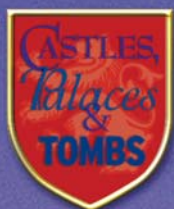
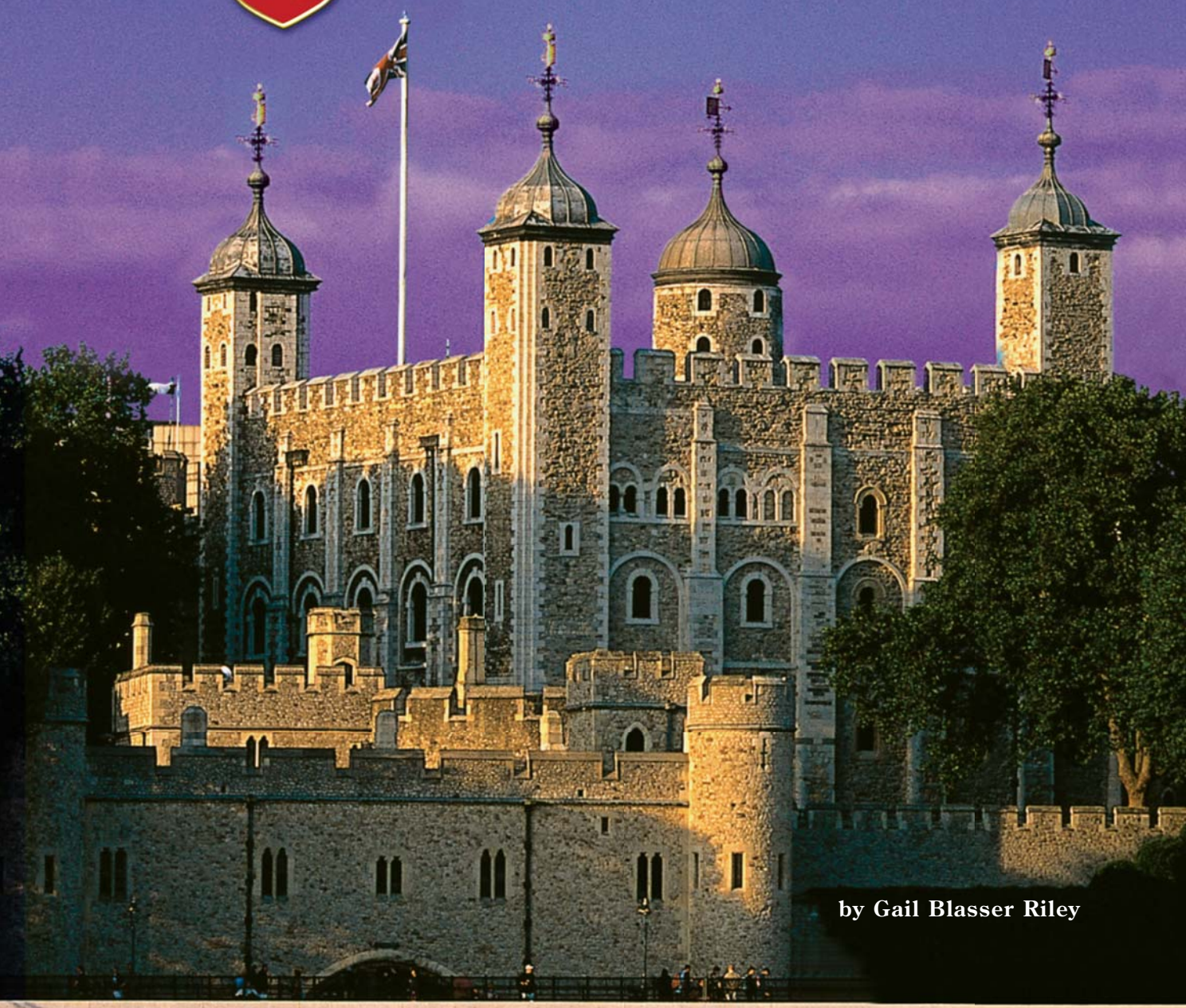


# Tower of London



England's Ghostly Castle



by Gail Blasser Riley

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England's Ghostly Castle



By Gail Blasser Riley

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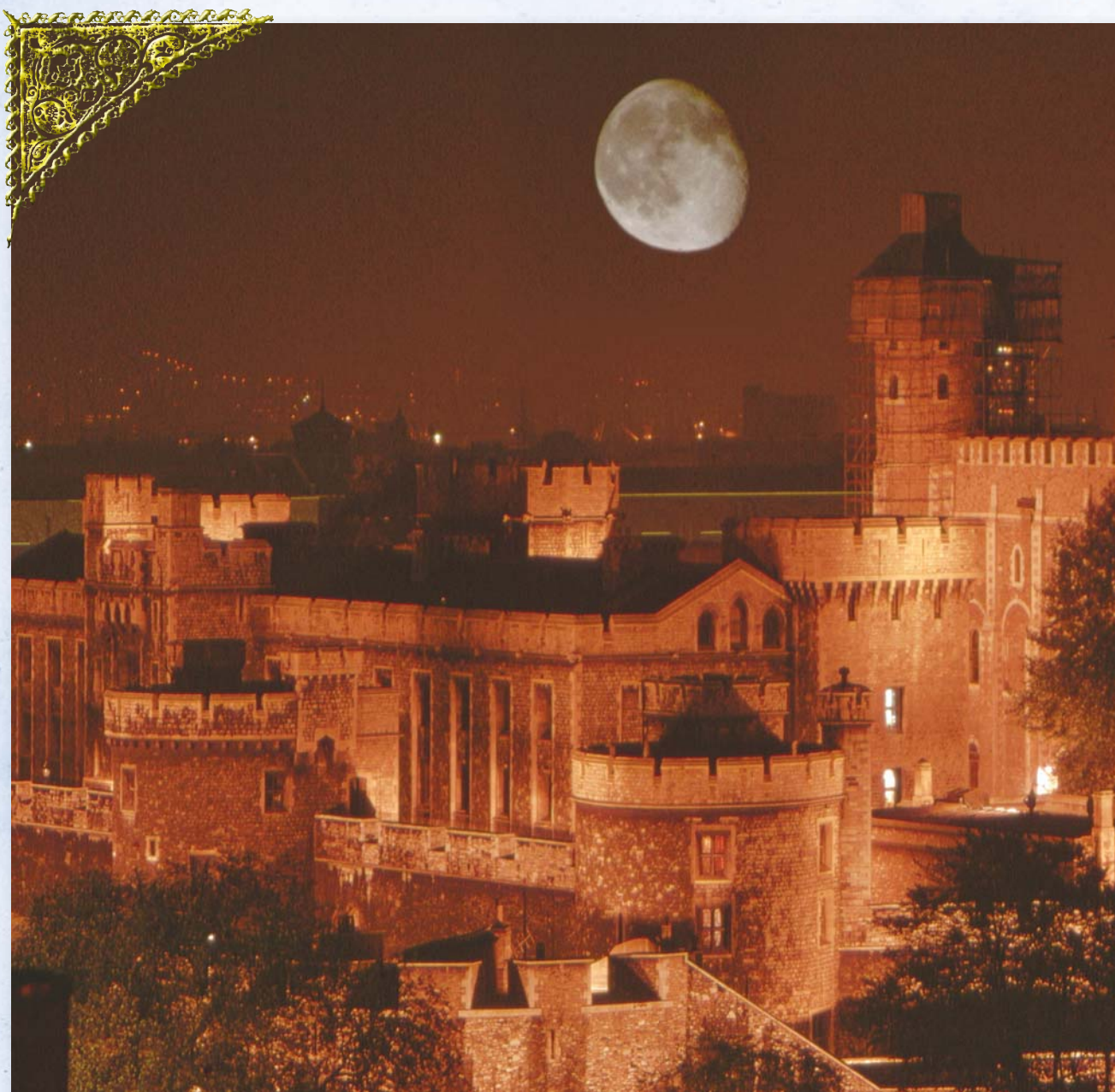
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# A Ghostly Past

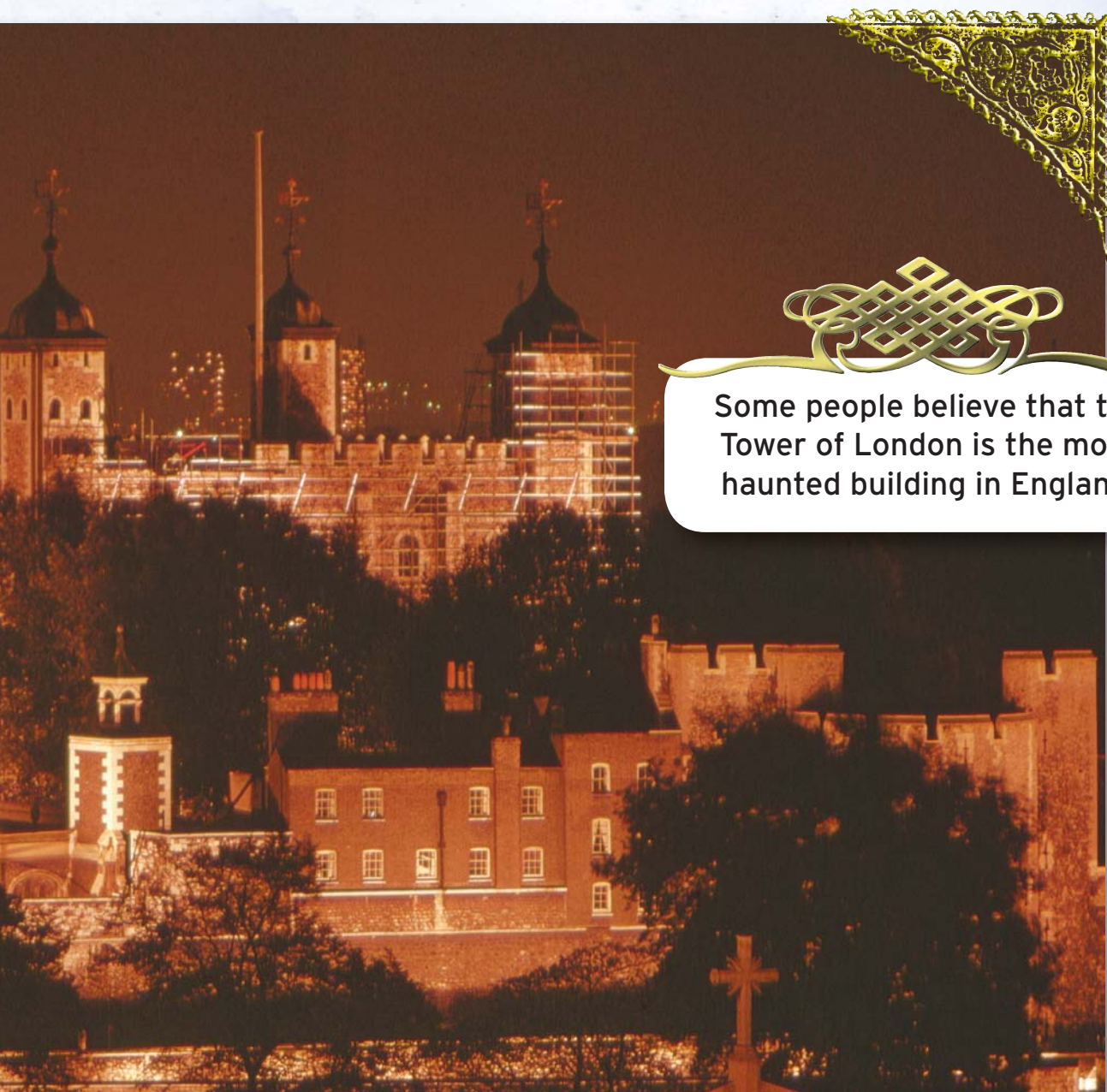
For hundreds of years, people heard footsteps when no other humans were near. They saw ghostly figures floating down the hallways. Some ghosts carried their heads. Some had no heads at all.





In 1817, a guard and his family sat down to eat inside the Tower of London. In horror, they saw a ghostly bottle floating in midair. A light-blue liquid bubbled inside. As the bottle neared the guard's wife, she screamed. "It has **seized** me!" The mysterious object then floated away.

Many reports of ghostly figures in the Tower had come before this one. Many more were yet to come.



Some people believe that the Tower of London is the most haunted building in England.



# The Tower Begins

In 1066, an angry William of Normandy sailed across the English Channel. King Edward had promised William that he would be the next king of England. Yet just before King Edward died, he passed the crown to his brother-in-law, Harold Godwinson.

William was determined to be England's next ruler, however. He and his army sailed from France to England. They fought and **defeated** King Harold.



William (right) is shown killing King Harold (left) at the Battle of Hastings.

After defeating King Harold, William became known as William the **Conqueror**.



As the new king of England, William built many wooden **forts** to protect his land. Around 1078, William ordered one of his wooden forts to be torn down. He replaced it with a strong stone **fortress**. It was to become the first part of the Tower of London.



The stone tower King William built is the oldest part of the Tower of London. At 90 feet (27 m) high, it was the tallest building in London at the time.



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## About the Author

Gail Blasser Riley is the author of dozens of books for children and adults.

Her books have received honors from the Children's Book Council, the New York Public Library, and Young Adult Library Services Association.



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# Tower of London



## England's Ghostly Castle

For hundreds of years, people heard footsteps in the Tower of London when no other humans were near. They saw ghostly figures floating down the hallways. Some ghosts carried their heads. Some had no heads at all. A fortress, castle, prison, and home of the dazzling Crown Jewels, the Tower of London is also believed by some people to be the most haunted building in England.

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Romania's Vampire Home

### Himeji Castle

Japan's Samurai Past

### Windsor Castle

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