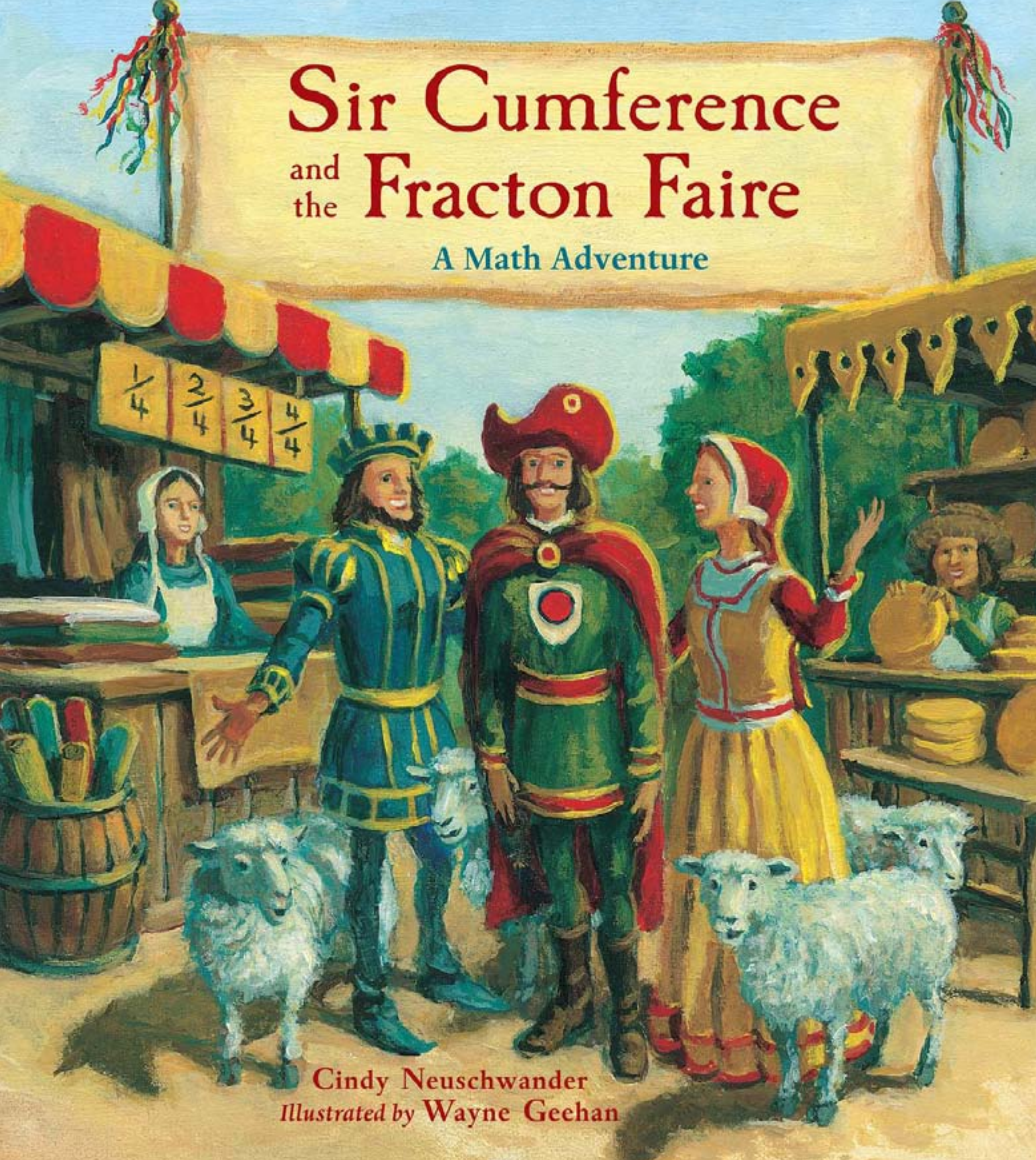


Sir Cumference and the Fracton Faire

A Math Adventure



Cindy Neuschwander
Illustrated by Wayne Geehan

For 5/5 of my grandchildren: Annika, Isaac, Ava, Rachel,
and Scott. A whole lot of thanks to my amazing editor,
Yolanda Scott.—C. N.

To Chatham, Logan, and Luke Wood, with love.—W. G.

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Published by Charlesbridge
85 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
(617) 926-0329
www.charlesbridge.com

Synchred Read-Along Version by:
Triangle Interactive LLC
PO Box 573
Prior Lake, MN 55372

ISBN-13: 978-1-68444-645-2 (e-book)

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Neuschwander, Cindy, author. | Geehan, Wayne, illustrator.

Title: Sir Cumference and the Fracton Faire / Cindy Neuschwander ;
illustrated by Wayne Geehan.

Description: Watertown, MA : Charlesbridge, [2017] | Description based
on print version record and CIP data provided by publisher; resource not viewed.

Identifiers: LCCN 2015045100 (print) | LCCN 2015043914 (ebook)
| ISBN 9781607348504 (ebook) | ISBN 9781607348511 (ebook pdf)
| ISBN 9781570917714 (reinforced for library use)
| ISBN 9781570917721 (softcover)

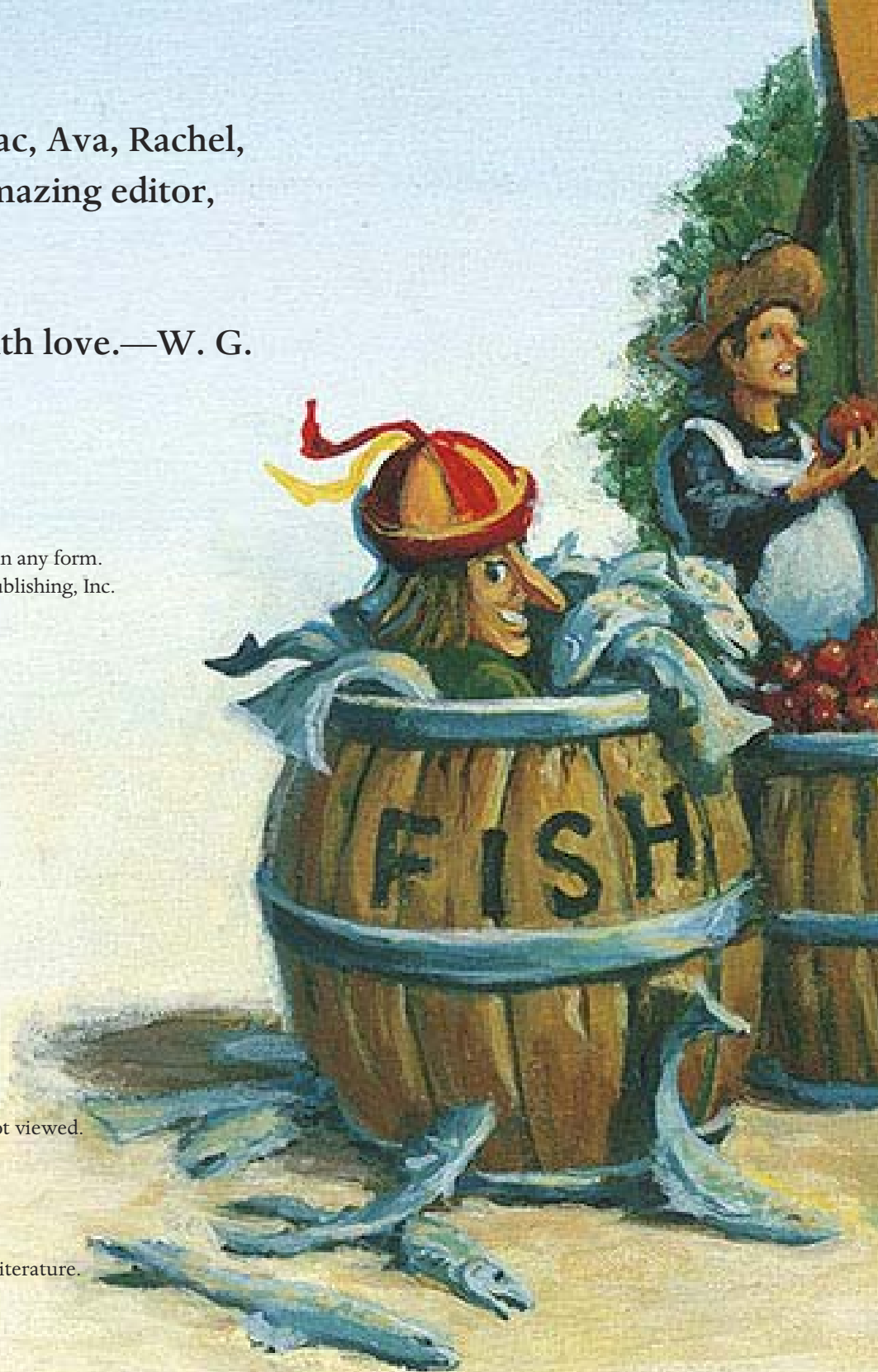
Subjects: LCSH: Fractions—Juvenile literature. | Mathematics—Juvenile literature.

Classification: LCC QA117 (print) | LCC QA117 .N48 2017 (ebook)
| DDC 513.2/6—dc23

LC record available at <http://lcn.loc.gov/2015045100>

Printed in China
(hc) 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
(sc) 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Illustrations done in acrylic paint on canvas
Display type set in Caslon LT Std Antique by Linotype
Text type set in Dante MT by Monotype
Color separations by Colourscan Print Co Pte Ltd, Singapore
Printed by 1010 Printing International Limited in Huizhou,
Guangdong, China
Production supervision by Brian G. Walker
Designed by Martha MacLeod Sikkema





“Fine fabrics!” “Fresh cheese!” *Baa, baa!*

It was the opening morning of the Fracton Faire.

“Such a merry atmosphere!” said Lady Di of Ameter. She and Sir Cumference strolled jauntily through the crowds with their friend Reginald Parton, the Earl of Fracton.



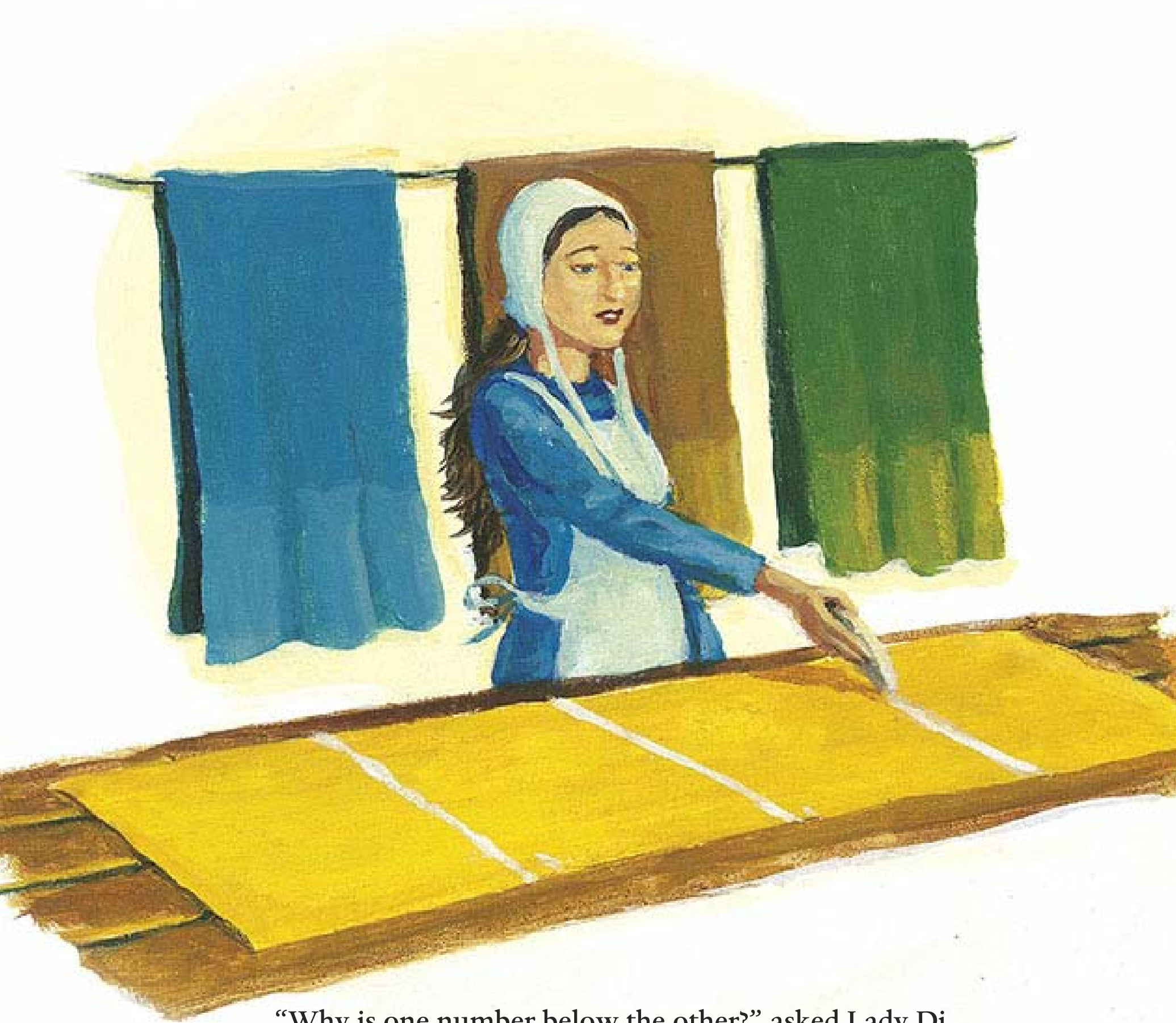
The two men stopped to watch a sword swallower while Lady Di wandered over to a cloth merchant's booth. She ran her hand over a length of fabric. "How perfectly soft!" she exclaimed.

The merchant smiled. "You can buy all or part," she said, pointing to the sign above her.



“What do those numbers mean?” Lady Di asked.

“They’re Fracton numbers, my lady,” the woman answered. “They are used to measure equal pieces of something, such as this beautiful cloth.”



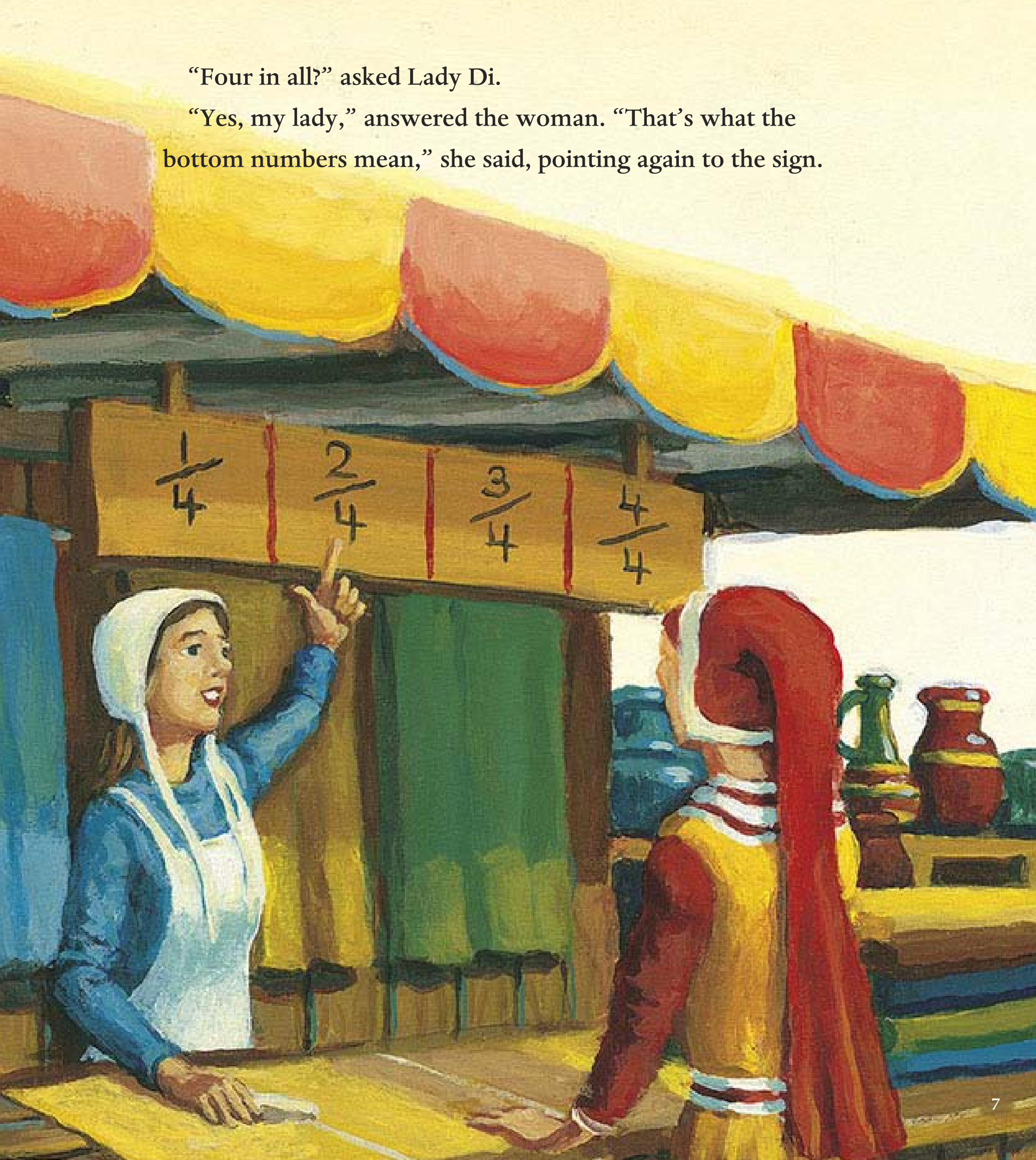
“Why is one number below the other?” asked Lady Di.

“The bottom number is called the *denominator*,” the seller explained. “It shows how many parts are in a whole.”

She drew lines on the material with a soap sliver, dividing the fabric into equal sections.

“Four in all?” asked Lady Di.

“Yes, my lady,” answered the woman. “That’s what the bottom numbers mean,” she said, pointing again to the sign.



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