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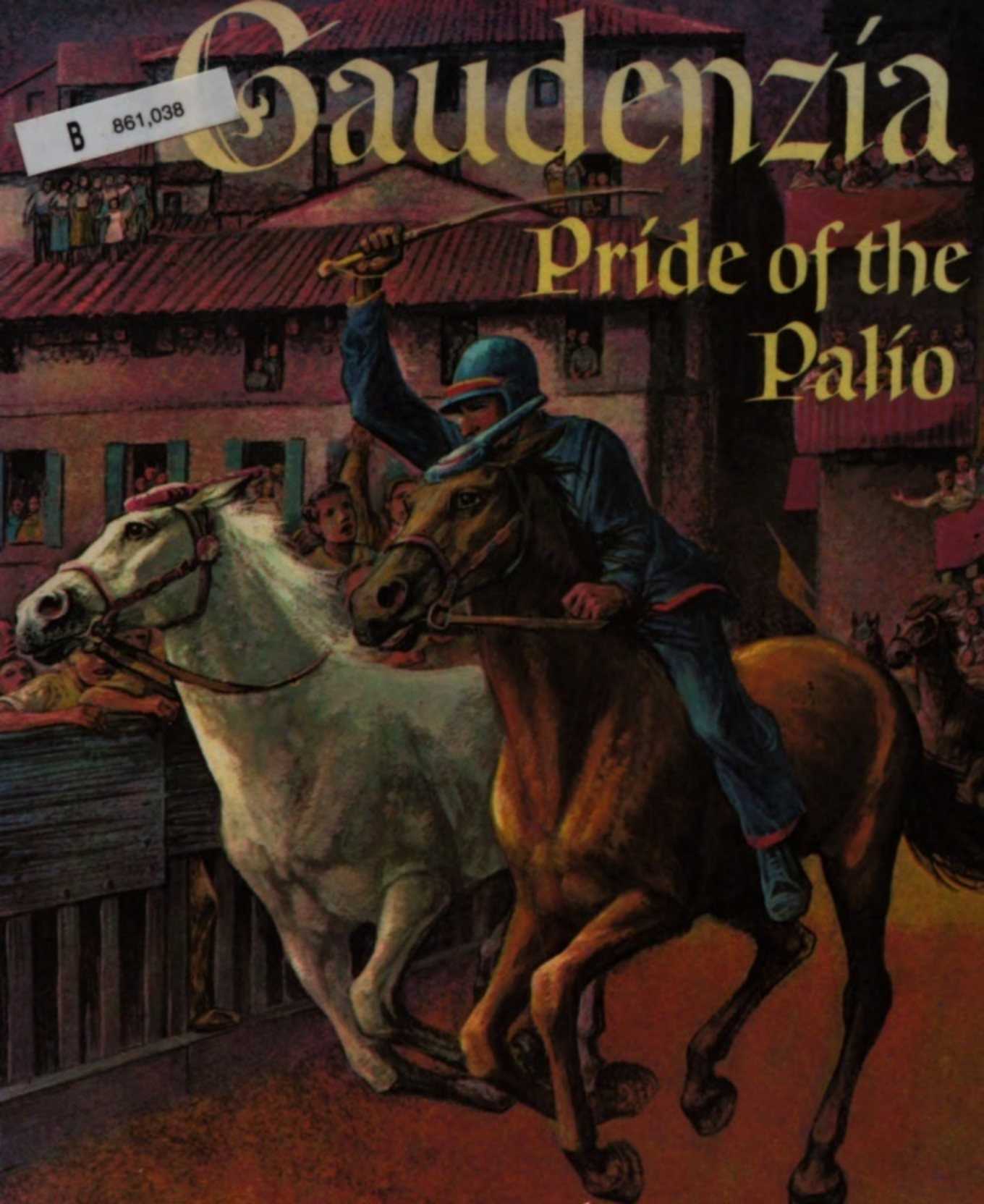
Gaudenzia

Pride of the Palio



By Marguerite Henry

Illustrated by Lynd Ward

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$3.95

Gaudenzia

Pride of the Palio

By MARGUERITE HENRY

Illustrated by LYND WARD

EACH SUMMER, in the ancient hill town of Siena, Italy, there erupts one of the most extraordinary, exciting, and dangerous horse races in the world—the Palio. So furious is the rivalry that it is often said the Palio is more battle than race, and that "Fate is the Queen of the Palio."

This magnificent book is a true story of the Palio—a thrilling, heart-stirring tale of a boy and a beautiful half-Arabian mare who won undying fame. Marguerite Henry tells—as only she can—how the life of Giorgio Terni, a boy of the Maremma marshes, became linked in strange and dramatic fashion with that of the cart horse Gaudenzia, whose Arabian blood brought her into the contest of the Palio. When Gaudenzia is lamed in one of the wild races, it is Giorgio whose devoted care brings her back to health. And it is Giorgio who has the joy of riding her to victory in one Palio, and then the heartbreak of fighting her in the next. How he wins the title "Vittorino" and how Gaudenzia becomes the "Pride of the Palio" make a story to enthrall the heart of every reader.

All the rich pageantry and medieval splendor that surround this race of Siena are captured in the text and in Lynd Ward's glowing illustrations. In GAUDENZIA, the swift excitement of KING OF THE WIND and the warmth and human appeal of MISTY OF CHINCOTEAGUE combine to make a glorious new favorite.

RAND McNALLY & COMPANY
Chicago New York San Francisco

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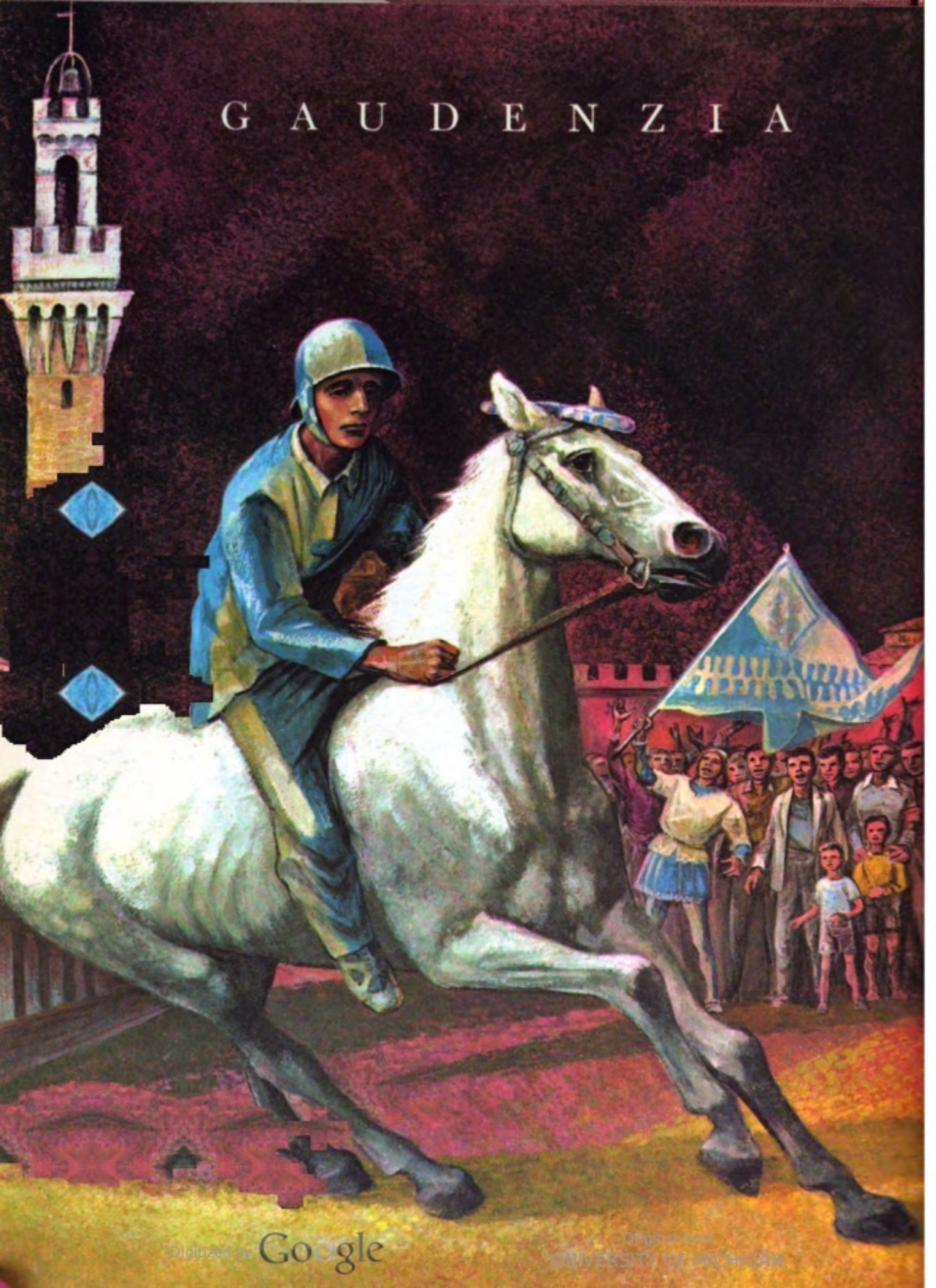

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To the half-bred Arabian, Gaudenzia,

and to her boy trainer, Giorgio,

who lived this book with

honor and valor

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Foreword

FOR MONTHS I wrote the story of the Palio in my mind. I pictured a fearless boy rider in this wildest of all horse races, a boy who dared defy the ancient rules and *willed* his horse to win—in spite of the strict orders of his captain.

When I finally went to Siena and faced the real battle of the Palio, I had to scuttle my preconceived plot. No rider, no matter how brave, would ever defy the ancient rules of the race. They are as firm and immutable as the walls of the city.

But the story I found was of heroic proportions, much bigger than the one I had dreamed. A peasant boy, named Giorgio Terni, and a half-bred Arabian mare seemed pawns of fate, doomed to a life of tragedy. Their battle to outwit destiny is a drama of human and animal courage.

The secret plotting of the Palio is so strange that I had to journey from America to Siena three times in order to understand the inner workings. There is a need in the people to relive the past, a need so in-

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The First Signpost

CHAPTER I

IN a hill town of Italy, close by the Tyrrhenian Sea, lives the boy, Giorgio Terni. He is slight of build but hard-muscled and lithe, with dark wavy hair and amber eyes the color of a young fox's. His town, Monticello Amiata, is named for nearby Mount Amiata. But the countryside that dips down to the sea is known as the Maremma, or "marshy place." It was once wild and desolate, and it bred strong, earthy men who grappled their living from the wetlands.

In the rest of Italy people still think of the Maremma as a savage, wind-blown place where land and sea are not yet separated. They have heard that only work horses and bullocks are reared there, and the people who survive the fever-laden mosquitoes are wild as the sea that goes to meet the sky.

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