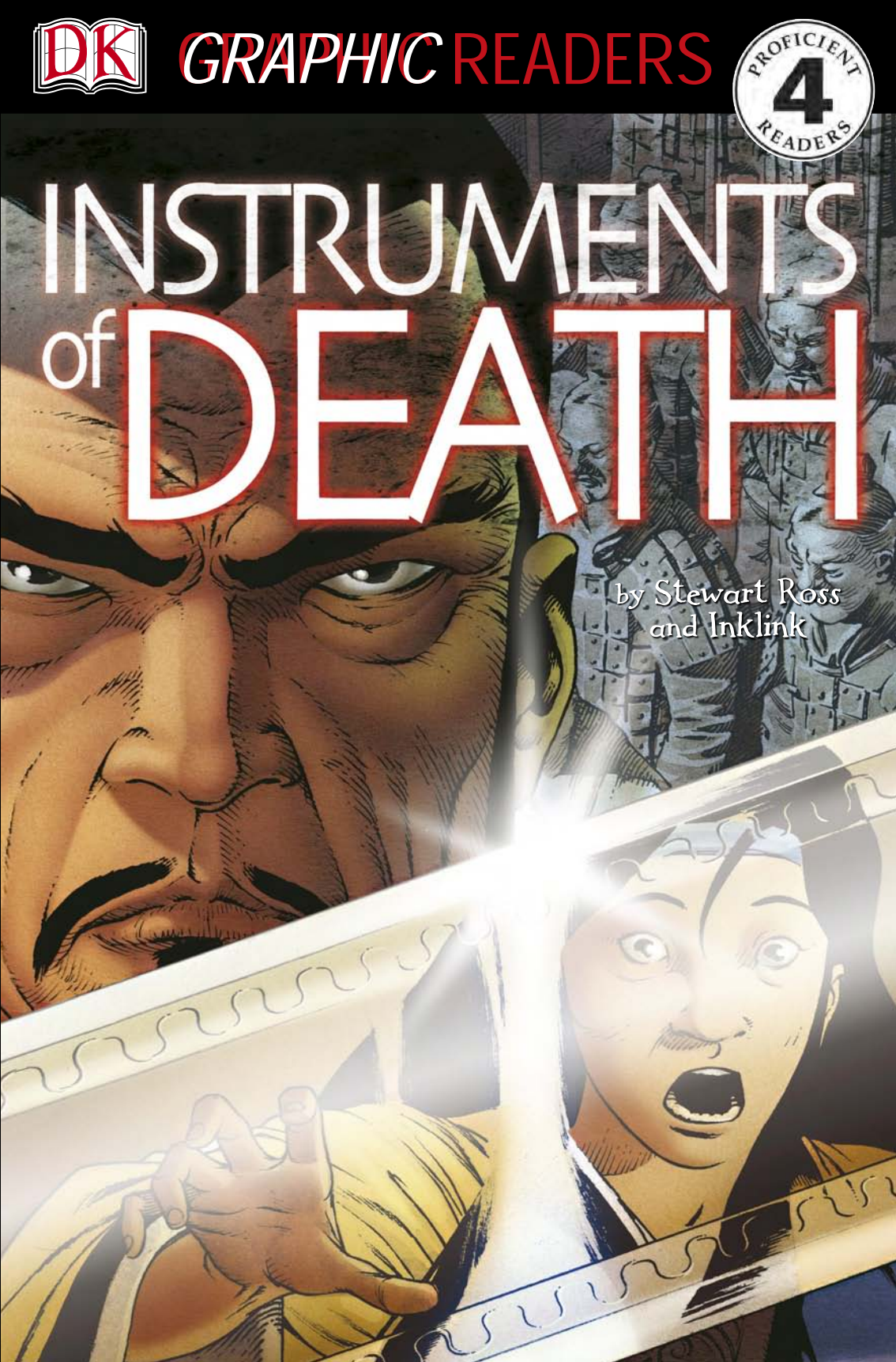


GRAPHIC READERS



INSTRUMENTS of DEATH

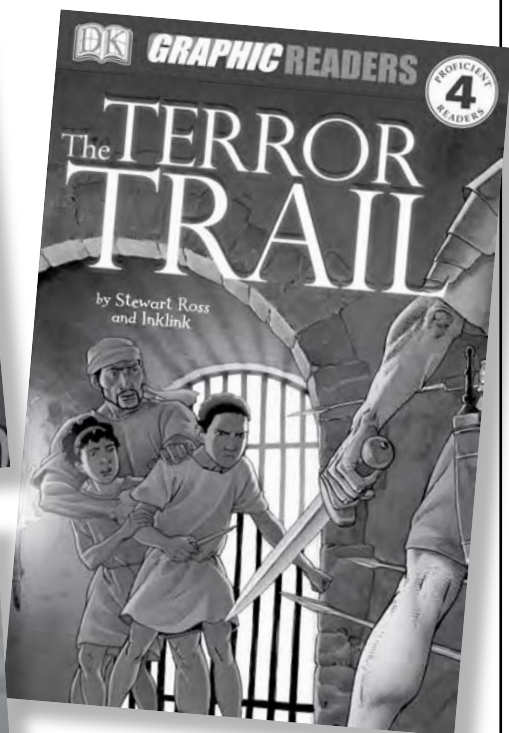
by Stewart Ross
and Inklint



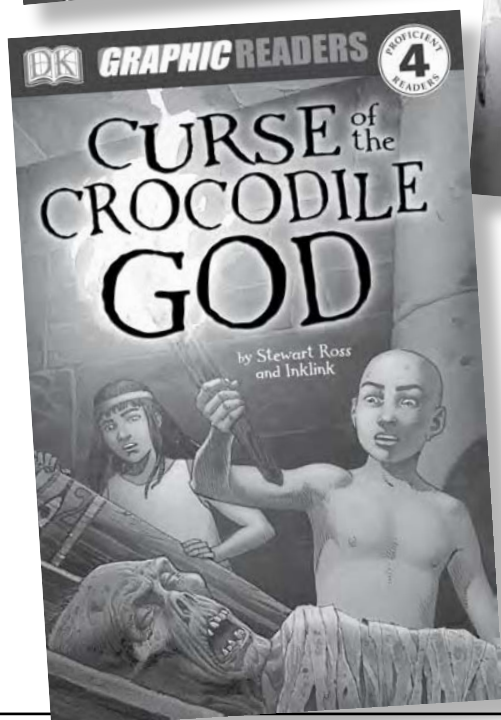
Don't miss...



THE PRICE OF VICTORY
An exciting story of rivalry
and sabotage at
the Olympic Games.



THE TERROR TRAIL
A breathless tale of faith
and justice in Rome's
arena of death,
the Colosseum.



**CURSE OF THE
CROCODILE GOD**
A terrifying tale of tomb
robbers in Ancient Egypt.

A Note to Parents and Teachers

DK READERS is a compelling program for beginning readers, designed in conjunction with leading literacy experts, including Dr. Linda Gambrell, Professor of Education at Clemson University. Dr. Gambrell has served as President of the National Reading Conference and the College Reading Association, and has recently been elected to serve as President of the International Reading Association.

Beautiful illustrations and superb full-color photographs combine with engaging, easy-to-read stories to offer a fresh approach to each subject in the series.

Each DK READER is guaranteed to capture a child's interest while developing his or her reading skills, general knowledge, and love of reading.

The five levels of DK READERS are aimed at different reading abilities, enabling you to choose the books that are exactly right for your child:

- Pre-level 1:** Learning to read
- Level 1:** Beginning to read
- Level 2:** Beginning to read alone
- Level 3:** Reading alone
- Level 4:** Proficient readers

The “normal” age at which a child begins to read can be anywhere from three to eight years old. Adult participation through the lower levels is very helpful for providing encouragement, discussing storylines, and sounding out unfamiliar words.

No matter which level you select, you can be sure that you are helping your child learn to read, then read to learn!





LONDON, NEW YORK, MUNICH,
MELBOURNE, AND DELHI

Editor Kate Simkins
Designers Cathy Tincknell
and John Kelly
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Brand Manager Lisa Lanzarini
Publishing Manager Simon Beecroft
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Production Rochelle Talary

Reading Consultant
Maureen Fernandes

Published in Great Britain in 2007 by
Dorling Kindersley Limited,
80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL

Some material contained in this book was previously published in
2006 in *Tales of the Dead: Ancient China*

07 08 09 10 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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A CIP record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN: 978-1-40531-837-2

High-res workflow proofed by Media Development
and Printing Ltd, UK.

Design and digital artworking by John Kelly and Cathy Tincknell.
Printed and bound in China by L. Rex Printing Co. Ltd.

All artwork by Inklinc except the illustrations of the Great Wall on
page 42, the terracotta soldiers and the town on page 44, the junk
on page 45, the palace on page 46 and the terracotta soldiers on
page 47 by Richard Bonson.

Discover more at
www.dk.com

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Glossary	42





READERS



INSTRUMENTS of DEATH

Written by Stewart Ross
Illustrated by Inlink




INSTRUMENTS OF DEATH

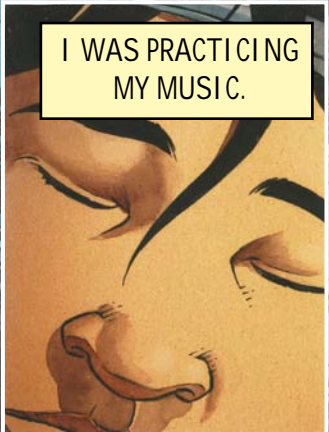
Shen's story takes place in Ancient China about 2,500 years ago. China was ruled by Emperor Shihuangdi, a ruthless warrior who had conquered all the kingdoms of China and united them for the first time under the Qin Empire. Our hero, Shen, lives in a village near the Great Wall of China. Turn to page 42 to see a map and timeline, and then let the story begin....




“My name is Shen and I am 11 years old. Since I was a young boy, I have been learning to play a musical instrument called the zither. I love playing this beautiful stringed instrument and practice every day. Until recently, I was living a quiet life with my parents in a small village. My life was a world away from the Emperor's court. Suddenly, everything changed when I was summoned to play for the mighty Emperor....”



IT WAS EVENING
IN MY VILLAGE IN
NORTHERN CHINA.



I WAS PRACTICING
MY MUSIC.

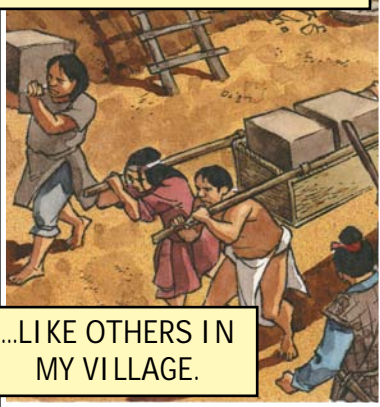


MY TEACHERS
SAID I HAD
GREAT TALENT.



EXCELLENT, SHEN!

BUT I WAS LUCKY NOT TO BE
TOILING ON THE GREAT WALL...

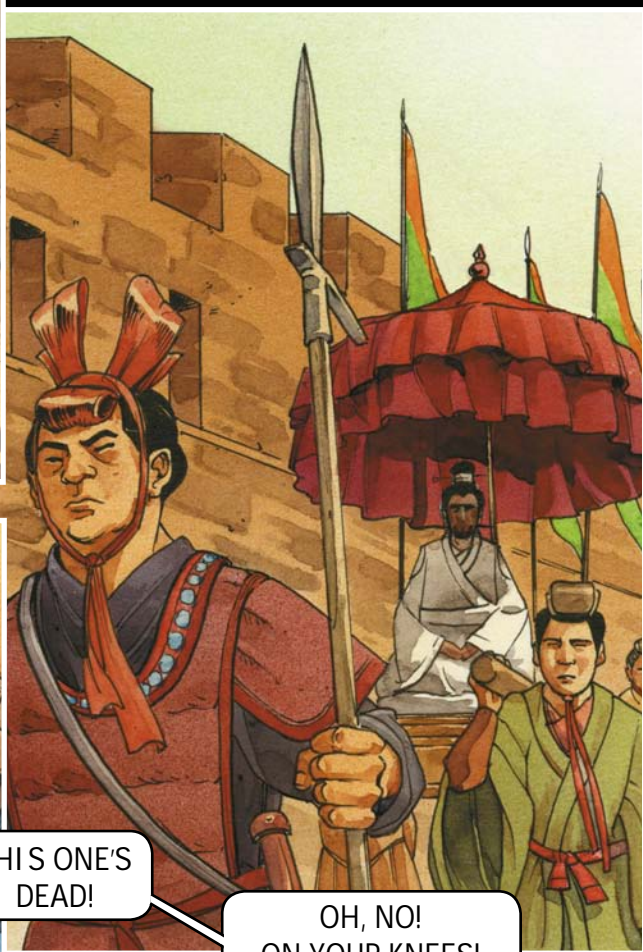


...LIKE OTHERS IN
MY VILLAGE.



FASTER, YOU
DOGS!

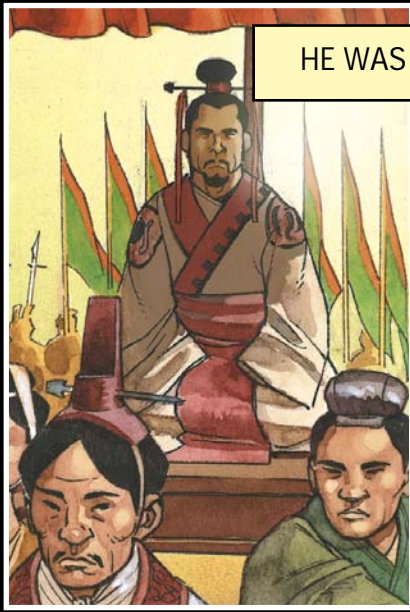
THERE WERE STORIES
OF TERRIBLE ACCIDENTS.



THIS ONE'S
DEAD!

OH, NO!
ON YOUR KNEES!
IT'S THE EMPEROR!





HE WAS SHI HUANGDI ...

...SON OF HEAVEN,
LORD OF LIFE...

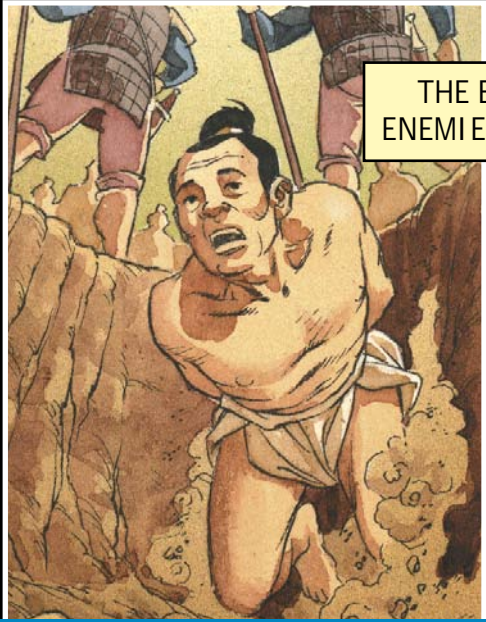
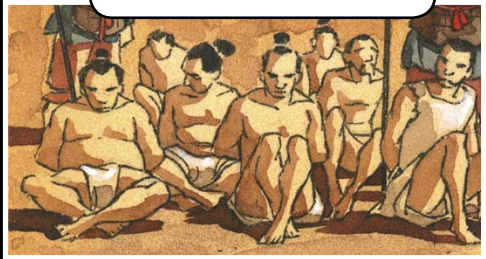
...AND OF
DEATH.



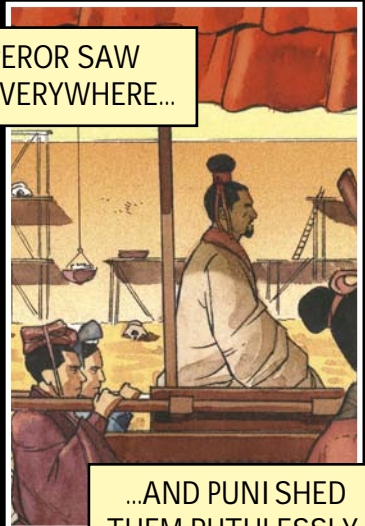
BRING OUT THE
CORRUPT OVERSEERS!



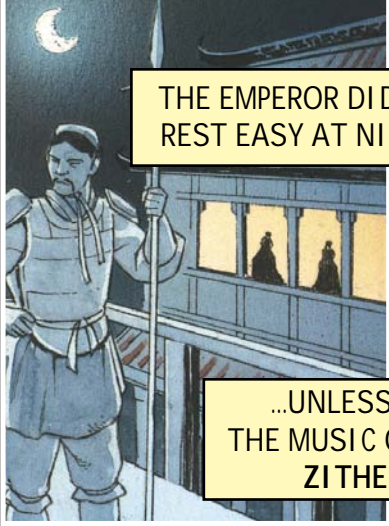
LET THE EXECUTIONS
BEGIN!




THE EMPEROR SAW
ENEMIES EVERYWHERE...



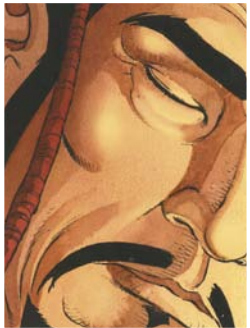
...AND PUNISHED
THEM RUTHLESSLY.




THE EMPEROR DID NOT REST EASY AT NIGHT...




...UNLESS CALMED BY THE MUSIC OF HIS FINEST ZITHER PLAYER.




AS THE SWEET SOUNDS WASHED OVER HIM...



...HIS TROUBLES SLIPPED AWAY AND HE COULD FINALLY RELAX.

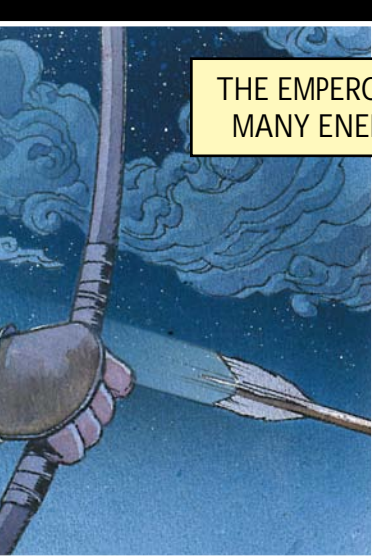


ANOTHER TUNE, O LORD?...



THWACK!





THE EMPEROR HAD MANY ENEMIES.



ARGHH!

THE ASSASSIN'S ON THE ROOF!



WE'VE GOT HIM CORNERED!



UGH!

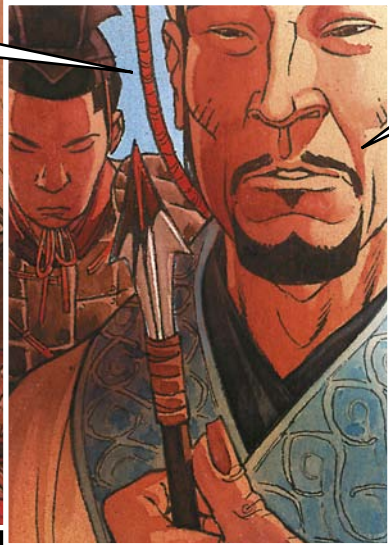
GOT HIM!



WE COULD NOT TAKE HIM ALIVE.



THAT ARROW WAS MEANT FOR ME!



GET THE COURT TOGETHER. WE WILL RETURN TO THE CAPITAL...



...IMMEDIATELY!



AND ONE MORE THING!



BRING ME A NEW ZITHER PLAYER...

...BY THIS TIME TOMORROW!





OPEN UP!

THEY CAME TO MY HOME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

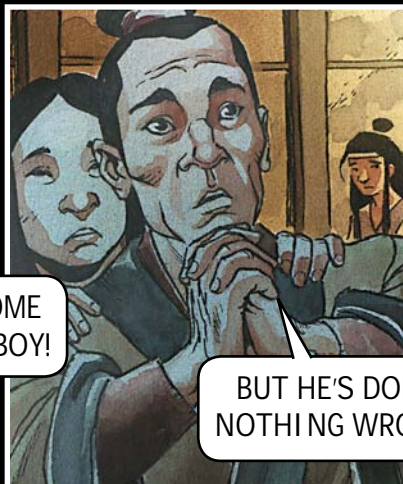


IN THE NAME OF THE EMPEROR!

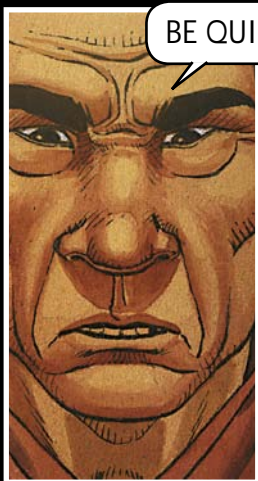
WHY US? WHAT HAVE WE DONE?



WE'VE COME FOR THE BOY!



BUT HE'S DONE NOTHING WRONG!



BE QUIET...



...AND YOU WON'T BE HARMED.



THE GUARDS ORDERED ME TO BRING MY ZI THER.



SAVE YOUR TEARS! THE BOY IS WANTED AT COURT.



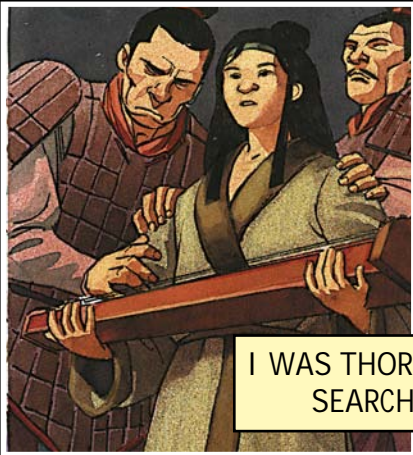
THEN WE WERE GONE...

I WAS TAKEN UNDER HEAVY GUARD TO BEGIN MY NEW LIFE.



...LEAVING MY PARENTS WITH MONEY IN PLACE OF A SON.





I WAS THOROUGHLY SEARCHED.



THEN BROUGHT BEFORE THE EMPEROR, SHI HUANGDI!



THEY SAY THE BOY HAS TALENT, SIRE.




PLAY, CHILD!



TERRIFIED, I DID AS I WAS TOLD.




AND THE LORD OF THE WORLD SMILED!



SO I BECAME A
ROYAL MUSICIAN
AND TRAVELED
WITH THE COURT.



ON THE JOURNEY, I WATCHED
MY NEW COMPANIONS.



I KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE
THINKING!



LOOKS SINISTER,
DOESN'T HE?



HIS NAME IS
COUNT GAO.



I'M DUKE SONG, BY
THE WAY.



I'M SHEN.



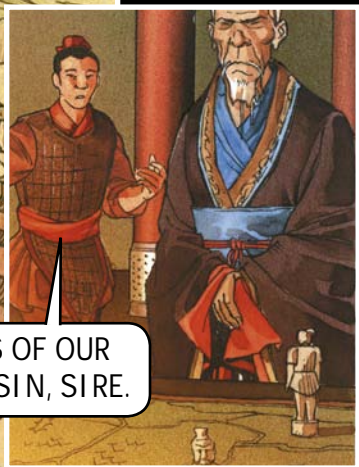
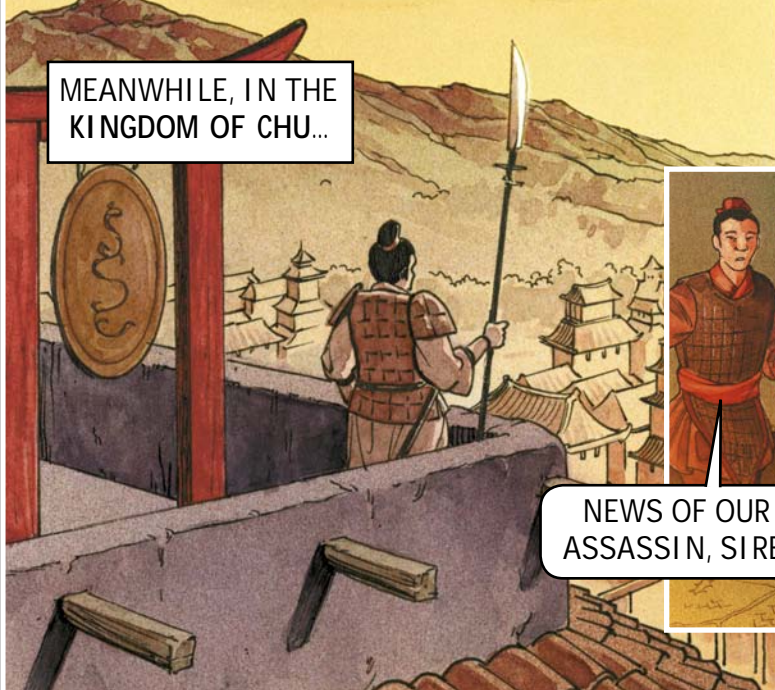
WELL, SHEN, I BET YOU'RE
WONDERING HOW GAO LOST
HIS HAND?



THE TRUTH IS...

...NO ONE KNOWS!

MEANWHILE, IN THE KINGDOM OF CHU...



NEWS OF OUR ASSASSIN, SIRE.

HE FAILED!

IT'S TIME FOR THE MASTER PLAN!



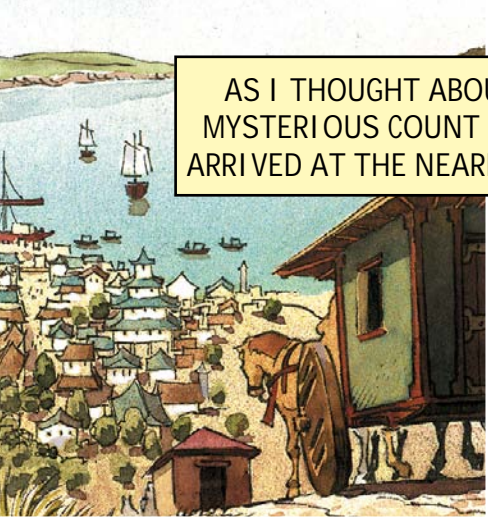
ALERT OUR MAN AT THE QIN COURT.



TELL HIM...

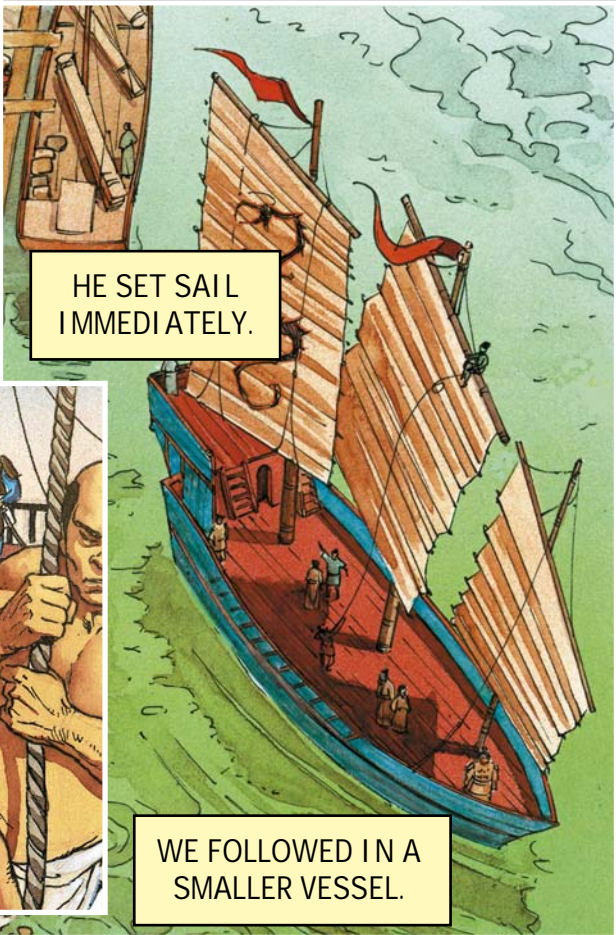


...THE EMPEROR MUST DIE!



AS I THOUGHT ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUS COUNT GAO, WE ARRIVED AT THE NEAREST PORT.

THE EMPEROR WENT ABOARD THE LARGEST BOAT.

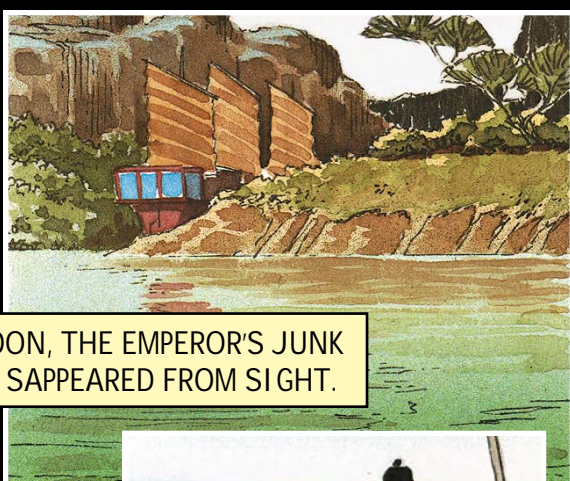
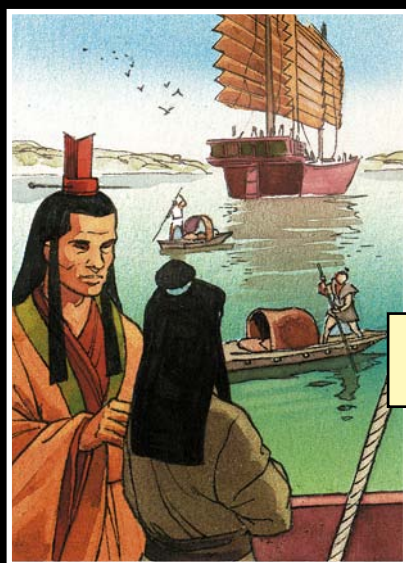


HE SET SAIL IMMEDIATELY.



FASTER!

WE FOLLOWED IN A SMALLER VESSEL.



SOON, THE EMPEROR'S JUNK DI SAPEARED FROM SIGHT.



ON OUR SHIP, COUNT GAO STOOD ALONE.

WHAT'S HE DOING?

GAO IS A MASTER SWORDSMAN.

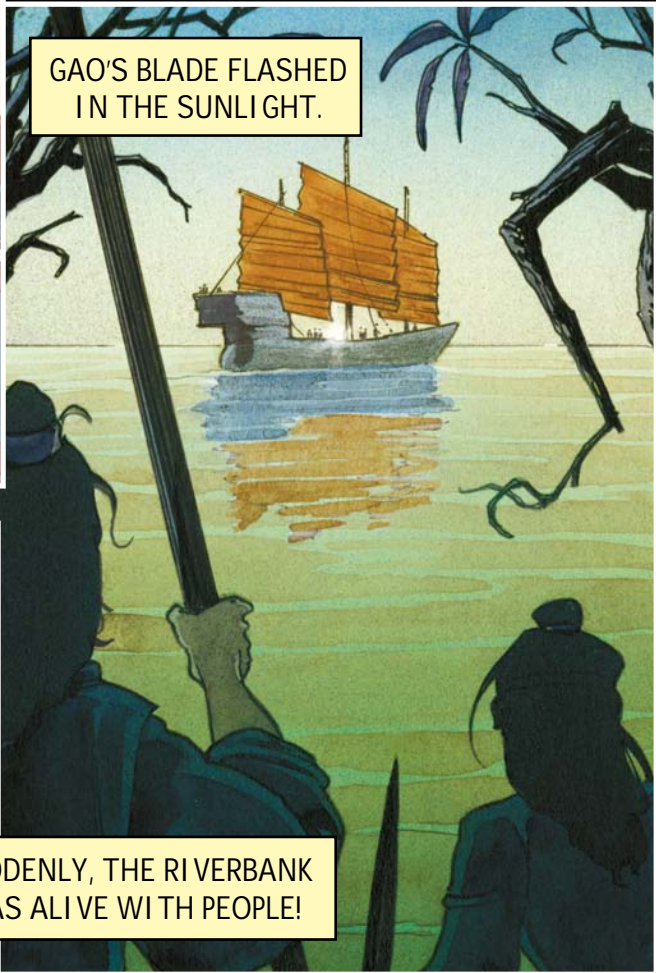


THE SOLDIERS HAVE ASKED HIM TO SHOW THEM SOME SWORD TRICKS.



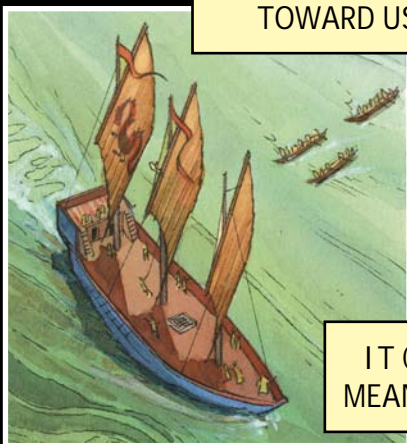


GAO'S BLADE FLASHED
IN THE SUNLIGHT.



SUDDENLY, THE RIVERBANK
WAS ALIVE WITH PEOPLE!

SMALL BOATS SPED
TOWARD US!



IT COULD ONLY
MEAN ONE THING.





PIRATES!!!



THE SOLDIERS QUICKLY TOOK CHARGE.



YOU TOO, SHEN!



EVERYONE DOWN BELOW!



WE KEPT QUIET AS THE PIRATES CAME ON BOARD.



I WAS AFRAID FOR MY LIFE.



LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE
ABANDONED SHIP!



WAIT!

ONE...

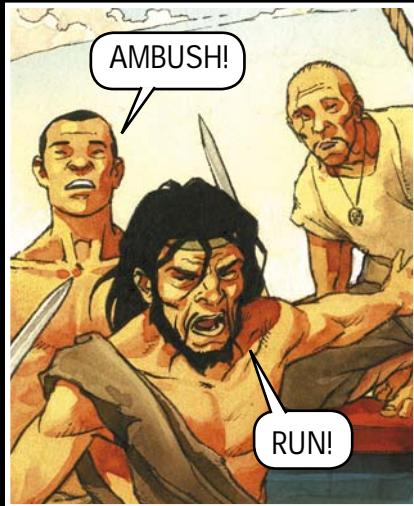
TWO...



...THREE!
CHARGE!!

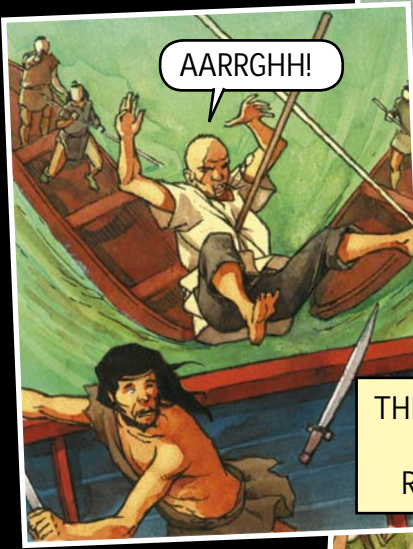


GET
THEM!

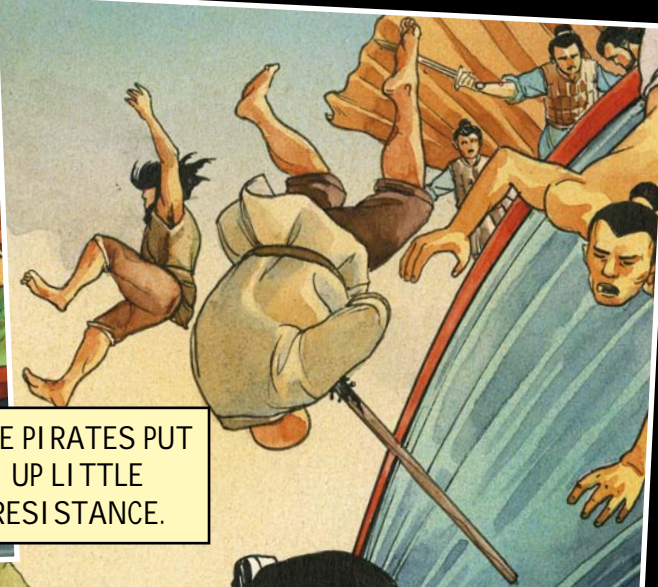


AMBUSH!

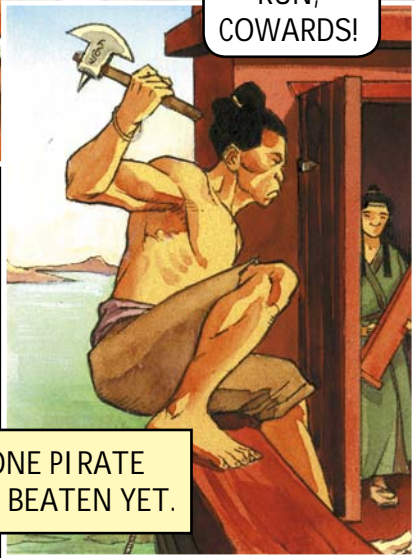
RUN!



THE PIRATES PUT UP LITTLE RESISTANCE.



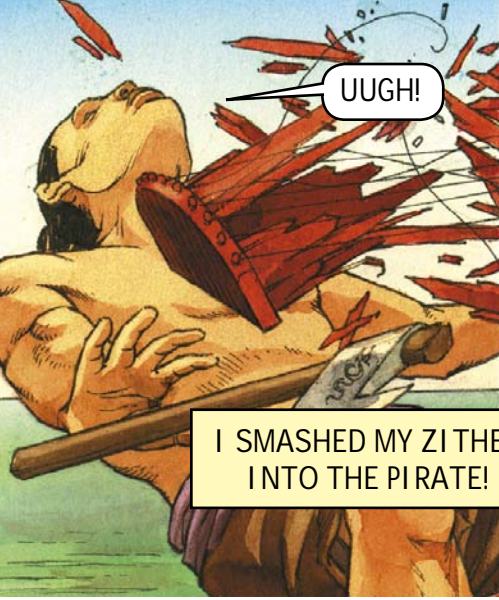
RUN, COWARDS!



BUT ONE PIRATE WASN'T BEATEN YET.



I HAD TO ACT FAST!



UUGH!

I SMASHED MY ZITHER INTO THE PIRATE!



YOU SAVED MY LIFE, SHEN.



I'LL NEVER FORGET IT.

AT THE PORT, THE STORY OF WHAT I'D DONE SPREAD QUICKLY.

ONLY COUNT GAO SEEMED UNIMPRESSED.



HMMPH!

WHAT A HERO, SAVING DUKE SONG!





LEAVE HIM ALONE, GAO!

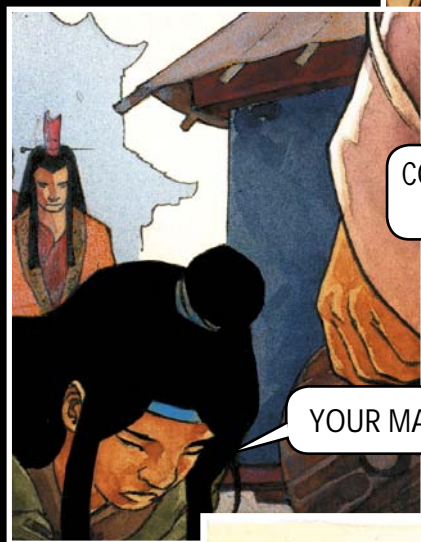
I OWE HIM MY LIFE!

THE EMPEROR OVERHEARD...



A WARRIOR OR MUSICIAN!
MOST UNUSUAL!

COME HERE,
BOY!



YOUR MAJESTY!!!



I SEE YOU ARE AS SKILLED AT FIGHTING...

...AS YOU ARE AT PLAYING!

YOU WILL PLAY BY MY SIDE AT THE BANQUET!





WHY WAS GAO SO RUDE TO ME?



FORGET ABOUT GAO. HE'S ONLY JEALOUS.



I DIDN'T SEE MUCH OF HIS FANCY SWORD PLAY IN THE FIGHT WITH THE PIRATES.

AND IT WAS HIS SHOWING OFF THAT STARTED THE ATTACK.



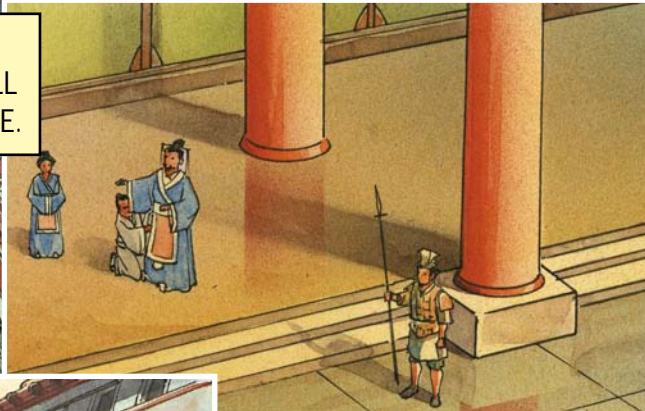
WAS DUKE SONG RIGHT?



AS WE ARRIVED AT THE PALACE, I WONDERED IF GAO COULD BE TRUSTED.



THE BEAUTY OF THE PALACE SOON SWEEPED ALL OTHER THOUGHTS ASIDE.



THE MASTER OF THE ROYAL MUSIC SHOWED ME AROUND.



HURRY UP, BOY!

STOP STARING LIKE A PEASANT!



LATER, AS I TRIED TO PRACTICE...



HOW'S IT GOING?



I THINK I'M DOOMED!





WHY'S THAT?



I'M SO NERVOUS ABOUT PLAYING IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE COURT.



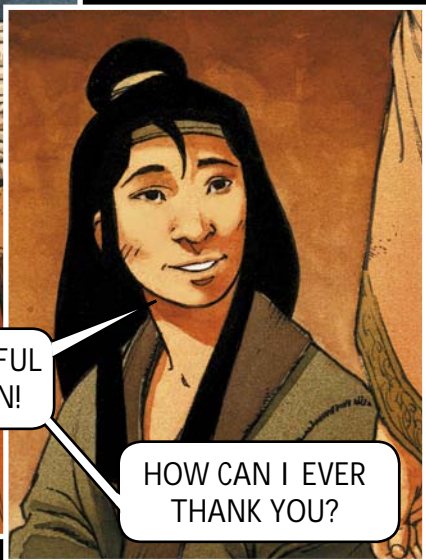
BUT YOU'RE THE EMPEROR'S NEW FAVORITE.

MAYBE THIS WILL HELP YOUR CONFIDENCE.

IT'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ZITHER I'VE EVER SEEN!



HUH?



HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU?



NO NEED. YOU SAVED MY LIFE.



JUST PLAY WELL.

HOW THOUGHTFUL!



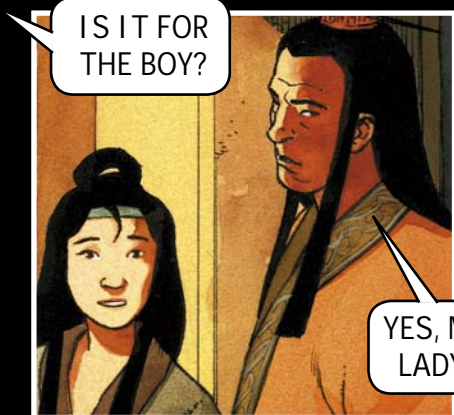
LADY MEILING, YOU HONOR US WITH YOUR PRESENCE!



I CAME TO OBSERVE THE TALENTED SHEN.

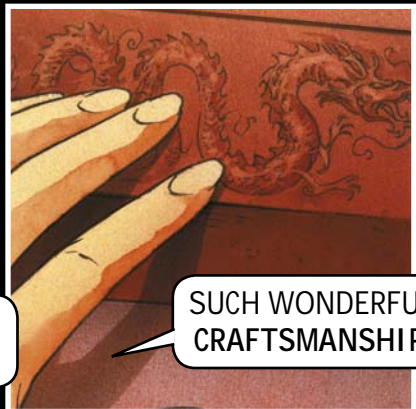


BUT WHAT A FANTASTIC ZITHER!



IS IT FOR THE BOY?

YES, MY LADY!



SUCH WONDERFUL CRAFTSMANSHIP!

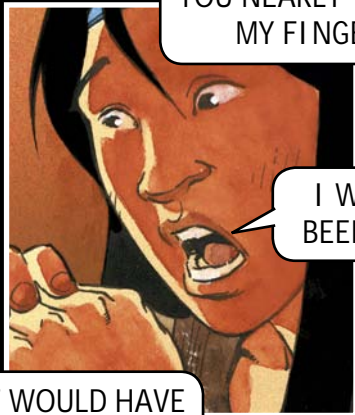


A PRECIOUS GIFT FROM DUKE SONG.



HOW VERY THOUGHTFUL!

SNAP!



YOU NEARLY TRAPPED MY FINGERS!



I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PLAY.

THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN TERRIBLE.



I REALLY AM SO CLUMSY!

YOU'D BETTER WATCH HER, SHEN.



SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD...

...AND THE EMPEROR'S JEALOUS LITTLE PET.

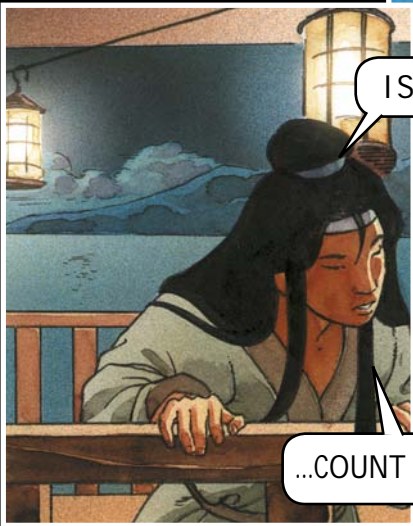
TOO WORRIED TO SLEEP,
I WENT OUTSIDE.



I STOOD WATCHING
THE STARS.



ISN'T THAT...



...COUNT GAO?!



I WONDERED
WHERE HE WAS
GOING SO LATE.



HE DI SAPPEARED
OUT OF SIGHT.





I DECIDED TO FOLLOW HIM.



NO ONE WAS AROUND AT THAT TIME OF NIGHT.



OR SO I THOUGHT!



INTRUDER!!

GUARDS!!



NO! PLEASE, I CAN EXPLAIN!

I WAS JUST...

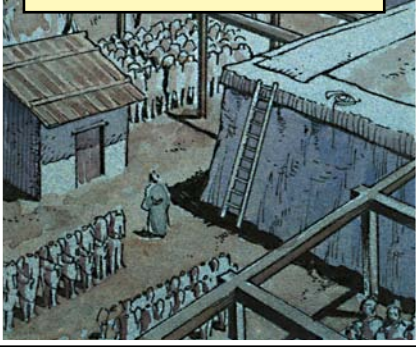


KILL HIM!

GET HIM!

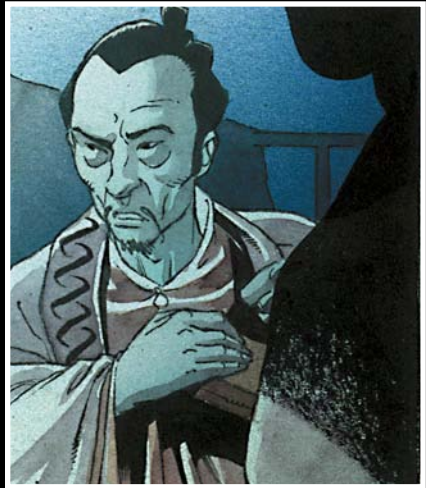


MEANWHILE, AT A WORKSHOP WHERE THE EMPEROR'S MODEL SOLDIERS WERE MADE...



MY LORD?

I'VE BROUGHT THE WEAPON...



EXCELLENT!
GIVE IT TO ME!



BE CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE BLADE.



THE POISON BRINGS
INSTANT DEATH!



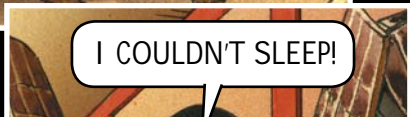


WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

THIS PART OF THE PALACE IS OUT OF BOUNDS.



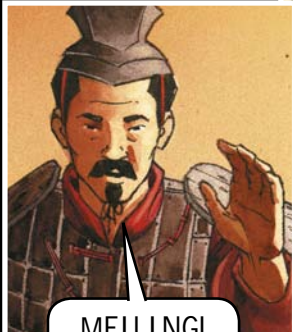
I GOT LOST!



I COULDN'T SLEEP!



I'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG. LET ME GO!



MEILING!
WHAT'S ALL THIS?



FATHER!

I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE I WAS, SIR!



I'M SURE THE BOY MEANT NO HARM.



I DON'T TRUST HIM.

AS I TRIED TO SLEEP, THOUGHTS TROUBLED ME...



...WHY DID MEILING HATE ME?

...WHERE WAS GAO GOING?



...WOULD I PLAY WELL FOR THE EMPEROR...
ZZZZZZZZZ...

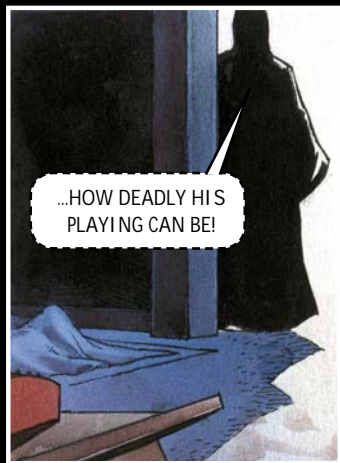




THE ZITHER!



THE BRAT WILL NEVER KNOW...



...HOW DEADLY HIS PLAYING CAN BE!



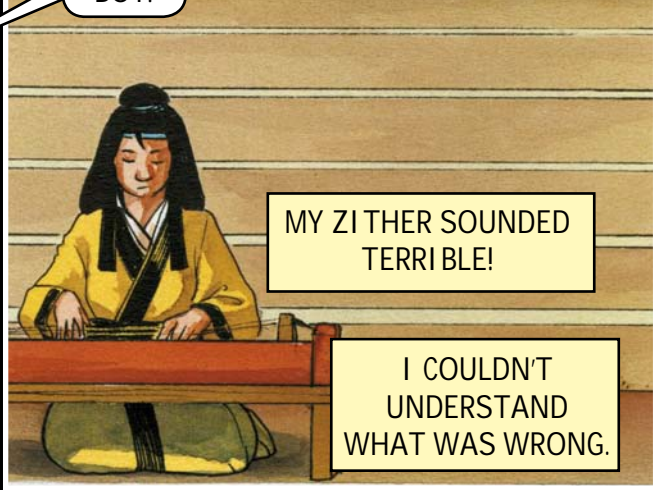
THE NEXT DAY I WAS SEARCHED...



...THEN TOOK MY PLACE AT THE EMPEROR'S FEET.



PLAY, BOY!



MY ZITHER SOUNDED TERRIBLE!

I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS WRONG.

SI LENCE! HOW DARE YOU INSULT ME WITH THIS DIN!



I'LL DEAL WITH YOU AFTER THE CEREMONY!

POOR BOY!

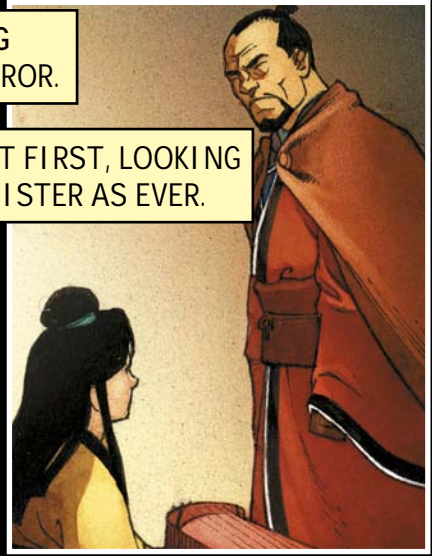


HA! WHAT A FOOL!

THE NOBLES BEGAN PAYING HOMAGE TO THE MIGHTY EMPEROR.



GAO WENT FIRST, LOOKING AS SINISTER AS EVER.



I SUBMIT TO YOUR GREATNESS, O EMPEROR OF THE WORLD!





ALL THE NOBLES CAME FORWARD, ONE BY ONE.



FINALLY, IT WAS THE TURN OF DUKE SONG...

...MY FRIEND.



BUT HIS EASY SMILE SUDDENLY CHANGED.

BEFORE I COULD MOVE, HE POUNCED!



MY LORD!!!



SMASH!!!



WHAT...??

NOW I KNEW WHY MY ZITHER HAD SOUNDED SO BAD! THERE WAS A KNIFE HIDDEN INSIDE IT.

SONG GRABBED THE DEADLY BLADE AND LUNGED FOR THE EMPEROR.



NO!



I GRABBED HIS LEGS...



...AND CLUNG ON WITH ALL MY MIGHT!

GET OFF, PEASANT!



BEHIND ME, GAO GRABBED A SWORD.

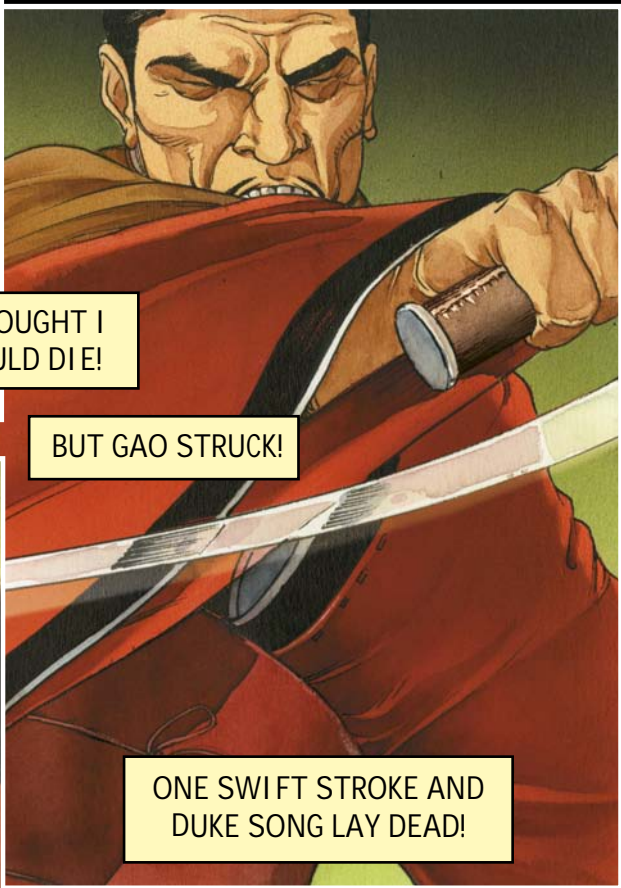


LET GO, BRAT!



HELP!

I THOUGHT I WOULD DIE!



BUT GAO STRUCK!

ONE SWIFT STROKE AND DUKE SONG LAY DEAD!





WAS HE REALLY A TRAITOR?



YES! HE WAS A CHU SPY.

I HAVE BEEN WATCHING HIM FOR MONTHS.



GAO, YOU HAVE SERVED ME WELL!

AS HAVE YOU, SHEN!



YOU SEEM TO BRING ME LUCK!



I THINK I'LL KEEP YOU CLOSE AT HAND.

FRIENDS?

NEVER!

THE END



King Menes unites Egypt

c. 3100

Minoan civilization develops on Crete



c. 2000

Zhou dynasty starts in China

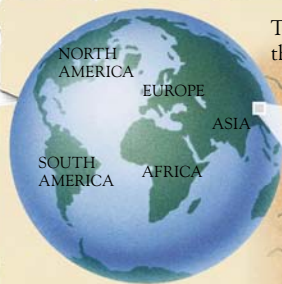


c. 1050

3000 BCE (BEFORE COMMON ERA)

2000 BCE

1000 BCE



This map shows the extent of the first empire, the Qin, and the last empire, the Qing.

ANCIENT CHINA

China stretches across central and eastern Asia. For thousands of years, it was made up of many kingdoms. In 221 BCE, the Qin conquered the other kingdoms and united the country under the Empire. It was ruled for 2,000 years by emperors who came from different families known as “dynasties.” The last dynasty was the Qing, which ruled from 1644 until 1912, when the people formed a republic.



GLOSSARY

EMPEROR

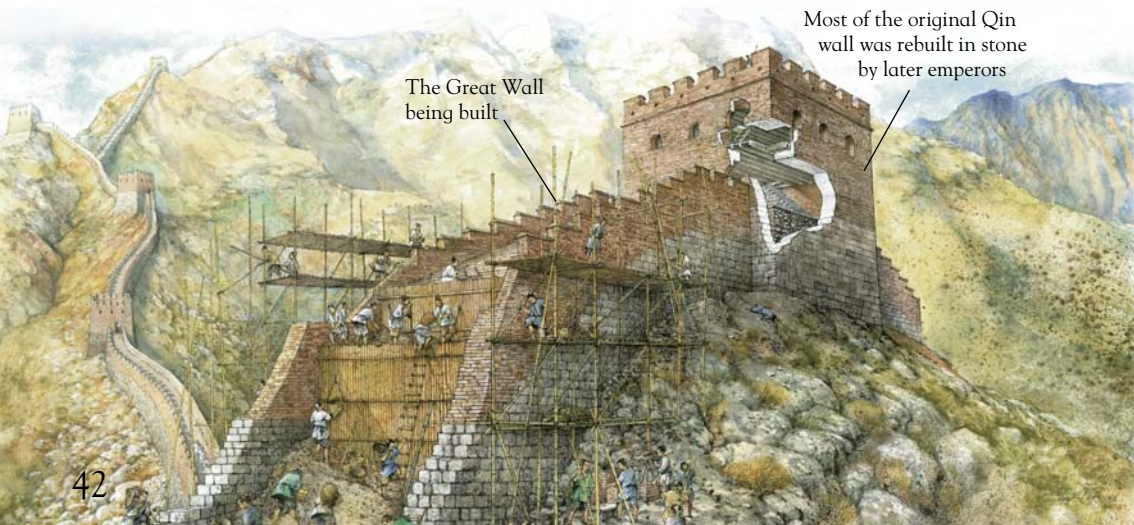
PAGE 6

The emperor was the ruler of the Chinese Empire. The First Emperor, Shihuangdi, conquered many Chinese kingdoms to create the Empire.

GREAT WALL

PAGE 6

The Great Wall of China was built to protect the Empire from foreign invaders in the north. Shihuangdi joined up the existing small walls to create the Great Wall. It was added to and rebuilt over hundreds of years.



The Great Wall being built

Most of the original Qin wall was rebuilt in stone by later emperors



Shihuangdi unites China

221



Rome invaded by barbarians

410

Mongols establish Yuan dynasty in China

1279



US astronauts land on the Moon



1969

TIMELINE

1 CE (COMMON ERA)

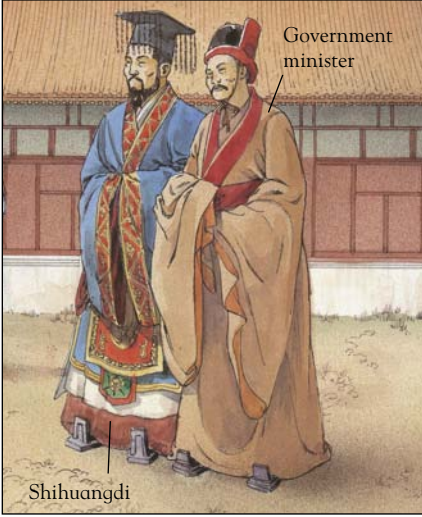
1000 CE

2000 CE

YOU ARE HERE

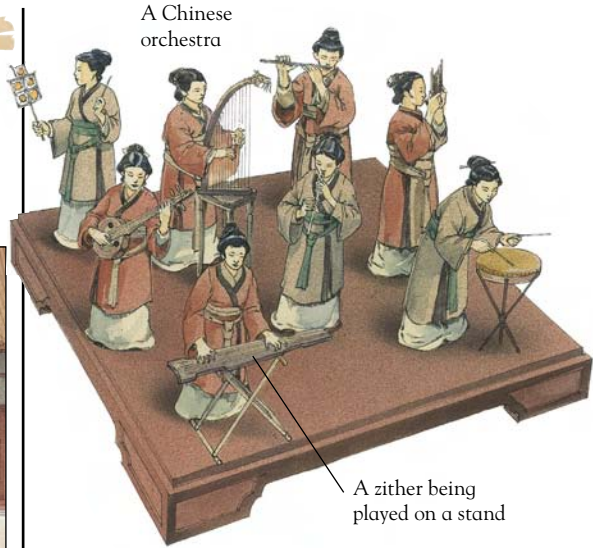
SHIHUANGDI PAGE 7

Shihuangdi (pronounced She-Her-Wang-Di) was the First Emperor of China. He ruled the Qin (pronounced Chin) kingdom that conquered the other Chinese kingdoms and created the Empire in 221 BCE.



Government minister

Shihuangdi



A Chinese orchestra

A zither being played on a stand

ZITHER PAGE 8

Shen's instrument was a type of zither called a *qin*. It had seven strings and was played on the lap or on a stand. Zithers usually formed part of an orchestra.

CORRUPT OVERSEERS PAGE 7

The overseers made sure the building work was done properly. The corrupt ones were dishonest.

EXECUTIONS PAGE 7

Executions are killing people as a punishment.

ASSASSINS PAGE 9

People who try to kill a ruler or leader are called assassins. Many assassins tried to kill Shihuangdi because he was a harsh ruler.



These men are to be executed by being buried alive

The terra-cotta soldiers being put in the emperor's tomb



GUARDS

PAGE 9

The emperor's many guards protected him from assassins. He even built his own model army to protect him after death. These terra-cotta (clay) soldiers can still be seen today.

COURT

PAGE 11

The court was made up of the noble people who lived with the emperor in his palaces and went with him on his travels. Some of the court has traveled with him to the Great Wall.

CAPITAL

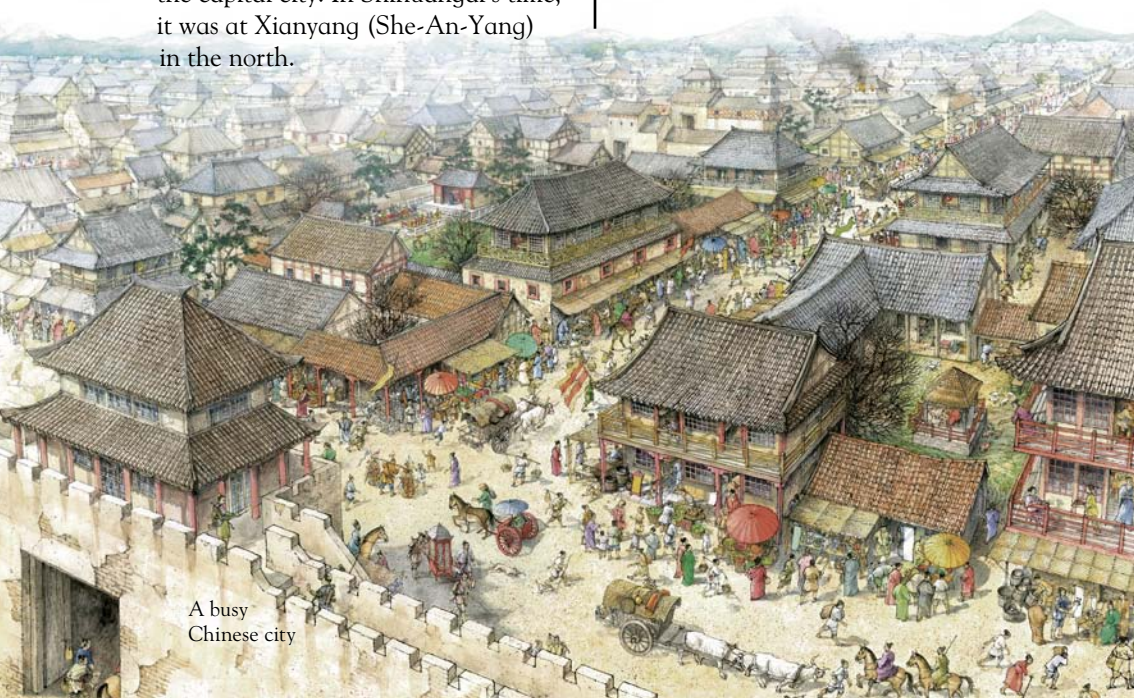
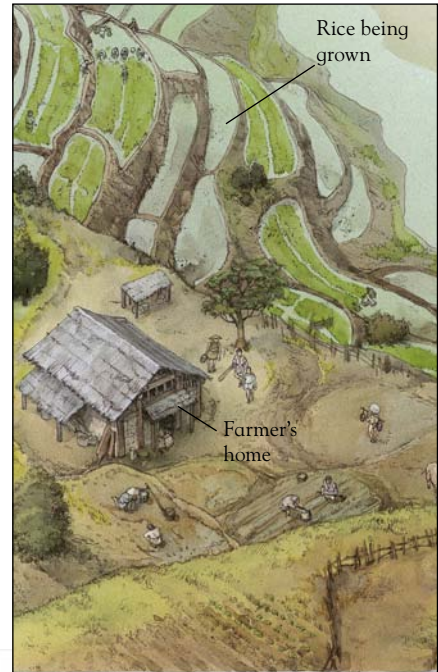
PAGE 11

The city where the emperor lived and from which he ruled the Empire was the capital city. In Shihuangdi's time, it was at Xianyang (She-An-Yang) in the north.

HOME

PAGE 12

Most people in Ancient China were farmers who lived on crops such as rice. Their homes were small wooden huts with thatched or tiled roofs.



A busy Chinese city

MONEY

PAGE 13

At the time of Shihuangdi, Chinese money was in the form of bronze coins. They could be used throughout the Empire. Some coins were shaped like knives and spades.



MUSICIAN

PAGE 15

Music and musicians were an important part of court life. The court orchestra played when the emperor received visitors or held banquets.

SINISTER

PAGE 15

If someone is described as sinister, they look threatening or wicked.

KINGDOM OF CHU

PAGE 17

Chu was one of the kingdoms that the Qin defeated to create the Empire. Some of the nobles in Chu were still unhappy about the Qin victory.

JUNKS

PAGE 18

Junks were Chinese wooden sailing ships. They were used to carry goods along rivers and by sea.



MASTER SWORDSMAN PAGE 19

Chinese soldiers used weapons such as swords and spears. A master swordsman was a soldier who was highly skilled at using a blade.

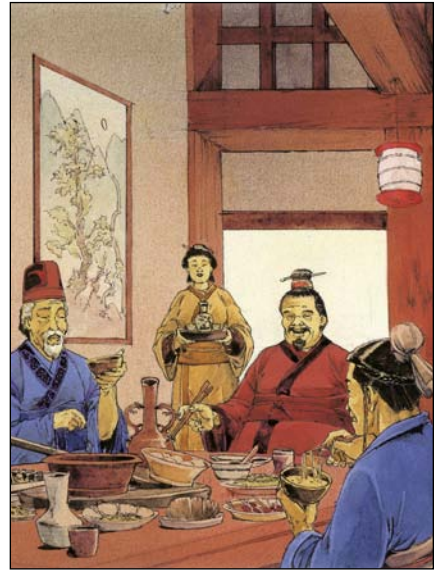
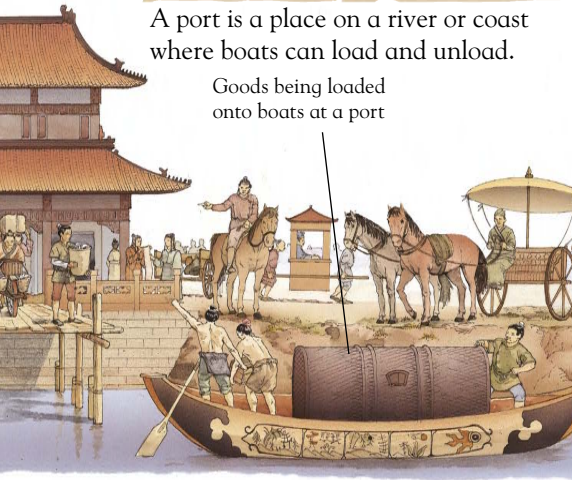
PIRATES PAGE 21

Pirates are thieves who steal from ships. Attacks by pirates were common in Chinese rivers and seas.

PORT PAGE 24

A port is a place on a river or coast where boats can load and unload.

Goods being loaded onto boats at a port



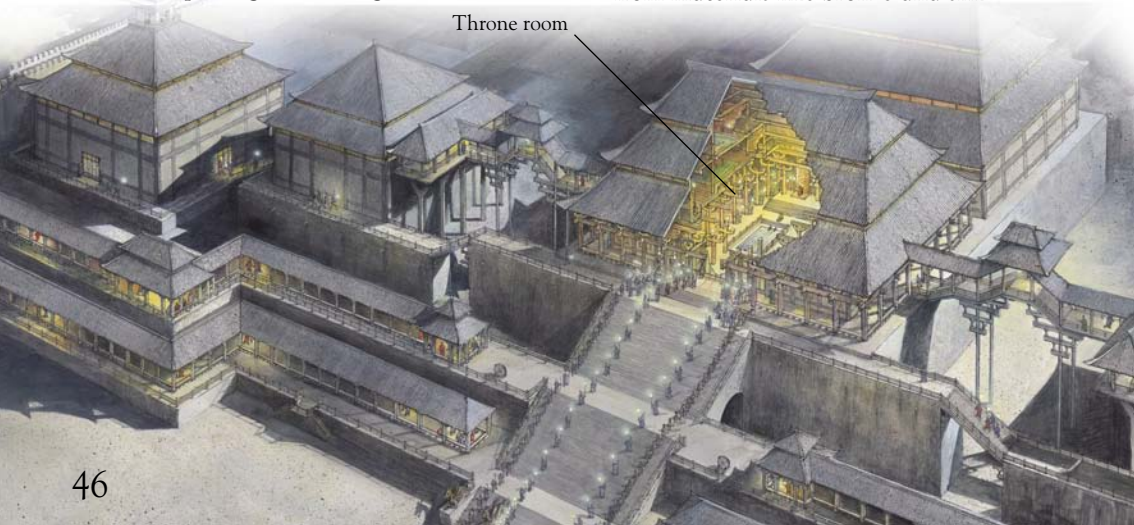
BANQUET PAGE 25

A banquet is a grand party at which lots of food is served. Rich Chinese people, like those at court, ate lots of dishes that included meat, fish, chicken, and vegetables. They drank wine made from rice and other grains.

PALACE PAGE 26

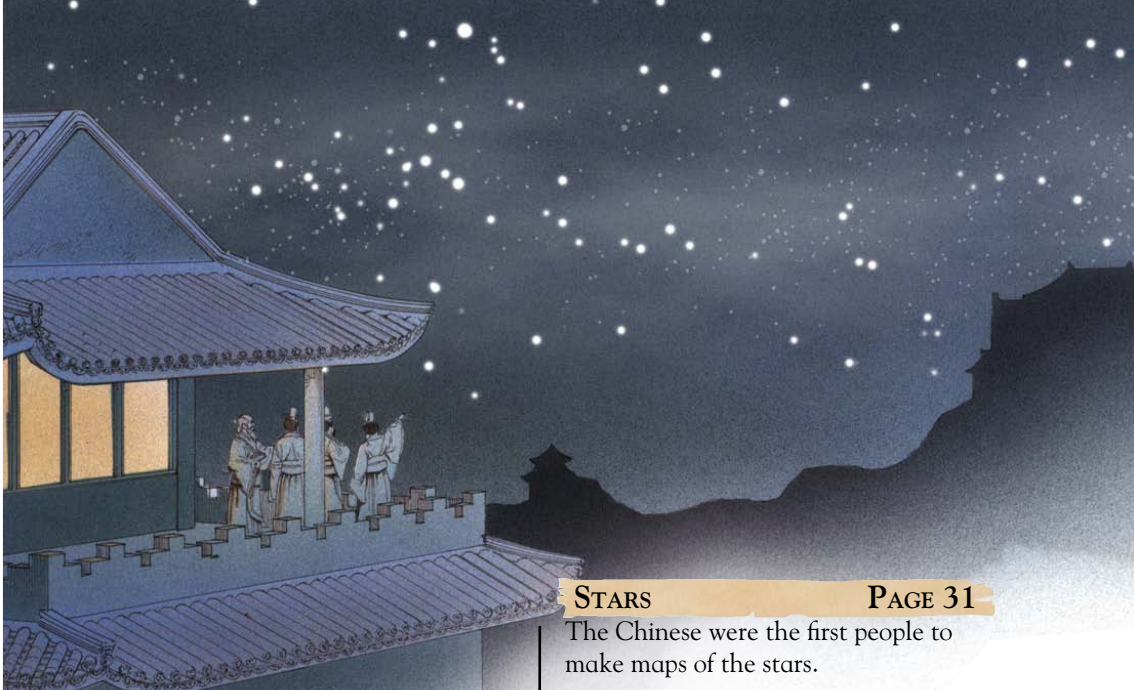
The emperor lived in a grand building called a palace. It had a special room called a throne room where the emperor greeted his guests.

Throne room



CRAFTSMANSHIP PAGE 29

Something made well by a skilled worker is said to show good craftsmanship. The Chinese were highly skilled at making fine objects from materials like bronze and silk.



JEALOUS

PAGE 30

To be jealous is to fear that someone else is taking the attention you want. Meiling is jealous of Shen because she fears he will become the emperor's new favorite instead of her.

STARS

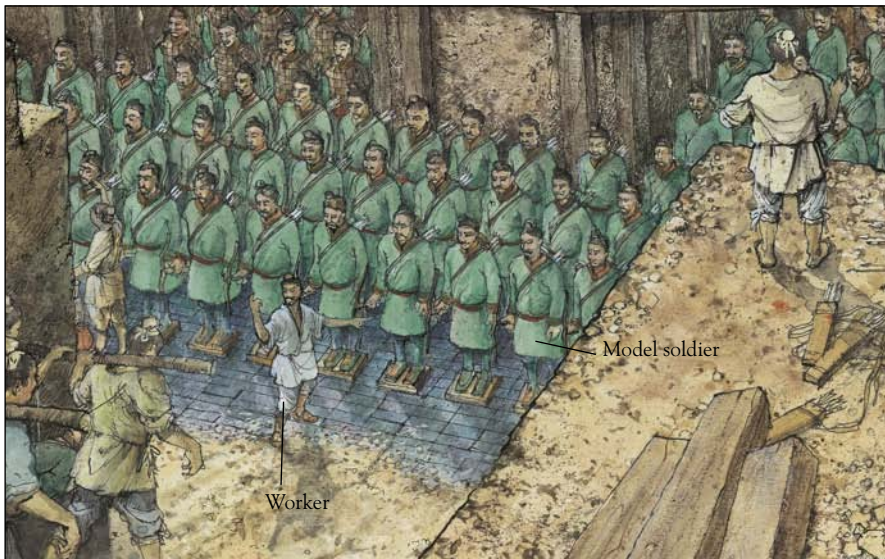
PAGE 31

The Chinese were the first people to make maps of the stars.

MODEL SOLDIERS

PAGE 33

Shihuangdi had a whole army of terra-cotta (clay) model soldiers buried next to his tomb. The emperor believed they would protect him in the afterlife. In the 1970s, many of the soldiers were dug up and are now displayed in a museum.





WEAPON PAGE 33

Chinese weapons included swords, spears, axes, and bows. They invented a powerful type of bow called a crossbow and were the first to use gunpowder to make rockets.

OUT OF BOUNDS PAGE 34

Somewhere that is out of bounds is a place that may only be entered by those with permission.

PAYING HOMAGE PAGE 37

To pay someone homage means to show them honor and respect. Count Gao, Duke Song, and the other nobles bow before the emperor to show that they honor him and that he is their master.

Nobles paying homage to the emperor

CEREMONY PAGE 37

A ceremony is a special event held to celebrate something, where things are done in a particular way.

SUBMIT PAGE 37

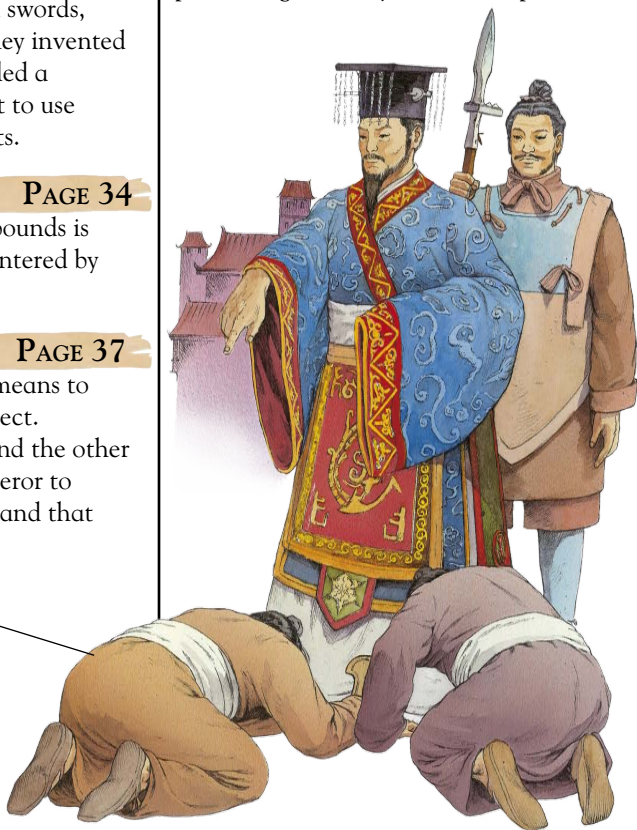
To submit is to give in to the power of someone else. Count Gao is telling the emperor that he knows he is less powerful than his master.

TRAITOR PAGE 41

A traitor is someone who betrays their country or ruler. Song has betrayed the emperor by trying to kill him!

SPY PAGE 41

A spy is someone who watches others secretly to gather information. Spies are often pretending to be someone they are not. Duke Song was pretending to be loyal to the emperor.



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Spies
Terror on the Amazon
Disasters at Sea
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George Washington: Soldier, Hero,
President
Extreme Sports
Spiders' Secrets
The Big Dinosaur Dig

Space Heroes: Amazing Astronauts
The Story of Chocolate
School Days Around the World
LEGO: Mission to the Arctic
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NFL: Peyton Manning
NFL: Whiz Kid Quarterbacks
MLB: Home Run Heroes: Big Mac, Sammy, and
Junior
MLB: Roberto Clemente
MLB: Roberto Clemente *en español*
MLB: World Series Heroes
MLB: Record Breakers
MLB: Down to the Wire: Baseball's Great
Pennant Races
Star Wars: Star Pilot
Abraham Lincoln: Abogado, Líder,
Leyenda *en español*
Al Espacio: La Carrera a la Luna
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The X-Men School
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Level 4

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WCW: Going for Goldberg
WCW: Feel the Sting

WCW: Fit for the Title
WCW: Finishing Moves
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and Detection
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