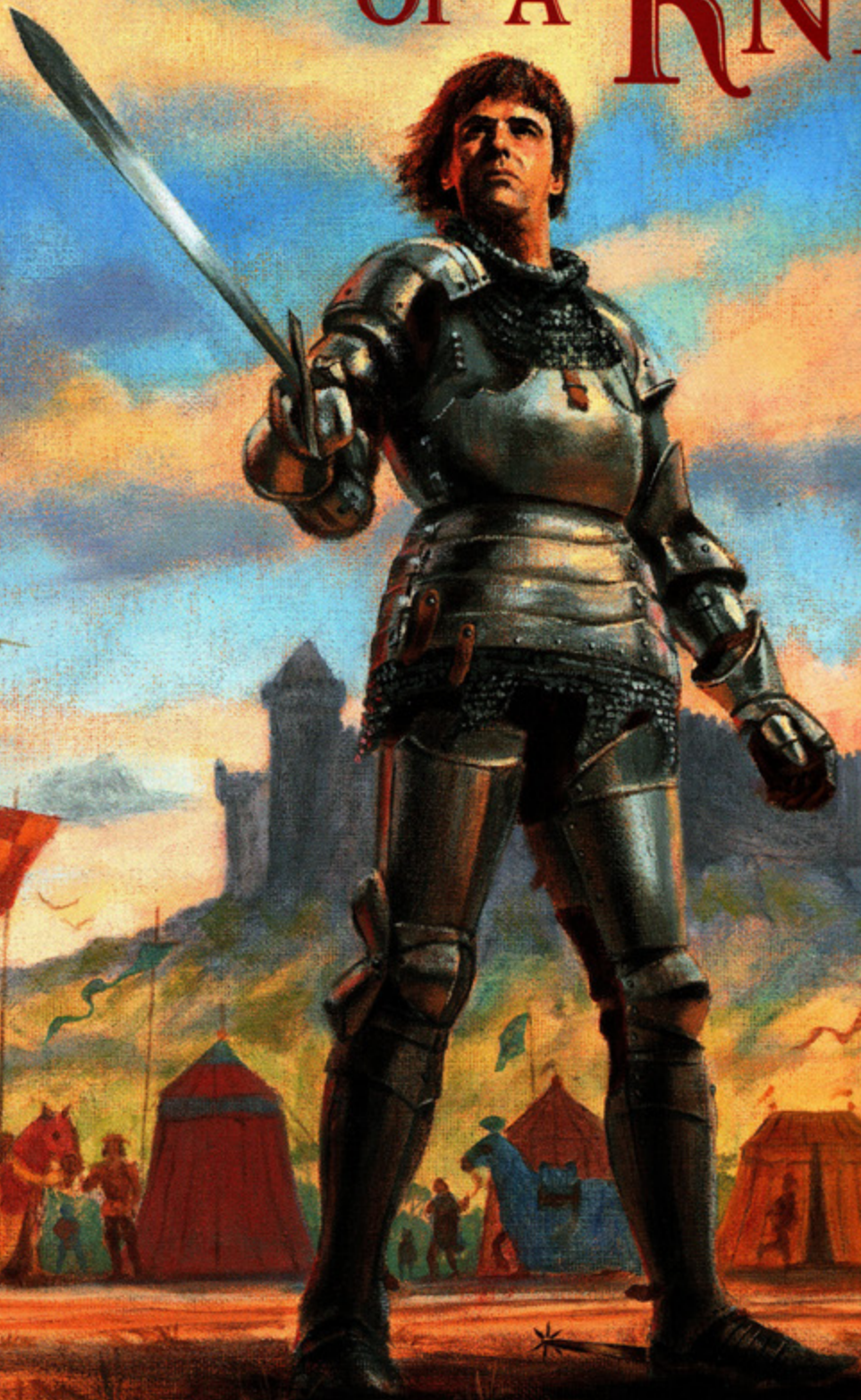


THE MAKING OF A KNIGHT



PATRICK O'BRIEN

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How Sir James
Earned His Armor

PATRICK O'BRIEN



 Charlesbridge



“I am Sir James! I have come to fight for England!” James burst into his father’s room, his wooden sword slashing the air before him. He imagined he was wearing a suit of shining armor, traveling the countryside in search of adventure.

“James,” said his father, “put aside your sword. I need to talk to you.” His father was a wise old knight, known throughout England for his bravery and strength.

“Now that you are seven years old, it is time for you to become a page in a great castle,” James’s father told him. “That means that one day, if you learn well and practice hard, you will become a knight, as I am. Then you will have real weapons and armor and will no longer need your sword of wood.”



One summer evening soon afterward, James's mother packed his belongings in a large woolen sack. Just before going to bed, James opened the sack and carefully hid his wooden sword inside. The next morning James and his parents set off on horseback for the castle of Lord Hawkes. James had heard stories of this rich and powerful man, and now that he was going to live in his castle, he was both excited . . . and a bit scared.

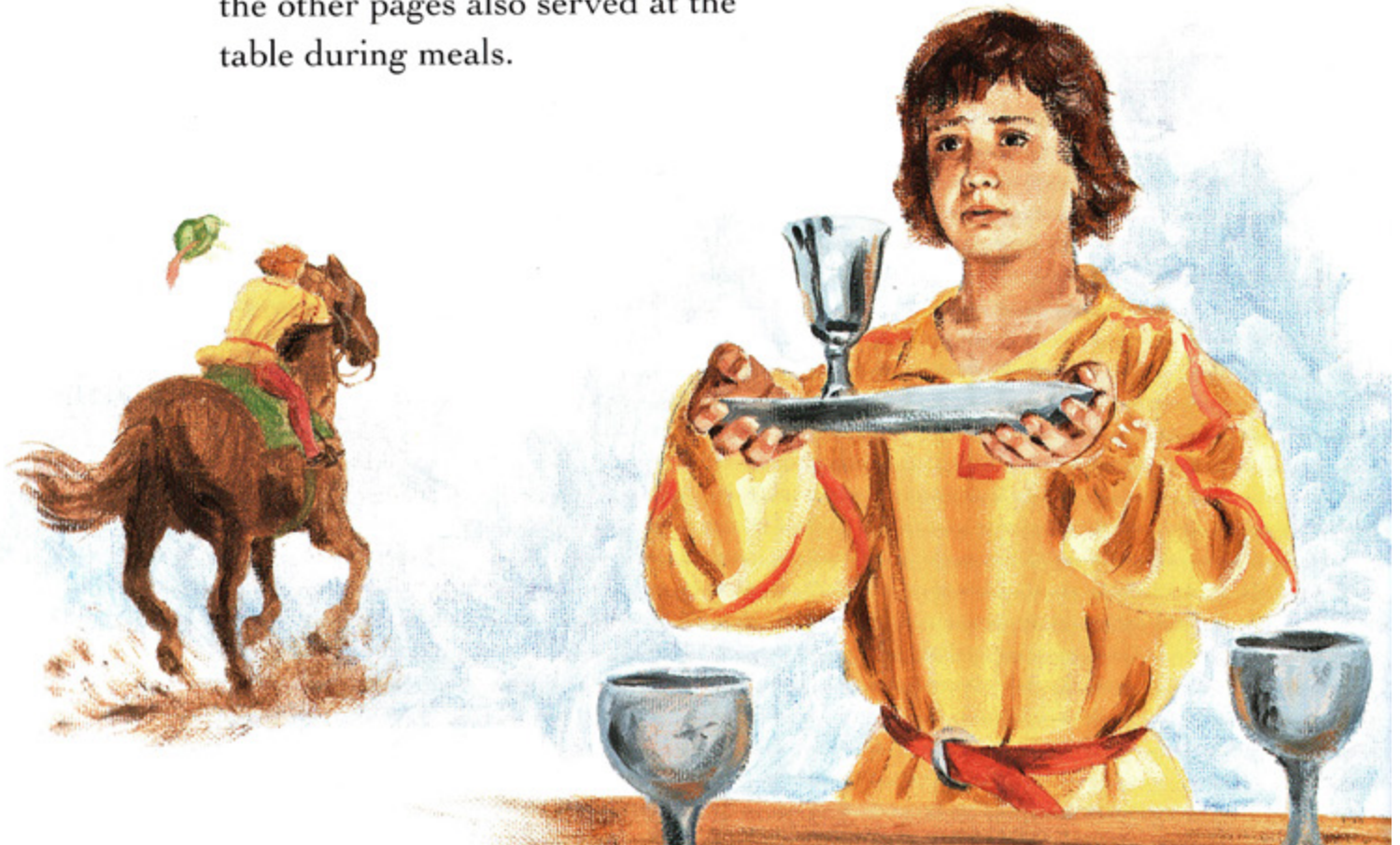
On their journey James's family passed through many small villages, all of which were on land owned by Lord Hawkes. The people who lived in these villages received his protection. In return Lord Hawkes demanded a large part of their crops, their animals, and even the honey from their beehives.

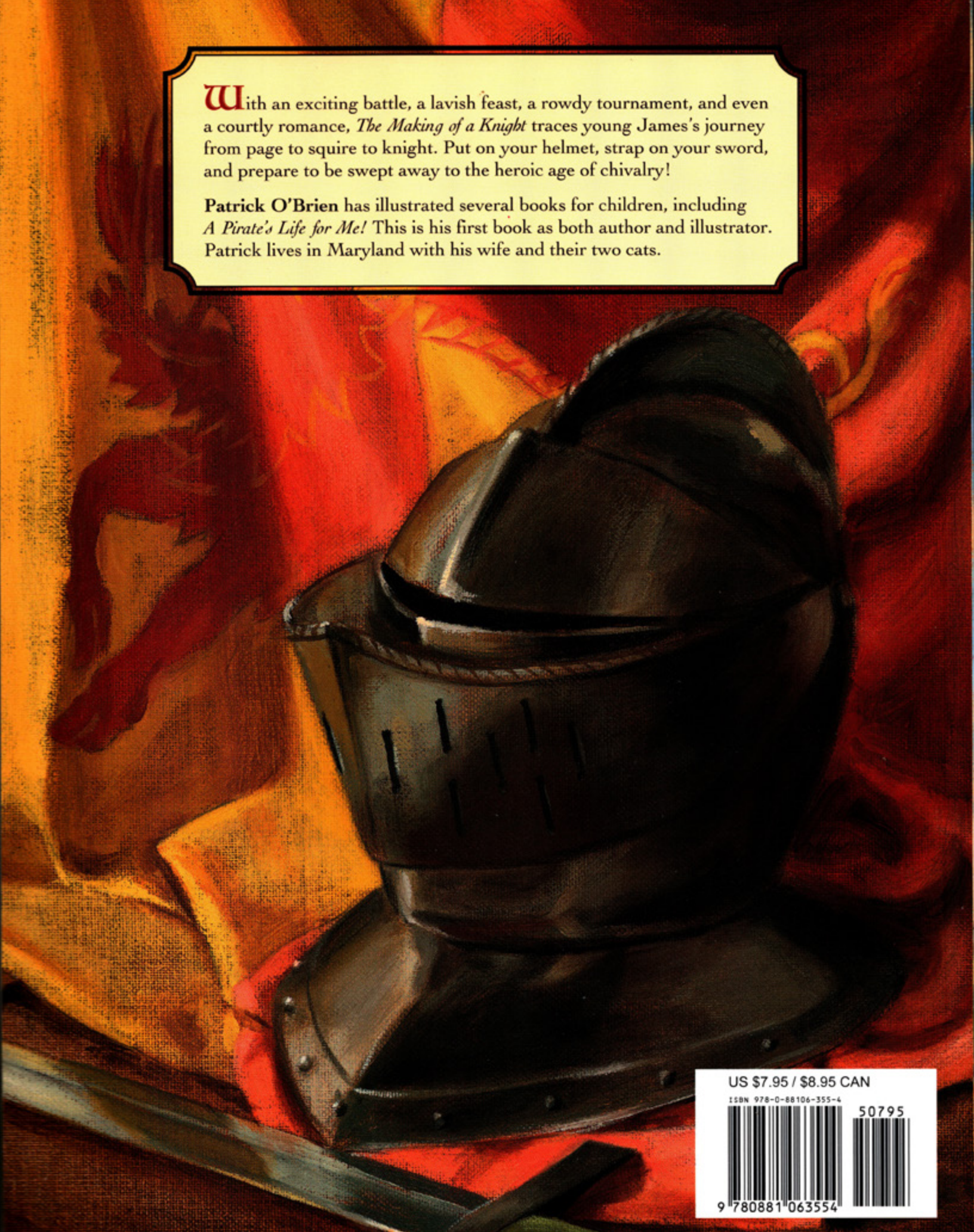






Upon the recommendation of James's father, Lord Hawkes made James a page in his castle. James was now on his way to becoming a knight. During his training, he learned to play music, read, and write. With the other pages of the castle, he practiced wrestling, archery, sword fighting, and horsemanship. He and the other pages also served at the table during meals.





With an exciting battle, a lavish feast, a rowdy tournament, and even a courtly romance, *The Making of a Knight* traces young James's journey from page to squire to knight. Put on your helmet, strap on your sword, and prepare to be swept away to the heroic age of chivalry!

Patrick O'Brien has illustrated several books for children, including *A Pirate's Life for Me!* This is his first book as both author and illustrator. Patrick lives in Maryland with his wife and their two cats.

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