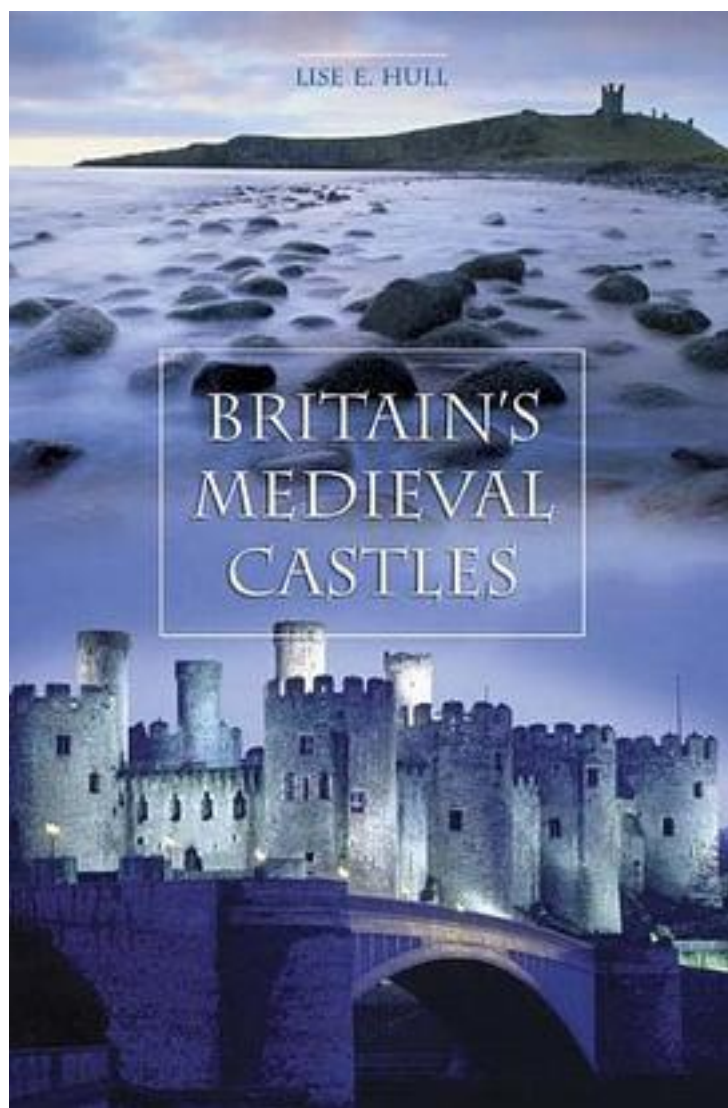


Britain's Medieval Castles



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This book presents a cultural and historical tour of Britain's medieval castles. The widespread construction of castles in Britain began as soon as Duke William of Normandy set foot on the shores of England in 1066. The castles that were constructed in the ensuing centuries, and whose ruins still scatter the British countryside today, provide us with an enduring record of the needs and ambitions of the times. But the essence of the medieval castle - a structure that is equal parts military, residential, and symbolic entity - reveals itself not only through the grandeur of such architectural masterpieces as the Tower of London, or royal residences as Windsor, but also in the aging masonry carvings, enduring battlements, and more modest earthen ramparts that have survived alongside them. The book looks at each of the medieval castle's main roles: as an offensive presentation and defensive fortification, as a residential and administrative building, and as a symbolic structure demonstrating the status of its owner. Each chapter focuses on one specific role and uses concrete architectural features to demonstrate that aspect of the medieval castle in Britain. A wealth of illustrations is also provided, as is a glossary explaining the distinct parts of the castle and their functions. This book will be of interest to students researching architecture, the Middle Ages, or military history, as well as general readers. Exploring every facet of a castle's function and existence, this book contains illustrations from the author's personal collection.

作者介绍:

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